



Elim Christian College Mt Albert

Friday 4th September

Principal's Update – Term 3, Week 8

Kia ora families,

Happy Father's Day to all the wonderful fathers and father figures in our school community! We want to express our appreciation for everything you do to support and encourage your children. A special thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our Father's Day breakfast and classroom visits this morning. It was fantastic to celebrate together and share such a special time as a community.

Community Survey Feedback and Strategic Priorities

I would like to extend my thanks to all the families who shared their valuable feedback in our recent community consultation. We received a fantastic response, giving us clear insight into the values and priorities that matter most to our school community.

It is heartening to see that our school's special character remains the primary anchor for our community, with strong, ongoing support for how we integrate faith into daily student life. This input reaffirms that our core values are closely aligned with your aspirations for your children's holistic growth and education.

We also note that device use, potential addiction, and digital citizenship are key concerns for many families, aligning with trends we are seeing in global research. As we move forward, we are carefully reassessing our current approach in alignment with other schools to ensure we continue to support our students effectively. We will share a separate update on this specific topic with you in the near future.

Looking ahead to our 2026–2029 strategic cycle, your feedback has highlighted key areas of focus: elevating academic excellence, fostering social and emotional wellbeing, and expanding student co-curricular opportunities. As the Board plans the future direction of the school, these ideas will be carefully considered alongside ongoing input from our student and staff voices.



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Curriculum Updates

As you may be aware, the New Zealand education system is currently undergoing a period of significant national refresh and change. In navigating these updates, our philosophy is not to simply discard what has worked well in pursuit of the new. Instead, we are focused on honouring and building upon our existing strengths and refining what is already excellent to make our teaching and learning even better.

We want to reassure you that we are approaching all national changes at a measured, intentional, and sustainable pace. Our teaching staff are actively engaging in continuous professional development and upskilling, ensuring every update is implemented thoughtfully and seamlessly across Years 0 to 13. Crucially, throughout every stage of planning and delivery, we remain firmly committed to weaving our Christian faith and values into all of our programmes, safeguarding the unique character of our school.

For more detailed information on curriculum developments and school updates, please visit the MOE [parent portal](#).

Reporting Changes

As part of national education updates, the school will implement new reporting requirements this year. We will continue to provide twice-yearly reports for all students that include access to assessment results, new progress descriptors, attendance, next learning steps, and information regarding support for students at risk of not meeting curriculum expectations. We are approaching this transition with our customary measured and sustainable focus to ensure clear and meaningful communication with families.

Attendance

Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure your children attend school whenever they are well. We acknowledge that the winter season has been particularly challenging regarding extended illnesses. For those who have been hit hard by winter illness, we pray your family is moving through this time and beginning to enjoy better health and warmer weather. We apologise if automated attendance letters have caused any unnecessary concern while you have navigated



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your child's health journey; these are a Ministry of Education requirement. We appreciate your ongoing communication and support in keeping us informed about your child's attendance.

Senior Practice Examinations This Week.

The term is going quickly and next week we have Year 12 and 13 Senior practice exams happening. These are important for students to assess where they are currently at and how they need to prepare for the end of year. If your child is at home preparing for these, we encourage you to help them plan their study time effectively and manage their online activity so it is not a distraction. Phones away during the day would be a great way to ensure they are able to remain focused as they work toward their academic goals.

End of Term Events and Dates

Term 4 is set to be a busy and memorable time, with several significant end-of-year events planned, including class outings, graduations, and prizegivings. We will provide detailed information in our upcoming newsletters and via our Google Calendar so that you can plan ahead to join us for these celebrations.

A reminder that the school newsletter is now being emailed on the third Tuesday of the month. It is jam-packed with all the incredible events and activities that happen in the school. It has important upcoming dates and information also. The school website is also a great place to go to find letters that have been sent, access the Google Calendar or find out information from our student handbook.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend enjoying celebrating the significant male role models in your family.

Ka kite ano

Tania Calvert
Tumuaki | Principal



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