



## **Principal's Update 23 July 2022**

Kia Ora everyone

Welcome to Term 3 at Elim Christian College. Yes, its Term 3 already and it starts on Monday 25 July at all our campuses.

I wonder how you are. Is your family sick? Have you been overseas? Have you been hunkering down with the weather, the flu, the general feeling of winter? Maybe you are refreshed or just maybe you can't wait for tomorrow, eh????

It's hard not to think that Term 3 will be challenging for health, personal and the health of our community. We have COVID still surrounding us, really bad colds, flu and even some of our community are experiencing other unwanted sicknesses since having COVID.

However, we are fully open for school from Monday morning and keen to have all our students back face to face and yes with masks, ready to engage in learning.

Thank you all for Term 2. We saw staff and student COVID numbers go up and then seriously down again. All term, we remained concerned regarding attendance, not being able to regularly stay above 88-90% which became increasingly concerning. But we operated fully, held parent evenings, issued reports, participated in the arts, sport and music and even held a great camp. It was so heartening to finish the term with a hui for our Maori whanau and to have a precious 2 hours together of relationship building.

### **We have quite a bit of staff movement to report:**

1. At the end of term, Mrs Chhaya Narayan relocated to Sydney to an excellent teaching role after a stunning 20 years of teaching and leadership at our school and Mrs Mandy Bowers took up a teaching position at an International School in Malaysia.
2. Mrs Lisa Snook completed Term 2 back with us whilst Mr Loubser (GCMY) was on sabbatical. It was so wonderful to have her back on staff.
3. At the end of week 2 of this coming term, both Mrs DeSilva (MAC) and Mrs Turner (GCJY) will leave us to explore our employment and training opportunities.
4. Mrs Bycroft joins the Y1 team again at GCJY for the remainder of the year and we welcome Mrs James now as a teacher also in Y1 at GC.
5. Mr Davis from GCMY will join the MAC team at the end of week 2 to replace Mrs DeSilva with Miss Gibson coming back to take Mr Davis's position.
6. We have appointed Mrs Liew as Team Leader for Y2 at GCJY.
7. Mrs Martis becomes Acting HOD Science (BC/MAC), Mr Lowe takes up all BC Chemistry classes and Mrs Bailey returns again to teach Y11 Science.

A few staff managed to get overseas whilst the rest of us got to Botany or New Lynn Town Centres...oh well! So glad that Mrs Heim got to South Africa to see her aged mum and

hundreds of relatives and Mr and Mrs Granat got to a family wedding in California. Some staff got to nice resorts I hear but they wouldn't tell me. Makes my trip to Bunnings seem even worse now! But wait, over the holidays Mr Mavroyannis our ex IT Technician married Miss Tait our ex Y1 teacher at GC then MAC so it is clear that great things happen at Elim!

### Looking ahead now to Term 3.

- Campus Leads will again keep you fully informed with their regular newsletters regarding news, celebrations of learning and coming events.
- This is a super critical term for making gains in achievement, especially for Y10s getting ready for Y11 and for all NCEA years. Now is the time to do the mahi students, let's commit to working really hard; checking in with teachers, asking for additional help and getting study patterns well set. The next 10 weeks will go exceptionally fast and there could well be health challenges along the way.
- To all parents, no matter what the age of your children if they are not attending school for a day, a week or in some cases struggling to maintain regular attendance, you simply must urgently connect with teaching staff and establish a workable routine for learning/online learning/hybrid learning. Call it what you like and the reasons why it is needed may widely differ, but we want to see all students progress and achieve well.....tough days could be ahead.... let's talk really soon.
- Again, we are aiming for face to face attendance but know the fragility many are experiencing and therefore the struggle for some tamariki to be at school every day. Please connect with us, your school, can we please korero together to explore how your children can get to school or explore how to ensure they don't miss out on essential learning during this coming term.
- This week – we have **Open Mornings** for new families to come and meet us. Spread the word.
  - Wednesday 27 July **MAC** 9:15am – 10:45am
  - Thursday 28 July **GCIJ/MY** 9:15 – 10:45am
  - Thursday 28 July **BC** 11:30 – 12:30pm
- **Some anticipated events this term include:**
  - Week 2 - MAC Cultural Event
  - Week 3- GC Hosanna Week
  - Y11-13 Ball Saturday 13 August
  - Staff only Day – Monday 15 August
  - September: Board elections
  - Saturday 10 September – a big tree planting morning at GC
- **Thursday 25 August** – parents please mark this in your calendar now: **In partnership with Elim Christian Centre we are holding an evening in Botany with Tāima Kōrero.** Tāima Kōrero equips parents and educators with the tools to effectively talk about pornography with young people. By having the right conversations in a timely way, we can **reduce the impact of pornography and support our young people** to have healthy sexual relationships as adults.

## **COVID Health & Safety – from the MOE and MOH**

### **Masking up for the start of Term 3**

In previous years we have found there is an increase in winter illnesses in schools at the start of Term 3 as students bring back infections after travelling and socialising during the holidays. This year cases of COVID-19 are increasing in most parts of the country, and we are also seeing high numbers of other winter illnesses.

The Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health strongly recommend that all schools and kura amend their mask policy **for the first four weeks of this term to require mask wearing in all indoor settings** (where it will not have a significant impact on teaching and learning – see below) for students in Years 4 and above.

This recommendation does not include any situation where mask wearing might not be practicable, such as while eating and drinking, playing certain musical instruments, indoor sport, where it will have a significant impact on teaching and learning (for example, students with particular learning needs), certain activities such as singing or drama performance on stage, and PE. In these situations, particular attention should be paid to ensuring there is good ventilation during the activity, and physical distancing where practicable.

Wearing masks works alongside other measures including good ventilation, staying home when sick, and hand washing and other hygiene measures, to protect our students and staff. Keep up healthy habits!

**We know that that some of our tamariki are exempt from wearing a mask.** If they have an exemption card or a letter from their health provider, or we have previously agreed that mask wearing is not practicable for them, we will support them to not wear a mask.

**So please make sure that tamariki come to school ready to wear masks.** Students should bring masks from home. There will be a limited supply of masks for students who are unable to bring one from home.

As with last term, students may as needed, wear additional jackets to keep themselves warm, whilst we ensure there is good ventilation in all rooms at all times.

***Thank you for your support in protecting our school community.***

As we embark on Term 3 together as a community can I encourage us all to take heed of this verse. As a church school community we recognise God's marvellous mercies and in response why don't we offer all of ourselves personally and corporately to HIM, offer HIM in this coming term - our responses to all its unknown challenges and joys, its heartaches and its breakthroughs.....this will be our genuine worship!

*“Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God’s marvellous mercies? To surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship.”*

Romans 12:1

Nga mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Burton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Murray Burton MNZM  
PRINCIPAL