

Principal's Update 24 June 2022

Tēnā koutou, e hoa mā!

This week we had the shortest day of our year or should I say the day with the least amount of light! It doesn't seem like we have short days because we still pack some much into them. There are 3 weeks left in the term and right now we are in the middle of so much sickness. There hasn't been a Term 2 like it for easily more than a decade.

Thank you, Mt Albert Campus parents, for your support when we had to ask our high-schoolers to learn from home. It has been Botany's turn this week.

As you know, today is now a public holiday in honour of Matariki. This week at school we celebrate Matariki, the Māori New Year!



Matariki is a time to **reflect, share stories** and **prepare for the New Year**.

Here's some information sourced by Whaea Kristelle from our Mt Albert Campus:

There are three key ideas about Matariki for Māori:

- The seasonal "bringing forth of the constellations" (Job 38:31) - in this instance, Matariki - as signal for an annual change in activity
- Time to "down tools", having prepared for winter, and spend time with whānau
- Celebrate the New Year - reflect on the past, celebrate the present, plan for the future

Matariki - the star cluster

Isaiah 40:26

*Lift up your eyes on high and see who has created these stars, the One who leads forth their host by numbers, He calls them all by **name**. Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power not one of them is missing."*

Matariki
Pōhutukawa
Waitī
Waitā
Waipuna-ā-rangi
Tupuānuku
Tupuārangi
Ururangi
Hiwa-i-te-rangi

Their purpose:

Psalm 19:1-2

*"The heavens declare the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night **they make Him known.**"*

The star cluster Pleiades, or Matariki, is referenced three times in the Bible as an **example of God's power and wisdom**: [Amos 5:8](#), [Job 9:9](#), [Job 38:31](#)

Job 9:4-12

"His wisdom is profound, his power is vast."

And then Job proceeds to list off the things God has done to demonstrate His wisdom and power:

- moves mountains and overturns them
- shakes the earth
- speaks to the sun and it doesn't shine
- seals off the light of the stars
- stretches out the heavens
- treads on the waves of the sea

Here in verse 9 Job says: "He is the Maker of the Bear and Orion, the **Pleiades** and the constellations of the south.

- performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted

v12 *"Who can say to him, 'What are you doing?'"*

For Māori, the rising of Matariki into the sky in June, having disappeared in May, signifies the Māori New Year. This weekend, here in Aotearoa NZ, we have a unique opportunity to celebrate that God is a God of power and wisdom. Time with whānau can be enjoyed, loved ones lost this year can be remembered, whānau stories and whakapapa can be shared. And as we reflect on the past and celebrate the present, we can consider what the New Year may have in store for us and seek God's wisdom that we might know His power.

An interesting side note from the [Bible Science Guy](#):

Job 38:31-32

"Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades? Can you loosen Orion's belt? Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs?"

Astronomers today know that the Pleiades is a **gravitationally-bound** star cluster. All the stars of the Pleiades are moving in the same direction across the sky at the same speed. In contrast, Orion's stars are **not gravitationally-bound**; they are gradually moving away from each other.

Was this bound/unbound nature of the Pleiades and Orion known in Job's day? It's very unlikely! The Creator alone would be able to hint to Job that the Pleiades are bound together, but Orion's stars are "loosed" (not bound). This "inside information" testifies to the **divine origin** of the Bible.



Our God is an awesome God!!

Whanau Hui – Thursday 7 July 6:00 – 8:00pm Golflands Campus Staffroom

Kia Ora whanau, after an online hui and ongoing korero between Whaea Kristelle and some of you, we would love to extend a warm invitation to you to attend a hui at our Golflands Campus Staffroom. **Thursday 7 July is the date and we would love to kick off around 6:00pm with kai and then enjoy fellowship together.**

ARISE Parents at GC

We have two groups of parents working tirelessly for us at Golflands Campus so for GC parents here is an update for you:

1. **ARISE Parents Prayer GC:** this happens each Tuesday at the GC gates. I need to get along there because I hear it is a powerful time. We really appreciate parents and grandparents taking the time to bring our school before God in prayer. Thank you Moveen, Fiona, and Adrienne for your prayers. There may be others involved too, I will catch up with that. Thank you for your heart of service to the school through this open invitation to prayer each Tuesday during term time.
2. **ARISE Parents Fundraising GC:** Sharlene and Laura have been amazing in their fundraising leadership and with you all getting on board, they are nearly at \$10,000 raised. Next update

we will publish the projects they have identified for their fundraising to go to, ***projects that we could not have afforded as school this year.***

Donations and Fundraisers for a financially difficult year!

1. Thank you to our community for **contributing your special character donation**, this helps immensely, and we trust you can do this all year. What a blessing for the school.
2. Thank you to the 23 MAC families who were able to help our **2022 budget fundraiser** through buying the excellent Mike de Vetter Books.
3. We will sell the books for the 2022 budget fundraiser **in Term 3 for GC and BC.**
4. A special thank you to one of the most phenomenal families for making a sizeable anonymous donation to the **improvement of facilities at our Botany Campus.**

Construction by our Proprietors

1. As a result of a long project in 2022, our Botany Campus now has a vastly improved admin block (an absolute delight to work in)
2. The final stage of the Elim Christian Centre build (on the BC site) should be completed in September of this year
3. The extensive renovation project of Rahiri House, the magnificent 3 story heritage building at MAC continues in full swing. It is a massive project, but the end result will be amazing.

We are truly blessed to have the incredible investment of our Proprietors – Elim Christian Centre and their passion and fervency for extending accessibility to great Christian education across Auckland.

Lastly some sad news of loss at our Mt Albert Campus: two weeks ago, thieves removed \$12,000 worth of hard-earned and well-used equipment in our hard materials classroom facility. It was removed via also stealing a trailer belonging to our Proprietors. Although we are working with Police and Insurance, it is especially sad for our tamariki who miss out, and the stellar work that Mr McDonough has done in that room for many years has been highly disrespected. Please pray that insurance will cover our loss and those alterations we make will prevent it from happening again.

"Personal responsibility, innovation, faith, all those things that made us into a great nation are still readily available and not controlled by someone else."

Ben Carson, M.D.

Nga mihi nui



**Murray Burton MNZM
PRINCIPAL**