



Horahora School Newsletter

Issue No. 1 | Friday 28 February 2025



Introducing our 2025 House Leaders - Ruby, Tyler, Rudarsh, Lachie and Finn J

2025 is off to a great start, with the introduction of a House Competition on day one. In this competition, our leaders (shown above) supported their House groups to create a collaborative house logo. There were lots of House Points generated during this competition for dispositions such as collaboration, kindness, and citizenship.

Students have continued to earn House Points this term

by demonstrating our school values and for their participation in school events. We are all excited to see which team takes the lead in our upcoming school assembly.

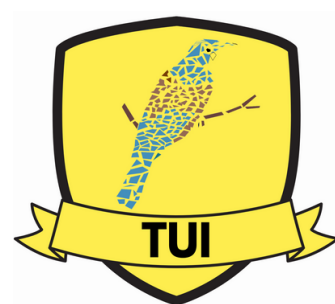
Our Senior Students competed in a challenge to create the 2025 House Logos. We had some spectacular outcomes. Here are the winning logos:



Designed by Ruby



Designed by Rudarsh



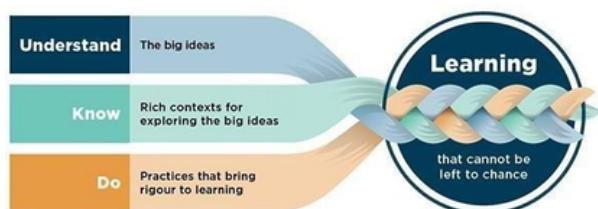
Designed by Lachlan



Designed by Finn J

Learning Programmes

Te Mātaiaho



The refreshed New Zealand Curriculum (Te Mātaiaho) is being well-utilised in our school.

Te Mātaiaho, meaning *"the strands of learning"* in Te Reo Māori, weaves together knowledge, skills, values, and key competencies to create a holistic, learner-centred education system.

Structured literacy is underway in all classes. Teachers have been engaging in professional learning and development around the implementation of this in their classes.

Mathematics programmes based on the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum are up and running well. We are using Pr1me resources as a supplementary tool for our programmes. On Monday next week our Teachers will all be attending a Cambridge-wide professional development day to support their growing understanding of the new expectations within the refreshed curriculum.

Science

All classes are engaging with our House of Science learning activity kits. This awesome resource - Sweet and Sour, is about acid and base chemistry, in the context of foods. It includes the use of test tubes and indicators, and explores colour change, neutralisation and fizzing.

Students have made sherbet and experienced chemical reactions in their mouths. They have also observed pH paper change colour with a variety of chemicals.



In Tawa, Lhor, Noah and Ollie are making sherbet to explore the chemical reactions that happen from adding ingredients together.

Learning Programmes

Social Sciences

With our unit of inquiry - Guardians of Change underway, we are seeing some fantastic engagement from students.

This unit explores how **kaitiakitanga** (guardianship) can be understood through the lens of **chemical and physical changes** in the **material world**, linking these scientific concepts to our responsibilities as stewards of the environment. It integrates social studies by examining how human actions and decisions impact the environment and how we can make positive changes for a sustainable future.

We are excited to dig into this unit more in the coming weeks. However, students (particularly those in Karaka) have already started making a difference in their local community, by cleaning up some of the rubbish that they found in the bushes. What great kaitiaki!



Ryder, Vann, Harry, Ethan (and Will, out of shot), with lots of rubbish that they found in the bushes on the edges of our school property.

PE



Some of our House Leaders; Liam, Rudarsh, Finn J and Finn M – explaining how to play dodgeball to a group of students.

Our Senior Sports Leaders are doing a fantastic job of running organised activities at least three times a week for the whole school. So far dodgeball and flags have been student favourites.

Swimming has been a daily activity this term, too. Students are growing in their confidence and capability in the water.

Rural Schools Swimming Sports are coming up in Week Seven. More information about this event will be released shortly.

Mrs Buckle has started some professional learning with Sport Waikato, to support the further implementation of PE into our school.

Cyber Safety Evening

We want our school and our community to be a safe place for all children. Our tamariki are growing up in rapidly changing times, and the risk, frequency and severity of online harm are increasing. We need to tackle this as a community.

As such, we have organised Filmmaker, Author and Speaker Rob Cope, Producer of the documentary "Our Kids Online" to come and give what promises to be a humorous and eye-opening evening talk to our parent community.

