



ESTABLISHED 1883

CAMBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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TERM 2

May Issue

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Dear Parents/Caregivers

During term one considerable debate took place nationally regarding NCEA and its effectiveness and the preference of some schools to enter the Cambridge Examination System. I would like to take this opportunity to address this topic.

Parents and Caregivers can be assured that the new NCEA system is meeting the needs of our students. Its major advantage is that one qualification system now allows students with a range of abilities to experience success. A much wider range of subjects can now be recognised, including traditional academic subjects such as English, Mathematics, and Science right through to subjects directly related to the work place including Carpentry, Computers, Automotive Engineering, Tourism and Outdoor Education.

Many of those critical of NCEA have stated that the results gained are not reliable and that they cannot be compared with other schools. This simply is not the case. 50% of our students' results are still gained through external examinations, here the standard is set by a National Examiner under the supervision of NZQA and student work is marked by a national marking panel, the same process that was used to mark school certificate in the past. Yes a considerable amount of work is conducted and marked within the school. These activities reward effort that cannot be adequately assessed in an examination situation, for example research activities and the delivery of a speech. Pass rates with these activities are generally higher as students can often sit a reassessment, but in all cases they must produce work of the required standard. Internal assessment procedures are closely monitored by NZQA to establish clear standards between schools. In the past internal assessment was a key aspect of both School Certificate and Bursary while Six Form Certificate was based entirely upon internal assessment.

Criticism has also been made indicating that NCEA is a cause for a lack of student motivation. The qualification system provides ample opportunity for students to set and work towards individual goals. These could include gaining the relevant NCEA qualification, a certain number of course credits or grades at a merit or excellence level. Perhaps this qualification system is being blamed for broader problems within New Zealand schools, for example the under achievement of boys.

A recent study conducted by Auckland University clearly showed that NCEA qualifications can be used as a highly accurate indicator of student success at University. It is New Zealand's official qualification system and as such it is recognised internationally.

It must be remembered that any qualification system is highly complex and will be improved over time. I am sure that the NCEA will reviewed and improved on an ongoing basis.

Phil McCreery
Principal

STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents are reminded that even if they have phoned the school to inform us of a student absence, a written note and explanation is still required. This should be forwarded to the student's Form Teacher on the day of their return to school.

The Ministry of Education has introduced a new system of recording student absences. The school now has to use up to 15 different categories and it is therefore very important that a clear explanation is contained in the note.

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One of the highlights of Term 1 was the opening of Te Miro our Maori Resource Suite. This facility, some 30 years in the planning as we were told by some of the guests, has not only enabled our Maori students to have a point of focus but given us 2 additional classrooms. The Suite is actually 2 classrooms separated by a noise proof divider, Health Studies are utilising the second classroom.

We welcome our new Deputy Principal Curriculum Jenny Moon and the new Head of Science Darryl Smith, they will add to the already very high calibre of staff at Cambridge High.

The Board of Trustee elections were held in April. All the incumbents were nominated and as there were only 5 nominations for 5 vacancies, an election was not required. Our pictures and contact details are on the School website. We thank you for your continued support.

The Strategic Plan for 2007-2009 is what the Board have been working on since our re-election. This details what the school is to do in the next 3 years. It is available on the school website for your perusal at www.camhigh.school.nz and the Action Plan for 2007 is also there. Please have a look at what we are intending to do this year and in the next 2 years.

Some brief highlights are:

- A school wide action plan will be developed for Literacy and Numeracy, writing skills will be a major part of this and students with identified needs will be provided with targeted learning support. We aim to improve our NCEA level 1 pass rate to 75% and Level 2 to 70% and increase scholarships to 13 in 2007.
- Students with special needs are to be identified and provided with programmes to meet their needs. A Home Room concept is in place for this year and is achieving good results.
- We aim to make greater use of technology both in the school and with you the parents.
- We are looking at an Alternative Education option for students here in Cambridge.
- The upgrade of the Gym complex is in the planning stages and we will commence on this project in Term 4.


