

MARCH

NEWSLETTER



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“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Principal's Address

In Exodus 1, we read about the Israelites' transition from a favoured people in Egypt to an oppressed nation. Joseph, who had once held a place of honour and influence, had passed away, and a new Pharaoh arose—one who “knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done.” This shift in leadership brought fear, leading to the Israelites' enslavement. Yet, despite Pharaoh's attempts to suppress them, “the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the Israelites multiplied and spread”.

This passage highlights an unshakable truth: **God's plans cannot be stopped**. Even in hardship, He is at work, bringing about His promises. Joseph himself had declared in Genesis that what was meant for harm, God intended for good. In the same way, though the Israelites faced great suffering, God was growing them into the great nation He had promised to Abraham.

In times of setbacks or uncertainty, we can find solace in this enduring truth: **God is the ultimate architect of our plans**.

What He has initiated will inevitably come to fruition. He operates through every challenge, transforming even our toughest moments into opportunities for good. In this knowledge, we can rest in an incomprehensible peace, trusting that He will prevail with his plans in tow.

Turning Waste to Wonder

We want to take a moment to acknowledge both Innes Nisbet, our Science & Technology kaiako, as well as The Compost Collective.

Through the generous donation from The Compost Collective, we have purchased both a wheelbarrow and some garden tools to support the maintenance and beautification of our gardens.

Throughout this year, Mr Nisbet will work with different groups of ākonga to deepen their understand our fauna, and learn practical ways to care for our gardens. This work will promote the ARISE way, honing their abilities to display responsibility, develop skills in this sphere of life and inspire them to see the world around them in different ways.

It will also promote a sense of respect for the planet God created, all the while tying beautifully into themes of work around design and sustainability. A whole-hearted thank you for getting this mahi underway.



Going For Gold: Elim Olympics

Get ready to run, strike, throw, and kick! In Week 9, on **Friday 4th April**, we're excited to host our whole school sports day event: ***Elim Olympics***.

Students will engage in a variety of activities that highlight their coordination and teamwork skills.

We encourage students to wear their house colours (uniform is not required on this day) to show their house spirit. The event will begin at 11am and conclude at 2pm.

Parents are invited to attend and join in the fun with their children. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Mr. Ryan at stephen.ryan@elimhenderson.school.nz.

Please note that all parent volunteers must have completed the police vetting process or be in the process of doing so. If you need the application form, contact the office.

If you simply want to join the fun, cheerlead, shout from the sidelines or any other means of support, the police vetting is not required.

We cannot wait to get underway!

Masterpieces in the Making

God is our creator and created us to be creative. Art encourages ākonga to explore and experiment; to make sense of the world and their place in it. Art helps us express ourselves and relaxes our brains. Research tells us that when people are engaged in the arts, academic success is improved now and in later years. There's are only some of the reasons we are investing into this subject with the support of our arts special, Whaea Nikki.

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?

- Art Warm-Ups – quick line games that relax our brains and get our creativity juices flowing. For example, scribble art.
- Fundamental elements of art - currently the importance of line in our own making and in critiquing the work of others. As the year progresses, we will look at form, tone, colour, composition, value, space and texture.
- Art Critics – we look at a notable work and talk through what we notice in particular the elements of art we are studying.
- Sharing – as an art collective we share our mahi (work) and talk about what we enjoyed, and disliked and any problems we found and solved.

If you would like to contribute to the wonderful work we're doing, we'd love clean (unlabelled) jars, old cotton sheets, magazines and interesting paper. Please make contact with nikki.mulligan@elimhenderson.school.nz.

Additionally, if you have any questions or would like to meet me, I am in school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and can organise a time after class. The feedback from our children so far is encouraging and positive.

To learn more about Whaea Nikki, please visit our [Staff Page](#) and peruse her bio.

Beyond the Canvas: Arts in the Classroom

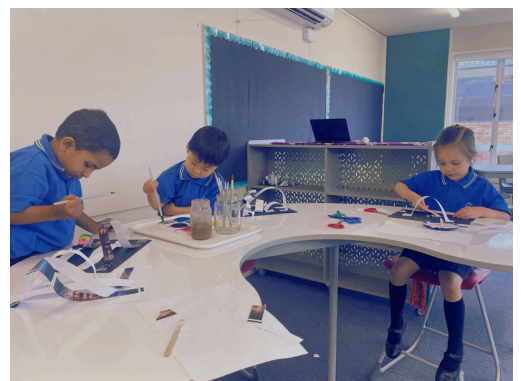
At our kura, we are diving into the exciting world of the arts, where creativity, expression and exploration come together! Our programme is designed to develop artistic and musical skills while encouraging students to think critically, experiment with different techniques and share their mahi with confidence.

