



3 December 2021

Kia Ora Parents

This is the first of two updates from me coming out between now and the end of the term and the year!! Our fabulous campus newsletters are also still being published.

No doubt you will have by now seen the links for campus prize givings and we really hope you can join with us to celebrate online!

1. This is to remind you that the **last day of school for 2021** is Tuesday 14 December. GC and MAC both finish at 12:50pm
2. **We have altered our 2022 student start back dates as follows:**
 - Friday 4 February - Y11-13 at BC and MAC sort their options on site as needed
 - Friday 4 February - Y9/10 at MAC start back
 - Monday 7 February - Waitangi Day is observed – a public holiday
 - Tuesday 8 February - Y0-10 at GC attend
 - Tuesday 8 February - Y0-10 at MAC attend
 - Tuesday 8 February - Y11-13 students attend at BC and MAC

The above allows Y0-10 teachers at GC and Y0-8 teachers at MAC to take their MOE provided ACCORD-day they decided not to take this term.

Please also note the following dates:

- Monday 10 January - Kelly Club Holiday Programme at Golflands Campus opens
 - Monday 17 January - Enrolments open
 - Monday 24 January - Campus Leads hold interviews for any new enrolments
 - Tuesday 25 January - Campus offices/reception open
 - Monday 31 January - Auckland Anniversary Day – public holiday
 - Tuesday 1 February - All staff commence our multi-days meet and prepare programme
3. You will have seen an email regarding the **special character donation**, and we are still hopeful many of you will be able to respond with this donation. My last update for the year will feature a combined Proprietor and Board communication regarding the PSCD both for this year and 2022.
 4. We have been working hard to **restructure staffing for 2022** due to a combination of a dramatic decline this year in income, the vaccination mandate and staff retiring or simply moving schools. The complete list of leaving staff will be published as we always

do, but I will not be identifying those staff who are not returning because of the mandate. They have our full respect and support as highly valued colleagues.

I am however, highlighting below two long-serving staff who are leaving.

5. As you know, all schools continue operating essentially under Level 3 rules for the remainder of 2021 school year. Thank you to all parents for your cooperation. Between now and the start of school in 2022 the MOE will update instructions and bring clarity on how school is to run for Term 1. We will keep you fully informed.

We are very hopeful of being able to operate without restrictions in 2022. We can assure you we will function superbly next year under the traffic light system, with care, providing face to face instruction under the Health Order whilst being cognizant that a number of families may not return. Whether at home or back on site, all new and current students will be warmly welcomed with open arms.

6. Please note that 2022 Y0-8 class lists are not revealed until start back day.
7. As with a huge number of schools in Auckland we have lost a number of students to the home-schooling option and we utterly respect this decision. We are thankful we are able to quickly fill the spots vacated. We are working to provide support, guidance and connection with one home-schooling hub as part of our investigation into longer term online structures.
8. Our survey regarding longer term online options: thank you whanau for all your responses and helpful comments. We have not yet digested it all, but our thinking continues to evolve regarding this.
9. Devices in the primary years at both GC and MAC: **From 2022 ipads are required from Year 4 and up.** This signals a shift from our previous policy of Year 3 and up. We have an ongoing review directly focused on the time spent in front of a screen. We are not saying we have the answers, but we are seriously evaluating the literature and our own experience. No doubt parents are doing the same. We still love devices, the ipad is superb in the learning environment and we know the digital landscape will exponentially morph and change – however we will also explore the absolute breadth and depth of the full learning experiences we can provide for your child without using a device.

A tribute to two of our wonderful long serving staff who are leaving: to Glynis Protheroe and Mark Mack. You are both different people but your contributions to and service in our school are beyond words!

Glynis – if it were not for current restrictions, we would have had you on the stage in a massive assembly to celebrate your 30 years of service. Your work has been a work of absolute dedication and of excellence. You are one highly skilled lady who is leaving a big old in our high school structure but a superb legacy of problem solving, strategic positioning and

a consistency of faithful discipleship we all need to emulate. From the really early days of Christian Heritage College located in Mt Wellington to Cascade Christian College at 159 Botany Road to Elim Christian College with 3 campuses which has seen you travelling to Mt Albert to visit and mentor your zoom students....you have been through all the name changes and developments and we honour you Mrs P. Your adaptability, quiet persistence, daily commitment to our vision is a significant legacy. As our timetable expert you have never flinched or folded and how you have put up with all our gripes and 'need to know yesterday' requests we'll never know! God bless Glynis. The current Elim community joins with all our Alumni to pray rich blessings on the new season you are embracing – great is your reward!

Mr Mack – you are one of a kind and your departure has come far too soon, but we always knew that when it came, we would be sad and shocked! Without a doubt Mark you are a man of deep faith, integrity, leadership, creativity, compassion and a desire to live life well! Both at Botany and Mt Albert you have made a significant difference in academics and pastoral care! You have superbly mentored younger male staff and been a remarkable role model to all of us. Your willingness to leave your investment at BC and take up the leadership of MAC proved to be inspiring and transformative in countless ways. MAC thrives today because of you Mr Mack!! Ormiston Senior College is blessed beyond measure!

Nga mihi nui

Murray Burton MNZM
PRINCIPAL