

Year 7-8 Term 1 2024 Newsletter

Wednesday 7th February, 2024

Dear Parents/Caregivers/Whānau

A warm welcome from the Year 7-8 team at Elim Christian College Mount Albert. We hope that you have had a blessed, joyful summer break with your family and friends.

The teachers in Year 7&8 are:

Mrs Jo Robertson - Room 5 Pastoral care teacher
Miss Madeleine Chester - Room 7 Pastoral care teacher
Mrs Yen Kim - Room 8 Pastoral care teacher

Support staff includes:

Mr Peter McDonough - Hard technology
Mrs Amanda Abrahams - Multi Materials / Food technology
Mr Nate Collings - Music
Mrs Jo Sohn - Learning Assistant
Mrs Joanna Emery - SENCO
Mrs Merrin Zoutenbier - ESOL Teacher
Mrs Yen Kim - Team Leader



Miss Madeleine Chester, Mrs Jo Robertson, Mrs Yen Kim, Mr Peter McDonough, Mrs Jo Sohn, Mrs Amanda Abrahams

The first week will be an Orientation Week with opportunities for everyone to get to know each other. The Music and Technology programmes will also be up and running.

This term our Biblical theme is **God knows all about me**. The students will understand that God is the creator of all, and we identify ourselves as Christians who live with the Christian values. In Integrated Inquiry, students will learn about the cultural heritage of the Maori people and indigenous peoples of our world.

This term, our team foci are:

Elim Exploration: Identity

Biblical Theme: God knows all about me

Enduring Understanding: God knows all about me and wants me to understand my identity in Christ.

Key Question: How can I use my unique skills and abilities to be the best I can be?

Literacy focus: Information and Essay Writing

Numeracy focus: Number Strand and Algebra

Kotahitanga Value: Manaakitanga - Respect

Our Year 7&8 Camp is in Week 5 from Tuesday 27th February to Friday 1st March. Details about this camp have been sent out. See the letter [here](#). Please complete all forms and make the payment for camp promptly, so your child is able to attend.

HOMEWORK: Guidelines for home learning will be shared by the end of this week. Please take time to read these guidelines. Students will receive a homework sheet every week. Homework is due on Fridays. Homework will include work that reinforces what is happening in the classroom, including memory verse, reading, grammar/punctuation, social studies and maths.

STUDENT HANDBOOK: This can be located on our website for easy reference: [Student Handbook](#)

MEDICAL / CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please send any changes in details, such as medical information, address or phone numbers to office@elimmtalbert.school.nz.

COMMUNICATION: Please refer to [our school website](#) where you can check email communications and our school Google calendar. If you are not receiving email notifications, please contact the office office@elimmtalbert.school.nz.

DEVICES/ LEARNING PLATFORMS: Students are required to bring a **fully charged** and **named** laptop to school each day. Google Classroom is used to communicate within the classroom and share digital work.

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION: All students are required to take their morning-tea and lunch wrappers, uneaten food, etc. home with them. They cannot dispose of it at school. The recycling bins at our school have little provision for landfill items and food scraps. We would still like to strongly encourage all our parents to pack lunches in reusable containers and to buy in bulk.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE: Carpe Diem Kids provides before-school care and after-school care off-site. Students are dropped to school in the morning and picked up after school. Information about this service can be accessed via their website - <https://carpediemkids.co.nz/>

SWIMMING: The swimming pool is up and running. Classes will have 2 sessions per week in the pool for most of Term 1. Please ensure your child wears full togs (rash tops are accepted) for their session. Goggles are optional and swimming caps are recommended to avoid hair entering the filter system.

UNIFORM: During Term 1, students wear the summer uniform. Refer to the school website for requirements or the Elim uniform handbook page for [uniform requirements](#). Please ensure that all items are **clearly named**. Hats are strongly encouraged this term.

PARENT HELP: The school operates on the Ministry of Education's best practice. We have class trips and activities planned for this year. These cannot go ahead if the adult:child ratio is not met. **All volunteers are required to hold a current police clearance with Elim Christian College Mount Albert.** Police vets for Elim Christian College are no longer valid. If you are unsure of your current police vetting status, please check with our admin staff. If you are not police-vetted via our school as yet, please note that this takes a few weeks to process.

We have an open-door policy. Teachers are in staff devotions until 8:30 am. We are available in the classroom to answer questions and to chat about minor issues from 8:30 am - 8:40 am. Alternatively, if you would like the time to talk further, please make an appointment with the teacher. We will be more than happy to discuss the matter with you.

If you would like to get in contact with us, our email addresses are:

Mrs Jo Robertson Rm 5
jo.robertson@elimmtalbert.school.nz

Miss Madeleine Chester Rm 7
madeleine.chester@elimmtalbert.school.nz

Mrs Yen Kim Rm 8
yen.kim@elimmtalbert.school.nz

We are looking forward to working in partnership with you this year.

Yours sincerely

The Year 7-8 Team
Elim Christian School Mount Albert

The New Zealand Curriculum:

* *Vision:* Our vision is for young people who will be confident, connected, actively involved, and lifelong learners.

* *Principles:* The New Zealand Curriculum principles embody beliefs about what is important in school curriculum - nationally and locally. They should underpin all school decision making.

* *Values:* Values are deeply held beliefs about what is important or desirable. They are expressed through the ways in which people think and act.