- The Superloo will be enlarged in late term 2 / early Term 3. This will cause some inconvenience to the students but we are planning to minimise this.
- The Student Shop will be moved late in term 2 to a more accessible position and 2 other portable classrooms will be moved around to the grass area behind the Maths block, a computer suite will also be built in this area. This will again give the school much needed classroom space.
- The action plan also calls for the school to develop a strategic plan for sport in the school.

As part of this process an exciting new parent initiative to boost performance, participation and funding in sport is underway. Named the Cambridge High School Sports Foundation it is an ambitious but important step forward for sport in the school, which will introduce professional disciplines to increase competitiveness across all sport codes through serious fundraising which will be well planned and executed. The foundation will include a wide range of people with a wide range of skills across all codes. The sporting codes have had the concept introduced to them and they have received it unanimously. The Sports Foundation will bring together a range of fragmented sporting activities and with solid planning develop each code's performance and participation.

As part of this process the Board has instigated a system to co-ordinate all fundraising efforts in the school. All fundraising for Cambridge High School, be it sporting or cultural, will now require the approval of the Board of Trustees. This will ensure all fundraising is balanced across the school and community. Details for this process and the necessary forms are available on the School website.

Again many thanks for your support of your school in whatever form it takes.

Greg Liddy
Chairman
Board of Trustees
Cambridge High School





Cornerstone Values

Late last year the school began to actively teach a values programme called 'Cornerstone Values'. There are 8 values in this programme and, covering one per term, we are now on **Honesty**. Here are some excerpts from Mr Tong's speeches on honesty that he delivers every week at assembly.

What is Honesty?

Honesty is a willingness not to steal, cheat or lie.

When we hear this we automatically think of being honest with others.

However it is more important to be honest with yourself first. It is most unlikely that a person will be honest with others if they are not honest with themselves.

People who are not honest with themselves are self-deceptive. They make denials, rationalizations, cover-ups and cover stories, elaborate and almost convincing justifications, excuses, blame and evasions of responsibility.

Honesty with yourself is a very hard thing to do all the time. It means answering the following questions:

- When you are doing something wrong and you know it, do you stop and think about the consequences of your actions or do you ignore or turn off that part of your brain?
- Do you make promises to yourself that you know that you won't keep such as... I'll do the homework tomorrow, I'll do some exercise later or it won't matter if I borrow that pen or ruler that doesn't belong to me?

All of us (if you are honest with yourself) will have said yes to some of these. We are being dishonest with ourselves and ignoring our conscience... and it is a constant battle.

At our school we expect everyone to honestly look at themselves, listen to their conscience and constantly look to improve.

Please take time to ask your children about the values being taught in school. If you have any queries about the programme please contact Mr Shane Tong at school.

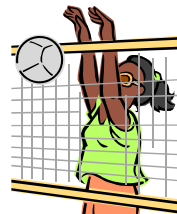
WANTED!

SHORT TERM HOMESTAY FAMILIES

We have a group of students coming from Taiwan wanting to take part in two short term study opportunities at Cambridge High School. The first will be from 15th of July to the 28th of July, and the second will be two weeks after (approx. 29th July to 11th August).

We need short term homestay families for this time. This is a great opportunity for you to host an international student. There will be a payment administered by the school to those families that wish to host. This could be a great fundraising opportunity for families.

If you are interested in assisting then please contact the International Student Office on extension 855 to register interest.



TRI-NATIONS

Cambridge High School is hosting it this year, Tuesday 19 June – Term 2, with the battle of the Waipa Schools sports and cultural day (St Peters, Te Awamutu and us). It involves participation from the junior school in a number of sports; Rugby, Netball, Hockey, Soccer, Touch, Volleyball and Basketball, cultural activities, debating, dance and theatre sports. This will involve around 130-140 students. Tri-nations is organised by the head students from each of the 3 schools and this is the 3rd year it has run for.

JAPAN TRIP 2007

It has been almost a month since our seven senior Japanese students and I, along with the St Peter's School students and teachers, came back from Japan.

I am so pleased to report that our trip was very successful, and every one of us enjoyed the special experience so much. I am also extremely proud of all our seven Cambridge High School students who behaved in a sensible, responsible manner throughout the trip. The staff at Seiritsu Gakuen High School and their Japanese host families spoke highly of our polite and friendly students.

