

ELIM CHRISTIAN COLLEGE MT ALBERT

NEWSLETTER



Kia ora tatou

A warm welcome to our Winter Term! What a foggy start we had yesterday for our full school assembly, but it was lovely to see our students back from the break. We hope that your family had a good holiday filled with quality time, fun, and rest.

We are excited to welcome several new and returning staff members to our team this term

- Mrs Cephora Bondjobo – Learning Assistant for Years 4–6, supporting students in our senior school.
- Mrs Merrin Zoutenbier – Returning to work in Room 3 one day per week.
- Mrs Jeanette Starrenburg – Returning to work in our ESOL department.

We are delighted to have these talented educators filling roles in our school, and we pray their time here is blessed and rewarding.

This term, our school value is Pukuahuwhenua - Diligence. We focus specifically on this value because Term 3 is the 'work' term. Classes are settled, routines are well established, and we have ten weeks of solid learning ahead. We also have senior practice exams later in the term, and students need to ensure they are fully prepared. An important aspect of being diligent is ensuring your child is at school, on time, and ready to learn. Attendance continues to be a major focus for us, as we know it has a significant impact on academic progress, student wellbeing, and maintaining a strong sense of connection.

How you can help your child succeed this term:

- Ensure your child/ren get enough sleep and eat well.
- Help them keep on top of their studies by prioritising their learning at key times throughout the term.
- Read through their recent school report, which was sent to all Year 1–13 families at the end of last term (excludes Year 0).
- For Years 1 - 8, please join us next week on Tuesday or Thursday for our Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences.
- For Years 9 -13, teachers will be reaching out directly if they have any specific progress concerns to invite you to attend conferences on Thursday only.

Outside of these set reporting times, we encourage you to contact classroom and subject teachers to discuss learning expectations at any time. You are also welcome to get in touch with pastoral teachers if you have any other concerns about your child. We highly value our partnership with you to ensure your children achieve their best and flourish.

This week, we have an exciting ARISE Fundraising Disco for Years 0–6, organised by our fantastic parents. Thank you to the organising team for creating wonderful memories for our kids and supporting the wider school with fundraising projects!



Tania Calvert
Principal Tumuaki

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

Colossians 3:23

IMPORTANT DATES

WHOLE SCHOOL

Week 2

Monday 27 July
ACTS for ACTS celebrations

Week 3

Friday 7 August
Cross Country

Week 4

Friday 14 August
Civvies Day

Week 6

Monday 24 August
Teacher Only Day

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

Week 7

Friday 4 September
Father's Day Breakfast

Week 8

Thursday 10 September
Poetry Recital and Speech Finals

Week 10

Wednesday 23 September
Civvies Day

Friday 25 September
End of Term 3

JUNIOR (YEAR 1 - 8)

Week 1

Thursday 23 July
Year 5 Bigfoot bike skills

Friday 24 July
Year 0-6 Disco

Week 2

Tuesday 28 July
Year 0 - 8 PTS conferences
3:30-7:00pm

Thursday 30 July
Year 0 - 8 PTS conferences
School finishes at 12:20pm
Interviews from 1:00 - 5:30pm

Week 3

Tuesday 4 August
Eden-Albert Choir (Year 5 and 6)
Rehearsal 2

Week 8

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

SENIOR (YEAR 9 - 13)

Week 1

Monday 2 - Friday 24 July
Dental Planet

Week 2

Tuesday 28 July
Year 13 Bio Trip

Thursday 30 July
Year 9 - 13 Parent Conversations
School finishes at 12:20pm
Interviews from 1:00 - 5:30pm

