



27 May 2021

Dear Parents / Caregivers / Whanau

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

As we approach the end of week 4, all three campuses are busy and ensuring students are on task and making the most of all opportunities available.

Multiple trips and campus events have taken place since my previous newsletter. We are sincerely grateful for the many parents, whanau and volunteers who eagerly assist or coach or manage at school events. Without your help many activities could not occur. A special word of thanks must also be extended to our staff who facilitate activities and camps outside of normal school hours.

Last week, I had the pleasure of briefly attending the y5 & 6 at Willow Park Camp (Eastern Beach) and y7 camp at Camp Adair (Hunua). All students seemed to be having a fabulous time, despite the cold and often wet weather. Thank you parental supporters who also attended and for your willingness to engage with the students and assist with the running of the camps. I hope you have caught up with your lost sleep!

Advance Notice Staff Only Day – Tuesday 8th June

Our Kahui Ako (Community of Schools) has a staff only day on Tuesday 8th June.

Kelly Club (Holiday and After School Care provider) is taking registrations for students Years 1-8 should you require care on this date. Kelly Club only offers a service from our Golflands Campus.

To register online www.kellyclub.co.nz/elim any questions please email elim@kellyclub.co.nz

Just so you know...

You will have received this week, individual campus newsletters. So much positive activity occurs each day. Thank you for partnering with us.

I have reminded below of some of the school expectations and non-negotiables – not to be negative, but to ensure there is clarity around the boundaries necessary to continue providing a safe, secure, and enjoyable learning environment for students.

A reminder that all Campuses sites are Smoke and Vape free.

The Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act commenced on 11 November 2020, amending the Smoke-free Environments Act 1990 and renaming it to the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990.

As of 11 November 2020 vaping is always prohibited in schools, kura kaupapa, kōhanga reo and early childhood centres (including their grounds and buildings). This means they will be smokefree and vape

free and school management/boards must take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure that no person smokes or vapes in any part of the premises, whether inside or outside, at any time of day. Our school rigorously enforces this legal responsibility. This includes smoking or vaping outside of the school grounds whilst participating in school activities and/or in school uniform.

Surrender and Retention of Student Property

Quoting a couple of relevant sections from the Ministry of Education guidelines for the surrender and retention of property [surrender and retention guidelines](#) we read;

Parents, students, and the public will have a legitimate expectation that the school environment will be free from drugs, weapons, alcohol and cyber bullying.

Students are protected under Section 21 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, which states “Everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure, whether of the person, property or correspondence or otherwise”.

This section does not prohibit searches or seizure of student property, but schools must be able to justify their actions as reasonable and necessary to maintain a safe environment.

Please note that if Elim Christian College has reasonable cause to believe that dangerous or prohibited substances/objects are in a student’s possession, or if a device is suspected of holding offensive material or which has been used to bully or intimidate or which breaks the school’s internet agreement, we will exercise our right to search and confiscate.

If the school suspects that there is potentially a serious breach of the possession of illegal substances or objects – e.g. dangerous drugs or weapons - we will attempt to contact parents before a search is made.

School Based Immunisations Year 7 Boostrix

Year 7 students at both GC and MAC will be visited by representatives from the Auckland District Health Board to discuss and outline the Boostrix immunisations. Parents will be given information sent home via their child. Elim Christian College has not historically opted for the HPV vaccination to be included in these immunisations but encourage parents / caregivers / whanau to take their child to the family doctor should you wish to have this immunisation given. The school will review including HPV vaccine for the 2022 school year.

Student Illness

As the cooler days of winter approach, I remind parents / caregivers / whanau that if your child is unwell they should stay home until they have recovered.

Reporting Student Absences

On the day: If your child will be absent for the day, more than half an hour late to school, or picked up early, please fill in the Absence Web Form on our school website before 9am on that day:

https://www.elim.school.nz/absence_form/

For absences of two days or more: Please fill in the absence form on the first day of absence and specify the dates in the Reason field. E.g. Johnny will be away from school today and tomorrow due to an ankle injury.

Extended Leave: Parents / Caregivers are required to request leave in advance for their child. Extended leave should be requested from your child's Campus Lead by email. (see names and email addresses above).

School Uniform Expectations

Campus Leads and teaching staff are ensuring a focus on the correct wearing of the school uniform. We would encourage to review the uniform expectations on the student handbook: <https://www.elim.school.nz/information/student-handbooks/>

Road safety and parking

I would like to reiterate the importance of road safety in and around our school campuses. The beginning and end of each school day is always busy, therefore extra care must be taken to ensure the safety of students.

A Thought to Finish...

Our staff were recently given a short devotional on the meaning of **Cape Diem** – a Latin phrase found in early Greek and Roman literature. Translated, it means to *pluck the day*. These days it is commonly understood as *Seize the Day* which means to make the most of every moment.

Sometimes you must seize the moment at the time it arrives knowing that it will probably never reoccur. Those are special times, unexpected and often beautiful times. (e.g. the sighting of the "blood moon", 11:11pm on Thursday evening).

Sometimes you will have advance notice that a hoped for "moment" will occur, but you must wait until the timing is right. (e.g. I have a close friend who will, because of Covid-19 restrictions, will soon embrace her 2 precious 7mth grandchildren for the first time this weekend.)

Sometimes a moment comes, and you know that it is wrong for you to seize because it is not yours to take, you must leave it alone and let it go.

Sometimes the moment comes, and you hesitate, and the moment has gone forever.

Each day will be full of moments - some you will ignore, some are fledging, some need caution and patience, some you will miss, some were never yours to take.

There is no other day. All days are present now. This moment contains all moments. C S Lewis

Ngā mihi,



Gary Johnstone
Acting Principal