

ELIM CHRISTIAN COLLEGE MT ALBERT NEWSLETTER



Tēnā koutou katoa whānau,

What a great team of Whānau leaders we have this year! They have been working hard to reinvigorate our house point system throughout the school. A shield was crafted by Ethan and Zeph to reward the winning house each week in assemblies. We appreciate the student agency and leadership being seen in our Year 12 cohort!

It is great to have healthy competition developing amongst our four house groups and to see this in action at our recent full school cross-country event. House points are one of the ways students are encouraged to show their school values and contribute positively to student culture.

I extend my personal thanks to Evie Harrowfield, who has been the first student representative on the School Board. Evie has done an outstanding job in this role, displaying maturity and confidence in her contributions. She will finish her term in September when a new representative is voted in. Well done, Evie! I pray that this is just the start of many leadership opportunities ahead for you, and wish you all the very best for your future endeavors.

There are opportunities for our senior students to apply for leadership roles for 2027. The Student Board Representative process is already underway, and our Year 12 and 13 Student Leadership applications open soon. Please encourage your children to think and pray about this, and to submit their application if this is something they feel called to pursue. Stepping into student leadership is a wonderful way to grow, serve our school community, and leave a lasting positive impact.

We currently have a vacancy advertised for a Data Administrator to join our office team, as Mrs. Norma van Rooyen will be leaving us at the end of this term to move with her family to Australia. We will be sad to see Norma leave and will farewell and thank her properly later in the term. Please feel free to pass our job advertisement on to anyone you feel would be suitable for this important role. While current school experience is an advantage, data administration background and excellent communication skills are essential.

As a reminder, our newsletter is now sent out monthly on the third Tuesday of the month. It is packed full of photos and articles to keep you updated on all the exciting opportunities where students can develop new interests, grow their passions, and learn new skills, both in the classroom and through co-curricular activities.

We appreciate your family continuing to uplift our school community in prayer. Prayer points can be found on the following page.

Ngā mihi nui

Tania Calvert



Tania Calvert
Principal Tumuaki

"Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant."

Matthew 20:26

IMPORTANT DATES

WHOLE SCHOOL

Week 6

Monday 24 August
Teacher Only Day

Week 7

Friday 4 September
Father's Day Breakfast
(Please RSVP)

Week 10

Wednesday 23 September
Civvies Day

Friday 25 September
End of Term 3

JUNIOR (YEAR 1 - 8)

Week 6

Tuesday 25 - Friday 28 August
Year 0-8 Book Week

Friday 28 August
Year 0-8 Book Character Parade and
Prizegiving

Week 7

Year 5-8 Puberty Talks (during the week)

Week 8

Tuesday 8 September
Eden-Albert Choir (Y5 and 6)
Rehearsal 3

Thursday 10 September
Poetry Recital and Speech Finals

Friday 11 September
Phase 1 (Year 0-1 plus siblings)
Maritime Museum Trip

Week 9

Friday 18th September
Phase 1 (Year 2-3) Maritime Museum Trip

SENIOR (YEAR 9 - 13)

Week 6

Wednesday 26 August
Student Leader Applications due

Week 8

Monday 7 - Friday 11 September
Year 12-13 Practice Exams
Co-Requisite 2nd Opportunity

Wednesday 9 - Friday 11 September
Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Trip

TERM DATES 2027

	Term Dates	Weeks
Term 1	Tuesday 2 February - Friday 9 April	10 weeks
Term 2	Tuesday 27 April - Friday 2 July	10 weeks
Term 3	Monday 19 July - Friday 24 September	10 weeks
Term 4	Monday 11 October - Wednesday 15 December	10 weeks



AUGUST PRAYER POINTS

Please pray for:

- Year 0 - 3 trip to Maritime Museum
- Silver Duke of Ed trip to Waiheke
- Y7-8 sports camp
- Student Leader Process
- A great ERO visit (Educational Review Office)

JUNIOR DISCO

Miss Jessica Kidd

The Year 0-6 students had a blast at the 'Football and Fairytale' disco! From awesome music courtesy of DJ Steph, to sweet treats, wristbands, fake tattoos and a delicious sausage sizzle. There was certainly something for everyone. We would like to express a huge thank you to the ARISE parents for organising such a wonderful event for our students to enjoy! Here are some of the student's highlights:

Abigail Year 1 : "I liked eating the fun sticks."

