

PRINCIPAL'S PĀNUI #5

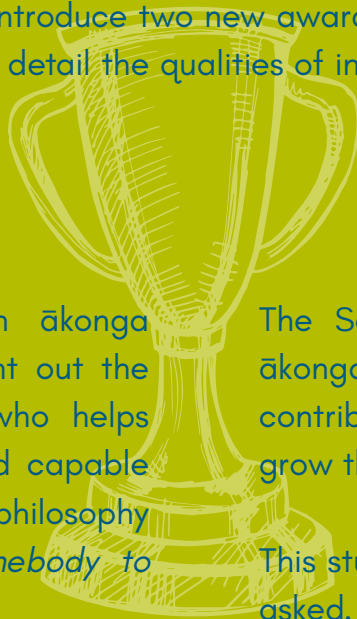
28 May 2025

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

In a recent edition of the Principal's Pānui, we highlighted the significance of acknowledging our ākonga—not only for their milestones but also for the character and dedication they demonstrate daily. Celebration is a core principle of our kura, and our end-of-year Prizegiving is one of the key ways we honour this commitment.

Each year, we present a trophy to one ākonga from each team who consistently exemplifies our values.

This year, we are thrilled to introduce two new awards: the **Principal's Cup** and the **Service Cup**. Below, we will detail the qualities of individuals who will be recognised with these honours.



PRINCIPAL'S CUP

This award recognises an ākonga whose presence has brought out the best in others. Someone who helps others feel seen, valued and capable — embodying my personal philosophy that “*everybody needs somebody to believe in them*”.

They may not always be centre stage but they shape the atmosphere around them through genuine care. They remind us that it is “*better to light one small candle than curse the darkness*” — and it is in their unwavering that they have lit the flame in others. This person:

- Builds genuine connections
- Notices others — paying quiet attention
- Influences through character, not position

SERVICE CUP

The Service Cup is awarded to an ākonga whose steady and selfless contribution has helped sustain and grow the life of our kura.

This student shows up — without being asked, without needing recognition — and gives their time and energy to initiatives that benefit the wider school. They carry a quiet sense of duty, not because the role is glamorous, but because they understand its impact.

They are the sower — preparing the ground so others can thrive. This person:

- Turns up and follows through
- Builds what will last beyond them
- Serves for the good of others, not for recognition

A NAME TO NEST IN

The call to action was answered and it was so heartening to see how many of our whānau and ākonga were eager to partake in naming our new akomanga (classroom).

The four contenders were:

MŌHUA
YELLOWHEAD

MĀTĀTĀ
FERNBIRD

MAKOMAKO
BELLBIRD

MĀTUHI
ROBIN

Factoring in the votes from kaimahi (staff), whānau and ākonga, our winner is:

MAKOMAKO
BELLBIRD

Commonly known as the korimako or bellbird, this remarkable manu (bird) embodies the “song” that resides within every ākonga. Just as we eagerly embrace the songbird with each new dawn, we wholeheartedly welcome and encourage the ideas, thoughts, and questions of our tamariki. By instilling a sense of wonder and curiosity early in their educational journey, we set the stage for these ākonga to thrive.

We eagerly anticipate this akomanga transforming into a haven of nurturing and inspiration.

PAY IT YOUR WAY

We are constantly striving to improve accessibility and convenience for our whānau, particularly in terms of financial matters. As a state-integrated, special-character school, we enjoy a remarkable partnership among our kura, the crown, and our proprietor, which allows us to provide an educational experience rooted in a biblical worldview.

A key aspect of this partnership is the financial responsibility of attendance dues, which help maintain and develop our facilities. Attendance dues (where charged) are a compulsory payment for state-integrated schools. After consulting with our finance provider, we have been informed of a straightforward and efficient method to stay current with these payments.

Here, you will find a [direct debit form](#) that can be downloaded and then emailed directly to accounts@elimhenderson.school.nz.

If you have any further questions or would like updates regarding this process, please don't hesitate to reach out to the email above. For all other inquiries, feel free to connect with Joey or Kimberlee at the office, who can assist you in accessing our parent portal for more details.



LOOKING AHEAD

As we draw closer to the transition point for our senior ākonga, we know that choosing the right next step can feel both exciting and a little daunting. While our proprietor — who determines the year levels we offer — continues to quietly and steadily plan for a future high school pathway within our kura, that journey is still unfolding.

In the meantime, there are a number of excellent options available to whānau, each offering something unique. If you're seeking to continue within a special character setting, there are two fantastic schools to consider:

- **Elim Christian College Mt Albert**, our sister campus, provides a continuation of the values and biblical worldview you're familiar with. Please note, however, that they operate under an enrolment scheme and zoning criteria.
- **KingsWay School** also offers a Christ-centred education and may be a strong fit for families seeking continuity in special character.

If you're exploring schools with a strong philosophical or values-based approach, **NorthWest**, a recently opened charter school, presents a unique opportunity — with a curriculum richly grounded in the arts and creative expression.

Additionally, there are several respected local secondary schools in our area, including **Henderson High School**, **Rutherford College**, and **Waitākere College**, all of which have long served West Auckland whānau well.

We encourage you to seek out open days, school visits, and enrolment information early — and to apply to the kura that best aligns with your hopes, values, and aspirations for your children.

As always, we're here to support and walk alongside you through this process. Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can help guide you further.