His talk will cover:

- Cyberbullying - How bullies can reach our kids 24/7
- Social media - How social media is affecting the mental health in 3 out of 5 children. FOMO, depression, anxiety
- Gaming and the developing brain – An oversupply of dopamine leading to dopamine deficiency, synaptic pruning, and the underdevelopment of social skills and empathy
- Naked Selfies - The pressure to send nudes from intermediate up through high school
- Online predators - The methods they use, how to spot them
- Online porn vs healthy sexuality - How consuming online pornography as a child or teen can create a sexual template where violence, aggression, and dominance are seen as normal and consent can become very blurry.

Solutions

- Filters - Which filters are best and how to install them
- Smartphones - How to lock down a smartphone to make it a safe phone
- Boundaries - How to put good boundaries in place around device use
- 3 golden rules - The 3 golden rules that will keep your kids safe
- Talking to your kids - How to have difficult conversations with your kids
- Challenging our own phone and device usage - Reconnecting as a family.

Here is a promotional video for you to watch: [Our Kids Online Parent Evening](#).

The talk will be held at Cambridge High School Hall on Wednesday 5th March from 6.30 - 8.30 and Thursday 6th March, 6.30 - 8.30pm. Please note this talk is for adults only and is not suitable for children or teens to attend.

Included in your ticket is a one-year complimentary subscription to "Parenting in an Online World 101" from Rob and team at Our Kids Online. This is a cybersafety parenting course, designed specifically for NZ families. It usually costs \$99 per family. So show up and get it for free! Course details can be found here [Parenting in an Online World 101](#)

Please sign up here to RSVP: [Wednesday 5th March](#) (Primary Focus)
[Thursday 6th March](#) (Year 7-13 Focus)

Ignite Music

Music lessons are available right here at school through the Music in Schools Cambridge programme. There's still time to enrol your child, even though the term has started. The programme conveniently runs during school hours in our library. Your child can explore instruments like vocals, keyboard, guitar, ukulele, and drums. The programme provides all the necessary instruments and equipment and follows a set curriculum. Students get performance opportunities and are awarded certificates as they progress. See the poster below for more details.



Small group music lessons in our purpose-built bus, or in a spare classroom or space at your school.

- ★ Vocals
- ★ Keyboard
- ★ Guitar
- ★ Bass Guitar
- ★ Electric Guitar
- ★ Ukulele
- ★ Drums
- ★ Ignite The Beatz (year 1 & 2)

“engaging & fun!”

Lessons are during school hours, and we provide the instruments and equipment, the teachers, the music curriculum and we handle all of the payment and administration.

secure your spot, book today!

More info on our music-in-schools page: ignitearts.co.nz



Scan the QR code to register.

NGAA POU O TE OKO HOROI

LOCAL STORIES IN OUR SCHOOLS

Learn about the stories of Ngaati Korokii Kahukura, and how kaiako are using them within their classrooms to uplift aakonga across our Kaahui Ako (Community of Learning).

This mahi is organised and run by our Kaahui Ako Across School Team - lead teachers from across our schools.

Workshops will include learning about a story using hands on activities, lots of koorero, and exploring some resources that are available for our teachers - all centred around the local histories of Te Oko Horoi.



Date

Thursday 13th March



Time

3:30pm-4:45pm



Cambridge East School
Staff room



USE THE QR CODE TO REGISTER, OR TO
INDICATE INTEREST FOR FUTURE
WORKSHOPS



cassie.b@teokohoroi.school.nz





THE WEEK AHEAD

Week Five

Monday 3 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All teachers out at a Maths Curriculum PLD (Cambridge-Wide)• Mrs Jones in Tawa• Mrs Charlton in Karaka• Mrs Steeghs in Rimu
Tuesday 4 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swimming
Wednesday 5 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swimming• Rob Cope Parent Evening (Cyber Safety) - Cambridge High School
Thursday 6 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swimming• Ignite Music• Mrs Charlton in Rimu• Rob Cope Parent Evening (Cyber Safety) - Cambridge High School
Friday 7 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swimming• Library for all classes• Mrs Charlton in Rimu

Beyond Next Week

Week Six

- Assembly - 12 March 2pm
- Local Stories in our Schools Parent Evening (Cambridge East School) - 13 March
- Year 5/6 Leadership Day - 14 March

Week Seven

- Tawa Open Day - 18 March
- Rural Schools' Swimming Sports - 21 March
- Working Bee - 22 March

Week Eight

- School Tryathlon - 28 March

Week Nine

- Interschool Swimming Sports - 4 April

Week Ten

- Assembly - 11 April
 - Final Day of Term - Sample Books Home
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[Click here to view our School Calendar](#)