Our lucky students have seen the best part of Japan in the best season for travelling. In the first week we thoroughly appreciated traditional aspects of Japanese culture. We visited a range of historic sights. In contrast, the latter half of our trip was about seeing and experiencing the modern Japanese lifestyle in Tokyo. It was great to catch up with Akiko, our previous assistant teacher, and Arisa, a Japanese exchange student in 2006. Another highlight of the trip was our homestay at a Japanese family - an invaluable experience for the students thanks to the caring, generous host families, which had been allocated by Seiritsu Gakuen High School.

Lastly I would like to acknowledge the generosity of Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education Programme (www.sasakawa.co.nz), who has offered us a travel grant.

Written by **Taeko Kiminami** - Teacher of Japanese

Our Students' Comments

Shane Baillie (Year 12) - Japan was great. Much different to New Zealand in lots of ways. I thoroughly enjoyed trying all of the different food and looking at all of the old temples. All in all, it was a great trip and I would love to go back again. **Jordan Miller (Year 11)** - Going to Japan was a once in a life time opportunity. It was a great experience. I had a lot of fun and I'm sure everyone else did too. We saw a lot of cool things and interesting things. I would love to go back to Japan in the future.

Hamish Williams (Year 11) - My trip to Japan was great. I would like to go back for a year or more and go to school and learn karate. I really liked the culture and the food was awesome. I'll never forget the sweet temples we visited, including an enormous Buddha statue. This was the best trip of my life and once I have enough money I'll go back. **Lauren Phillips (Year 11)** - Going to Japan was such a great experience. I met lots of new people and made heaps of friends. It was really cool going to the traditional places in Kyoto and Hiroshima. Japan is so different compared to New Zealand and the places we stayed were a big change to Cambridge. I am definitely going to go back.

Courtney Carson (Year 12) - Out of the six places we travelled to, I enjoyed Kyoto the most. In Kyoto I found it a lot more traditional than all of the other places as it let us get a real taste of the Japanese culture, including the bright sickly colour of green tea and strange Japanese sweets. It was also very beautiful. Luckily for us we were in Kyoto for part of two weeks that the cherry blossoms were in flower which made everywhere we went very pretty, including the famous Philosophy Path lined by hundreds of cherry trees, a small stream, old traditional shops and hidden temples. This peaceful place was my favourite out of all. **Kyle Welten (Year 12)** - Going to Japan was an amazing and enjoyable experience. Life over there was very different to here; it was a lot faster-paced with heaps more rules we had to follow. Overall, I found Japan to be a great place and I would love to go back.

Tim Wilson (Year 12) - It was fun, especially Himeji Castle with the swords and samurai stuff. It was weird, however, that there was no rubbish but no rubbish bins on the streets. I'm glad that I went and would go again.



BIHORO AGRICULTURAL EXCHANGE



Two Cambridge High School students have been selected to attend Bihoro Agricultural College in Hokkaido, Japan.

As Cambridge and Bihoro are sister cities the opportunity has allowed two of our students to live and study at a Japanese school for a period of 5 weeks.

Ben Walter (Year 13) and Michelle Rich (Year 12) will be leaving New Zealand at the end of this term and will be back at Cambridge High at the beginning of August.

At present Cambridge High School is hosting Narumi Kobayashi, a student from Bihoro for this term and she has had the opportunity to live with both Ben and Michelle's family while she has been studying at school.

We certainly wish Ben and Michelle all the very best while they are away and look forward to hearing from them when they return.



