



Sunday 28 February 2021

**Kia Ora our Elim Christian College community**

**Parents and caregivers**, I trust you will have read my email sent late last night? As promised this is a further update regarding Level 3 schooling for this coming week.

**As a reminder: .....COVID-19 ALERT:** The **AUCKLAND REGION is now in COVID-19 Alert Level 3, for a period of 7 days.** If you are in the Auckland Region, **STAY HOME and follow Alert Level 3 guidelines.** For more information on Alert Level 3 and Alert Level 2 go to [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz). **People are instructed to stay home** in their bubble other than for essential personal movement – including to go to work, school if they have to, or for local recreation.

At our executive leadership meeting this morning which included our new BOT Chairperson, Hayden Briscoe, Hayden shared the picture of Peter getting out the boat as Jesus called him. This was in the midst of the storm; the wind and the waves were still around until he got back into the boat. Hayden encouraged us to continue to trust in God in this season. He also said that for each of us as we lead in our contexts, that we are carriers of hope. Let us keep hope alive.

**Online learning will commence tomorrow morning Monday 1 March from 9.00am.** Staff are preparing as I write and mapping out suitable timetables for on-line learning. It will feature mainly morning instruction, interaction and teacher availability. Activities, assignments and the like will be promoted for the afternoons. We strongly advocate non or limited screen time from midday onwards and there are some ideas for different age groups further in this communication.

***Each campus has been asked to be clear, calm, deliberate and affirming in their communication.***

**Students Attending On site:** We have included here a link to a spreadsheet for you to indicate the necessity to have your Y1-10 child on site at our Golflands Campus. This applies only to the children whose parents have to be physically at their work and therefore need to send their children to school. Our Mt Albert Campus will not be open so when you indicate on the spreadsheet that you child will be coming, you must undertake to get them to Golflands. **Students are not to arrive before 8.45am and the likely afternoon collection time will be 2.30-2.45pm.**

**Link to Google Form** to register children of parents who must physically attend work while under Alert Level 3.

<https://forms.gle/cJ62xQdFi1LZdqXNA>

### COVID LEVEL 3 - ESSENTIAL WORKER STUDENT REGISTRATION

During Level 3 schools are open only for Y1-10 students who have parents who are essential workers and NEED to be physically at their place of work.

\* Required

Student Full Name \*

Your answer

Campus \*

- ☐ Gofflands  
☐ Mt Albert

## COVID LEVEL 3 - ESSENTIAL WORKER STUDENT REGISTRATION

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[forms.gle](https://forms.gle)

**Devices:** we will again make arrangements for students who need a device at home. Please let your child's teacher know and this will be recorded on a spreadsheet and conveyed to Mr Woollaston.

**Students pickup of essential resources as follows:** This will be very controlled entry/exits. Please scan/sanitise on arrival.

- **GCIJY (Year 1-6 students):** Monday 12.30 – 1.30pm
- **GCMY (Year 7-10 students):** Monday 1.00pm and 2.30pm
- **BC:** Monday 2.00pm – 3.00pm
- **MAC:** TBC Monday 2.00pm-3.00pm

***If a student needs a school device, this can be picked up tomorrow, please see the above notice.***

**Calendar items and events:** We have a number of scheduled events on our school calendar. Since we cannot accommodate all events in a reduced timeframe, we will be discussing which will be moved to a future date and which will be cancelled.

**Please help us with student tracking:** We need to monitor the attendance and engagement of your child(ren). Teachers or Campus leaders will be making contact with you as appropriate as during our last lockdown, several students had difficulties accessing some of their classes.

### **Message from our Well-being Team**

Today many feelings will be being felt, many thoughts will be whirring as we adjust, respond and react. As our sense of predictability and control seems to have shifted gear literally overnight, we face the key challenge right now which is "sitting with uncertainty" and sitting with our young people as they wrestle with disappointment and uncertainty once again. I encourage us as a community to hold fast to the stable and steady parts of our lives. Highlight and emphasise those things - connection with friends and family, love and care within our homes, the never changing love of God who holds us through this. Encourage any connection building whether that is formal like connecting with teachers online, or informal, within your bubble at dinner or for a "walk and talk" or with friends online.

