

NEWSLETTER

June · July 2024 || Issue #5



Principal's Message

Various authors and brilliant minds have explored the process of improvement. James Clear, in his book Atomic Habits, talks about the aggregation of marginal gains. In essence, the theory is that if you can make small and sustainable changes across a wide range of aspects then you will experience greater success within a given area.

Put simply, aiming for progress over perfection can lead to more wins, more often, and with more pizzazz! But why is this such a big deal and how does it relate to education? At Elim Education, we live and breathe ARISE - our trusty roadmap that steers our ship and lights the way for our awesome learners. ARISE isn't just a guide, it's a wondrous place waiting to be explored, with each letter revealing a world of opportunity:

- Achievement
- Responsibility
- Inspiration
- Skills
- Elim Character

The former of these is our focus for next term. To make sure we're all singing from the same hymn sheet about what we hope to achieve for our eager learners, we've searched far and wide to find memorable phrases that spell out our game plan: progress before perfection.

Our aim here is to look at the whole learner and consider in what ways can we organise our environments, structure our lessons and develop school systems to optimise the achievement our ākonga will experience. And more than that, in what ways can we make this process seen and routine so that the impact will last longer than a term.

This grand goal is our mission, set to be our North Star as we aim to create a kura that's founded on excellence, for everyone who steps through those doors. While we tiptoe towards tiny changes that will make a big splash for our ākonga, our akomanga, and our kura, we'll keep you in the loop on our progress and how you can pitch in from the comfort of your own home.

May this break provide the refreshing and recharge your tamariki needs.

Manaaki te Atua | God bless you,

Andy Lawrence
Andy

IN THIS ISSUE

- Understanding Your Child's Learning: Reports and Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Term 3: Swimming Lessons for the Whole Kura
- Special Character Donation
- Attendance Matters: Partnering for Student Success
- School Grounds Update: A Fresh Look and Growing Space
- Inspiring Imagination: Starting Our Loose Parts Play Collection
- A World of Languages Celebrated at Our Kura: International Languages Week
- Elim Enchiladas Make a Splash at Soccer Tournament
- Term 3 Key Dates
- Teachers Tumbled! Students Triumph in Teacher vs Students Games
- From the Classrooms: Rūma Pīwauwau
- From the Classrooms: Rūma Kea

Understanding Your Child's Learning: Reports and Parent-Teacher Conferences

One of our goals for this year was to diligently foster partnerships with whānau, parents and caregivers with the intended outcome of supporting the learning and development of our ākonga. While we hope to do this in a variety of ways, one of the main vehicles is through reporting and discussing their learning with you.

At the end of this term, you will **receive an email from your child's kaiako with their report attached**, as well as a parent guide to this report. What's detailed in this document is some key information pertaining to areas of strength that they've demonstrated, some next steps and how they're progressing toward the expected outcomes of a student their age.

To support this report, we will also be hosting **parent-teacher conferences in Week 5 of Term 3** to delve further into the conversation of achievement, address any specific queries that may have arisen and detail how we can best move forward to support their learning. Ahead of this, we welcome any questions you may have.

More information will be provided regarding the parent-teacher conference early next term.



Term 3: Swimming Lessons for the Whole Kura

We're excited to announce swimming lessons for the entire kura at Waterhole Swimming Center throughout Term 3.

These lessons will take place over 7 Tuesdays throughout the term:

- July 30th
- August 6th
- August 13th
- August 27th
- September 3rd
- September 10th
- September 17th

Permission slips were sent home earlier. If you haven't already, please ensure your tamariki **returns their signed permission slip to their teacher as soon as possible** to secure their spot in the swimming lessons.

If you have any questions about the swimming lessons, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Ryan at stephen.ryan@elimhendersonschool.nz.

We look forward to seeing all our tamariki at the pool.



Special Character Donation

Our commitment to education goes beyond the scope of reading, writing and arithmetic in many different ways. While we explore a range of other subjects, one of the definitive aspects of what we offer is tied to our special character.

It is an absolute privilege to deliver a curriculum that is filtered through a biblical worldview, and where natural connections abound, we have the ability to use this lens to communicate learning across all subjects. In addition to this, there is a commitment to explicitly explore scripture in a manner that looks at how the bible can alter our thinking and actions. Sitting alongside this is the inclusion of different spiritual disciplines - prayer, worship, and serving - to round off a holistic educational experience.

