

NEWSLETTER

FEB. 2024 • ISSUE 1



Principal's Message

BY ANDY LAWRENCE

The start of a new school year is always filled with a palpable sense of excitement and wonder. It's a time when fresh beginnings intertwine with the promise of new knowledge and experiences, sparking our curiosity.

As we embark on this journey together, let us approach each day ready to explore the world around us and uncover the wonders it holds. Together, we will create moments of inspiration, collaboration

and growth that will not only define this year but also influence the years ahead.

I firmly believe that with your commitment, excitement, and eagerness to join Elim Christian College Henderson, we will accomplish remarkable feats together. Let's take hold of the opportunities that await us, facing challenges as pathways to success and rejoicing in every victory, regardless of its size.

The future looks bright,

andy lawrence

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Sports Update

In 2024, we are excited to see what sporting opportunities we can provide for your tamariki during their time at Elim Christian College Henderson.

Throughout the year we will be able to participate in the Henderson Primary Sports Cluster events, competing against other local schools in a variety of different sports.

This year cluster sports may include Touch Rugby, Basketball, Netball, Swimming, Cross Country, Cricket and Kiwisports.

Students will be informed when these events will take place and may tryout for the school team they are interested.

We are also looking to join some local sports competitions to offer regular opportunities for students to develop their skills and fitness.

As we continue to grow, the sporting opportunities will become a staple of the Elim experience. In the meantime, our ability to enter teams will depend on student interest in options such as Basketball (Massey YMCA), Netball (Waitakere Netball) and Summer Hockey.

In the coming weeks we will gauge interest to see what sports the students are interested in. From this I will be able to explore what options we have. I will endeavour to keep you informed of any further updates regarding sports via the newsletter or email.

Thanks for your support,

Stephen Ryan

Fuelling a Learning Mind

At Elim Christian College Henderson, we are committed to promoting a healthy lifestyle to our school community. As a part of this commitment, we will educate our ākonga on ways they can support their own health and wellbeing.

In addition to this, our commitment extends to partnering with whānau whenever and wherever necessary. We hope that this partnership will be fruitful and impactful in the lives of our ākonga

One of the primary ways we can support ākonga in this realm is by providing them with regular moments to refuel throughout the day which gives them energy and ensures they're brain is in optimal condition for learning. Please view our current daily schedule (further on in this newsletter) to see how we intend to facilitate this and if you have any questions or need support in this sphere, please contact myself directly.



Property Update

A massive thank you is overdue to our proprietors who have orchestrated the overhaul to transform this incredible site into what you seen these past few weeks.

A few our spaces, including the playground and courts, are in the final stages of completion and will be available for use in the coming weeks, if they are not already accessible. In addition to key spaces being curated, we are in the process of having water fountains installed to replace our interim solution.

We appreciate not only your patience during this stage but also your commitment as we finalise these facets of our kura. We will continue to update you on any exciting developments that are happening at school.



Curriculum Update: BSLA & Maths No Problem

We're excited to introduce the **Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA)** for our **New Entrant to Year 2 ākonga** at Elim Henderson. This innovative approach is tailored for our New Zealand context and has been proven effective in supporting early literacy skills.

BSLA focuses on teaching critical phonological awareness, letter sound knowledge, vocabulary, and oral comprehension skills. Through fun activities and structured reading sessions, ākonga will build a strong foundation in literacy.

Our approach includes regular assessments to monitor your child's progress and provide targeted support. We believe in the importance of whānau involvement, which is why BSLA includes workshops, weekly updates, and strengths-based reporting for parents.

We're confident that BSLA will provide our ākonga with the tools they need for literacy success. Thank you for your support as we embark on this journey together. For further information, please check out [BSLA website](#).



Our kura is excited to announce the adoption of the **Maths – No Problem!** programme, which aims to cultivate a strong mathematical foundation for ākonga from New Entrant through Year 8, instilling confidence and deep understanding in all ākonga.

At the heart of the Maths – No Problem! programme lies the CPA approach: Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract. This systematic method ensures that ākonga engage with mathematical concepts in a progressive manner. Beginning with hands-on materials (concrete), students move to visual representations (pictorial), and eventually advance to symbolic notation (abstract). This gradual transition fosters a deeper understanding of mathematics and enhances retention and application of knowledge.

By incorporating inclusive activities, problem-solving approaches, and varied examples, Maths – No Problem! caters to the diverse needs of learners, ensuring accessibility for all while challenging advanced ākonga.

With Maths – No Problem!, our kura is committed to providing a supportive learning environment where all tamariki can thrive as a confident mathematician. Through its systematic approach and research-backed methodologies, we aim to empower ākonga to excel in mathematics and beyond.



Better Start Literacy Approach

Te Ara Reo Matatini

BSLA – Information session for Whānau of Year 0 - 2 students



Our kura is implementing an enhancement to our reading curriculum called the **Better Start Literacy Approach**. This approach has been developed in New Zealand by a team of experienced researchers from the University of Canterbury, following years of research on the **best ways to support early reading, writing and oral language success for tamariki**. In akomanga (class), we will share exciting storybooks that will help grow the number of new and interesting words that your children can use and understand when talking. We will also be playing games that **develop phonological awareness knowledge for tamariki – or their awareness of the sounds within words**. This area is particularly important to help your tamariki learn to read and spell.

