

# NZACS The Whiteboard



## FROM THE CHAIR

Kia ora NZACS Whānau,

As I write this greeting for the whiteboard, I am still feeling a great sense of gratitude to all who made our Teachers' Conference such a success. Over the past few days, we have been reminded of our calling, reminded that we are doing this with so many other teachers in many, many schools and that it is for such an honourable cause.

Dr Lynn Swaner, Dan Paterson and Murray Burton reminded us to see our students through the eyes of their Creator, that we need to lean into each other as we navigate this calling together and that God Himself is our strength. Mark Steyn reminded us to stay the course.

To Graeme, Colette and all the staff and students at KingsWay School, thank you once again for hosting us all so well. This year, we had well over 600 delegates from almost every Christian school in NZ at the conference, and the hosting was exceptional. Touches of candy floss and students valeting delegates in the rain were above and beyond measures. Thank you once again.

Congratulations to Mark Richardson, who was elected to the executive. Mark is an exceptional Christian School leader who has already been serving the association, along with Teresa Thomson and Liz Coyle, who have been heavily involved in developing leadership across the NZACS body.

## In this edition:

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## FROM THE CHAIR continued...

Thank you to Colette Budler, who has served the association so well as an executive member for the past three years. Your contribution has been outstanding, and your voice will be missed at the table.

As the conference slowly becomes a distant memory, we hope that you will keep the connections you made alive. The job-a-likes, workshops and mingling meals were all set in the hope that you would meet new people who are doing what you do, so that you do not need to navigate this high calling alone.

As we look forward to the new term, I will finish with a verse that is central to the Flourishing Together book;



May the Lord cause you to flourish,  
both you and your children.

May you be blessed by the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.

Psalm 115:14-15

As you rest over the school break, I pray that you will have the opportunity to rest, to be still and know that He is God. And that when you return to the classroom, you will overflow, and that the love you have for the Lord will be infectious to the students in your class and the colleagues at school.

Blessings,

**Shaun Brooker**  
Chairperson, NZ Association for Christian Schools  
Principal, Hamilton Christian School



## Flourishing in the Classroom NZACS Teachers' Conference 2025

Flourishing in the Classroom was the title for our 2025 NZACS Conference held at Kingsway School near Orewa, Auckland. With over 600 in attendance, there was a real sense of anticipation as the Conference was opened with Worship & addressed by **Dr Kevin Shore** CEO of APIS. Other **NZ Christian educational leaders Graham Preston, Graeme Budler & Murray Burton** shared either a Devotion or a Keynote address which was deeply challenging. To have seasoned practitioners such as these who walk humbly and carry such passionate heart commitment to Christ-Centred education here in Aotearoa was inspirational. They reminded us that flourishing as disciples of Jesus personally and in community means knowing, loving, obeying, serving and remaining faithful to Him and His Word.



Link to [Conference Highlights](#) clip on Facebook

**Dr Lynn Swaner** gave three Keynote presentations which were informative, engaging & interactive. What does it mean and entail to 'Flourish in the Classroom' in our kura whānau, in our call, in our community?'. 'What barriers might hinder or undermine such holistic flourishing?' Such provocative questions required and require ongoing reflection and collegial discussion. There were and are personal and professional practice implications in living as Biblically responsive, Kingdom focused, followers of Jesus. To close her final address, Lynn quoted



from her book 'Flourishing in the Classroom', having unpacked the 1 Cor 13 passage with emphasis on the more excellent way - '**Love never fails**' - in **desiring, calling, and enabling us to flourish together**'.

**Dan Paterson**, Keynote speaker, brought an authentic understanding of our rangatahi/young people and the kinds of questions they have around faith. His encouragement to '**listen and to ask questions**' with reference to the way in which Jesus modelled such an approach, was a timely reminder to create the safe space for these young people to work through doubts, fears, and their experiences.

Workshops & Job-a-like groups gave opportunity to learn in specific areas of interest & to network with others in similar roles in NZ & Australia. Our dinner speaker **Mark Steyn** was both entertaining and profound in directing us to stay the course!