Saturday 1 August
Auckland Secondary Schools
Jazz Competition

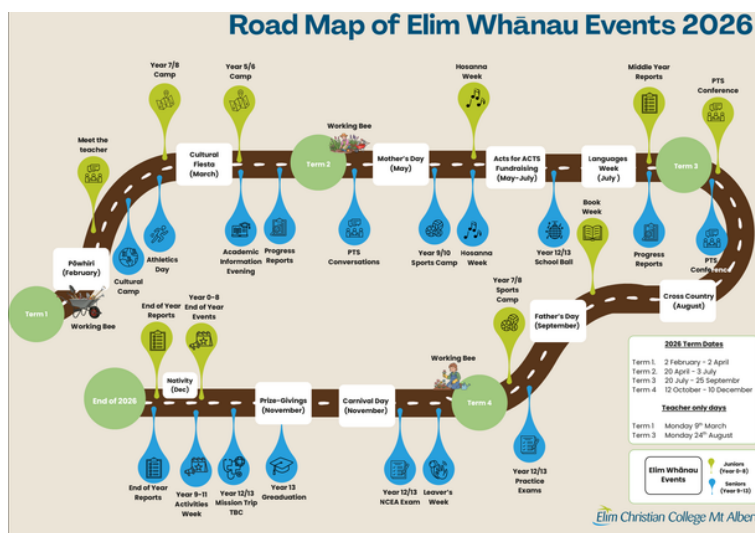
Week 4

Monday 10 August
KBB Festival performance

Wednesday 12th August
Year 10 "Macbeth Trip"

Week 8

Monday 7 - Friday 11 September
Year 12-13 Practice Exams



JUNE PRAYER POINTS

Please pray for:

- Term 3 events
- The health of our students and staff

TERM 2 WEEK 11- LANGUAGES WEEK



In Year 0 and 1 we learnt about Africa. We concentrated on South Africa and Ethiopia. It was so much fun learning about porcupines, feeling their sharp quills and how they protect themselves from predators. The children loved the tactile experiences of feeling the soft springbok pelt, the smooth wooden bowls, fluffy protea petals and toys made out of recycled coke cans and beads! At the end of the week we ate some authentic Ethiopian bread from a handwoven basket called a mesob. It was a wonderful week of rich cultural learning.

Mrs Jane Young



Kia ora, everyone! We had an awesome time celebrating Cultural Language Week in Week 11! We dressed up in our cultural clothes, enjoyed a delicious shared lunch, learnt cultural dances, tried Chinese calligraphy, and took part in lots of other fun activities. Our Phase 2 students also shared interesting facts about their ancestral cultures, helping us learn more about each other. It was a fantastic week of celebrating who we are, learning about different cultures, and having lots of fun together. A big thank you to everyone who helped make Cultural Language Week so special!

Brea Moore & Jayden Dorst, Year 6



The students in Room 6 worked enthusiastically to create creative cultural displays that highlighted language learning and diversity. These were the vibrant visual displays celebrating different cultures within our space.

Miss Hannah Fale

SENIORS SCHOOL BALL

Mrs Julie Nola

On Saturday 20th of June we had our annual combined school ball with Elim Christian College Botany. The theme this year was "The Gatsby Gala". It was a fantastic event, with a delicious buffet dinner, lots of dancing and our very enjoyable Year 13 Dance. Once again, the students' dance was to an incredibly high standard. All of our students represented our school very well and it was lovely to see them dressed up, enjoying themselves and creating special memories with their friends. Thank you to all of the staff who helped organise and support this event.



LAST TERM, FIFA FEVER HIT ROOM 4!

Mrs Natalie Escobar

We learnt about the role of sport in building peace all around the world, from the incredible story of the 1914 Christmas Truce soccer games, to practical lessons on how to shake hands with your opponents after a match.

Thanks to Mrs Dixon, we were able to borrow her family Foosball table and host our own in-class competition with everyone playing fairly, encouraging and congratulating others.

When it was finally time for the All Whites to compete, we loved hosting two watch parties for football fans from the junior team to attend. We stood and sung our national anthem with pride, we made signs to encourage the players... and we are pretty sure that our cheering would have been heard from the USA when the All Whites scored their first goal!

