

MARCH

NEWSLETTER



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Principal's Address

As we move through this term, our ARISE learner profile focuses on Achievement — and with it, an invitation to reframe what achievement truly means in our learning community. My guiding philosophy in this space is Progress Before Perfection, a reminder that achievement is not a destination we arrive at, but a journey we are continuously walking. It is less about the final result and more about the steps we take, the effort we invest, and the growth we experience along the way.

When we talk about achievement through this lens, we are talking about every learner having the courage to ask: What is my next step? Achievement looks different for each of us — it lives in the student who attempts a problem they once shied away from, the learner who seeks feedback and acts on it, and the young person who reflects on where they have come from and sets their sights on where they are going next. It is deeply personal, and it is deeply powerful.

As educators and whānau, our role is to create the conditions where this kind of achievement can flourish — where progress is celebrated loudly and perfection is never the measure of a person's worth. We want our learners to understand that growth is not always linear, and that stepping forward, even imperfectly, is always worth more than standing still in search of the "right" moment.

This term, we encourage you to have conversations at home around progress — ask your child not just what they are learning, but how they are growing. Celebrate the attempts, the adjustments, and the small wins that build into something remarkable. Together, we are nurturing learners who achieve not just academically, but holistically — in character, in confidence, and in life.

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Ka nui te mihi,

“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.”

Celebrate Identity Through Food and Dress-Up!

We're excited to celebrate Cultural Day on 27th March with a Food Festival and Cultural Dress-Up! Students are invited to bring a plate of food from their culture to share with their classmates. They'll have the chance to talk about what the food is, what it means to them, and let others have a taste.

It's a wonderful way for our ākonga to celebrate their heritage and learn about each other's cultures. More details will be shared closer to the day!



Community Reading Shelf – “Read it, Love it, Return it”

Community Reading Shelf — a simple and effective way to foster a love of reading across our school. Located in the atrium next to the sickbay, parents are encouraged to take a book and read it. Students and families are welcome to contribute used books and take one home to enjoy.

Elim Olympics: Celebrating Fun, Friendship, and Character

What a wonderful day we had for Elim Olympics Week 3! Students from Year 1–8 came together for a day full of fun, laughter, and connection. This special event is all about building house spirit, making new friends across year levels, and giving our senior ākonga chances to lead and shine. While there were lots of games and activities, the focus wasn't on competition—it was on collaboration, encouragement, and showing our Elim Character Values. We celebrated diligence as children gave their best, courage as they tried new activities, kindness as they supported each other, and respect in teamwork and positive behaviour.

It was wonderful to see ākonga cheering each other on, making new connections, and stepping up as leaders. The smiles, energy, and fantastic effort from everyone made it a truly special day. Elim Olympics reminded us all that at Elim, having fun together and looking out for each other is what really counts!



Life Ed Caravan



We are delighted to have Life Education's mobile classroom at our school, where students have been taking part in engaging Health and Physical Education lessons. These sessions support an important part of the New Zealand Curriculum and are delivered in fun, interactive ways that capture students' interest while building their knowledge and skills.

Teachers have especially appreciated how the educator took the time to learn about our school's values and thoughtfully connect these to each lesson. This has helped reinforce the messages we promote every day, making the learning meaningful and relevant for our tamariki.

It has been wonderful to see students so enthusiastic and actively involved as they learn about health, wellbeing, and making positive choices.

"We are closer to each other more now than before. I understand my children's need for attention."



THE INCREDIBLE YEARS

Build confidence in your parenting

The Incredible Years is a **FREE 14-week group programme** for parents and caregivers with tamariki (children) aged **3 to 8 years old** with useful information on handling various parenting challenges.

DATES: 12 March - 25 June 2026*

TIME: 10.00 am - 12.30 pm, every Thursday

LOCATION: 2171 Great North Road, Avondale (Family Works Waitakere office)

Visit www.fwn.org.nz for more information

**excluding school holidays*

The programme consists of weekly sessions run by experienced Family Workers who are specially trained facilitators and covers key topics like:

- helping tamariki learn through play
- understanding the development of your tamariki
- using praise and encouragement to motivate tamariki
- setting clear limits and rules
- encouraging your tamariki to solve problems
- learning how to manage tantrums and various attitudes

WESTWAVE AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Looking for a safe and fun place for your child after school? The West Wave Pool and Leisure Centre offers a fantastic After School Care programme for children Monday–Friday. Children enjoy a caring, supportive environment with games, activities, and time to relax after their school day.

For families who need it, West Wave staff can pick children up directly from our school and transport them safely to the West Wave facility.

Two options are available:

- Own transport: \$15.34 per day (\$76.70 per week)
- West Wave staff pick-up from school: \$19.42 per day (\$97.10 per week)



A WINZ subsidy may be available for qualifying families.

You do not need to book all five days, but the days chosen must remain consistent for the term.

For more information or to enrol, please contact West Wave Pool and Leisure Centre on 09 892 4922.

Friends of the School

Interested in Becoming a Friend of the School?

We're excited to launch Friends of the School – a refreshed approach to how we organise and support events, initiatives, and connection across our kura community.