**Love Asian Culture ?
Always wanted to experience it ?
But never had the chance ?**

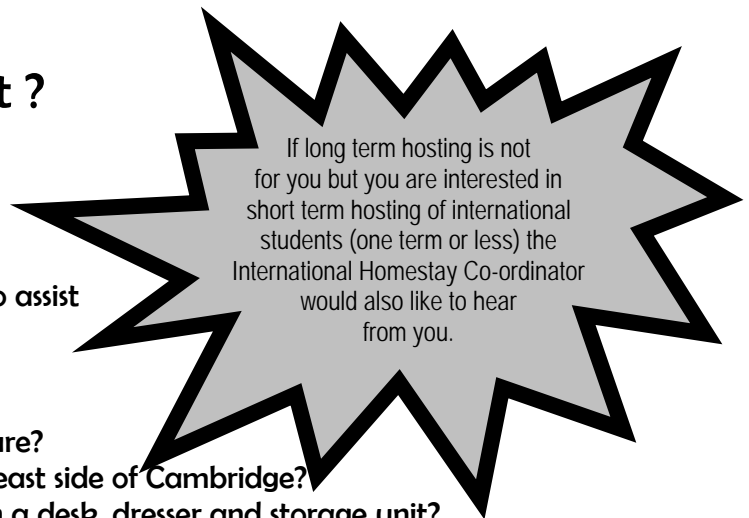
Well now you do!

We are currently looking for homestay parents to assist us with hosting international students.

Do you

- Have an interest in Asian countries and culture?
- Have a home that is preferably close to the east side of Cambridge?
- Have a spare bedroom that is furnished with a desk, dresser and storage unit?

If you are interested in getting further information about being a homestay, please contact Vicki Morrison, Homestay Co-ordinator at the school (827 5415 ext. 855 – or to leave a message ext. 973) between 12.00 pm - 3.00 pm.

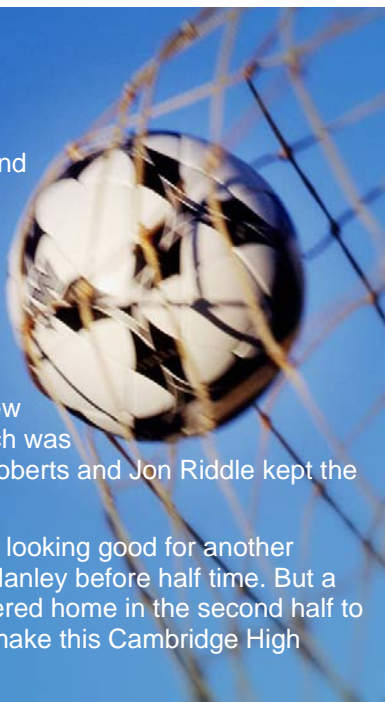


Football (aka Soccer)

Boys Junior B

The Junior Boys B side have had a win and a loss from their first two grading games. The first game away to Putaruru was a high scoring affair with Cambridge ahead 6-3 at the final whistle. Strong games from defenders Harlan Pather and Caleb Bailey who were supported by full backs Nic Baillie and Liam Ewing. The mid field of Liam Hanley, Yordi van dyk and Mathew Sleet dominated the ball possession which was a key factor in the win. Attackers Louis Roberts and Jon Riddle kept the pressure on the Putaruru defence.

At home against Otorohanga things were looking good for another victory with 2 excellent goals from Liam Hanley before half time. But a very determined and fit Otorohanga powered home in the second half to take the win 4-2. Some fitness work will make this Cambridge High school side a force in this division.



TEACHER ONLY DAY

Parents and Students note that

Friday 15 June

is a Teacher Only Day.

Students should use this day to go to the

Agricultural Field Days

while teachers attend

professional development sessions.

Year 11 Outdoor Ed Assessments Term 1

Kyaking at Karapiro and down the Waikato River - low level bridge to the Narrows



FRENCH EXPERIENCE 2008

In April of next year, 23 of Cambridge High's most motivated French students will embark on the school's inaugural three week trip to France.

All students have been studying French for at least three and a half years and will benefit from this wonderful opportunity to be immersed in French culture.

They will stay in home stays for part of the time away – these home stays will be hosted by two French schools. As well as this they will also stay in youth hostels when home stay accommodation isn't possible.

During their time away, they will have many opportunities to experience everyday French life (even local rugby!) as well as to taste some of France's most significant tourist attractions.

Each student and their family will be responsible for covering the costs of this trip; however as part of building a sense of responsibility in the students, we are encouraging them to fundraise. Parents of these students will work alongside them in all fundraising projects to provide support and accountability.

We would appreciate any support you might be able to provide in this area.

If there is anything that you are able to assist us with we would love to hear from you.

Current projects are a quiz evening on June 22, a medieval banquet in October, trailers of chopped firewood and raffles.

