



## Principal's Update Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Kia Ora Elim Whanau

Suddenly we are in Week 9 of this term and as the weather slowly starts to change – it is a real reminder that the year is well and truly marching on.

**Term 1 finishes on Thursday 14 April at the usual time and Term 2 commences Monday 2 May.**

**Accord Days:** These staff training days are provided by the government to enable schools to keep abreast of ongoing curriculum changes in the education network. The Accord Days for 2022 are Friday 13 May and Monday 15 August 2022.

**New Staff:** This year we have welcomed the following new staff to our school and it has been wonderful to see them rapidly becoming part of our team:

### We have welcomed:

	Name	Position	Campus
1	Danette MacLeod	Scale A Y7	GCMY
2	Nigel Davis	Short term Relieving teacher Y8-9	GCMY
3	Ella Voykovich	Scale A NE	MAC
4	Annette Williams	Scale A Y2 Maternity Leave position	MAC
5	Thomas Blok	Sec Maths/Science/Physics	MAC
6	Yen Kim	Scale A Y4	MAC
7	Victor Peach	Scale A Y7/8	MAC
8	Nate Collings	HOD Music	MAC
9	Norma van Rooyen	Reception	MAC
10	Katrina Bishop	Reception	GC
11	Emma Abrahams	Library	MAC
12	Sue Govender	Learning Assistant	GCIJY
13	Alyssa Claridad	Gateway Coordinator	BC
14	Kim James	Learning Assistant	GCMY

15	Esther Lim	Learning Assistant	GCMY
16	Joanna Sohn	Learning Assistant	MAC

We have also welcomed back Suzi Morris and Lydie Granat who have returned part time from maternity leave.

**Further Staff changes:** we do have some staff leaving us at the end of this term and we will advise you of this as soon we can. We always pray God’s favour and blessing on each of those leaving us that they may continue to see HIS provision on their lives in the next season.

### Money Matters

We know this is a challenge for many and we are seeing the world around us change quite rapidly at times. For us as school we are looking at another tough year financially too.

The Board’s Finance Committee is a brilliant group of parents, and they count it a privilege to steward our school so we can provide Christian Education for generations to come.

We are really grateful that this year has started well with the PSCD (Proprietors Special Character Donation) – **thank you everyone and we hope you can continue this all year.**

In 2021 we had to rely totally on savings to make it through – savings that we had earmarked for all sort of great campus developments. We are again facing a sizeable deficit due to COVID continuing to prevent access for our International Students. This makes it increasingly difficult for us to provide for future.

With all this in mind we would like to put to you for Term 2, **some ways your additional donations can help us to just meet the budget** for operating the school in the most prudent manner. All such donations can be submitted to the IRD for the tax rebate.

1. Please keep contributing your PSCD, it would be amazing if we could increase this to at least 90 % of all parents. Compared to last year’s PSCD contributions **this would help our budget by \$20-\$30k.**
2. **Just for those parents who have children (Y7-10 and Y11 at Botany)** benefitting from **Education Perfect:** we love this software, and it seriously helps learning but it does cost us \$50 per student. If you would consider contributing the cost of \$50 for your child as a donation **this would help our budget by \$30k.**
3. **Just for those parents who get access to their child’s learning journey through Schoology, Y7-13,** if you would consider contributing the cost per student of \$20 as a donation **this would help our budget by \$25k.**
4. **Lastly** – we have the most amazing set of books from Mike de Vetter that we offer to you as the first schoolwide fundraiser we have done in many years. It’s not chocolate

but it is superb food for the soul and for the spiritual growth of every child. If you are a family with senior students maybe this set could be a gift for nieces, nephews, and neighbours perhaps?

This fundraiser will take place in Term 2 and we are hoping that if every family purchased at least 1 set of these books then we could raise \$30k. More details to come.

As referred to above, and in anticipation of families being in a position to donate towards the costs of Schoology, Education Perfect and the book fundraiser, and for ease of transaction, these amounts will be added to your account statements at the beginning of Term 2. **These items will be noted as donations and are entirely voluntary.** Parents / Caregivers who would like to donate will then be able to pay using the portal or by direct bank transfer. We sincerely appreciate any help you can give us. We remind you again that all such donations can be submitted to the IRD for the tax rebate.

### **Annual Spiritual Landmark Assembly**

For all our students we will hold our annual Spiritual Landmark Assembly on Thursday 14 April. As a Christian school we take this opportunity to celebrate, remember and give thanks to our sovereign God. April 15 is the commemoration of the 2008 'Mangatepopo tragedy' in which six of our Y12 students and a teacher lost their lives while on a school trip at the Hillary Outdoors Education Centre (known back then as OPC) in National Park. It is a significant date in our school calendar and we will take the opportunity to be together virtually as one school on the day as close to April 15 as we can. Often this date coincides with Easter so we also celebrate and give thanks during the assembly for the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Lastly, sometimes we include a section on the early foundation years of Elim and give thanks for the heritage we have in this school today!

The term 'spiritual landmark' is designed to focus on what God can and does do through events, seasons, moments in our lives – many of which we do not fully understand at the time. Mangatepopo will always be extremely sad, perplexing and filled with what-ifs ...and our humanity cannot adequately grapple with something as enormous as this. But there are also countless stories of what happened in lives because of this, what God chose to lead us through, how He worked in and through that tragedy and in His infinite mercy and grace we continue to trust Him daily for what lies ahead. The lives of the seven families will never be the same and you also may have been through such things or similar as a person or as a family.

We always look for the 'silver linings', not to discount the sadness and loss but to anchor ourselves to HIS sovereignty, for HIS glory and for our absolute dependence on HIS faithfulness.

### **Term 1 and now Term 2**

Thanks everyone for this past term....it has at times been intense and challenging for us a community but it has also been amazing in every way. Parents your support often is beyond words, students we simply love you and even though for you seniors that sounds ridiculous,

it is true. Staff you have kept at it, you have navigated your own sickness, your own uncertainties and given your very best for our school community. One of my highlights from this term and there have been many, would be the Fono held with our pacific parents – it grabbed my heart when I heard yours!

Term 2 starts on Monday 2 May and we absolutely pray that families do all they can to enjoy the holiday break (the change of school routine) and take the opportunity for enhanced well - being.

As soon as we know and have digested any information coming from the PM and her cabinet regarding traffic light settings, we will convey this to you. Clear communication will be given as to campus operations in Term 2.

Nga mihi nui

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

Murray Burton  
PRINCIPAL