

SEPTEMBER

NEWSLETTER

ELIM CHRISTIAN COLLEGE HENDERSON

5 SEPTEMBER 2025

THE CONTINUANCE OF KINDNESS

As we come to the end of a full and meaningful term, I want to take a moment to thank everyone in our kura community – ākonga, kaimahi, and whānau – for the heart you've brought to our focus on service, kindness, and connection.

This term, we've explored what it means to be a Good Samaritan: to see others with compassion, to act with generosity, and to build a community where everyone feels seen, supported, and valued. From service projects to everyday moments of care, it's been inspiring to see these values brought to life across the school.

As we head into the break, I hope you find time to rest, recharge, and enjoy time with loved ones. Let's carry the spirit of this term with us, continuing to notice where we can help, choosing kindness, and strengthening the ties that make our kura so special. Ngā mihi nui for a wonderful term, and I look forward to seeing you all refreshed and ready for the new term ahead.

KEY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER: Maunga (Y0-4) Zoo Trip

FRIDAY 12th SEPTEMBER: Te Nui o te Tarana (Elim's Got Talent) @ 1.50pm

MONDAY 15th SEPTEMBER: Whole School Mufti Fundraiser

WEDNESDAY 17th SEPTEMBER: End-of-Term Awards Assembly @ 2.15pm

FRIDAY 19th SEPTEMBER: Last Day of Term 3, **2pm FINISH**

PLEASE BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE TERM AHEAD CALENDAR FOR TERM 4 BEFORE THE END OF TERM.

The screenshot displays the Elim Christian College Henderson website's School Calendar for September 2025. The calendar is a monthly view with a grid of days. Key events are highlighted in yellow and include:

- Week 1: Maunga Zoo Trip (Wednesday 10th)
- Week 2: Te Nui o te Tarana (Friday 12th)
- Week 3: Whole School Mufti Fundraiser (Monday 15th)
- Week 4: End-of-Term Awards Assembly (Wednesday 17th)
- Week 5: Last Day of Term 3 (Friday 19th)

Below the calendar grid, there is a section for 'ECCH Events' with a note about the time zone (GMT+12:00 New Zealand Time) and a link to add the calendar to Google Calendar.

ADD OUR **SCHOOL CALENDAR** TO YOUR PHONE, TABLET OR COMPUTER.

www.elimhenderson.school.nz

FOUNDING FOOTPRINTS

“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain.”

Psalm 127:1

As we farewell our Establishment Board, we do so with immense gratitude for the way they have built but not in their own strength, but with prayerful dependence and spiritual conviction. Like wise builders laying a foundation on solid rock, they have stewarded this vision with faith, foresight, and servant-hearted leadership.

Each member has brought more than governance expertise; they've brought a deep connection to our Elim whānau and a desire to see this kura firmly planted in God's purposes. In the midst of busy lives and many callings, they have shown remarkable faithfulness in seeking God's wisdom, championing our kaupapa, and holding space for both practical steps and spiritual direction.

Their fingerprints are on every part of this beginning, but more than that, their prayers and perseverance have paved the way for what's to come. We are deeply thankful for the foundation they've laid, not just for a school, but for a faith-filled legacy that will bless generations.

READ IT FORWARD

A friendly reminder that our community bookshelf is here for everyone to enjoy – tamariki, whānau, and staff alike! It's a simple way we can all help promote a love of reading and build a culture where books are shared and stories are celebrated.



Here's how it works: bring a book to contribute, borrow one that catches your eye, and return it when you're done so someone else can enjoy it too. Whether it's a much-loved picture book, a gripping novel, or something to read together as a whānau, there's always something waiting to be discovered.

Let's keep the shelf thriving – happy reading!

DANCING WITH PURPOSE

A huge thank you to everyone who made our recent disco fundraiser such a vibrant and successful event! With your support, we raised approximately \$700 – funds that will go directly towards new signage that brings colour and life to our spaces, reflecting the rich culture and identity of our kura.

We want to give a special shout-out to phenomenal parent helpers, including our ARISE Parents Committee, as well as the teachers who supervised our ākonga, dancing the night away. Your mahi behind the scenes made the night one to remember.

And of course, a massive ka rawe to all our tamariki who lit up the dance floor with their energy, joy, and awesome moves. You brought the spirit – and the sparkle!



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS, LOCAL VOICES

In Term 3, we had the wonderful opportunity to welcome five international students from Guangzhou, China: Daniel, Tony, Webber, Miaoling, and Yi. Their main purpose was to learn English and experience life in a New Zealand school, but what we gained was so much more than that. We got to know them, shared our cultures, and built lasting connections.