To finish off our learning, we designed footballs for peace as part of the Tūmanako! Children's Artworks for Peace exhibition. The theme for the exhibition is 'Kotahi te kākano whakaaro, He nui ngā hua o te rākau houhou rongo. One seed of thought grows the forest of peace.' In Room 4's artworks, they show all the little 'seeds' of peace that you can sow when you play sports with others, and express their desires for a peaceful world. We warmly invite you to come and view our art, and other artworks for peace, **at the exhibition on Sunday 9 August 2026, 11:30am - 1:30pm at the SGINZ Cultural Centre - 40 Eaglehurst Road, Ellerslie.**



SUSTAINABLE COASTLINES

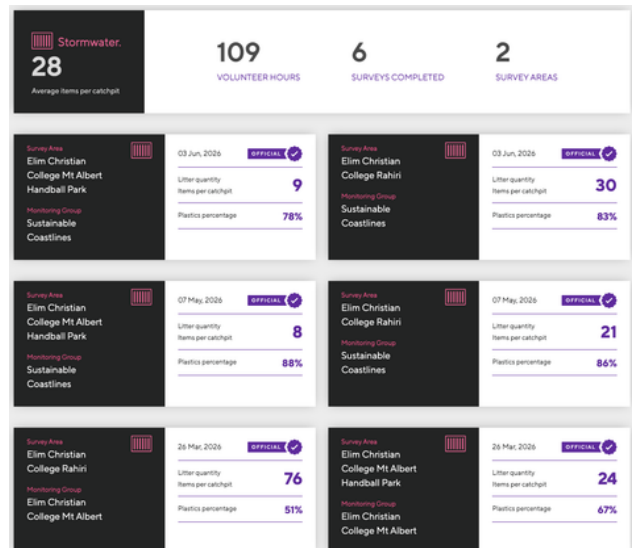
Mrs Amanda Abrahams and Mr Jason Ridler

For the past few months, our Enviro Group has been working with Sustainable Coastlines to monitor the types of litter and pollutants entering our stormwater drains and making their way to our local beaches.

Elim Christian College Mt Albert, alongside four other schools, monitored two stormwater drains and collected the data shown [here](#). The data was analysed through the Litter Intelligence programme, helping to build a clearer picture of the waste entering Auckland's waterways.

Sustainable Coastlines has now submitted a final report to the Albert-Eden Local Board and is encouraged by what the programme has revealed. We aim to build on this work in the future by collaborating to find practical solutions that reduce waste entering our waterways and ultimately, our oceans.

Our Enviro team is committed to keep monitoring these drains to see if our waste into the ocean is reduced.



Plastic-Free July

As a follow-on from our work with Sustainable Coastlines and to help reduce the amount of plastic entering our stormwater drains, we're encouraging our school community to take part in [Plastic-Free July](#). For the last week of July (next week), we challenge students to pack a lunch using only reusable containers and packaging—no single-use plastics! Each day a student brings a completely waste-free lunchbox, they will receive one entry into the prize draw to win some fantastic waste-free prizes. Together, we can make a positive difference for our environment, one lunchbox at a time.





TRAFFIC SAFETY UPDATE

Miss Jessica Kidd

The safety of our students is of great importance and we know that traffic congestion around our school is a shared concern for many in our community. We want to share what we are currently doing to keep our students safe and also hear your thoughts on ways we could improve traffic safety.

To manage congestion and ensure student safety around the school gate, our team is actively involved in the following initiatives:

- Patrolled Zebra crossing in the afternoon
- Staff presence at the front gate in the morning
- Staff presence at the front gate and on the corner of Mclean Street and Allendale Road in the afternoon
- Placing flyers on the windows of vehicles parked on the broken yellow lines
- Travelwise leaders at the gates during specific times of the year
- School-wide talks with the Community Police Constable about road safety, using patrolled crossings and middle islands to cross the road safely
- Reaching out to the school community about Walking School Bus initiatives
- Liaising with key stakeholders (Auckland Council, Auckland Transport, Mount Albert MP, Community Police constable) on the current parking situation and safety around the school gate

If you are interested in reading more about what we are doing to ensure student safety around our school, please visit the school website and read Our Safe School Travel Plan.

We value your feedback and ideas. Please share these directly with either:

- The school, please take a few moments to fill out this [Google Form](#).
- Auckland Transport, please click on this [link](#) to take you directly to their website.