VISUAL ARTS

We are fortunate to have Whaea Nikki delivering visual arts lessons each week. Each session begins with fun art warm-ups, such as scribble art, to relax our brains and get the creative juices flowing. We are currently focusing on the fundamental elements of art, starting with line; how it shapes our own work and helps us understand the art of others. Throughout the year, we'll explore form, tone, colour, composition, value, space and texture.

As art critics, we examine notable artworks, discussing what we see and how artists use different elements to create meaning. Our art collective also provides opportunities for students to share their own work, reflect on their process, and celebrate their creativity.

So far, we've studied inspiring artists such as Vincent Van Gogh, Franz Kline, Paul Klee, Rita Angus and Richard Serra. Their unique styles help us see how art can be bold, expressive and deeply meaningful.





MUSIC, DANCE AND DRAMA

Alongside visual arts, we are developing an exciting music programme that will eventually expand to include dance and drama.

Our goal is to provide students with rich creative experiences while building strong partnerships with well-established community groups and agencies. These connections will help us enhance learning opportunities and bring the performing arts to life in our school.



WHY ENCOURAGE THE ARTS?

Arts are more than just creative activities. They help us explore, experiment and make sense of the world. As God's creations, we are made to be creative too! Engaging in the arts helps us express ourselves, develop problem-solving skills and even supports academic success. Most importantly, it brings joy and encourages us to see beauty in the world around us.

We look forward to seeing our ākonga grow in confidence as artists, musicians, and performers this year!

HOOP DREAMS and BOARD GAMES

Last year, we kicked off our very first annual fundraiser: the Walk-athon! It was a fabulous way to get our ākonga moving and grooving toward healthier lifestyles.

Our mission? To raise some funds for our kura's sports facilities and get those active bodies running around!

We were absolutely floored by how our whānau rallied for this cause, helping us purchase shiny new backboards and basketball hoops. They're up and ready to rock, and we're throwing a celebration with an epic basketball showdown between houses, plus a student vs. staff game. The teachers are crossing their fingers for a much-needed victory!

But wait, there's more! We've also filled our classrooms and library with a treasure trove of age-appropriate board games and card games. Because who doesn't love a good game night, right? It's a perfect way for ākonga to mix and mingle during playtime!

If you have any pre-loved games gathering dust at home? We'd be thrilled to give them a new life in our spaces!

As always, we can't thank you enough for your amazing support and generosity throughout our fundraising adventures!



FUN-RAISERS

As part of our fundraising initiatives to date, we have engaged in two school-wide events. The previous year's Walkathon incorporated a competitive element, encouraging the various te whare tīma (houses) to collaborate in raising the most funds.

We were truly impressed by the dedication demonstrated, as we exceeded our expectations and raised over \$1,500. The contributions are allocated to various initiatives aimed at enhancing play opportunities within our kura. While we take pride in the participation of all ākonga in this event, we would like to specifically acknowledge one te whare that successfully raised over \$1,000 for this cause. **Congratulations to:**

KAWAKAWA



We recently had a remarkable experience at our inaugural parent-led fundraiser, which received tremendous support from our hapori. Together, we successfully raised approximately \$1,200 for our first initiative: *planter boxes*.

This amount significantly exceeded our target and inspires optimism for our future collective achievements. A heartfelt thank you to the **ARISE Parents Committee** for their exceptional coordination and commitment to organising a community-focused event that enhances and enriches our kura.

Key Events

At Elim Christian College Henderson, we're committed to establishing predictable opportunities and routines that allow us to connect with whānau to further develop our sense of community, acknowledge the mahi and progress of our ākonga and kōrero so that we can effectively partner to support all tamariki to succeed and reach their God-given potential.

Our school calendar can be found on the [front page](#) of our website; the Term Ahead is found [here](#) and key events we wish to highlight are below:

MARCH

- **Monday 3rd March:** *Lockdown Drill*
- **Wednesday 5th March:** *Y7/8 Immunisations*
- **Tuesday 11th March:** *Parent-Info Session (Numeracy)*
- **Tuesday 25th March:** *Parent-Info Session (Literacy)*
- **Wednesday 26th March:** *Class Photos*

APRIL

- **Friday 4th April:** *Elim Olympics*
- **Friday 4th April:** *Celebration of Learning*
- **Monday 7th April:** *Whole-School Mufti Fundraiser*
- **Wednesday 9th April:** *End-of-Term Awards Assembly*
- **Friday 11th April:** *Last Day of Term 1, 2:00 PM finish*

Whānau Conferences

Each year, we provide two formal opportunities for whānau to engage with their child's kaiako to hear about their progress across the different facets of kura (school) life.

