

Waka –Ngā Hauora Tamariki

At Te Kura o Cobden, we are all in the same waka (canoe).

The rauawa around the sides of the waka, are decorated with manaia, to symbolise everyone working together. The taurapa (stern) steers and stabilises the waka, featuring a takarangi design that represents the balance between Papatūānuku (the earth) and Rangi (sky).

The spirals in the design show movement, with the centre representing the solid space of Papatūānuku.

At Cobden School, we experience Ngā Hau e Whā (the four winds): Te Hau Rāwhiti (easterly), Te Hau ā-uru (westerly), Te Hau Tonga (southerly), and Te Hau Raki (northerly). Which is blowing today?

In our māra and on our waka, brings awareness to each of these winds and their effects. It is just as well we have a strong taurapa (stern) and tau ihu (bow) to guide us. You can see the blue of Te Tai o Poutini as the waka carries our ākonga forward on their journey.



Pou Tiaki

Pou Tiaki is at the back of the waka, watching over the school and its whānau. Pou Tiaki stands guard and protects the māra, reminding us to respect its environment.

Te Tipunga o te Tamaiti

Te Tipunga o te Tamaiti is a pou to the west of the garden. The piko symbolises the growth of our children and all living things in our māra.

Rongomātane, the atua of peace and cultivated foods is in this pou and nurtures our space.



Te Taiao o Te Kura o Cobden - Our Environment

Whakapapa of Harakeke

The three harakeke at the stern of the waka were donated by Barrytown School, who has been nurturing them for six years. These harakeke come from the Rene Orchiston Collection at Lincoln.

The harakeke at the bow of the waka is from the late Nana Hariata Murphy's collection on Bright Street. She brought these special weaving harakeke from her papakāinga at Wairoa. Many thanks to her son Phil for donating them to Cobden School.

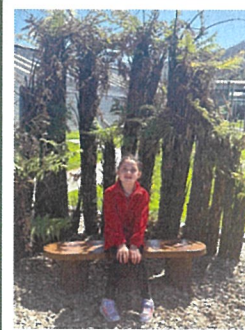
Native Plants and Trees

We are grateful for the living koha from rangatahi at Papa Taiao, Trees for Change. They provided and helped us plant 80 native plants which they had raised from seedlings. These include Horoeka (Lancewood); Tarata (Pittosporum); Kahikatea; Kawakawa; Harakeke (Flax); and Tī Kōuka (Cabbage Tree).



Reflection Bench

The wooden bench at Cobden School is shaped into a three-dimensional oval complemented by additional pieces carved into a prism-like circle. It is anchored in concrete with pounamu touch stones, adding a meaningful element to its design. Surrounded by Ponga, it feels like it's in the ngahere (forest). Students can relax there during breaks, enjoying the nearby field and greenery, feeling the breeze and warmth of the sun.



Why Does Cobden School Have Two Flags?

Cobden School proudly displays two flags to celebrate our unity and heritage. This tradition began with Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi), an important 1840 agreement between Māori and the United Kingdom.

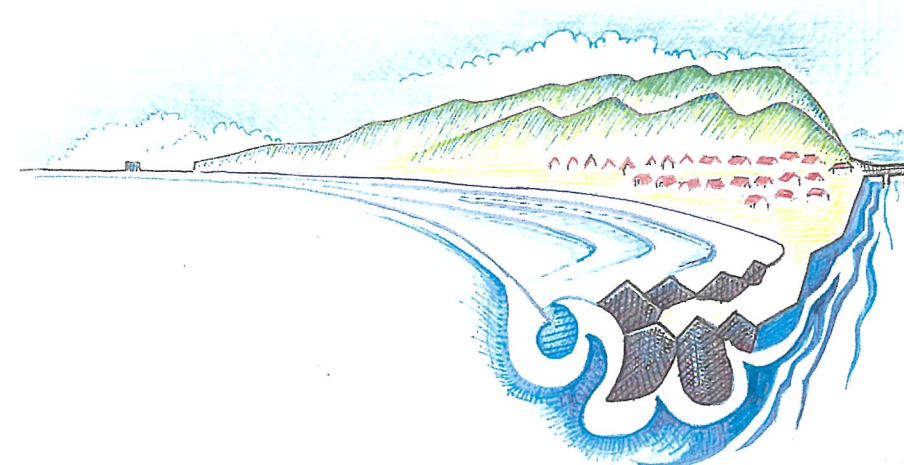
The flag of New Zealand, Aotearoa is represented by blue for the Pacific Ocean and sky, stars for the Southern Cross, and the Union Jack, recognising New Zealand's place in the Commonwealth. More recently, Linda Munn designed the Tino Rangatiratanga flag in 1989. It has black for Ranginui (sky father) and red for Papatūānuku (earth mother).

At Cobden School, these flags are positioned at the stern and bow of our waka in the hauora garden, symbolising our shared journey and values. They remind us of the pride and strong sense of belonging we feel as a community. Though New Zealand may be small, it is truly amazing!

COBDEN SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Caring, Co operation, Communication
Manaakitanga, Mahi Ngatahi, Korero Mai



Cobden School is a community of high achieving, confident, engaged and caring global thinkers

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COBDEN SCHOOL

Newsletter 14th February 2025



Kia ora tatou

A warm welcome to all the new families joining our Cobden School community this year! We are delighted to have you with us and look forward to a year of learning, growth, and new experiences together. To our returning families, welcome back! Your ongoing support and involvement make our school a vibrant and nurturing place for all our tamariki.