Conference was an immeasurable blessing! All those who attended wish to express their genuine gratitude to Colette and Graeme Budler, and their amazing Kingsway staff and students. Months of prayer, preparation and intentional planning, of consideration and care with every detail, including handling the weather variables during the conference itself, showed what a loving and committed community Kingsway is.

Finally, in her closing address, **Dr Lynn Swaner** quoted from her book '*Flourishing in the Classroom*', having unpacked the 1 Cor 13 passage on Love with '**Love never fails**' - in **desiring, calling, and enabling us to flourish together**'. May our love for Jesus and His purposes as we faithfully serve Him daily be fuelled as we spend time with Him. And may our tamariki, rangatahi and our kura communities flourish because we choose His more excellent way! For the freedom we have in Aotearoa to teach as Christ-centred educators, we are deeply grateful.





## SHOWCASING the Exec

Each edition of The Whiteboard has a brief bio on an Executive member, to help you get to know those serving the Association.

### Gavin Clark | Principal | Hastings Christian School

Kia ora koutou.

It is my pleasure to join the other executive members of our association in giving a brief bio on myself and to share my background in Christian education. Aside from being married to my wife Bridget for over 30 years and having three amazing adult children, the most important thing about me is what God has done in making me His child. I'm so thankful He's also promised to finish that work! (Philippians 1:6)

I grew up in a Christian home and from my early teen years was heavily involved in Christian camping - and in particular children's camps. Those of you who know my theology would even go as far as to say I was predestined to get into education with this kind of a background!

Aside from trail running and enjoying multi-day tramping with my wife, my one other great joy is to read theological books.

You could be forgiven for thinking I'm either boring or don't enjoy change given the fact that I have now been at Hastings Christian School for 28 years! My first 10 years were in the classroom prior to becoming the principal and responsible for much of the Christian worldview programme in our secondary school.

One of the highlights of my week, is to attend the respective primary and secondary school assemblies. To witness young people owning their faith, worshipping God and enjoying their youth is something you can't put a price tag on. To think that we get paid to disciple young people and point them to Christ is something I will be forever grateful for.

I have been on the executive of our association for 9 years now and the regional coordinator for the lower North Island NZACS region for many more. I have also had the privilege of being part of the very successful Lower North Island Christian Kāhui Ako (LNICK) leadership. I am passionate about ensuring that we find new ways to collaborate across our respective regions in order to continue to enjoy the benefits from these communities of learning.

It has been an absolute joy to not only see Hastings Christian School grow and mature over the years but also to see our NZACS association come of age thanks to the many pioneering men and women that have gone before us.

Right – Hastings Christian School conference delegates



How is being a leader in a New Zealand State integrated school different and how do we navigate that to ensure providing a great education with a special character?

Having stepped back from much of my professional life at the end of 2024, I was delighted to be invited to present to a group of new Principals in NZACS schools on this topic. I congratulate NZACS for their initiative and care in providing such opportunities to support beginning Principals. Well done!



After working for 25 years in the New Zealand Christian school and wider integrated school world, it has never been more evident that [leadership succession](#) (be it in governance or management) [is mission critical](#).

Many others have reported on a critical shortage of leadership in the NZ education sector in a wider sense. In the last 18 months or so, 15 NZACS member schools have had a Principal vacancy. I assisted a number of Boards in the recruitment process. In addition, 2 other Christian schools currently [May 2025] have vacancies. This is over 25% of all the NZACS integrated school membership.

The new Principal group I presented to in Hamilton on March 30th this year are an impressive group and eager to learn. We are grateful to God for this new crop.

However, 25% "churn" is significant and while it may be a seasonal anomaly, it reminds us to stay focussed on continuing to raise up the next generation.

Part of the brief for the presentation was to identify, discuss and workshop key points for difference leaders can expect in leading in a State integrated school environment.

After talking about common characteristics in Christian schools and some important features of the New Zealand schooling landscape, we moved to consider integration and the importance for leaders to recognise the framework within which they lead.