To achieve this, there are many ways you can help. The primary means is by engaging with your child(ren) and helping them make connections between their experiences at home, at church and here. Being intentional about communicating what is important and significant to us can go a long way.

Another avenue to aid this work is through the Special Character Donation. This contribution is used for the purpose of delivering and nurturing the Christian faith of our students, developing in them a biblical worldview, with corresponding values and standards. This aspect of our learning is not funded by the Ministry of Education, and as such, any means of financially contributing towards this can go a long way.

We utilise these funds to purchase Christian literature, resources to support our scripture program and professional learning for our kaiako. I can speak on behalf of all staff that we do not take for granted the incredible opportunity we have to engage with our ākonga in this manner. It is a responsibility we do not take lightly. If you wish to engage further with this conversation, our leadership team is more than willing to converse with you. If you want more information on this, please visit our website [here](#). We thank you in advance for your willingness to support this aspect of our kura.



Attendance Matters: Partnering for Akōnga Success

Over the past several months, as the coalition government has settled in, they've communicated a range of outcomes they'd like to achieve in the world of education by partnering with different agencies including the Ministry of Education, and the Education Review Office (ERO). One of these is related to attendance, most notably the proportion of students they'd like to see attend each term.

Attendance has a direct impact on how well learners achieve. Beyond this, it also has effects on wellbeing and lifelong outcomes for learners. Essentially, the more learners attend, the higher their achievement. ERO, have gone so far as to discover that there is no safe level of non-attendance, as this can lead to lost opportunities in learning even if the individuals engage well while at school.

As a kura, we have an obligation to support initiatives like those related to attendance. We also have our own ambitions in relation to this topic of conversation. Most notably, we would greatly appreciate any and all efforts on your part to reduce unnecessary absences, particularly in light of the increasing number of ākonga away with winter illnesses.

While we appreciate the tension you navigate in terms of experience you wish to provide your whānau, if we can all work in unison to address this aspect, I am sure we will be incredibly grateful with the outcomes. If you wish to read further on the discoveries of ERO, please preview this [link](#).

School Grounds Update: A Fresh Look and Growing Space

We're excited to share some updates happening around our school grounds.

First up, the new court has received a vibrant and energetic makeover. Our fence now boasts a cool new design, adding a pop of personality to the space. It is already a hit with all our ākōnga during playtime and recess.

Next, to accommodate our growing junior school population, we're making some exciting changes. Our beloved technology space, Rūma Kekenō, is transforming into a new entrant classroom - Rūma Pūtakitaki! This dedicated space will welcome our new cohort of six enthusiastic learners at the beginning of Term 3.

Don't worry, our technology room isn't going anywhere - it's simply moving to a bigger and better space. We're busy making preparations to ensure it continues to be a place where students can explore the wonders of technology.

Stay tuned for more exciting updates on this project and others around the school.



New fence design adds a pop of colour to the court.



Bigger space, bigger possibilities! Our tech room is on the move to a new home.



Rūma Pūtakitaki is getting ready for our new entrants in Term 3



Inspiring Imagination: Starting Our Loose Parts Play Collection

It never ceases to amaze us just how creative and resourceful our tamariki can be when given the opportunity and freedom to explore. As we've watched and observed over the past two terms, we've come to learn how our ākōnga enjoy spending their time during play.

While we endeavour to provide facilities and equipment to support independent play, including our playground and sporting equipment, we're seeing a desire from our ākōnga to 'create' through building, making and imagining. Whether this be a cafe, serving "rock" cakes or building palaces and cathedrals from cones, we want to facilitate this exploration further.

Our commitment is to contact local companies and organisations to see if they have materials such as tyres, PVC pipes, crates and similar to add to our loose parts play collection. In addition to this, we're asking to see whether you have access to materials or other items, either via your work or laying around at home, etc. that could help us build this collection.

If so, please let us know or drop it off at the office. As always, we appreciate your help in establishing programs and initiatives like these.



A World of Languages Celebrated at Our Kura: International Languages Week

Embracing Diversity Through Language and Culture

International Languages Week was a vibrant explosion of diversity at our kura in Week 7. With over 14 home languages and 19 ethnicities represented, it was a true celebration of the rich tapestry of cultures and languages that make our kura so special. Our tamariki eagerly embraced the opportunity to learn and share. They tackled challenges throughout the week, mastering greetings in eight different languages! Twenty-four akōnga completed all six challenges, earning a spot in the prestigious International Languages Week Hall of Fame.