This new model builds on the incredible work of our ARISE Parents Committee and is designed to:

Provide clearer structure and smoother coordination through a designated staff lead

Support consistent, sustainable planning for school events
Continue to welcome and value whānau involvement in ways that are flexible and inclusive

Whether you've been involved in the past or are new to our community, we'd love to hear from you if you're interested in staying connected and hearing about opportunities to help out in 2026.

To express interest, simply register via this form and we will be in touch with ways you can help.

Thank you for your continued support—it truly helps make our kura a place of warmth, belonging, and shared purpose.



Friends of School
needed for our Food
Festival on Friday 27th
March!!
Contact Sarah de Raat
sarah.deraat@elimhenderson.school.nz
Sarah de Raat



CULTURAL DRESS UP DAY



FRIDAY 27TH MARCH



Come dressed in your culture.

Let's celebrate the diversity and identity of our school community!

Important Notes:

- Wear traditional clothing or cultural attire that represents your heritage.
- Wear clothing/accessories that reflect your culture or country (e.g., scarves, hats, colours, patterns)
- You may also wear your house colours if you prefer

This is not a costume or mufti day.

Elim Christian College Henderson

★ **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Heritage Week

A celebration of who we are as a community
our cultures, our stories, and our faith in Christ.

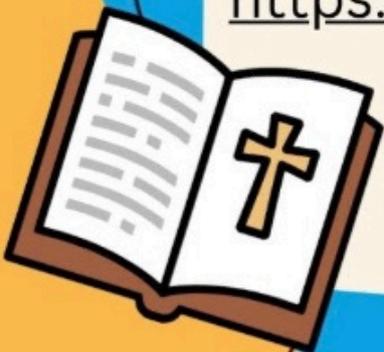
Here's how you can help...

We would love parents, caregivers, and
whānau to visit classrooms and share:

- Your cultural heritage – traditions, celebrations, music, or art
- Your faith journey – how God has shaped your life and identity
- Personal stories that show values, belonging, and calling

If you would like to visit and share, please
fill in this google form:

<https://forms.gle/dd8SSDmH9r1Akxic6>



Itinerant Music — Free Trial

In 2026, Elim Christian College Henderson is bringing an itinerant music programme to support the artistic endeavours of our young people. We welcome David & Rebekah, founders of Cherry Music Studio who are graciously offering a free trial to any whānau who wish to experience what they can offer.

Thinking about enrolling your child in music lessons next year? Here's a quick guide from the directors themselves, answering some of the most common questions they receive:

What instruments are available?

In 2026, we're offering lessons in piano, ukulele, acoustic guitar, and electric guitar.

Do we need to own a piano to start lessons?

Not at all! A full-size (88-key) keyboard or digital piano is recommended if your child wants to continue, but it's not essential to begin.

How much do lessons cost?

Lessons are \$40 for a 30-minute one-on-one session. Payment is made per term, in advance.

How often are lessons?

Students will have one lesson per week during school hours, depending on approval from their classroom teacher.

Can we try a lesson first?

Yes! Trial lessons will be available before Term 1 begins. This is a great way for your child to meet the tutors, Rebekah or David, and choose the right instrument.

Will there be performance opportunities?

Definitely. After completing three terms of lessons and with consistent practice, students will have opportunities to perform at Elim School in front of friends and whānau. Cherry Music Studio also hosts two student concerts each year to celebrate our young musicians' progress.

Feel free to reach out to us at cherrymusic.elim@gmail.com



 Cherry Music Studio

MUSIC LESSON

AT ELIM HENDERSON,
FROM 2026!

David and Rebekah will offer

- Piano/keyboard lesson
- Guitar/ukulele lesson
- Music therapy for children with special needs

Bricks in the Break

Looking for a fun and creative activity for your child after school? Bricks 4 Kidz West Auckland offers engaging after-school classes where children build amazing models using LEGO® while learning about science, engineering, robotics, and technology. Each session combines hands-on building and problem-solving, helping children develop creativity, teamwork, and critical thinking skills while having lots of fun. Students explore exciting STEAM concepts as they design and build new LEGO® models each week. This programme is suitable for a range of ages and abilities, with different classes including engineering, robotics, and coding.

www.bricks4kidz.co.nz



Growing Kaitiaki Together: Caring for God's Creation Through Our Lunchboxes

At our kura, everything we do has purpose. Even something as simple as what goes into a lunchbox can help teach our children important values. One of the

ways we live out our commitment to kaitiakitanga—caring for and protecting our environment—is through our lunchbox and rubbish policy.

We teach our ākonga that we are stewards of the beautiful world God has created. The plants, animals, land, water, and resources around us are gifts from Him, and we have the responsibility to care for them wisely. By helping children develop good habits now, we are nurturing a generation who will look after God's creation with respect and gratitude.

To support this, we have a no-rubbish lunchbox approach. We ask that any rubbish from lunchboxes goes home at the end of the day. This helps our students become aware of the waste they create and encourages thoughtful choices about packaging.

We encourage families to use reusable containers, wraps, and lunchbox compartments where possible, rather than single-use plastic wraps or packets. As a bonus, this often makes it easier for little fingers to access their food without needing to wrestle with tricky wrappers!

We would love to partner with you in this. By working together, we can help our tamariki learn what it means to be kaitiaki—guardians who care for the world God has placed in our hands.

Thank you for supporting us as we grow children who respect creation, make thoughtful choices, and take pride in caring for their environment.

