



CAMBRIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL

CONNECT · INSPIRE · GROW



Cambridge Middle School - Issue 5 - August 2024

2024 Term 3

Tuesday 20 August -
WIMS Netball

Friday 23 August -
AIMS Games friendly
game - Girls Football vs
Morrinsville - pm

Monday 26 August -
Casual Clothes Day

Tuesday 28 August to
Thursday 29 August -
Seussical Production
Nights - 7.00pm - 8.15pm

Friday 30 August -
Kapa Haka Festival,
AIMS Games 3 x 3
Basketball game at CHS

4th and 5th September -
Year 6 Orientation days
and CHS testing days

Friday 6 September -
Daffodil Day, Casual
Clothes Day



Principal's Pen 2024 Week 4 Term 3



Kia ora koutou,

Term 3 is a busy and exciting time at CMS. There are many academic, cultural and sporting opportunities and events taking place. We are only a few weeks away from sending over 120

students to the NZAIMS Games, representing us across 16 different sporting codes. This is a massive undertaking from Anita Hawkins, our teachers who are in charge of teams, the administration staff, and the many parents and caregivers who will support during the week with managing teams, transport and staying over with the students. We are very thankful for the time and support you give to make this opportunity possible for so many students.

We are now less than two weeks from nearly 100 students entertaining our community with Seussical the Musical. These students have shown amazing commitment since Term 1 to bring this wonderful show to you all. If you have not gotten your tickets yet you can order these by going to the school website, click on 'What's Happening' and fill in the Google form. You can also call the office to order tickets.

I would like to take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU** to The Lions Club of Cambridge for their grant of \$5,000 towards purchasing sound and lighting equipment for our school. This will enhance our Performing Arts programme and the quality of the shows that we do.

Our teachers continue to receive professional learning with our structured literacy programmes The Code and Writer's Toolbox. Our teachers are enjoying the structured approach and the increased knowledge and confidence that they have gained in teaching English effectively. Feedback from our students is positive and they are enjoying the online tool for Writer's Toolbox and the lessons they are participating in.

As you will be aware the government has announced a new Mathematics curriculum to begin being taught at the start of next year. We have made significant changes to our programme this

Principal's Pen Continued...

year and are confident that with the new resources and professional learning provided by the government, we will be well placed to deliver the new curriculum effectively. I am fortunate to be on two national working groups that are reviewing how the curriculum will be delivered with online resources and support for schools. I look forward to participating in robust discussions about what is important for students to learn and for our teachers to be well supported to deliver Mathematics effectively.

We also hosted our Open Day last week. This is our first opportunity to connect with new families and students. We had over 60 CMS students host and lead parents on tours. We received a lot of positive feedback and are proud of our students for showing courage and our HERO values during the day. If you know of someone who missed the day or has not received an enrolment pack, they can call the school office at any time with any enrolment questions.

We have just said goodbye to 36 Chinese students who have been with us for the past two weeks. This is a great opportunity for our students to make global connections and learn about another culture. As a school we are very grateful to all of our homestay families. Thank you for opening your homes, taking care of the students and giving them a wonderful 'Kiwi' experience.

Ngā mihi nui,

Daryl Gibbs



Biking through town

If your child bikes through town we'd like to ask for your help in reminding them to use the purpose-built bike path when biking through town. [Cambridge CBD - bike on road route](#) We have noticed that a few students are riding at speed on the main footpath, which is making it challenging and unsafe for pedestrians navigating between shops.

Shopkeepers have expressed their concerns about near misses involving CMS students, and we want to ensure everyone's safety. Your support in encouraging the use of the designated cycleway would be greatly appreciated.

If your child needs to travel through Main Street, please remind them to dismount and walk their bikes. This will not only enhance safety but may also make the cycle path a more appealing option.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Community Notices

Attendance at CMS

Term 2 Summary

How many students regularly attended school this term?

 Regular Attendance

57%

Compared to 50% in Term 2, 2023

 Irregular Absence 29%

Compared to 30% in Term 2, 2023






 Moderate Absence 10%

Compared to 13% in Term 2, 2023

 Chronic Absence 4%

Compared to 8% in Term 2, 2023

What were the main reasons given for absence this term?

-  (M) Illness / Medical Absence 79%
-  (G) Holiday 8%
-  (E) Accepted (but unjustified) 7%
-  (J) Justified (other) 3%
-  (?) Unknown (Temporary) 2%

As you may be aware the new government requires us to monitor closely and report regularly to them on attendance. The Ministry of Education considers an attendance rate of 90% or above as 'attending school regularly'. If a child falls below 80% by the end of the term we are required to send a letter home to notify parents. We are always open to a conversation regarding your child's attendance and how we can better understand their absence or support a return to school. Last term we had 57% of our students attending 90% or more of the time. This is up from 42% in Term 2 2022, and 50% in 2023. As you can see in the graph 79% of reasons for absences last term were medical illness - and we know there have been a lot of different illnesses about. We hope to see an improvement in this area as we head into spring later this term.