Passionate Performances and Powerful Pepeha

Passion shone bright as senior akōnga took the initiative, leading cultural groups focused on **Te Reo Māori and Indian Worship Dance**. Their dedicated practice culminated in captivating performances that graced our Friday Assembly. Another highlight was the participation of **10 tamariki** who proudly shared their pepeha in their mother tongue, showcasing the beauty and diversity of our language heritage.

A World of Languages Celebrated at Our Kura: International Languages Week

Learning Through Play: International Games Afternoon

The fun didn't stop there. Thursday saw the entire kura buzzing with an International Games Afternoon. Four cultural groups, again led by our own akōnga, spearheaded the event. From the South African Spoon and Egg Race to the Indian Kabaddi, Te Reo Māori Pukana, and the Asian Box Game, akōnga joyously learned and practiced languages while playing games from different cultures. Laughter filled the air as everyone embraced the opportunity to connect through play.



A Global Village: International Dress-Up Day

The week culminated in a vibrant International Dress-Up Day. Akōnga proudly donned their national costumes or cultural attire, transforming our kura into a global village. The day was a visual feast, sparking conversations and cultural exchange as students shared stories and information about their heritage.



A World of Languages Celebrated at Our Kura: International Languages Week

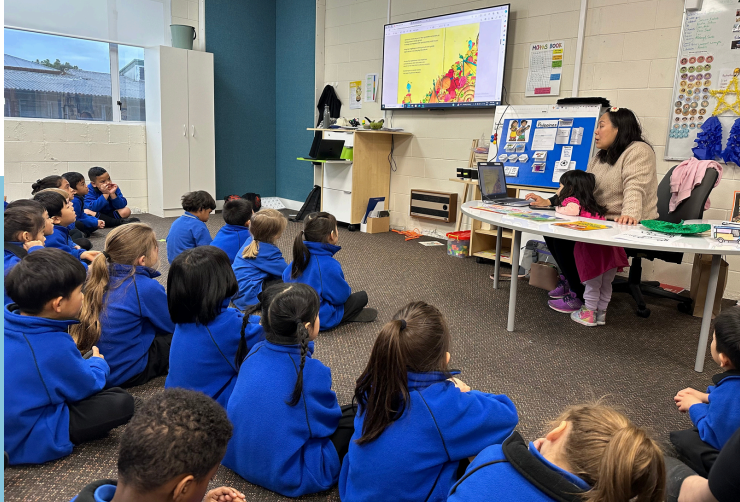
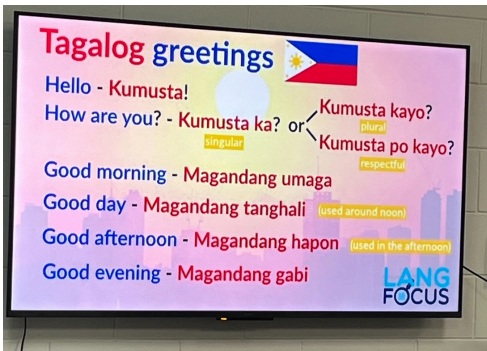


Celebrating Languages, Celebrating Our Kura

International Languages Week was a great success! It fostered a sense of unity and appreciation for diversity within our kura. We look forward to celebrating our unique languages and cultures again next year!



A World of Languages Celebrated at Our Kura: International Languages Week



Enriching Experiences Through Cultural Sharing

As a part of our celebration of rich cultural and linguistic heritage of our tamariki, Caleb's mum from Piwakawaka, Jean Chua, visited our Maunga tamariki to share her Filipino culture and language. This interactive session brought the beauty of Filipino traditions and language to life for our students, sparking their curiosity and fostering a deeper appreciation for cultural diversity. **Thank you, Mrs Chua,** for your invaluable contribution!

Parent-Kura Partnership: Fostering Shared Learning

At our kura, we believe in fostering a strong partnership between home and school, where whānau involvement plays a crucial role in supporting our tamariki's learning journey. Caleb's mum's visit is a great example of this collaborative spirit. Experiences like this demonstrate the power of whānau participation in enriching our tamariki's learning.