Theo Year 2 : "My favourite part of the disco was dancing to the song 'chicken banana'."

Nico Year 2 : "I liked getting a football wristband."

To'oa and Shiloh Year 5 : "I loved helping at the discos. It was also great to sing and dance. We even got to request songs from the DJ."

Christian Year 6 : "My favourite part of the disco was the dance battle because it was super fun to verse the Y13 student leaders- I won the mini battle!"



Find more photos from [here](#). Please note that the photo album will be restricted and closed in two weeks' time.

CROSS COUNTRY

Anna Cooper, Year 12, Whānau Leader

During cross-country, I had the privilege of serving our school as a Whānau Leader. We had the opportunity to run alongside the junior students during their races, encouraging and motivating them along the way. We also helped run activities such as the egg-and-spoon race, sack race, and parachute games. We encouraged everyone to get involved in friendly competition and to support their house as they competed to come out on top at the end of the day.



Find more photos from [here](#). Please note that the photo album will be restricted and closed in two weeks' time.

TOASTMASTER

Rachelle Eccles, Year 8

On Tuesday, the 11th of August, Elizabeth Viljoen came to our school to speak to us. Elizabeth is a toastmaster and spokesperson for Christian Blind Mission (CBM). CBM (Christian Blind Mission) is an international Christian mission organisation that works alongside local partners in poor countries to break the cycle of poverty and disability, such as eye diseases.

Elizabeth shared with us a presentation about speeches and how our voice matters. In her presentation were some tips for speeches, and some things about her job and what she does. One key takeaway is that when we present a speech or presentation, there are three things that we have to do in order for it to be engaging and successful: first, make the audience think; second, make the audience care about what you're saying; third, show them what to do next.



Overall, Elizabeth's visit was very helpful and fun. We look forward to her returning later in the term as a judge for our speech competition.

MATHS WEEK 2026

A CELEBRATION OF MATHEMATICAL THINKING

Mrs Mercy Edward

Maths Week was a wonderful celebration of problem solving, creativity, teamwork, and perseverance at Elim Christian College. Throughout the week, students and staff enthusiastically participated in a variety of activities, including the Rubik's Cube Challenge, mathematical puzzles, Mathex, a Murder Mystery challenge, staff quizzes, and Guess the Number of Lollies in the Jar.

It was encouraging to see students of different year levels working together, thinking creatively, and enjoying mathematics beyond the classroom. Staff also embraced the spirit of the week by participating in the daily maths challenges.

A huge thank you to all the students, teachers, and support staff who helped make Maths Week such an engaging and memorable experience. We hope the week inspired everyone to see that mathematics is not only about numbers, it is also about curiosity, creativity, collaboration, and having fun!



EPro8

Mr Thomas Blok

Eleven of our students participated in an inter-school engineering competition called EPro8. They were given two and a half hours to complete as many challenges as possible, including things like building a remote control scissor lift, a motorized mario kart that drops bananas, and a solar panel that tracks the sun. One of our three teams came 2nd, so they will be moving on to the next round!



YEAR 13 BIOLOGY ZOO TRIP

Mrs Amanda Ray

We had an amazing time on our Y13 Biology zoo trip. The Trends in Evolution topic was brought to life by a conservation learning facilitator using a range of skulls, skeletons and tools. We then were escorted through the zoo and taught on Plants and Animal Responses along the way. Seeing real life examples of the content we are covering in class really made the learning jump off the page. We didn't want to leave!