We are also making some changes to our reading groups. You may notice a change in the kinds of books coming home in your tamariki bookbag. The Better Start Literacy Approach uses carefully chosen texts to provide opportunities to practice reading. The words in the books are closely related to the letters and sounds we are teaching in akomanga. There will be lots of opportunities to practice sounding out words made from letters and sounds that they know or are learning – **building their confidence and skill as readers**.

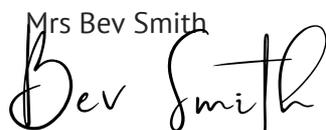
To give you more information on how this will look in our kura, **we will be holding an information session** for all parents, caregivers and whānau of Year 0 - 2 students.

Date: Tuesday 5 March 2024

Time: 2.15pm - 2.45pm

Venue: School hall

We look forward to seeing you there.

Mrs Bev Smith




BYOD & BSON

At Elim Christian College Henderson, we follow our Digital Technology and Online Safety policy to create a learning environment that promotes the safe and responsible use of digital technology.

Part of this commitment is educating ākongā on manners such as digital citizenship, being safe online (BSON) while also providing exposure to and training in using a range of tools that can aid their learning, such as the Google suite, CANVA and others. Each tool we introduce has been carefully considered and explored prior to its introduction to ākongā.

Students may bring their own device to school for learning to enhance their digital literacy. We also have three 'PODS' of devices stationed in our wharepukapuka (library), in Rūma - Kekenō, our technology suite, and some dedicated to Māunga, our junior whānau group (Y0-2). Our kaiako are familiar with and have to access these.

While we make a concerted effort to safeguard ākongā, including the monitoring and reviewing of student device and internet use (via Network 4 Learning, and our ICT Provider, Norrcom), we encourage whānau to take the necessary steps to ensure they feel comfortable. This may include installing software on personal devices brought onto school premises or other actions you deem suitable.

Another means of ensuring ākongā are safe online and all parties are aware of the protocols and safeguards we have in place is to review our BYOD Agreement (or BYOD Information) found on the school website in our communications tab.

We find that in perusing this together and answering patai (questions) your tamariki may have, creates a solid foundation to build not only their competence, but their confidence in navigating the online world. We thank you for your efforts in partnering with us to guide and protect ākongā.

andy Lawrence

ATTENDANCE DUES

Our finance team have kindly created a more efficient and accessible means of paying your attendance dues. Attached [here](#) is a Direct Debit form you can complete should you wish to have Elim Finance Hub aid this facet of school life.



Y7/8 IMMUNISATIONS

Te Whatu Ora regularly visit intermediate aged ākonga to provide immunisations. We have liaised with them to arrange for this to occur later this year, should you choose to utilise this service. Please view the information they have shared with us below:

Year 7 students will be offered Boostrix vaccine (Tdap) in school. This vaccine is a booster of tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough (pertussis). Most children received these immunisations last as pre-schoolers. This is scheduled for 30th of May 2024 with a catchup date 1-2 weeks later for students absent on the day.

Year 8 students will be offered human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in school. This is a New Zealand schedule vaccine that is recommended to be given at 12 years of age. Students need two doses with a 6-month gap between dose 1 and 2. This is scheduled for 30 th of May 2024 with a catchup date 1-2 weeks later for students absent on the day.

A consent form with information will be sent home with your child. Please read, complete and return the completed form to school. For more information on this important programme or to access an electronic consent form, please go to this [link](#).

TERM ONE: KEY DATES AND EVENTS

- ✔ **TUE 27TH FEB:** Maths-No-Problem Parent Info Session; Whole Kura (*more information to come*)
- ✔ **TUE 5TH MAR:** BSLA Parent Info Session; Rūma - Pīwauwau & Rūma - Pīwakawaka; YO-2 (*more information to come*)
- ✔ **THU 21ST MAR:** School Photos
- ✔ **THU 28TH MAR:** Parent Teacher Interviews (*more information to come*)
- ✔ **FRI 29TH MAR - TUE 2ND APR:** Easter Weekend (*school closed for instruction*)
- ✔ **FRI 5TH APR:** Easter Assembly
- ✔ **MON 8TH APR:** Mufti Day (*more info to come*)
- ✔ **FRI 12TH APR:** Awards Assembly

2024 TERM DATES

TERM ONE

Wed 7th Feb - Fri 12th April

TERM TWO

Mon 29th April - Fri 5th July

TERM THREE

Mon 22nd July - Fri 27th Sep

TERM FOUR

Mon 14th Oct - Fri 20th Dec



KAMAR PARENT PORTAL

Shortly, you will be granted access to the KAMAR Parent Portal. We will communicate in more depth how best to utilise this in separate communications once everything has been configured. Please keep an eye out in your inboxes for this information, including your login and password.

Rūma - Kea were some of the first ākonga to utilise Rūma - Kekenō, our technology suite