We considered the [founding principles of integration](#), Education and Training Act 2020,( in particular Schedule 6 which sets out the legislative framework for State integrated schools), moved on to look at [the role of the proprietor, the board/proprietor relationship](#) and how the [Principal](#) has an important role to "manage up" with their proprietor and board and then "manage down" in ways that faithfully represent and deliver both the proprietor and boards expectations.

Discussion points included:

- What are the proprietors rights under the Education and Training Act and where do they carry ultimate authority?
- Where does the proprietor have an interest but no ultimate authority? When should they be consulted?
- What does good practice look like in developing a flourishing proprietor/board relationship? The group considered resources like a memorandum of understanding template provided by the Association of Integrated Schools Aotearoa NZ. The AIS NZ Board handbook includes a proprietor chair/board presiding member/principal relationship policy.
- How is being a Principal in a State integrated school different? In the context of this question we considered the key tools the board and principal work with at a strategic level - strategic and annual plans, policies and delegations, legal compliance and upholding and advancing in the special character of the school.

In closing, the group workshopped the key elements of the potential Principal job description that could look different because that principal is in a State integrated school.

Please [contact the secretary](#) to request a copy of the slides that supported this presentation.

It turns out, the writer was incubating a gastro bug while he was in Hamilton and managed to exit the presentation barely in time to save himself from embarrassment.

My time with the Principals was a precious and rich time.

The two day programme covered some other essential leadership areas and was a great success from what I can gather.

Again, congratulations to NZACS and let us all continue to uphold the movement in prayer that God may continue to faithfully provide leadership at all levels.

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## **‘Tony’ Anthony Hawkins 1929-2025**

Graham Preston recently gave a tribute at the memorial service for **Tony Hawkins** who Graham served alongside and described as “a very dear friend; brother; colleague and fellow Christian pilgrim who’ faithfully served the Father’s business to see His Kingdom come here through the power of the Holy Spirit and through the strategy of Christian Education and Biblical Christ-centred schooling....”

Graham described how Tony and his wife Kathleen hosted him during a formative visit to Middleton Grange School forty years ago. Graham described Tony as “Small in stature but huge and influential with an enthusiastic, evangelical passion; a love for God, and a thirst for Biblical understanding. His attention to Christian scholarship was important and he was an educationalist through and through”.



Graham’s visit to Middleton Grange left him with principles and understanding that were formative in the establishment of Bethlehem College soon afterward. The college grew rapidly and soon Tony and Kathleen moved North to help develop education excellence in Bethlehem College’s secondary school.

“Excellence honours God and inspires people’

Together, Graham and Tony made trips to many communities across Aotearoa New Zealand sharing the vision for quality Christian education.

Graham also shared that “Every tabletop or spare chair in [Tony’s] lounge; kitchen and bedroom [was] always full of books – bibles, commentaries, books on education or educators. Our discussions were always about principles and concepts, biblical ideas that would impact on a Christian School and a Christian Education.”

In closing, Graeme encouraging those present with these words: “Dear friends, Tony’s death is only just the beginning. Let the seed planted multiply through you. Let’s get on to the business of building God’s house and His Kingdom and see his Kingdom come here in New Zealand and wherever you may be. The world needs you.”

Many thanks to Graham Preston for passing on Tony’s tribute for publication in ***The Whiteboard***.

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## – Crafting Christian Culture as Symbolic Stories

By Dr Erika Snedden

Teacher & Kāhui ako AST, Cornerstone Christian School

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*The NZACS Executive invites association members to contribute articles and reflections to **The Whiteboard** publication. The purpose of such articles is to promote thought and information for other association members. The thoughts and position of the contributions reflect the beliefs of the author and not necessarily the beliefs of the executive.*

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This article presents the main findings of my doctoral research thesis on how understandings of mission and vision are enacted in New Zealand Christian school organisational practice (Snedden, 2023). The findings highlight how personal and professional leadership influences and culture shape these practices and reveal that Christian educators have a shared stewardship responsibility to be collaborative culture creators. For the three Christian Kāhui Ako schools participating in this study, cultural unity has been achieved by focusing on leadership development and service framed within creative practice, and strong generational connections between school, church, and home. Participants gave VOICE to their schools' cultural stories through a narrative process, indicating that spiritual development aspects are grounded and, in effect, engineered within a covenantal community.