Senior students who have any concerns about assessments or the coming exams are ***invited and encouraged*** to connect with subject teachers, tutor teachers, and their Whanau Leaders. ***Sooner is better and no question is too small.***

Your children may be expressing worries about tasks that had to be left midway, unfinished, incomplete. Please reassure them - ***learning is a journey not a destination*** and though we may be facing a bit of a detour or roadblock, that is okay. This image may help...the teachers are here to work with the students to take any "bits and pieces" of learning and tasks and create a beautiful mosaic of learning. Please reassure them that their teachers will communicate any adjustments in expectations - ***we are all in this together.***

The counselling team is available for staff, students and parents from **9:00am - 5:00pm** weekdays. Please refer via the following link <https://goo.gl/forms/jVToOZYSJoyio8nR2> or contact Yvette Britten directly via email [yvette.britten@elim.school.nz](mailto:yvette.britten@elim.school.nz). Depending on how long we are away from school, the counsellors will also run wellbeing support group zoom sessions for different age groups which will be open to all interested students. Details for those will be shared on Schoology.

### **Stay Safe, Stay Connected, Kia Kaha**

Thanks to our good friend Philippa Isom (ex-staff member) for these thoughts for this week:

- Have each person say something that they are really looking forward to this week. We like to write it down so it's visible to celebrate and plan for. For our family it's a pancake breakfast, family games night and home workouts where the 18-year-old gets to be my coach.
- Meal planning — we go to the cupboards and fridge/freezer and see what we can do without having to go shopping. Then make a list of what is needed including checking for non-food items so that only one trip is necessary. With us all at home together, we try to make meals a time to come together and touch base during the day and in the evening. It's also a good time to stop working as the home/work/school boundaries can get a little blurred when you are always at home.
- Finally, open the floor to talk about anything else you need to. Being at home all together can be a bit of a pressure cooker for relationships and it's good to make sure your expectations are reasonable and everyone is aware of them. For example, my desk is beside the kitchen. If everyone is constantly coming into the kitchen all day to make coffee and get drinks and food and also wanting to chat, I get very little done — FRUSTRATING. So, we have scheduled breaks during the workday and at other times it's expected that kitchen use will be quiet.

**For Primary aged children:**

- Construct a timetable/schedule together. When children are invited into the process they are also stakeholders and owners who have had their needs and wants considered.
- Keeping in communication with the school at this time will save both you and your children from additional stress.
- Try to keep a school/home balance. You are their parent first and their surrogate teacher second.
- Get out and move — balls in the backyard, the trampoline if you have one, run around the block and see if they can improve each day, YouTube work outs.

**Secondary children and beyond:**

- A check-in each morning and afternoon to see how they feel about the day. I have found that discussing each of the subject areas is helpful for my teenager.
- Ask if there are any resources they need — we had to make several art orders to ensure they could continue with their art boards during last year's long lockdowns. It was worth the investment. If this is not possible for your family, I encourage you to reach out to school who can also distribute practical resources for students at home.
- Support them to maintain the school/home balance.
- If their workspace is in their bedroom, invite them to join you for lunch and have communal dinners where everyone comes together.

- Support them in reaching out to their friends.
- Encourage them to get outside at least once a day. Offer your own body as a sacrifice if it will support them in this. I have Miss 18 gladly taking on the role of “personal trainer” during any level changes — I have a feeling I will be sleeping well for the next week.

Lastly from Philippa: *“I invite you to be human in the midst of it all. The above suggestions may not work at all for you, you may have much more complex needs and circumstances, you may not be able to do anything — this is invited as well. If breathing is all that you can do right now, then breathe. In through your nose, out through your mouth...”*

Much aroha everyone

*The LORD himself will lead you and be with you. He will not fail you or abandon you, so do not lose courage or be afraid.*  
*Deuteronomy 31:8*

*Nga mihi*

*Regards*

**Murray Burton MNZM**  
**PRINCIPAL**