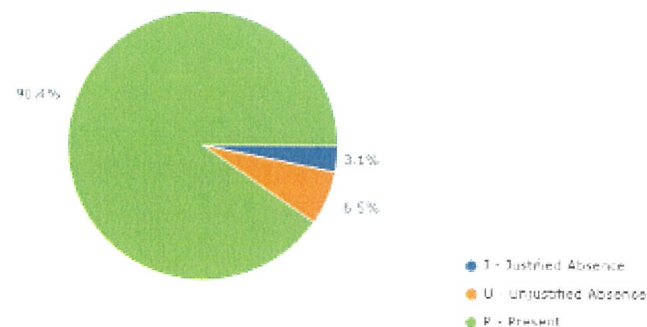
As we ease back into the school year after a long summer break, students are gradually settling into their class routines. We understand that the warm nights can make it difficult to get enough rest, but we encourage families to establish a healthy sleep routine. Adequate sleep is essential for learning, focus, and overall well-being. Our swimming pool is now fully operational, and it's wonderful to see so many students coming prepared with their togs for swimming sessions. Aquatic activities are an important part of our class routines, and we appreciate your support in ensuring children are ready to participate.

This year, we're putting a strong focus on **attendance**. Every school day matters. Learning builds progressively, particularly with our new maths curriculum, where each lesson connects to the next. Missing even a single day can make it difficult for students to catch up, as these lessons cannot be repeated. While we understand that illness sometimes happens, we want to remind families that holidays during term time are not an acceptable reason for absence and will be recorded accordingly.

Together, let's make this school year one filled with success, growth, and memorable experiences!

Ngā mihi
Noula Markham
Principal

Why do kids need to be at School?
So they can learn new stuff
Oscar Year 6



Cobden School

Important Dates 2025 - Also on the Skool Loop Calendar tab

Term 1

Tuesday 18th February	Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus
Friday 21st February	Assembly 12pm in the Hall - Led by Kowhai 1
Friday 21st February	12.45pm Lunch, Meet and Greet the Teachers. Invitation on Skool Loop.
Tuesday 25th February	Scholastic Book Club issue 1 orders close
Thursday 27th February	Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus
Tuesday 4th March	Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus
Friday 7th March	Assembly 12pm in the Hall - Led by Kowhai 2
Tuesday 11th March	Cobden School Board Meeting - 5.30pm Staffroom
Thursday 13th March	Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus
Tuesday 18th March	Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus
Friday 21st March	Assembly 12pm in the Hall - Led by Mokomoko 1
Thursday 27th March	Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus
Tuesday 1st April	Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus
Wednesday 2nd April	Cobden School Athletics - Anzac Park
Wednesday 2nd April	Cobden School Colour Run Fundraiser
Tuesday 8th April	Cobden School Board Meeting - 5.30pm Staffroom
Thursday 10th April	Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus
Friday 11th April	Last Day of Term 1
Monday 28th April	Term 2 Begins

Disclaimer: Dates and Times are correct at the time of printing but are subject to change. Please check our Skool Loop Calendar.

PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning

Caring, Co-operation, Communication

This terms focus:

"Korero Mai - Communication"

"Words Matter - Choose Kindness"

Values Card Winners:

Term 1	Week 1	Emmitt & Richard
	Week 2	Angelo, Vada & Meriana

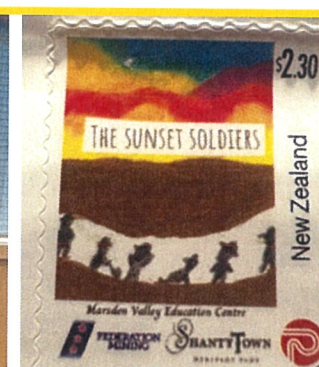


This terms focus - Korero Mai - Communication / Words Matter - Choose Kindness

As we begin the new term, we are focusing on the importance of choosing kind words, recognising that our words have a powerful impact on others. The children have made an excellent start to the year, embracing new routines and working together to create positive and supportive classroom environments.



Edie was the winner of the Shantytown Anzac Art Stamp competition last year. Pictured here is Edie with a sheet of her Stamps that have now been printed. Congratulations Edie!



Volunteer truck drivers wanted - make a difference in your community!

Do you hold a Class 3 or Class 4 truck driver's license and want to give back to your local community? If so, Harold would love to hear from you!

The Life Education Trust is New Zealand's leading health and wellbeing education provider for primary school children. Here on the West Coast, our mobile classroom travels from Haast to Karamea each year, ensuring that every child in the region benefits from our 'Healthy Harold' programme.

We rely on a dedicated team of volunteer truck drivers to transport our mobile classroom between schools. While the commitment is minimal—likely just once or twice a year depending on your location, your contribution plays a crucial role in bringing this valuable programme to all West Coast children.

If you're interested in supporting our Trust and want to know a bit more about what it takes to be a part of our volunteer team, please reach out to Suzi for more information:

westcoast@lifeedtrust.org.nz



LIFE EDUCATION
Learning with Harold

WELCOME TO COBDEN SCHOOL

Richard
Merania
Cam
Sydney
Tyler
Mason K
Harleigh
Zanthe
Alex
Audrey
Erika
Ritjah



Team Mokomoko are very busy back at school!



Reminder: NO CELL PHONES AT SCHOOL

Students who have a reason to bring them must leave them at the office.