Here are some ways you can stay actively involved in your child's education:

- **Be "in the know":** Keep up-to-date with school happenings by regularly checking our school website, following our newsletters, and reading emails.
- **Join the Conversation:** Attend parent-teacher conferences, school events, and cultural celebrations. These gatherings provide valuable opportunities to connect with kaiako, whānau, and tamariki.
- **Home Learning Hero:** Be an active partner in your tamariki's learning journey by supporting them with homework and encouraging activities that build on classroom learning. Explore educational resources together and create a love of reading as a whānau.

By working together, whānau and kaiako can create a nurturing environment that fosters a lifelong love of learning in our tamariki. **We deeply appreciate the support and enthusiasm you bring to our school community.** We look forward to seeing more exciting whānau-led initiatives in the future!

Elim Enchiladas Make a Splash at Soccer Tournament

Our kura recently took a historic step, fielding our very first ever sports team. Our awesome new soccer team, with the fun nickname "Elim Enchiladas," laced up their boots and took to the field at the annual Auckland Christian Schools Soccer Tournament

While they may have secured a lovable "second place" finish in every game they played, the true victory lies in the potential and spirit they displayed. The Enchiladas impressed everyone with their talent, teamwork, and undeniable enthusiasm for the beautiful game.

Despite the runner-up finishes, the Elim Enchiladas had an absolute blast! Their infectious energy and love for the sport were on full display throughout the tournament. We are incredibly proud of their sportsmanship and determination.

To recognise the exceptional talent displayed by our Enchiladas, we awarded special certificates to the following players:

- Most Valuable Player: Colin Werner
- Most Promising Defender: Isaac Tan
- Most Improved Player (Shared Award): Leane Duvenage & Joann Alice John

These awards celebrate the outstanding contributions of our players and serve as an inspiration for future Elim Enchiladas!



Term 3 Key Dates



- Tuesdays, July 30th, August 6th, 13th, 27th, 3rd, 10th, 17th: **Swimming Lessons**
- Monday August 19th - Friday August 23: **Book Week**
- Wednesday 21st August (3-7pm) and Thursday 22nd August (3-5 pm): **Parent-Teacher Conference**
- Monday 23rd September: **Mufti Day**
- Friday 27th September: **End of Term Celebration Assembly**



Teachers Tumbled! Students Triumph in Teacher vs Students Games

Over the past two months, our school has been buzzing with friendly competition as teachers took on different classes in a series of epic dodgeball, cricket, and soccer clashes every other Thursday.

All three classes, Pīwauwau, Tūi and Pīwakawaka, exhibited fantastic sportsmanship and had a ton of fun. While the teachers put up a great effort, they were ultimately outmatched, losing to both Pīwauwau and Pīwakawaka. Only Rūma Tūi managed to secure a victory for the teachers, though whispers suggest they might have been a tad tired after participating in the annual Auckland Christian Schools Soccer Tournament.

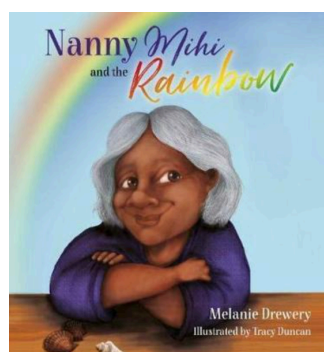
The good news is the games are far from over. Term 3 will see the challenge transformed, with houses battling it out for the prestigious champion title. With plenty of tokens up for grabs for the winning team at every match, you can be sure we'll be keeping a close eye on the action, Stay tuned for more exciting updates!