Attendance processes for CMS during the term:

- Daily Attendance Management:** The office clears communication regarding absences through landline, mobile, and email messages. Absence details are entered in Edge, our online student management system, and late arrivals are marked in both Edge and Vistab, our online sign-in tool.
- Weekly Follow-Up:** Each week a weekly attendance report is generated in EDGE, highlighting unmarked rolls for teachers to follow up accordingly. Communications from families are sent to the office for necessary attendance code updates.
- Timely Notifications:** If a student has five consecutive late sign-ins, families will receive an email notification. We believe it's essential to keep you informed about your child's attendance and the importance of being on time.
- Chronic Attendance Action Plans:** For students experiencing chronic attendance issues, we identify those affected and work closely with the Deputy Principal, as well as teachers, to develop an Ākonga Attendance Action Plan. This plan includes family involvement to provide the necessary support.
- End of Term Communication:** At the end of the term, families will receive a letter if a student's attendance falls below 80%. This letter outlines the attendance threshold set by the Ministry of Education and provides guidance on how to notify the school about absences. We have updated the format to align with MOE guidelines for clarity.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our students' success. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

Community Notices

Junior Track Camps

Starters Camp

- Aimed at young and new riders
- 10 hours of track time over two days
- Four classroom sessions
- 30 spaces available
- Free T-Shirt
- Cost: \$160

When:
24th & 25th
August

PLUS MORTGAGE TRUST

Specialists Camp

- Aimed at experienced riders
- 12 hours of track time over two days
- Four classroom sessions
- Split into Sprint & Endurance
- Specialist coaches
- Free T-Shirt
- Cost: \$200

When:
14th & 15th
September

www.velodrome.nz/junior-camps/

Contact:
mya.anderson@velodrome.nz

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FOR MORE INFO VISIT **VELODROME.NZ**



REPAIR DETECTIVES

Does your child love to tinker?



Our weekly repair club for kids is starting in Cambridge! 🤖

Learn more at bit.ly/rdc24t3c

Community Survey



Community Research - Thrive Wellbeing Collective

This questionnaire is to get feedback from the community for complementary/alternative wellness options for your health and wellbeing. We would love your feedback. Thanks for contributing.

[Sign in to Google](#) to save your progress. [Learn more](#)

Have you ever had any experience with an alternative/complementary practitioner or professional? If so, what type of practitioner? (see below for options)

Your answer

We want your help! Please fill out this survey and tell us what you want in a Health and Wellbeing Centre. It will only take 3-5 minutes. Thank you!



[Survey Click Here](#)

Community Notices

When should your child stay home from school?

The Government has released new guidelines aimed at helping parents and schools decide whether a child is too sick to attend school or not. The guidelines suggest that you should keep your child at home from school if they are too sick to learn and need time to rest and recover. This could include testing positive for Covid-19, or displaying a “symptom of concern” such as a fever, vomiting or diarrhoea, have difficulty breathing, or if they have been diagnosed with an infectious disease.

When should your child go to school?

The guidelines suggest children are fine to go to school if they have mild respiratory symptoms such as a mild cough, headache or runny nose, (excluding Covid-19), hay fever or allergy symptoms, or non-infectious skin problems. They state children should go to school if “they appear well — they are happy, eating and drinking normally, and can easily focus on learning”.

You can find these guidelines at: <https://info.health.nz/pregnancy-children/childhood-conditions/knowing-if-your-child-is-well-enough-to-go-to-school-guidance-for-parents/>

Healthline 0800 611 116

Healthline provides a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week over-the-phone health service you can call for free health advice, information and treatment from professional healthcare providers. Healthline is staffed by an experienced, trained team who have worked in many different places and roles— including nurses, paramedics, health advisors and doctors. You can choose to speak with a Māori clinician if you are calling between 8am and 8pm. Interpreter services are available and NZ Relay support (for people who are deaf, hearing impaired or speech impaired)



Call Healthline if you:

- feel unwell but you're not sure whether you need to see a doctor
- need some urgent advice about a family member or friend who's sick
- do not have a GP or cannot get to one
- are on holiday in NZ and want to know where the nearest doctor or Pharmacy is

You can call Healthline any day or time for free on [0800 611 116](tel:0800611116)

Five Ways to Wellbeing

Research shows there are five simple things you can do as part of your daily life to build resilience, boost your wellbeing and lower your risk of developing poor mental health:

1. **Connect** – talk and listen, be there, feel connected
2. **Be active** – do what you can, enjoy what you do, move your mood
3. **Take notice** – remember the simple things that give you joy
4. **Keep learning** – embrace new experiences, see opportunities
5. **Give** – your time, your words, your presence



NEED TO TALK?

1737

- Are you feeling stressed or just need someone to talk to?
- Are you feeling down or a bit overwhelmed?
- Do you know someone who is feeling out-of-sorts or down?

Free text or call anytime to speak with a trained counsellor, or peer support v available 24 hours a day and is completely free.

They offer brief 1:1 counselling support where they focus on one or two key things you need support for. They mainly provide support in English but there may be cases where they can connect you with someone from your language of origin

Free call or text 1737 anytime