GEOGRAPHY TRIP

Mr Nigel Cato

On Friday 31st July, the students of 11 Geography went on a field trip around Auckland's volcanic landscape. We climbed to the top of Maungawahau (Mt Eden) and Te Pane-o-Mataaho (Māngere Mountain) as well as visiting other volcanic landforms and sites of human interaction. Our focus was on the different volcanic eruption processes and the landforms they have produced, and the different ways humans have used these landforms and materials. We also considered what might happen if a volcano was to erupt in Auckland today, which is the topic of our next assessment.



BIG MAC COMBO PERFORMED AT THE AUCKLAND JAZZ FESTIVAL

Miss Sarah Dunn

Our Senior Jazz Band, the Big Mac Combo, had a fantastic evening performing at the Auckland Jazz Festival at the Birkenhead RSA this past Saturday, August 1st. This talented group of seven put in so much hard work to prepare for the event, where they proudly performed alongside nearly 70 other jazz bands and combos. Special thanks to Felipe Simonetto for coaching the band through the finer details over the last two weeks. The band delivered an incredible set featuring "Night Rhythms," "Someday My Prince Will Come," and "Don't You Worry 'About A Thing." It was a truly wonderful evening, and the band received a fantastic, warm response from the organisers and audience.



PAT HANLY CREATIVITY AWARDS

Mrs Shinae Ha

Congratulations to Celyn Setyadi, Year 13, whose artwork has been selected for the Pat Hanly Creativity Awards exhibition at Auckland Art Gallery!

This year marks the 24th edition of the awards, with more than 1,000 ākonga from schools across Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland taking part. The programme celebrates creativity, originality and artistic skill, while encouraging young artists to explore and develop their own creative pathways. This year's theme is "Ko au te taiao / I am the environment."

We are very proud of Celyn for being selected to exhibit their work in the Gallery alongside artworks and taonga from Aotearoa and beyond. What an exciting achievement!

Celyn's artist statement is included below:



Out of Sight, Out of Mind, 2026

"I was not born in New Zealand. I come from Indonesia, one of the countries that acts as a dumping ground. For a long time, countries such as the USA, the UK, Australia and New Zealand have illegally exported their plastic waste into Indonesia. Much of the trash ends up in rivers and lakes, where children swim and drink. Many first world countries are clean, beautiful and green because their trash is swept under the rug of less developed nations."



On Friday 7th August, Year 12 and 13 students attended Young Gallery Night at Auckland Art Gallery and celebrated Celyn's achievement in the Pat Hanly Creativity Awards.

The evening was a fantastic celebration of creativity, with a range of workshops, a fashion show by Whitecliffe students, and live music. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to enjoy art, connect with other young creatives.



MACBETH

Mrs Julie Nola

On Wednesday 12th of August we took all of our Year 10 students and our English Scholarship students to see the Auckland Theatre Company's rendition of "Macbeth", by William Shakespeare. For many of our students it was their first time seeing live theatre! We were blessed to have the best seats at the ASB Waterfront Theatre, which really added the experience. It was great for the students to see the 400 year old play, that they had studied, brought to life!



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FROM HONG KONG

Mr John Ryu

We were delighted to welcome a group of 16 international students from Hong Kong for a successful two-day experience at our school. Their visit began with a warm orientation programme, which helped them become familiar with the school, meet staff and students, and settle in quickly. Throughout their stay, our dedicated buddy students provided excellent support and friendship, making the visitors feel included and confident as they participated in classes and school activities. The positive and welcoming atmosphere across the school was greatly appreciated by the students and their teachers. We concluded the programme with a farewell celebration, where students reflected on their experiences, shared their appreciation, and celebrated the friendships they had formed. It was a memorable and rewarding experience for everyone involved, and we thank our staff and students for helping create such a warm and welcoming environment.



NETBALL

Mrs Emma Abrahams

YEAR 7/8 GREEN NETBALL TEAM

This year we had a mixed boys and girls Year 7 and 8 team compete in the Year 8 competition at Windmill Park. The team did very well, winning all their grading games and all but one of their round 1 competition games. This saw them move up to the B grade for the championship round.