From the Classrooms: Rūma Pīwauwau

Celebrating Matariki with Manu Tukutuku

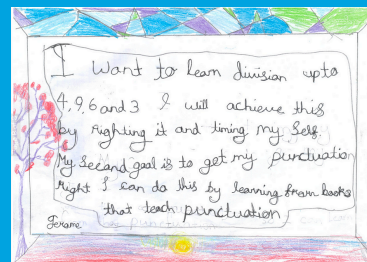
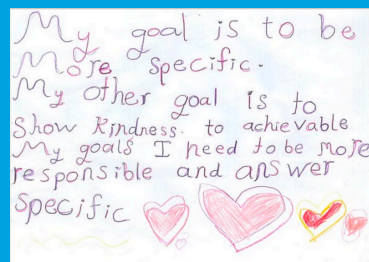
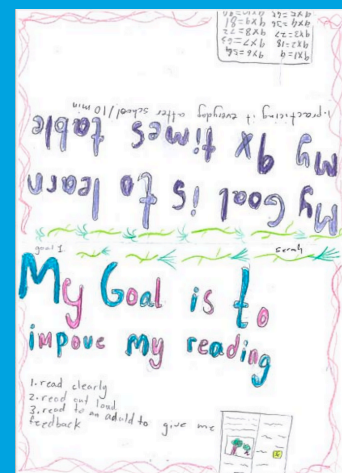
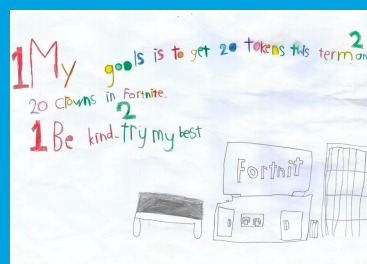
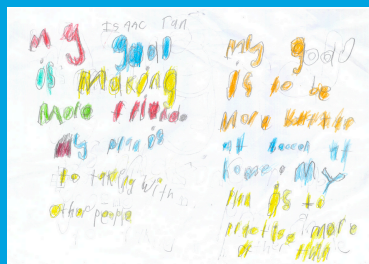
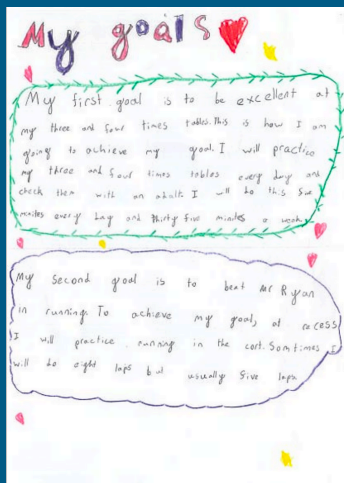
In Rūma Pīwauwau, part of the Matariki celebration involves making manu tukutuku, the Māori kite. In class, we discussed the significance of manu tukutuku, including its use for recreation and its role in Māori tradition, where it is sometimes used to communicate with ancestors. We reviewed the procedures for making te manu tukutuku, learning that we should only take the outer part of the harakeke leaves. We also said a prayer to thank our God for providing the harakeke leaves we use to make our manu tukutuku. Then came a lot of weaving; our tamariki worked together to tie the harakeke leaves to the sticks, creating a triangle shape before weaving. We decorated our manu tukutuku with some feathers and a beautiful shell



Nanny Mihi's Uenuku: Bringing Rainbows All Year Round

Our Better Start Literacy Approach prioritises fostering oral storytelling and vocabulary development through engaging books. This helps our tamariki learn new words and develop listening and oral narrative skills. In Rūma Pīwauwau, June brought the joy of reading "Nanny Mihi and the Rainbow." We all love rainbows, and the story helped us expand our te reo Māori kupu, including "uenuku" for rainbow. After exploring the story, we spent some time painting our beautiful uenuku together. They are displayed on our window, making our classroom the brightest on the block...now we can enjoy rainbows all year round, no matter the weather!

GOALS



From the Classrooms: Rūma Kea

Kea Set SMART Goals for INSPIRATION

Rūma Kea have been busy this term exploring the theme of INSPIRATION, and a big part of that was setting goals. We learned all about SMART goals, which are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.

Why SMART Goals?

SMART goals help us focus our learning journey and track our progress. They make sure our goals are clear, attainable, and relevant to what we want to achieve.

- **Specific:** We know exactly what we're working on. For example, instead of saying "be better at math," a specific goal might be "master multiplication facts up to 12."
- **Measurable:** We can track our progress. This helps us stay motivated and see how far we've come.
- **Achievable:** Our goals should be challenging but reachable within the time we have.
- **Relevant:** The goal should be something we actually need to work on, not something we're already good at.
- **Time-bound:** We set a deadline for reaching our goal. For Rūma Kea, that deadline is the end of the term.

Sharing Our Goals

Rūma Kea created posters showcasing two SMART goals: one for school and one personal. We also came up with plans for how we'll achieve these goals.

Inspired to Learn

By setting SMART goals, we are taking charge of our own learning and setting ourselves up for success!