For more information, please contact:

Mrs Pip Feast (Teacher in Charge)

PH: 827 5415 ext 772

Email: fe@camhigh.school.nz



Curriculum Corner

REPORTS

These were distributed to all senior students on **Friday 18 May**. These reports are comment reports only. They inform parents/students about progress and give subject advice on how to prepare for the upcoming Senior practice exams (June 8-14). There will be a Senior report evening on **May 24** for parents to discuss the comments on the reports and to talk to teachers about preparation for the first set of internal examinations.

Juniors will also receive Comment reports on **Tuesday 19 June** followed by a Report evening on **June 26**

INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS (JUNE 7-14)

These will be the first practise examinations of the year. Students are only required at school during this week if they have an exam or internal assessment to do. Some teachers are using this time to conduct assessments or offer further reassessment opportunities if students did not succeed the first time with an internal assessment. The timetable for exams will be issued to students shortly before these exams start. If a student is unable to make an exam for an extremely good reason such as illness they must contact Mrs McKinnon to reschedule another time.

NCEA EXTERNAL EXAMS NOVEMBER – advance notice

These exams start on **November 19** and continue until **December 3** students will be issued timetables and admittance slips later in the year by NZQA. The NZQA website has the timetable on it. Students should get used to using the website as this is a way of checking internal results, exams times as they become available. NZQA will issue information next term for first time users.

NCEA FEES

Students will be billed for these at the start of Term 3. Financial application forms for those on benefits or community services cards can now be obtained through Mrs McKinnon, automatic payments can also be set up through Noelene Kidd

ACADEMIC CAPTAINS

This is a new position that has been created this year. This year two students have been chosen from Year 13 to assist Senior Management, Teachers and Students in promoting this area. Congratulations to **Ju Young Oh** and **Jake Tindall**. They will be involved in Peer Tutoring, talks at assemblies, organising study groups, suggestions and advice for successful study, and generally contributing to the Academic tone of the school



IT'S A SHOE IN !

Dear care givers,

Confusion has arisen over acceptable winter shoes for girls. Many girls are wearing light slip-ons that do not meet our regulations.

These shoes do not provide adequate protection in the tech or art room if a sharp or heavy tool is dropped – or a first XV forward stands on your foot by mistake!

The PE staff are saying they do not provide sufficient support for growing ankles, knees and legs.

These light slip-ons provide poor protection in wet muddy conditions.

The shoes need to be robust school shoes. The upper must be black, non-patent leather and should come up the front of the foot for better protection.

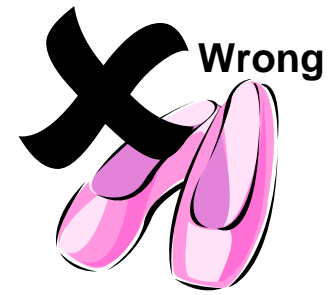
They may be lace up or use a strong working buckle to secure shoe to foot.

They require a substantial heel (raised 1cm is a good guide).

Because many parents have spent money on the wrong shoes, there will be a reasonable change of time this term. All shoes need to meet our requirements for the start of term 3.

So this term replace the worn out slip-ons with proper school shoes. The slip-ons won't last long with daily use anyway.

Call me if you have queries (Murray Feast, Pastoral DP)



We are having a visit from the NZ Blood Service on Monday, June 25th for teachers and students over 16 years of age and 50kg to donate blood. This is an opportunity for both staff and students to help make a difference and save lives. We will have a representative come and talk to the students at an assembly before hand and inform the students.

The New Zealand Blood Service will be collecting blood at:

School Name: Cambridge High School – **Venue:** School Hall

Day: Monday 25 June 2007 - **Time:** 9:30am – 1:00pm

Information for Parents, Guardians and Whanau,

The Guardianship Act 1968 allows people 16 years and over to make their own decisions about whether they wish to give blood or not. Students may choose to donate blood at this session.

The NZBS recommends you discuss blood donation within your family. If you have any particular objection to the student choosing to make a blood donation then please make those issues known to the student and to the school before the collection date stated above. More information about blood donation will be available on the day of collection. If you need more information now please call 0800GIVEBLOOD or look at www.nzblood.co.nz

It is important that we encourage students in to a lifetime habit of donating blood and making a worthwhile contribution to their community.



