

APRIL NEWSLETTER

Principal's Address

When I consider diligence, I cannot help but follow a train of thought that leads me to think about other associated qualities including integrity, reliability, initiative, determination and preparedness. If I had to examine this natural connection between characteristics then I would say integrity and the like are passengers, and diligence is the driver – better yet, diligence is the vehicle used to transport these wonderful associates.

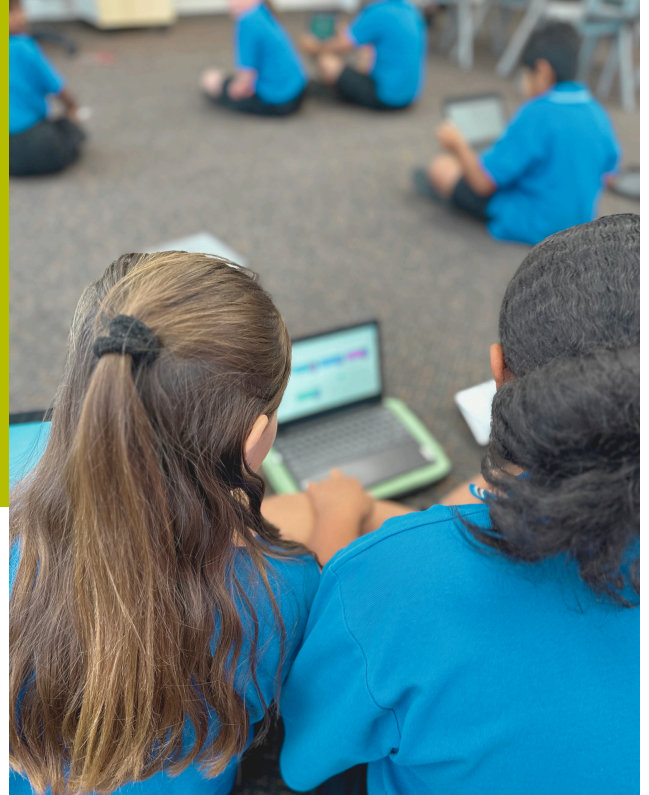
Thinking about diligence in this frame helps me to realise that I see it more as a verb – an action or state of being. While I am not here to distinguish between parts of speech, I think it is an important distinction to make. When we ask our ākonga at Elim Christian College Henderson to be diligent, we're asking them to operate in ways that showcase their hardworking and persistent manner. It's fair to say that being diligent is as much about **what you do** as it is about **how you do it**.

Throughout last year, we used idioms and other phrases to cement the different facets of ARISE.

When discussing responsibility, I use to

encourage ākonga, “how you do anything is how you do everything“. I am conscious there are always exceptions to the rule but essentially, if we can get the little and mundane things right – taking pride in how we approach these then we set ourselves up for success.

For me, when children leave our kura, we want them to have developed knowledge, skills and be able to perform with the greatest minds of our time. But even in this desire – if I burrow down deep enough – when they depart, it's **less about what they know** and more about **who they are** established in the understanding of *whose they are*.



On the Radar

- Principal's Address
- Full STEAM Ahead: *Science and Technology Update*
- Reo in the Akomanga
- Open Day
- Day in the Life: *Walk in Our Shoes*
- Whānau Conferences
- Term Ahead
- Teacher Only Days
- Key Events
- Gather Round
- All Hands on Deck
- Holiday Message

Full STEAM Ahead

We are excited to present our Enrich Science/Tech program, led by Mr. Nisbet. This hands-on initiative invites ākonga to explore science and technology, fostering active engagement and practical skills. Each term focuses on a different science aspect, aligning with a theme that connects real-world issues to their learning.

Ākonga from **Rūma Kea, Tūi, and Takahē** are studying how weather impacts daily life through interactive experiments. They explore cloud formation, precipitation, temperature, wind patterns, and the water cycle by building weather stations, creating thermometers, simulating tornadoes, and recreating thunderstorms for a hands-on understanding of these phenomena.



The Enrich Science/Tech program provides engaging scientific investigations each term, allowing ākonga to tackle new challenges related to a central theme. By the end of Term 1, students will understand how weather and climate impact the world and their daily work, and they will learn to communicate their findings effectively using scientific language and technology.



Throughout the lessons, ākonga will enhance their scientific vocabulary, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. They will study the sun's role in weather, air pressure effects, and the influence of wind and precipitation on the environment. The program also covers climate zones and climate change, highlighting their global impact.



Stay tuned for more exciting lessons as we continue our journey through the world of science and technology!

Reo in our Akomanga

One of our primary objectives this year is to explore meaningful ways to enhance our school pōwhiri (welcoming ceremony), ensuring it remains a deeply enriching and culturally resonant experience for all. In addition, we are committed to fostering the inclusiveness of Te Reo Māori and other languages within our classrooms, recognising the invaluable role that language plays in shaping identity, connection, and a sense of belonging. Furthermore, we aim to establish and strengthen cultural groups that provide a platform for students to express and embody the core ARISE values.

