



Principal's Update 29 April 2022

Our Return to School

Kia Ora everyone and a warm welcome to Term 2 here at school.

I sincerely hope you are well and that you and your whānau have kept safe over the past two weeks. Over Term 2 we will see the weather gradually getting colder and therefore there will be the usual changes in our routines and patterns of living after such a wonderfully long summer.

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills— From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2

Term 1 was intense for many if not all of our families in the Elim community as we all navigated the COVID landscape. It still remains with us and much of this update is to inform you of our approach going into Term 2.

I would, however, like to really thank our school community for your support throughout Term 1. Our attendance rates averaged across 3 campuses, hovered between a real low of 75% early in the term to a more consistent 89-94% over the last few weeks. It was incredible to see our students displaying their musical capabilities in our online Spiritual Landmark Assembly on the last day and to hear senior students sharing their faith. I also had the privilege of once again attending the ANZAC Dawn Service in Howick with the BC Prefects. In the future I would like to see all our campuses represented at local ANZAC services and parades.

Throughout Term 1 we tried to always keep our focus on teaching and learning and to a large extent we were highly successful in this but for you and the school – the management of absences, infections, and recovery, not having parents on-site, not being able to have assemblies and of course no trips – all contributed to quite a challenging 11 weeks. However when doing a general comparison with other school communities I believe we came through quite well, considering all factors.

CPF Orange Level at the start of Term 2.

The following approach will apply to all our campuses for the first 4 weeks of Term 2 and in that 4th week, we will review the situation and communicate any change(s) to you immediately.

Overall at Orange Level, **we are still maintaining a cautious approach** having read the range of information available from MOE and MOH.

We are emphasizing 4 things:

- This is about the promoting and doing all we can to enable the **general health of a community**
- This is about **'strong encouragement'**
- This is about **managing oneself and respecting others** within our school community
- This is about **re-establishing good school operational routines** to focus on learning, growing in Christian character with great pastoral care.

1. Parents will be allowed on site but not permitted to enter classrooms - masks are *strongly encouraged* when on site
2. We will be holding reasonably distanced and well ventilated indoor assemblies and parents will be able to attend – *masks are strongly encouraged in assemblies*
3. We will be *strongly encouraging* staff and students from Y4 up to still wear masks when indoors only
4. All learning spaces will be well and reasonably ventilated at all times
5. Teachers will be asked to continue to provide regular refresh breaks, where everyone exits the room for a few minutes if the conditions outside allow it. This allows the air in the room to quickly refresh. We will monitor airflow and quality as much as possible
6. Outside providers of activities and programmes will be operating on site again
7. We will again be imploring students and staff to stay home if sick
8. All other health & hygiene practices will be promoted and maintained - e.g good hand washing, use of sanitizer, coughing into your elbow etc.
9. Campuses will not be divided into sections but will operate freely
10. Inter-school sports including Sports Camps will be taking place fully
11. Parent-student-teacher conferences will be held on-site face to face and masks will be *strongly encouraged*
12. Camps and any curriculum trips resume as appropriate and necessary
13. Face masks also continue to be required and are *mandatory for students aged 12 and above on school and public transport.*

Botany Campus:

- 8:40 am start times Monday – Friday apply for all students
- Monday – is worship assembly
- Wednesday – is careers / academic guidance focus
- Friday – is the celebration assembly

Mt Albert Campus:

- 8:40 am start times Monday - Friday for all students
- Monday - Year 0-6 Assembly
- Tuesday - Year 9-10 Assembly
- Wednesday - Year 7-8 Assembly
- Thursday - Year 11-13 Assembly
- Friday - Year 9-13 Worship Assembly
- Week 2 Tuesday - Friday Year 7-8 Camp

Golflands Campus Middle Years:

- 8:40 am start times Monday – Friday apply for all students
- Monday – is whānau assembly in year levels
- Wednesday – is our Y7-Y10 Kotahitanga gathering
- Friday – is the Y7-Y10 worship and celebration assembly in the hall.
- Students must be prepared for learning and arrive at school on time in good uniforms with their devices charged and ready for learning.
- **Wednesday 4th May from 6.30-7.30 pm** in the hall- all year 7 parents and students are welcome to a face-to-face '**Year 7 Insights Evening**'.

Golflands Campus Junior Years:

For GCJY Mother's Day Assembly and photo collection: We are delighted to be able to invite parents on-site to our Mother's Day assembly led by our Year 4 team. This will be taking place on **Friday 6th May from 9:30 am-10:30 am** in the hall. You are strongly encouraged to wear a mask and unfortunately, no food would be provided this time.

We are collecting photos of students with their mother, grandmother, or significant woman. Thank you to those who have already done so. Please send these photos to your pastoral care teacher by Tuesday 3rd May. We would appreciate it if you would name the photo with your child's and mother's name and room number. E.g. Joe and Lilly Rm 15.

School Uniforms

Please ensure your child has a clean uniform for Monday and that is correctly dressed at all times throughout the coming term. The student handbook and our website outline what cannot be worn. Parents, we sincerely appreciate your commitment to this.

Y11-13 Students

Parents - what a mission-critical term this will be for NCEA studies. Please encourage your young adult not to miss any opportunity they have to enlist a teacher to critique their progress, offer them advice and guidance and answer all of their many questions. How is your young adult tracking? What have they missed and are in need of some tutoring or help with? Students should ask their teacher for help where they need it and they should keep working on self management skills and strategies to keep up with the pace of learning and deadlines for assignments and tasks.

Tangata ako ana i te whare, te turanga ki te marae, tau ana - *A person who is taught at home, will stand collected on the Marae (meeting house grounds)*

A child who is given proper values at home and cherished within his family, will not only behave well amongst the family but also within society and throughout his life.

This is a reminder that we have a Teacher Only Day on Friday 13th May - there will be no school for students on that day.

Nga mihi Nui



Murray Burton MNZM
PRINCIPAL