We grew closer through simple conversations and by teaching each other about our daily lives. They taught us some Chinese words, and we taught them some Māori and English words. The trip to Motat in Week 3 was a highlight, helping us all grow closer as a community as we explored and learned together. Through these simple interactions and acts of kindness, our friendships deepened. We learned that we had a lot in common, even though we came from different parts of the world. At the end of their visit, we held a graduation and farewell. We were all sad to see them go, but so happy for the friendships we made.

This experience showed us that even though the world faces big problems like racism and the fear of difference, kindness can help us connect. By building bridges with people from different cultures, we can be a part of the solution and help make the world a more compassionate place.

By Lizzy, Naomi, Oliver and Ben

This term, we welcomed five international students from Guangzhou, China: Webber, Tony, MiaoLing, Yi, and Daniel. We made them feel like they belonged to our class and we all became very good friends with a strong bond between us. While they were here, we discovered many interesting facts about China and learned to respect each other's cultures and grow together.

Throughout Term 3, our focus has been on kindness, which is a key part of our lives. It also helps solve global challenges like fear of difference, racism, stereotypes, and division. We all wanted to build a bridge between China and us, instead of walls, and being kind helped us do that. By being kind and trying to understand each other, we've learned to be compassionate and to connect with and care for each other, even when it's difficult.

Even though the international students have now left, we believe that we are still connected, even if we aren't physically. This experience taught us that kindness and cultural understanding are the keys to building a global community. By building a bridge with them, we've learned how to connect with people from all countries, not just China.

By Samantha

SHARING STORIES AND PLAY

As part of our Samaritan Week, a group of our Year 3/4 students visited Olive Shoots and Loving Care, our neighbouring daycare centres, where they were partnered with a younger buddy. For some, it was the very first time meeting their buddy, but they bravely introduced themselves, shared a picture book, enjoyed a colouring activity together, and then spent time playing a game. Through these simple yet meaningful moments, our students showed kindness and care to our neighbours — living out the example of the Good Samaritan, who saw a need and responded with love.



MILES OF SMILES: CROSS COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

On Thursday, 28th of August 2025, some of the students from Kea, Tūi, and Takahē represented Elim Christian College Henderson at the Christian Schools Cross Country. We all had to run 2 kilometers. Although it was very challenging and tiring, the encouragement from teachers and the cheering from everyone made a huge difference and motivated us to keep going.



By Samantha

Even though we didn't come first, we all tried our very best. The main point of the day wasn't about winning, but about doing our best, supporting one another, and remembering that we are all in it together. It wasn't just about running, but also about teamwork, encouragement, and building a strong connection between us.

INTRODUCING OUR ONLINE SAFETY HUB

We're excited to share a new resource designed especially for parents and caregivers – our Online Safety Hub. This digital space brings together trusted tools, tips, and insights to help you support your young person as they navigate the online world.

From setting healthy boundaries to understanding the latest apps and trends, the hub offers practical guidance to help you stay informed and confident in your digital parenting journey.

It's all about working together to keep our tamariki safe, informed, and empowered online. You can explore the hub [here](#) — be sure to bookmark it.



UNIFORM REMINDERS

As the warmer months approach, it's a good time to revisit our kura uniform expectations **for Term 4** to help everyone stay comfortable, safe, and sun-smart.

We encourage tamariki to wear their full school uniform each day — the standards and requirements can be found [here](#) — including sun hats when outside. **Please ensure all items are clearly named** as this makes it much easier to return any lost pieces. Summer shoes should be suitable for active play, and don't forget to apply sunscreen before school on those particularly sunny days.

Thanks for your continued support in helping our students represent our kura with pride and stay ready for learning and play.

TE NUI O TE TARANA | ELIM'S GOT TALENT

Talofa, Mālō e lelei, Bula Vinaka, Namaste, Nǐ hǎo, Goeie dag and warm greetings,

We are delighted to announce that we will be holding our very first **Elim's Got Talent** on **Friday, 12th September (Week 9) at Assembly**. This exciting event is part of our celebration for **Te Wiki o te Reo Māori – Māori Language Week**, and aims to showcase the wide range of talents within our school. The theme for this event is "**Te Nui o Te Tarana**", which means "An Abundance of Talent."

Our students have had the opportunity to vote for the categories, which include: **dance, musical instrument, drama, speech, and other**. There will be two sections: **non-competitive** and **competitive**. Students may perform individually or as part of a group.

Auditions for the competitive section will take place in **Week 5**, from **Wednesday to Friday during break times**. Students are encouraged to come prepared, including bringing their own costumes if needed. **Prizes will be awarded for this section only.**

The non-competitive section will run in **Week 6**, also from **Wednesday to Friday during break times**, with selected performances shared during our school assemblies.

If you would like to know more, please speak with your child's teacher to find out whether they are participating in a group or individual performance.

Thank you for your ongoing support – we look forward to celebrating the incredible talents of our tamariki!