One aim of this research was to explore education in Christian school contexts/communities as a place (an institutional opportunity) to not only transfer faith and vision but to influence and transform the hearts, minds, future aspirations, and actions of each generation of youth. Aligning with evidence in the literature, it was found that, for each school, the relationship between culture and ideology (within the social framework of the school family as a covenantal community) has been moral or spiritual. It highlights how shared visions inspire and create a sense of common caring and that stewardship, as an act of trust, is the set of principles and practices by which we govern ourselves.

The conclusions drawn are founded on the underlying assumption that inviting people to participate in dialogue and share stories about their past can inform their present and future understandings (Snedden, 2011, 2013). Envisioning your future through analysing the past encapsulates the philosophy of transformational change espoused in Appreciative Inquiry (AI).

The findings indicate that the guiding statements were initially created by the school leadership in the pioneering phase of each school. In recent years, each school has invested in re-visioning its vision statements and has retained, for the most part, other guiding statements such as the mission, values, and mottos. Within each school, the re-visioning has been facilitated by leadership but has included staff in the co-construction and stewardship of the shared vision. There was no denying the participants', and especially the principals', individual passion and purpose, desire to help others, share decision-making, and be self-reflective with the understanding that service rather than self-interest is at the heart of stewardship. Leadership, and notably the schools' principals, have explicitly supported their staff, students, and communities as places of hospitality and authentic relationships supporting unity and collaboration. The schools show evidence of their communities' authenticity through the routines and practices embedded in the culture of the schools' Christian ethos.

For the schools in this research study, values and character development were pivotal in enacting the schools' common core aspiration to love each other unconditionally. To do this, attention was invested in the school timetable and meeting structures to give space for practices such as collective worship, devotion, and prayer.

This transferred to the student community within their discipleship and faith programmes, specifically supporting values and virtues. Each of these schools has embraced, to varying degrees, creative practice that undergirds the promoted pedagogy. It appears that this has arisen from several factors: 1) the challenges inherent in the pioneering stages of school structural and curricula growth necessitating reliance on a range of outsider providers, 2) learning opportunities for students that are diverse and inclusive because of external support and influence from the wider educative and spiritual communities, 3) pastoral opportunities within school and outside school for students to journey alongside staff to develop relationships with each other in parallel with a relationship with Christ Jesus, and 4) a desire to intentionally assist each student to be empowered, future-focused, and help them to find direction and a revelation of God's plan for their lives.

The role of the guiding statements was to support a singleness of common unity, school philosophy, direction, and purpose. Their role was also to centralise and give focus to Christian character and curriculum formation (Estep & Kim, 2010), direction, and planning aligned with the mission and vision. It emerged that the guiding statements governed practice, enabling the growth and support of special character and shaping the Christian worldview. Values were seen to be the foundational pillars that held up the guiding statements; the backbone or spine of the school's culture, as they were consistently woven into the cultural language and learning. Leadership upheld them by investing them with a significant role in the staff employment process, inclusion within school special character audits, bringing the guiding statements before staff for review and reflection, and inducting new staff to equip them with an understanding of the deep-level culture of their schools. The guiding statements are shared symbols acting as powerful elements of culture.

All schools demonstrated how collective responsibility carries the culture. Relational forums supported the influence, communication, and nurturing of mission and vision. Actions and interactions that explicitly demonstrated these school communities were working to achieve the guiding statements, and the school ethos was modelled by leadership, who gave equal recognition to the Holy Spirit, prayer, and the Word. Leadership was willing to share their faith journeys within an ethic of care, kindness, respect, service, and nurturing. Teamwork and leadership were two of the main organisational factors that assisted in fostering a culture of care and determination to succeed with excellence in all school goals, whether relational or academic. The seamless education (intergenerational) of younger to older students interacting with each other was a significant strength across all schools. Fostering interactions and relationships with caregivers who are active participants in the school community and serve in many capacities, as well as consultation with the broader school community, was ongoing between home, staff, and the governing Boards.

