



**CAMBRIDGE
MIDDLE
SCHOOL**
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Cambridge Middle School - Issue 1 - February 2025

2025 Term 1

21 March

Teacher Only Day

04 April

Teacher Parent
Conferences

07 April / 08 April

Y7 and Y8
Immunisations

11 April

Last day of Term 1

Monday 28 April

First day of Term 2



Principal's Pen 2025 Week 4 Term 1

Kia ora koutou,

It is great to be back at school, and we have had a fantastic start to 2025! It was wonderful to see so many whānau members at our pōwhiri on the first day, as we welcomed our new students and staff. A special thank you to Whaea Kahurangi and Te Kore for their support on the day—it was greatly appreciated.

This year, we have welcomed over 300 new students to Cambridge Middle School. The school already has a settled and positive atmosphere, with all students learning about the HERO values and expectations that guide our culture at CMS. I want to acknowledge the fantastic way our students—especially our new ones—have adapted to their new school environment. We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout your child's time at CMS. We know the transition from primary to middle school is a big one, and our staff are committed to supporting both students and whānau during this time. We have an open-door policy and encourage you to make contact with your child's teacher as the first point of contact if necessary. Our teachers and staff are dedicated to supporting your children academically, culturally, socially, and emotionally as they grow through these crucial years.

It was great to connect with a number of families who took the opportunity to meet their child's teacher before school started.

New Staff for 2025

This year, we are delighted to welcome Bevan Tohia, Harmony Cairns, and Morgan Lewis to our teaching team. Bevan and Harmony join our classroom teaching staff, and Morgan will be leading our music programme. They have already made a great start, and we look forward to the positive impact they will have at CMS.



Principal's Pen Continued...

Waimarino Trip - Whole School Experience

A major highlight this term will be our whole-school trip to Waimarino, where all classes will get to enjoy outdoor education activities and team-building challenges. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop confidence, collaboration, and resilience in a fun, engaging environment. Over half of our school has already attended their day and have had a great time trying new experiences and developing connections with each other.

Opportunities at CMS

CMS is always a busy place, and Term 1 is already full of exciting opportunities. Sports trials for inter-school and AIMS teams have begun. Our Kapa Haka roopu as well as our specialist subject enrichment programmes are underway.

To stay informed, please check our key communication platforms:

CMS website, CMS Facebook page, EDGE app and email updates

Swimming Sports

Our competitive Swimming Sports were held last week in beautiful weather! Our swimmers competed exceptionally well, showing dedication and our HERO values throughout the day. Congratulations to all the placegetters, and a big thank you to the parent helpers and Mrs Hawkins for making the event run smoothly. We wish our WIMS team all the best for the upcoming Inter-schools day.

Our School HERO Values

At CMS, our HERO values guide everything we do:

h	e	r	o
HAPPINESS HĀKOAKOA	EXCELLENCE PANEKIRETANGA	RELATIONSHIPS WHANAUNGATANGA	OPPORTUNITY WHEAKO
We provide an environment where everyone's identity is nurtured and they are cared for and safe.	We encourage the pursuit of our personal best in environments that are engaging and innovative.	We create a sense of belonging through valuing diversity, kindness and respect.	We offer a variety of meaningful and enriching experiences to enhance our lives.
"Mauria te pono"	"Whaia te iti kahurangi"	"Aroha atu, aroha mai"	"Tūwhitia te hopo"
Believe in yourself, to be authentic, to be honest	Strive for excellence	If kindness is sown then kindness you shall receive	Feel the fear and do it anyway

To set our students up for success, our teachers have been unpacking these values with students, helping them understand what they look and sound like in everyday school life. This focus helps build a positive class, team, and school culture.

Online Safety

The online world is a big part of students' lives, and we know it can be challenging to navigate as parents. Netsafe provides excellent resources to help support your child's online safety:

<https://netsafe.org.nz>

Principal's Pen Continued...

The majority of negative online interactions tend to happen in the evenings or on weekends, so having open conversations about online behaviour is important. Next week the Cambridge schools are hosting a parent evening with digital safety expert Rob Cope from Our Kids Online to provide guidance on keeping children safe online. There are two nights that you can choose from. Please register using the eventfinda links [Wednesday](#) and [Thursday](#) night.

Conceptual Curriculum

Our 2025 conceptual curriculum will focus on *Tūrangawaewae*, *Kaitiakitanga*, *Innovation*, and *Hauora*, providing students with meaningful opportunities to explore identity, sustainability, creativity, and well-being. Our first concept of *Tūrangawaewae* supports students to understand where they come from and develop a greater sense of belonging. This links to our HERO value of Relationships which is extremely important for this age group.

These concepts will be woven through different curriculum areas to create engaging, relevant, and challenging learning experiences. A strong focus will also be placed on Reading, Writing, and Mathematics, supported by research-based learning programmes such as The Code, Writer's Toolbox, and Oxford Mathematics. Our teachers are actively engaging in professional development to ensure high-quality teaching in these areas.

Sun Safety

At CMS, we encourage students to become more self-managing, but we also recognise they still need support in making healthy choices. During Terms 1 and 4, school hats are a compulsory uniform item and must be brought to school daily. Sunscreen is available in classrooms, and teachers regularly remind students to apply it before breaks.