Thank you for your ongoing support to reduce congestion around Mclean Street and Allendale Road by utilising “park and walk” options and keeping our yellow lines clear.

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.

CAREERS EXPO

Mrs Amanda Ray

Careers Expo at Mount Albert Grammar School - Tuesday 11th August 4-7pm

Year 11-13 students are encouraged to attend the upcoming Careers Expo at Mount Albert Grammar School. It will feature representatives from a range of providers including NZ universities and other tertiary providers (e.g. Unitec, Whitecliffe College, Yoobee College), NZ Defence Force, NZ Police and a range of trades (eg BCITO, MITO). This is a fantastic opportunity for students and their families to explore future pathways together and have meaningful conversations about life after school.

Please complete this form (<https://forms.gle/BCWuBgeUY18nfPuh9>) by Friday 7th August if you would like your child to be accompanied to the Careers Expo. I will walk (or drive) to the Careers Expo at 3:30pm, with any students who have parental permission. I will be at the Expo from 4-5pm. Students are to be collected/make their own way home from the event. Alternatively students can attend with parents/caregivers at any time from 4-7pm.

Date: Tuesday 11th August

Time: 4-7pm

Depart: Elim Christian College Mt Albert at 3:30pm for those walking with Mrs Ray or travelling in her car

Return: Students are to be collected from the Career's Expo/make their own way home

Transport: Teacher's private vehicle or walking

Location: Mount Albert Grammar School, Alberton Avenue, Auckland

Uniform: Students attending the event with Mrs Ray will need to be in uniform. Those attending with parents later will not need to be.

CAREERS EXPO

Explore. Connect. Inspire.

DISCOVER PATHWAYS. MEET PROFESSIONALS. PLAN YOUR FUTURE.

TUESDAY 11 AUGUST

4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

MH BLOK
MOUNT ALBERT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

EXPLORE CAREER OPTIONS IN:

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING BUSINESS CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT

ATTEND STRAIGHT FROM SCHOOL?
Complete a permission form (see newsletter/Google Classroom) and accompany Mrs Ray to the expo. Mrs Ray will be there from 4-5pm.

ATTENDING WITHOUT MRS RAY?
Students must be accompanied by a parent/caregiver for the duration of the expo.

EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS. BUILD YOUR TOMORROW.

ARISE WHĀNAU UPDATES



YEAR 1 - 6 DISCO

Students get your dancing shoes (or sports shoes!) ready. Our much-loved Junior School Disco is back! This year's theme is Football & Fairytales, so come dressed as your favourite footballer, supporter, prince, princess, fairy... or anything in between! No sprigs on football boots please!

Please remember all costumes should respect our special character (no Halloween or scary costumes please).



Time

- Year 0 - 3 at 4 pm - 5:30pm
- Year 4 - 6 at 6 pm - 7:30pm

Cost

- **Disco Tickets** \$5 via Kindo - available now
- **Disco Tokens** via Kindo - available now. These can be used at the event to purchase snacks, drinks, glow sticks, face painting, hair products etc.

Drop off Children can be signed in at either McLean St or Allendale St gates. They must have prepurchased their ticket before the event.

Pick up On the covered verandah outside the front office.

All children must be signed out by a parent/caregiver.

During the disco we will have a parent connection time in the Rahiri House ballroom - we'd love you to stay and join us for a chat and refreshments.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

TK Tāima
Kōrero
Time
2 Talk

PARENTS NIGHT

Keeping our young people safe online.
Discover what they're actually seeing online, and learn how to protect them from harmful content.

WED 29 JULY, 7PM
Mt Albert Baptist Church
732 New North Road

Koha entry.
Scan now to register or visit: tinyurl.com/MtAlbert-Korero

Mathematics The State of Basic Skills

Join Associate Professor Flona Ell & Dr. Lisa Darragh and explore the claims of a 20-year decline in "basic" math skills. Discuss whether a structured numeracy approach is the solution to improving maths education.

Tuesday 28 July 6-7pm
Mt. Eden Normal School