This thesis study advocates for Christian educators and educationists to investigate how practice (praxis) and practise embed habits and shape our self-identity communally (Roehlkepartain et al., 2011; Stanton, 2018). From a shared stewardship and service perspective, this thesis challenges Christian educators to explore how to partner in practically educating and equipping their schools to be places of covenant community. Using school guiding statements for systematic and systemic reflection holds promise for the research community and various educational stakeholders. The study's most significant contribution is that it has enabled participants to become collectively aware of their schools' strengths and reminds us that we may lose sight of our vision unless we focus on it.



## References

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## ROBUST DISCUSSION

Do you (or does someone you know) have an area of passion or expertise that you would like to share, or around which you would like to encourage robust, helpful debate?  
We are keen to have members contribute articles or viewpoints.

If you have a topic you would like to see some discussion around, or a viewpoint you would like to share, please contact: [secretary@nzacs.nz](mailto:secretary@nzacs.nz)

\$100 per article will be paid for selected articles. Selection is at the NZACS chairperson's discretion.  
The recommended article length is 600-700 words.



ABOUT SCHOOLS & ORGANISATIONS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

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# NZACS RESOURCES

Our **RESOURCES** site is up and running and we would love for you to make use of all that is available. Check it out! <https://www.resources.nzacs.nz/user/>

*[This is a password protected site, so please ensure you sign up to gain access, as this will be verified with your school/organisation.]*



THE WHITEBOARD EVENTS MEMBER DIRECTORY CONFERENCE

## RESOURCES

### CATEGORIES

- Christian Teacher Development
- Inclusive Education – Classroom
- Leadership Development
- Service & Mission
- Bicultural Practice
- Student Wellbeing
- Curriculum
- NZACS – Conference Key Note Speakers
- University Courses
- Links to other Organisations



## Resources

**Resources for your staff, leaders & teachers**

## Media Resources

### Promotional Videos

Available for you to use in the promotion of Christian Education to your community and beyond. There are bite size social media clips, or longer length videos available to choose from.

#### TEACHER VIDEO



<https://vimeo.com/648419275>

#### STUDENT PROMO



<https://vimeo.com/651436170>



### Digital Brochure

#### WELCOME TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Designed to encourage parents to think about key precepts underlying Christian Education.

## Other Resources



### INFOODLE APP

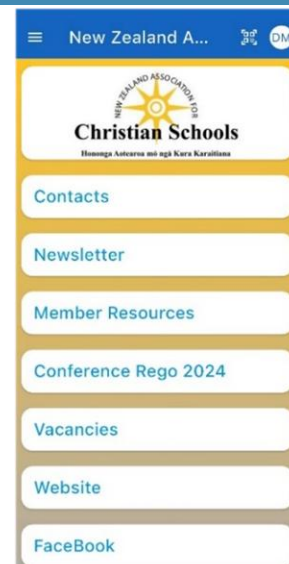
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Shining Lights Trust and Big Book Publishing have some amazing resources available for schools. Check out their websites and get in touch, they'd love to help you be a shining light in your community.

Reasons for Faith – [WhyChristiansBelieve.nz](https://www.whychristiansbelieve.nz) | NZ Bicultural History – [BigBook.nz](https://www.bigbook.nz)





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### 2 POSSIBLE CONTEXTS FOR SERVICE

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- Sports Coaching
- Cultural events
- Missions events
- Camps
- Administration
- School assemblies
- School productions
- Reading support
- ESOL support
- General teacher assistance
- Running small group activities
- School devotionals
- Supporting teachers on playground duty
- Setting up equipment
- Providing extra tuition
- Library support
- Helping students with diverse needs.

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Dr Francine Bennett, Principal  
E [francine@pathways.ac.nz](mailto:francine@pathways.ac.nz)

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# 2025 Regional Hui

## **Auckland - 26th July**

Elim Christian Centre  
80 Central Park Drive Henderson, Auckland  
(the old Laidlaw building)

## **Levin - 23rd August**

LevinLife Church  
20 Bledisloe Street, Levin

## **Mataura Southland - 6th September**

Mataura Christian Church  
95 Main Street, Mataura



*"A Journey into faith"*  
presented by Miriam Fisher

### **Session One: Exploring**

Miriam will share with you a textile artwork, 'An Archipelago of Faith' and invite us to explore its landscape and think about the journeys of faith, returning, setting out and trust. This session will include art, poetry and theological ponderings around pilgrimage.