How you can help at home: Encourage your child to apply sunscreen before leaving for school. Ensure they bring their school hat daily. Discuss the importance of sun safety and making healthy choices

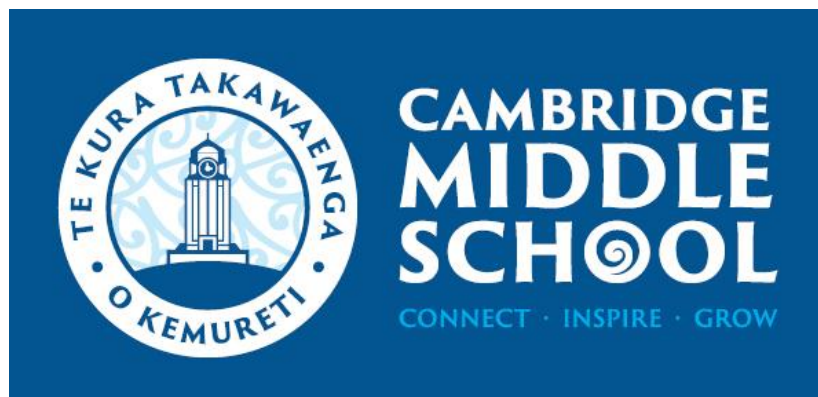
Whānau Picnic

Due to the unfortunate weather last week, and other events in the coming weeks we will not be holding our Whānau Picnic this term. Please connect with your child's teacher by booking in at our upcoming Parent/Teacher Conferences in Week 9 - more information will come out about this closer to the time. Your child's teacher is also available to meet with you earlier than this if you wish to make a time to see them at any stage.

Thank you for your continued support. We are excited for another fantastic year of learning, growth, and opportunities at CMS.

Ngā mihi nui,

Daryl Gibbs
Principal



Attendance Matters

One of the things we are going to continue to focus on in 2025 is the importance of regular school attendance for our tamariki. Here are some key points to keep in mind:

Why Attendance is Important: Did you know that if a student misses just one day of school every two weeks, they can miss over a year of school by the time they reach 16? Regular attendance is important for building strong learning habits and good life skills.

Your Role: As parents and caregivers, you play a huge role in ensuring that your child attends school every day. It's a shared responsibility between home and school.

Notification of Absences: Please inform us if your child will be absent for any reason, such as a tangi or a medical procedure. Please be aware that family holidays or extracurricular activities not organised by the school are not justified reasons for absence.

Email: attendance@cms.school.nz

Phone or Text: 021 0250 3796

Phone: 078275135

App: Use the EDGE App and click on 'Notify School of Absence'

Form: Fill out our online absentee form on the [CMS website](#)

Please ensure a reason for the absence is provided, your child's full name and class number.

** Please note, extended absences should be notified in writing to:

attendance@cms.school.nz

Health Guidance: If you're unsure whether your child is well enough to attend school, health guidance is available [here](#). Don't hesitate to reach out for support.

We're Here to Help: If you're finding it challenging to get your child to school, please talk to us. Our school is committed to working with you to ensure your child's attendance. Please make contact with your child's teacher or the school office.

Building a Positive Attendance Culture: At Cambridge Middle School, we strive to foster a culture of attendance by:

- Developing strong relationships between staff, students, and whānau.
- Recognising and valuing the unique backgrounds of our students and their families.
- Taking practical steps to ensure every child is at school and progressing in their learning.
- Maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all.
- If you have any questions or concerns about attendance, please don't hesitate to contact us. Together, we can support our learners and help them thrive!



POUARATAKI STUDENT WELLBEING SUPPORT



- feeling anxious?
- friendship problems?
- feeling overwhelmed?
- life getting you down?

We all have times in our lives when problems may visit us.
No problem is too big or too small to need a listening ear.

If you need to talk please email us

studentsupport@cms.school.nz

leigh.m@cms.school.nz

melissa.c@cms.school.nz



Community Notices



Young Explorers Camp

NGAMUWAHINE LODGE

BOOK NOW

14th-17th April, 2025

We have an amazing week lined up with bush walks, archery, air rifle, fire building and cooking, hut building, high rope activities, swimming, eeling, night activities and much more!

- Pick-up/Drop off available from Hamilton, Tauranga & NOW Auckland
- Suitable for 7-13 years old
- OSCAR Subsidy available
- Ngamuwahine Lodge is set in the Kaimai Ranges (off SH29) in the beautiful Bay of Plenty

**PRICE
\$575
4 days
Mon-Thu**

MORE INFO :

- 📍 Edventure Tauranga
- ✉️ todd@edventure.co.nz
- ☎️ +0275349949
- 🌐 www.edventure.co.nz



REPAIR DETECTIVES

Does your child love to tinker?



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Cambridge in Term 1! 🎉

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Est 1963

Mondays & Wednesdays

Juniors 12 and under
6 - 6.45pm

Seniors (12+)
7 - 8.30pm

@
Maclean Street, Cambridge

www.camkadajudoclub.co.nz
camkadajudoclub@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/camkada



Camkada offers a fun, inclusive and enriching environment for all ages to come and learn Judo. Ages 5+. Everyone welcome for a FREE trial!

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