



Principal's Update: End of Week 2, 2020

Kia Ora everyone

This week at BC and GC it is Hosanna Week featuring great age appropriate activities based around our Christian faith – each year it is amazing to see and experience. In the first week of this term our Mt Albert Campus held a Y9-13 version of Hosanna Week and I asked the initiator, Mr Craig Scott, to share the following summary.

MAC Y9-13 Breakthrough Conference

Two days of worship, teaching, games, fast food and whanau rivalry saw Ezekiel take home MAC's sword and shield trophies at the end of our first Breakthrough Conference. Based at Elim Christian Centre City Campus, we spent time in worship along with ministry from Elim pastors such as Darcie Frost, Hayley Barrett and Mike Griffiths. We traversed the streets on downtown Auckland and the Wynyard Quarter seeking clues for our scavenger hunt and Mr McKenzie put us through our paces with Tribal Wars. On day two we had a great range of workshops looking at mind, soul, body and how we relate to others. Mike Griffith's workshops on 'hearing from God' were a real highlight.

Students said: "having lots of fun worship with the school" "enjoyed Mr Mack going into McDonalds without realising that the rest of the group wasn't with us." "When Pastor Griffiths talked about having wounded spirit, on the Thursday morning." "Liked the togetherness of everyone bonding over worship and Tribal Wars." "praying with my teacher and friends. We could talk deeper." "Make it longer"

We are very grateful to the Elim pastors and school staff who made this happen and for lives that were transformed during the conference.

Recent Communication to GC regarding Montecito Place

Last week I wrote to our GC parent community regarding the improvements we need to make in the use of Montecito Place. Here is that message re-printed here:

Kia Ora parents

I write to you regarding the entry and exit point at Montecito Place.

Firstly, can I thank you for working with us to have many of our Y9/10 students using this entry/exit point. It has really helped the congestion on Golflands Drive, and we are very happy with this development, well done!

Secondly, we all have to immediately work with urgency to change how we are using Montecito entry/exit! Since the beginning of this term, we now have extreme congestion, illegal parking and literally traffic jams which affect you as parents and all the residents. I have been contacted by the residents who are very unhappy with this development and have implored me to solve it.

When we planned for the use of Montecito place, we informed you as parents that senior students would be trained as traffic wardens and that there would be two crossing points back on Bob Charles

Drive. You would drop your child on Bob Charles and they would walk the few hundred metres onto and up Montecito Place. That was always our intention and that's what we planned for. We never wanted parents to drive up Montecito Place except in emergencies.

Parents – we need to immediately get back to the original plan and we want to see it executed from tomorrow! I cannot emphasise this enough. The residents are going to elevate this to the authorities if we don't make a change and if I was a resident, I would most probably advocate this too.

I know we can do this and in so doing we give our children exercise, we bless the residents and we represent our Creator well!!

Opening of our GCMY Facilities

It was initially it was to be a large event in 2019 to open our GC Middle Years area featuring the Prime Minister or if she couldn't come, then the Minister of Education. When both of them declined twice and the property still needed some finishing touches – it all went on hold. With the arrival of 2020, a year like no other, the Hon Nikki Kaye was delighted to be invited to do the honours on March 20. Alas along came COVID-19 and Lockdown. The plaque to shortly go up on the wall had already been made and still features March 20! So last Friday we opened the GCMY and celebrated the work of our Proprietors in providing for us a most magnificent campus! The Proprietors were able to meet with Nikki Kaye, Nicola Willis (Nikki's 'Education Spokesperson' successor), Simeon Brown and Chris Luxon regarding the strategic direction of Elim Education. Nikki spoke incredibly well, the gospel choir nailed it with their first performance under Mrs Ackerman's superb training and conducting, the huge GC Kapa Haka group were delightful, and it was a wonderful celebration.

Hon Nikki Kaye as Minister of Education in the last National Government was responsible for signing off Mt Albert Campus to us as an integrated campus with a maximum roll of 350. She did that the day for the 2017 election. It was therefore appropriate and right that we honoured her last Friday and she in turn, when she spoke, honoured Luke and Marilyn Brough our Elim Senior Ministers whose enabling vision brought us what we have today – our school!

Welcome to new staff at GC

Mrs Vermeulen has left to teach in Abu Dabi, Mr Wang is now leading Year 5, Mr Hutchinson is now co-leading Year 2 with Mrs Schick. We welcome Mrs Wei and Mrs Bowers to job share in Year 1. Starting today we welcome Mrs Norris and Mrs Clarkson as Learning Assistants and in Week 6 - Mrs Nay Greenfield to teach in the rapidly expanding Year 1 team.

Y11-13 Ball

It was one of the best yet. With 300 students from BC and MAC along with their partners plus 50 staff, it was such a great night. Well done to the staff and Prefects who worked so hard to make it happen. We were the first school ball that Ellerslie Convention Centre has hosted this year and they always love hosting us.

A Year Like No Other Continues – here is a Message from our Counselling Team

Term 3 is upon us and I wonder if I am the only one who feels it must be later in the term. For some the journey through the Covid pandemic has been smooth and they are feeling settled, for others the effects are being acutely felt – whether due to connections overseas still in the thick of it, exhaustion from their own journey, or the financial effects hitting many of us now. Can I encourage you – you are

not alone. Our students feel and experience the flow on effects and continue to need stability, boundaries and support to build resilience and make them feel secure. This takes energy from parents of course. Can I encourage you to persevere with the small things. We have noticed a general trend and that is that many students are tired. Supporting them to have the rest they need is critical. Young people need, on average, 9 and a quarter hours of sleep. Good sleep hygiene includes a relaxing bedtime routine with no devices for a time before bed (an hour). Keeping devices out of the bedroom is highly recommended as removing temptation is easier than overcoming temptation. Sleep is one of the key protective factors for mental wellbeing and devices available throughout the night is probably the most common intruder and thief of sleep. I would highly recommend making the rules about this clear...each family will have their way –guidelines change as students get older...some things to discuss and make decisions about are: no devices in the bedroom at all, devices off and plugged in for charging an hour before bedtime (earlier for younger students), parental controls on all devices....and more importantly, have conversations about what makes it hard to put devices away and turn them off...empathise that our young people live in a whole new world with technology but they still need sleep and we have to work together to protect that more than ever.

Reminder – this Thursday, August 6 is our staff only day so students do not attend on that day.

God bless

*Nga mihi
Regards*

Murray

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PRINCIPAL**