As a Kaiako, I am truly heartened by the progress I have witnessed thus far at Elim. It is deeply encouraging to see ākonga embracing cultural learning experiences with enthusiasm and a genuine sense of pride. On Friday mornings, during a dedicated learning block, our senior classes, Takahē and Tūi, have been engaging in the practice of waiata (song) in Te Reo Māori, as well as learning a traditional Samoan Sāsā. These activities not only enrich students' understanding of diverse cultures but also serve as a stepping stone towards achieving our broader goals of belonging and cultural appreciation.

Beyond language and performance, this initiative has sparked a remarkable sense of curiosity and self-reflection among our senior students. Many have begun to contemplate their own cultural heritage and identity, considering how they too might contribute to this journey of shared learning. This has led to an increased willingness among students to share their unique traditions, stories, and customs, fostering an environment of mutual respect and celebration of diversity.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue expanding these opportunities, introducing further avenues for students to engage with cultural learning and deepen their understanding of the rich tapestry of traditions that exist within our school. We believe that by nurturing this spirit of inclusivity and respect, we are equipping our students with the knowledge, empathy, and confidence to thrive as global citizens, ready to embrace the diverse world around them with open hearts and open minds.



Summary of Numeracy Info Session

We had a very successful Numeracy Information session on Tuesday 11 March. If you missed this session, here is some key information that was shared on the night.

Elim Christian College
Henderson

MATHS
NO PROBLEM!

WELCOME Numeracy Information Session

Why the changes?

- **Government Mandate:** The structured maths approach is now required across all schools.
- **School's Initiative:** Our school adopted structured maths before the mandate to ensure alignment across year levels and provide consistency in maths education.
- **Refreshed Maths Curriculum:** A focus on deep understanding, problem-solving, and mastery to better prepare students.

Elim Christian College
Henderson

MATHS
NO PROBLEM!

Maths No Problem Resources

- **Workbooks** for practice: 1 book per student
- **Textbooks** for reference: 1 book per pair
- Each Year Level gets A and B: e.g Year 3: 3A and 3B
 - Book 'A' focuses on Number knowledge & Strategies
 - Book 'B' covers other strands: measurement, shapes, statistics, money, fractions etc.
- Revisions throughout the year: Learning + Assessment
- Resources: concrete hands-on ==> [online tool](#)

MATHS
NO PROBLEM!

Daily Lesson Structure

- Six key sections, each around 10 minutes
- Builds knowledge gradually
- Includes collaborative and independent tasks
- Spiral approach ensures concepts are revisited

INFORMAL EXPLORATION	STRUCTURE LEARNING	PRACTICE			PLENARY
EXPLORE	MASTER	GUIDED PRACTICE	INDEPENDENT PRACTICE	EXTENSION ACTIVITIES	FEEDBACK
Student led exploration of a low floor, high ceiling word problem using concrete resources.	Explicit teaching, modelling, investigating and critical thinking of target methods used to solve Explore problem	Practice questions to support understanding of lesson concept	Practice questions clearly structured to increase in difficulty for built in differentiation	Supplementary resources to provide enrichment for advanced learners	Reflect, identify misconceptions, common mistakes
Collaborative Learning	Whole Class Learning	Collaborative Learning	Flexible Group Learning	Flexible Group Learning	Flexible Grouping

Elim Christian College
Henderson

MATHS
NO PROBLEM!

Supporting Your Child's Learning

- Ask open-ended questions: "How do you know?" "Can you show me in another way?"
- Encourage productive struggle and mistakes as learning tools
- Help them explain their reasoning
- Play maths-related games to make learning fun
- Use everyday situations to explore maths concepts
- **Home Learning**

Elim Christian College
Henderson

MATHS
NO PROBLEM!

If you would like more information about the teaching of Maths at Elim Henderson, please do not hesitate to talk to your child's teacher.

Open Day

Every year we take the opportunity to open our kura doors and showcase the wonderful learning and opportunities available to new whānau and ākonga. While we use a few avenues to communicate this information, you are our greatest advertisements and we are continually honoured to hear how you promote our kura to your friends, family and

members of your local church. In Term 2, on Wednesday 4th June, we will be opening our doors once again to welcome potential whānau to gauge if our kura is for them. We would greatly appreciate you passing on this information to any prospective parents. There is more information on our **website**.

As we have gathered, planned, consulted, and reflected on the future of our kura, we are filled with enthusiasm about the steps ahead. Increased enrolment presents us with wonderful opportunities, especially regarding extracurricular activities. To be strategic and intentional, we are looking for students in specific year groups to create thriving classrooms and transition to single-year level classes in our junior school. Early next term, we will invite our ākonga in Years 4-6 to personally extend an invitation to a friend or peer. This will simply request them to join us for a "Day in the Life," where we will

A Day in the Life

host a special program highlighting the outstanding programs and educators we have. We would greatly appreciate any support you can provide, whether it's spreading the word, encouraging participation, or offering prayers. To showcase how attainable this vision is, we are only looking for the following students from these Year Group's for 2026:

- 7x Year 2's
- 11x Year 4's
- 5x Year 5 or 6's
- 7x Year 7's



Whānau Conferences

We look forward to connecting with you at our upcoming Whānau Conferences:

- Tuesday 6 May | 3.00pm – 5.00pm
- Wednesday 7 May | 1.00pm – 7.00pm

School will run as usual until 3.00pm on both days.

