

PRINCIPAL'S PĀNUI #7

23 JULY 2025

OUR BOLDEST HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

This term in our staff devotions, we are exploring the narrative of Elim, which recounts the journey of the Israelites after their departure from Egypt. In Exodus 15:22-27, we discover that they wandered for days through a barren landscape and thirst began to overwhelm them, and their hope started to fade. When they finally stumbled upon water, it turned out to be bitter and undrinkable, leading to frustration among the people. They did what you might expect: they complained and questioned how they would survive.

But in that moment of desperation, when only bitterness met them, a simple act of obedience changed everything. God responded with both provision and a promise: healing and protection, if they would listen, trust, and walk with Him.

Immediately after this encounter, we're told: "...they came to Elim, where there were twelve springs and seventy palm trees, and they camped there near the water."

Elim was more than a pit stop—it was a place of restoration. A sign of God's care and provision, it reminded the Israelites that even in the wilderness, He had not forgotten them. It was also a place of preparation, giving them space to rest, regain strength, and ready themselves for what lay ahead.

As we've reflected on this passage, we've been reminded that we can trust the process—not because it's easy, but because of who is with us through every season. That has been deeply reassuring. It's also reminded me of what our kura can be: a place of rest, of restoration, and of preparation. A living reminder of God's goodness and faithfulness—for us, and for our ākonga.

This is my boldest **hope** for our kura: that as we shape and prepare our ākonga for their **futures**, our school would be as significant in their journey as Elim was for the Israelites. I'm incredibly excited that you've chosen to partner with us as we work together to make that vision a reality.

WHĀNAU CONSULTATION

Throughout this term, you will have several opportunities to express your views on the direction of our kura. During the whānau conferences, you may have noticed we posed three key questions for your consideration:

- **RIGHT NOW** — What makes you proud to be part of our school community?
- **UP NEXT** — If you could propose one opportunity or next step we could take, what would it be?
- **IN TIME** — What's your boldest hope for the legacy and future of our school?

The insights and ideas you share during this period will play a crucial role in forming our strategic direction with our newly elected board. If you miss this chance to share your thoughts, there will be another opportunity in Week 7.

On **Tuesday, August 26th (@ 6:00 PM)**, we will host a Hui/Fono, where this chart will be displayed. You can continue to add your thoughts to the questions above and engage in shaping the identity of our kura, creating hopes and aspirations for our ākonga. Please mark your calendars.

Your participation is invaluable, and we encourage all whānau to attend and contribute to these significant discussions. This is your opportunity to help shape the future path of our kura, ensuring it reflects the values and aspirations of our community.

FROM GUANGZHOU TO AUCKLAND

Earlier this term we welcomed our first group of International Students, from Guangzhou, China, to our kura. It has been incredibly heart-warming to see our ākonga extend kindness to these students, many of whom have expressed how welcomed they felt immediately. We're excited to host these students and continue to develop this department. If you see them around, please say "Ni Hao"!