### **Session Two: Listening**

In this session we will be taken on a guided listening journey exploring our inner landscape and places where we have experienced the various terrains of faith and life.

This session will be run in the style of a retreat/ guided session where each person will be invited to personally journey with God through listening and silence.

### **Session Three: Enacting**

In the final session we will draw together the learning from the first session and the richness of our personal insights in the second session to creatively explore making our own archipelagos in textiles. This session will also include kōrero around how these thoughts, actions and insights might make their way into our practices and centres.

9:30am - 2:30pm

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# NZACS LEADERS' CONFERENCE

May 28 – May 30

2026

Rendezvous

Heritage Hotel, Queenstown

SAVE THE DATE



## Opportunities

**NZACS 2026 Leaders' Conference**  
28 – 30 May | Heritage Hotel, Queenstown

**CEN: Christian Education National (Aus)** Aug 20-22, 2025  
Christian Schools Conference Melbourne

[CEN link](#)

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If you are aware of any businesses who would be interested in sponsoring NZACS, please contact the Executive via [secretary@nzacs.nz](mailto:secretary@nzacs.nz)

# Term 3, 2025 PRAYER DIARY

## Week starting Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July

### EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Christchurch, Y1-10, 273 students)

In a year when we have continued to see significant growth there is a lot to be thankful for. Along with this we have also just passed a milestone of 25 years on our current site having moved in 2000.

#### Praise Points:

- Continued growth.
- Blessings of new classrooms coming on stream.
- A great staff and supportive and involved whānau.

#### Prayer Requests:

- Wisdom as we plan for continued growth over the years ahead.
- For the continued provision of high-quality Christian staff.



## Week starting Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July

### JIREH CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Y1-8, 282 students)

#### Praise Point:

- Wonderful community, staff, board, whānau and Tamariki
- Unity in purpose and understanding

#### Prayer Requests:

- That every child will walk closely with the Lord, with a good understanding of scripture and a growing love for God and people
- Fresh mana each day that we will approach our calling from a place of overflow
- Counsel approval for a building consent
- Increased roll cap
- More buildings to accommodate growth



Photo - Trip to the Maritime Museum



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## Week starting Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July

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### KINGSGATE SCHOOL (Y1-11, 251 students)

#### Praise Points:

- Praise God for faithful and mission-aligned staff who serve with purpose, especially new hires like Richard Coetzee (Totara), the Head of High School, and others called to join the journey.
- Thank God for students, parents, board members, and volunteers contributing to a Christ-centred school culture
- Celebrate the milestone of KingsGate's first Year 11 cohort in 2025 and the exciting vision of expanding to Year 13 by 2027.
- Praise God for implementing corequisite assessments and structured curriculum pathways tailored for NCEA success.
- Celebrate the establishment of the Māori Rōpū and the school's first hui with whānau Māori, prioritising authentic bicultural engagement.
- Thank God for the school's efforts to engage with Ngāti Tamaoho and strengthen relationships with mana whenua.

#### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for wisdom as the school navigates budget constraints and growth demands, especially property development and staffing.
- Ask for provision of all necessary resources, finances, and favour with the Ministry of Education and other agencies.
- Pray for upcoming Special Character review, PLD initiatives, and strategic goals to be led by God's hand and not human striving.
- Pray that the vision of KingsGate would remain clear: to raise up young people who live out their faith boldly and humbly in every sphere of life.



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## Week starting Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August

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### SONRISE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Y1-13, 134 students)

#### Praise Points:

- God bringing the right staff members at the right time. His faithfulness never ends!
- A settled school with learning and growing together being the norm.
- The whanaungatanga and aroha that permeate our school community.
- The arrival of our new piupiu's for the school – how wonderful.