What to Expect:

You and your child will meet with their kaiako (teacher) to discuss their adjustment at Elim Henderson, covering topics such as:

- Social connections and participation
- Strengths, passions, and demonstrations of diligence
- A personal goal related to Elim Character

Academic progress will be addressed later, and if there are concerns, the kaiako will reach out for a separate meeting.

[BOOK HERE](#)



Term Ahead

One of our primary commitments is involving whānau in gathering with us whenever possible. To ensure future-planning can occur, we have created our Term Ahead — a term calendar — highlighting the key events, including Parent Information Sessions, class assembly and other key dates.

This was sent out with our most recent edition of the Principal's Pānui on Tuesday 25th March. Additionally, it can be found [here](#) on our website's communication page.

Teacher Only Days & Public Holidays

Our commitment to continuous learning as educators includes two new curriculum refreshes, supported by two teacher-only days for professional development. This enhances our mathematics and literacy programs, offering richer opportunities for students. We also integrate education through a biblical worldview and have a conference at the end of Term 2, **finishing the term on a Thursday**. Please note the Teacher Only Days and public holidays as school will be closed for instruction.

MATHS TOD
THURSDAY 19TH JUNE

NZACS CONFERENCE
FRIDAY 27TH JUNE

KING'S BIRTHDAY
MONDAY 2ND JUNE

MATARIKI
FRIDAY 20TH JUNE

Key Events

TERM 1

APRIL 7TH: WHOLE SCHOOL MUFTI DAY

APRIL 9TH: END-OF-TERM AWARDS ASSEMBLY (2:15 PM)

APRIL 11TH: LAST DAY OF TERM – 2:00PM FINISH

TERM 2

APRIL 28TH: MIHI WHAKATAU

MAY 2ND: EASTER ASSEMBLY

MAY 6TH AND 7TH: WHĀNAU CONFERENCES

JUNE 26TH: LAST DAY OF TERM

Gather Around *Mihi Whakatau*

Every term, we take the opportunity to formally welcome new whānau and ākonga to our kura.

We have a handful of individuals who we will acknowledge on the first Monday of the term (Monday 28th April). As our current whānau, you are always welcome to join us in this proceeding.

We will be commencing at 9:00 AM. If you plan to attend, can you kindly let the office know so we can plan for you in our arrangements.

For anyone wanting to participate, we will provide a little kai afterwards for you to interact and connect with the new parents.

Easter Assembly

Easter is a significant time for Christians, acknowledging the impacts of the Cross on our lives.

We want to take time to specifically honour this time of year and the events that are so central to our faith. Throughout this term, each class has been introduced to a song, play or other art form that recounts the scriptures detailing the days in an age-appropriate manner.

At the beginning of next term, on Friday 2nd May in our assembly spot, there will be an

opportunity for all ākonga to present these items.

Additionally, we will offer the opportunity for any whānau or ākonga to participate in **communion**. We understand that for some whānau, you would prefer to wait until your child is older to fully comprehend tradition. If you would rather your child participates in our assembly without partaking in communion, please share this information with your child's kaiako and we will ensure other arrangements are made.



A Holiday Message

This holiday break carries a lot of importance with both religious and national holidays taking place throughout them.

As an educator, I have learned the importance of creating rhythms; as a parent, I have learned the benefit of setting routines; and in both instances, I have come to love the traditions – as a family and as a community.

These traditions offer us moments to pause, reflect, and connect with one another, strengthening the bonds that tie us together. During this break, let us take the opportunity to remember the gift given to us on the cross and express gratitude for it. Whether through sharing a meal, offering a helping hand, or simply spending quality time with loved ones, every small gesture can make a significant impact.

As we celebrate these holidays, may we also remember those who have served our nation, honoring their sacrifices and contributions. Let us extend our gratitude by reaching out to support veterans and their families, ensuring they feel appreciated and valued.

“Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.”

John 20:1

All Hands on Deck

We're on the hunt for a handful of people who would be willing to help us keep our grounds looking beautiful.

Whether you're interested in gardening, handy with a leaf blower or you've mastered the art of sweeping, our Principal – Mr Lawrence – would love to hear from you.

Our goal is to see if we could have a roster of parents or guardians help us out once per week on a few routine jobs. In exchange, we can offer coffee and great company (self-professed).

If this sounds like a way you'd like to contribute and serve, please email directly through to principal@elimhenderson.school.nz

We look forward to hearing from you.