After a shaky start and two losses in the new grade, the team found their footing, winning a game and drawing their next one with the top team in the league. At the time of writing, there are two games to go, and we are excited to see what this dynamic team does with them.



Special thanks to Year 11 student, Sophie Abrahams, for coaching the team with the help of Mrs Emma Abrahams. Also special thanks to all the parents who have come to support the team and perform the scorekeeper role.

SENIOR A NETBALL TEAM

Our Senior A Netball Team has had an outstanding season, beating all the competition in the grading round of the secondary schools competition and getting placed in the B grade for round 1. This is the highest grade a netball team from our secondary school has ever been placed. The girls absolutely smashed round 1, coming second in their league and moving up another tier for the championship round. As of writing, the girls are halfway through this championship round and are once again coming second in their league.

Playing at this higher level has opened up another opportunity for the team, who will be competing at the week-long UNISS netball tournament in Hamilton at the end of this month. They will attend with the support of staff members, Sam MacKenzie and Emma Abrahams. We pray God's blessing on the team's health and wellbeing as they prepare themselves for this elite competition.

Thank you to students, Alisha David and Maddie Carroll, for co-captaining the team this year and running their twice-weekly trainings, and thank you to parent, Anna Carroll, for coaching the team on Saturdays. We also want to extend a huge thank you to all the parents who have supported the girls to get this far.



BADMINTON

Shiloh Igar, Year 12

I've really been enjoying our social badminton sessions! The atmosphere is so chill, welcoming, and friendly, making it fun to play casually while still improving my skills on the court. Through these weekly sessions, I've also had the opportunity to connect with people I'd never really spoken to before and have made so many new friends along the way!



U14 BOYS FOOTBALL

Mr Sam MacKenzie

Special congratulations to our U14 Boys Football team for winning the 14B Final 1-0 vs St Peters on Saturday! This caps an UNDEFEATED SEASON and is a remarkable achievement.

10 Games 54 Goals scored

10 Wins 5 Goals conceded

Huge thanks to our coach Ben Carroll for leading the team this year.



FORKLIFT TRAINING

Elliott Smith, Year 12

On Thursday 6th August, a group of 8 mostly Gateway students had the opportunity to go to Safety 'n Action to get our forklift licence. We spent the morning doing theory, learning how the machine works. Then the instructor demonstrated what we were going to have to do, using the actual forklift. Everyone had to complete three tasks, driving around two cones, collecting an item off the shelf and doing a forward facing figure 8 and the last one was the same but having to do the figure 8 backwards. It was a great experience and a good skill to put in our CV. We earned 7 level 3 credits too!



UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS

Mrs Amanda Ray

There are a few University Open Days coming up. I encourage you to head along with your child. They are a great opportunity to get a feel for a place and ask lots of questions!

August 29th 2026 (free public transport to the city - see UoA website):

University of Auckland: <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/manawa-mai/open-day.html>

AUT: <https://www.aut.ac.nz/events/aut-live-our-university-open-day!>

Whitecliffe College: <https://www.whitecliffe.ac.nz>

Media Design School: <https://www.mediadesignschool.com/events/open-day>

September 5th 2026

Unitec Open Day: <https://www.unitec.ac.nz/event/open-day>



HOMESTAY

Mr John Ryu, International student coordinator

We are currently seeking welcoming and supportive families who may be interested in hosting international students as part of our homestay programme. Hosting an international student is a rewarding experience for the whole family. It provides a wonderful opportunity to learn about another culture, build global connections, and support a young person during their educational journey in New Zealand. Our homestay families play a vital role in helping students feel safe, included, and part of the community.

Our peak demand periods for homestay families for short-term studies are:
late January, end of March/April, & July, August.

We might need host families for long-term studies in the near future. If you are available during any of these times and would like to express your interest in becoming a homestay family, please contact Mr Ryu, the international student coordinator directly by sending him an email at john.ryu@elimmtalbert.school.nz.



**Elim
Christian
College**
Mt Albert

Position Available

Data Administrator

Please apply through the school website