**New Zealand
Blood Service**

The gift of life

SIR EDMUND HILLARY



This team has been working very hard, under the eye of Mrs Maclarn and Mr Steward, both with fundraising and training.

Recently they have been doing car washes at Countdown, a quiz night at Hautapu Rugby grounds, and a runathon.

During the holidays they did a three day tramp in Karangahake Gorge and slept in Bivvies, and yes the bad weather did meet us on the second night. Pretty rough night with much, 'I'm wet' comments to be said. Yup the next tramp better bivvies were made or they were fast to get into bed so they got the middle.

Off we went again but this time to Pirongia. Just a day tramp here, good weather and great fitness and good navigation practice. Many thanks to Ralph Goudswaard and Graham Smith for their assistance. A week later students went out to Maungatautari to Bill Garland's property for a second tramp in this bush, this time staying over night where we were not pestered by any possums unlike our Karangahake experience where one came in and could not get out.

Students have also been practising their presentation on Nelson Lakes, and rock climbing and abseiling techniques thanks to Mr Ball. This weekend students are mountain biking, kayaking and doing further fundraising for the cause.

This group has been outstanding, and I look forward to seeing what this competition is going to throw at us. Thank you to everyone that has supported this group, including local businesses, parents, and students. I know they will do their best, because they are a fine group of ladies and gentlemen. Good luck, Katie Lugtigheid, Jeremy Waho, Tom Woutersen, Peter Stone, Harrison Wilson, Darryll Pinfold, Jennie Feast, and Jo Goudswaard. Also a huge thank you goes to our reserves Emily Wilson, Naomi Smith and Zack Christiansen who continually put in as much effort. You are a credit to this team.



Technology Department Wants your

- old 4 and 2 stroke mowers
- unwanted vehicle starter motors
- old motorbike engines
- old ride on mower – any condition
- corrugated iron – any length – any quantity

If you can help with any of these, please contact Steve Slaney or Pete Rowlingson in the Tech Department – Thank You

7th Form Geography Trip

At 4am Tuesday the 17th April 24 of the students from Year 13 geography met at the Hamilton airport for their flight out to Australia. For some this was their first time on a plane which was dang exciting. We arrived at Brisbane airport where, after going through customs and a short bus ride to the Gold Coast, we unpacked at our apartments, Surfers Tropiuqe. Then we were off to explore either at Surfers Paradise or Pacific Fair. Tourist sites like Infinity and The Ripley's Believe it or Not Museum kept us all busy until later that night when we all walked down to Conrad Jupiters. This started with a buffet and ended with an amazing show of thumping Latino Brazilian beats and gloriously extravagant costumes of Rio Carnivale to the heart of Africa with the incredible Limpopo African Acrobats and the mystical magic of the thundering heartlands. Wednesday started with a bus ride to the huge water park, Wet 'n' Wild. A day of the biggest water slides most of us had seen, let alone been on, was a great way to kick off our first full day of our sunny 30+ degree holiday.

The next theme park that we were to visit was Movieworld. Rides like the Superman rollercoaster and the Batwing exposed us to



4gs+, the 4D Shrek Spectacular and Scooby Doo ride thrilled us with amazing lights and other special effects. That night we all met in Mr. Blair Ludlum's apartment and all got gothed out for the Dracula's Cabaret Show. Our evening featured an awe-inspiring two-hour professionally produced comedy show, a three course dinner and was considered one of the best parts of the trip by a lot of those that went.

Our last full day was spent in Dreamworld. Here we went on huge rides like the Tower of Terror and the Giant Drop, the world's largest vertical drop of 36 stories, as well as a photo opportunity with Spongebob Squarepants. That night we had a bitter-sweet last night in the Gold Coast, we were let loose in Surfers Paradise and those with money left spent up large. Our last day was spent spending at the enormous mall of Pacific Fair until we had to leave for Coolengatta airport. Then we flew home and were greeted by friends and family in a cold shabby little room in Hamilton Airport.

Overall we all had a great time and would like to thank Mr. Ludlam, Mrs. Maclarn and Miss Wilding for making this trip possible.