#### Prayer Requests:

- For vision and direction in planning secondary timetables for 2026.
- For development of our school 10-year plan.
- Strengthening of our proprietor's team and their role at Sonrise.
- Board elections in September – the right people to be confirmed.





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## Week starting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August

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### Wellington Hills Christian College (Y1-13, 112 students)

Wellington Hills Christian College started this year with 112 Year 1-9 students. We will be growing to Year 13 by 2029. We have begun in new buildings with very positive students and motivated, mature staff. It is a joy to work here. God has supplied all our needs, often in unexpected ways. There is growing interest with over 80 applicants for next year already received in Term 2. We cannot take them all and have begun looking for ways to grow provision.

#### Praise Point:

- Thanks for the blessings above.

#### Prayer Requests:

- Help with building on a strong foundation on God's Word and Spirit.
- God's wisdom as we consider increasing provision.

Photo: Y9 History class visit Te Papa studying WW1.



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## Week starting Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August

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### Bethlehem College (Y1-13, 1797 students)

#### Praise Points:

- For our parent prayer teams and the commitment of our Board and Proprietor.
- For our college-wide week of worship.
- For the service and leadership of our student leaders.
- For the mission opportunities students have enjoyed in 2025.

#### Prayer Requests:

- That all students will increasingly desire to know, love and walk with Jesus.
- For God's guidance in planning for 2026.
- For His spirit of grace and gratitude amongst our Year 13 student community.
- That new families would increasingly grow a real greater sense of belonging to the Bethlehem community.



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## Week starting Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August

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### TEACHERS IN OUR NETWORK

#### Praise Point:

- At the 2025 Teachers' Conference we were reminded of the many, many Christian teachers across Aotearoa New Zealand who seek to honour the Lord and nurture our tamariki from a Christian foundation.

#### Prayer Requests:

- Pray especially for staff who are experiencing poor health and other personal difficulties.
- Pray for teaching appointments for 2026, that the Lord will bring forward highly suitable candidates.



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## Week starting Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September

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### SILVERSTREAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Upper Hutt, Y1-13, 29 students)

In praying for Silverstream Christian School, we encourage you to:

#### Praise Points:

- Give thanks that our school continues to be a socially and academically settled place, with a positive atmosphere.
- Praise God that staff are seeing our daily prayers for students' academic and spiritual growth (including character and the Fruit of the Spirit) being answered.
- Thank God that teachers are continuing to learn about student social-emotional wellbeing through their 2025 professional development.

#### Prayer Requests:

- Pray that God would work through our 2025 school theme, Fearfully and Wonderfully Made (from Psalm 139), so that students recognise their worth before God in every part of who they are—physically, spiritually, emotionally, and socially.
- Ask that God would continue to smooth academic pathways and strengthen our ability to offer quality education in our senior school (Years 9–13), so that students are well-prepared for tertiary education, including university and polytechnics.
- Pray for God's blessing on our school culture focus week in Term 3 (this year building and racing life-size cardboard boats!)—that students across year levels would work well together and that our school culture would continue to grow in a positive direction.





## Week starting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September

### LEADERS IN OUR NETWORK

#### Praise Points:

- Thank God for the many pioneers whose prayer, dedication and determination paved the way for the network of Christian schools across Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Thank God for the Principals, Senior Leaders, Middle Leaders, Presiding Members, Board members etc. who grapple daily with decisions affecting our schools.

#### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for a spirit of unity among the leaders within each Christian School.
- Pray that each leader will seek the Lord daily and find the strength, wisdom and rest they need.
- Pray for new Principals beginning in Terms 3-4.



## Week starting Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September

### STUDENTS AND WHĀNAU IN OUR NETWORK

#### Praise Points:

- Thank God for families within our network who love God and whose heart is to raise children who love God and who will be His ambassadors.
- Thank God for the students in our schools.

#### Prayer Requests:

- Pray for families who are struggling at this time.
- Pray for our senior students as they prepare for their Term 4 examinations.
- Pray for students who are making decisions about their next steps.



To finish this edition of The Whiteboard - More photos from the NZACS 2025 Teachers' Conference!



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