Our first opportunity centres around transition and engagement, sharing details of how they've settled into the current year while providing insights into their participation, efforts and socialisation. Additionally, we highlight how they are currently demonstrating our values and competencies (i.e. our Elim Character and the tenets of ARISE).

This year, we wish to include an opportunity for all of our ākonga to indicate a goal they have to further display the Elim Character. Our kaiako will work with your tamariki to identify actions, behaviours and habits they can form that enable them to be more ***courageous, diligent, kind and respectful***.

Because of this initiative, our conferences this year will include the participation of your child. We believe it is empowering to include them in the conversation. For some of our older ākonga, there will be an opportunity for them to share their ambitions and progress directly with you.

More information will be sent to you before the end of Week 8, including the opportunity to book. Until then, please add these dates to your calendar:

Tuesday 6th May, 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Wednesday 7th May, 1:00 - 7:00 PM

Diligence Recognised

We believe it is essential to recognise ākonga, especially when they exhibit behaviours, values, and characteristics that reflect our Elim character and align with the curriculum's key competencies. This term, our emphasis has been on **diligence**, as detailed in the first edition of the [Principal's Pānui](#).

We would like to take a moment to publicly acknowledge our ākonga who have received awards over the past few weeks in recognition of their exemplary **diligence** and the embodiment of **Elim Character**.

Congratulations to:



Bernard, Cheska, Daniel, Elisha, Estelle, Ethan, Evan, Gloria, Grace, Hope, Isla, Jacob, Jake, Levi and Shaun

NGAHERE

Jireh, Leane, Ivaan, Jonathan, Joann, Illias, and Swornim



Cabinet of Champions

Another way we have opted to acknowledge ākonga for their achievements, character and actions is through our Cabinet of Champions.

Nestled beautifully below the Elim vision and mandate, we have a handful of photos and trophies which seek to honour our end-of-year prizegiving recipients and our winning te whare o kura champion, HĪNAU. Please join us in celebrating these ākonga and keep an eye on this space.



Honour & Acknowledgement

At the conclusion of each week, term, and year, we dedicate time to acknowledge a select group of ākonga who exemplify the Elim way by embodying the principles and values outlined in our **ARISE Framework**, which serves as the foundation of our organisation.

In addition to acknowledging achievements during our assemblies, we dedicate time to emphasise the behaviours and actions we observe daily. We intentionally communicate and educate our students on what it means to embody the Elim way. Our goal is for the entire student body to not only understand this philosophy but also to serve as living examples of it, empowering them to **ARISE to a hopeful future**.

In doing this, we have the opportunity for all ākonga to learn what it means to be an ākonga at Elim Christian College Henderson. It also ensures that all tamariki have an equal chance at being the recipient of a trophy at our Prizegiving Ceremonies held at the end of each year. As we closed our 2024, our board donated beautiful trophies that represented an aspect of ARISE: **achievement, responsibility, inspiration, skills** and **Elim Character**.

We will dedicate time again this year to recognise ākonga based on each of the ARISE aspects once again. Additionally, we will introduce more opportunities for ākonga to receive acknowledgment. In an **upcoming edition of the Principal's Pānui**, we will detail these opportunities.



If you are eager to understand more about ARISE and this terms focus, please take time to read a little more about it [here](#).

A Novel Idea: Our Library Happenings

We are incredibly fortunate to have had the support of Emma Smoldon from the National Library in setting up our library loan this year. With her help, we have been able to bring in a wonderful selection of books for our ākonga to enjoy.

The library officially opened for lunchtime and class visits in Week 4, and it has quickly become a well-loved space within our kura. Our collection includes a diverse range of books, including beautifully illustrated picture books, engaging non-fiction titles, and faith-based stories that support our Special Character.

It has been heartwarming to see tamariki embracing the library as a place where they can explore new stories, expand their knowledge, and enjoy a moment of calm during their busy school day. Whether they are reading quietly, browsing for their next great book, or simply enjoying the peaceful atmosphere, the library has become a cherished part of their school experience.

We look forward to seeing our students continue to develop their love for reading and making the most of this special space throughout the year.



Here's what our ākonga had to say:

"The games are fun and there are loads more interesting books to read"
- Elisha

"It's so good. There's lots of different books. I like the Jesus books."
- Beibei

"Nice quiet space with a variety of books to choose from"
- Mikhayel

"The games are super fun!"
- Deryke

"So many books. I like the shark books!"
- Levi

"I can read and borrow books that I like."
- Ethan