



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-urū (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



A community of learners where wellbeing and relationships encourage ākonga to be confident, engaged and caring critical thinkers.

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COBDEN SCHOOL

Newsletter 22nd August 2025



Kia ora Cobden School Whānau,

We've now reached the halfway point of Term 3, and what a wonderful journey it has been so far! This term has been filled with achievements to celebrate, especially the successes of our basketball teams. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our coaches and the support of whānau—thank you for being such an important part of these accomplishments.

Like many schools, we were hit hard by winter illness earlier in the term. I'm pleased to report that most of our students are now back, and it's fantastic to see classrooms full again and learning in full swing.

Looking ahead, excitement is building for the Kapa Haka Festival, now just over three weeks away. A heartfelt thank you goes to Mrs. Setters and our tutors, Chloe Stewart, Cheyney Anderson, and Ricki Fisher, for their time and commitment. A special mention also to Nadine Brooks for the many hours she has devoted to sewing, ensuring our tamariki will stand proudly in brand-new kapa haka uniforms. Your combined efforts are what make these opportunities possible, and we are deeply grateful.

This term has also seen incredible support from our whānau across a wide range of activities, helping to enrich the experiences of our tamariki and school community.

Ngā mihi nui,
Noula Markham
Principal



Mokomoko Trip to Coal Creek Falls
Thank you to Sam the Trap man and our Parent Helpers!



Cobden School Important Dates 2025 - Also on the Skool Loop Calendar tab

Term 3

Monday 25th August

Wednesday 27th August

Thursday 28th August

Friday 29th August

Friday 29th August

Monday 1st September

Tuesday 2nd September

Tuesday 2nd September

Thursday 4th September

Friday 5th September

Wednesday 10th September

Thursday 11th September

Friday 12th September

Monday 15th September

Tuesday 16th September

Tuesday 16th September

Wednesday 17th September

Wednesday 17th September

Friday 19th September

Term 4

Monday 6th October

Kapa Haka Senior Group performs at Granger House

School Photos

Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus.

"Daffodil Day" - Gold Coin Mufti Day for the Cancer Society

Assembly 12pm in the Hall - Led by Mokomoko 1. Whanau Lunch

Teacher Only Day - School Closed

Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus.

Rotary Speech Competition at the Union Hotel

Kapa Haka Juniors perform at Granger House

Lucky Book Club Issue 6—Orders close

"Wig/Wacky Hair Wednesday" - Gold Coin Mufti Day for Blood Cancer

Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus.

Assembly 12pm in the Hall - Led by Kowhai 2. Kapa Haka Group performing.

West Coast Kapa Haka Festival at Westland High School in Hokitika

Kowhai 2 - Be at school by 8.40am for the Technology Bus.

Cobden School Board Meeting - 5.30pm Staffroom

"SPCA come as your favourite Animal" - Gold Coin Mufti Day

3.15pm Greymouth High School Year 9 2026—Meeting at Cobden School

Last Day of Term 3

Term 4 Begins

Disclaimer: Dates and Times are correct at the time of printing but are subject to change.

PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning

Caring, Co-operation, Communication

This terms focus:

"Manakitanga - Caring for Ourselves"

"Knowing how to help myself"

Values Card Winners:

Term 3 Week 4 Tia, Atticus & Reign
Week 5 Aurora T & Kahu



Manaakitanga – Knowing How to Help Myself—Our recent whole-school visit to the lagoon gave students a chance to explore new experiences and try out new skills with support from peers and adults. Many showed confidence in asking for help when needed and used strategies like self-regulation to manage their emotions during challenging moments. It was a fantastic opportunity for learning, growth, and connection.

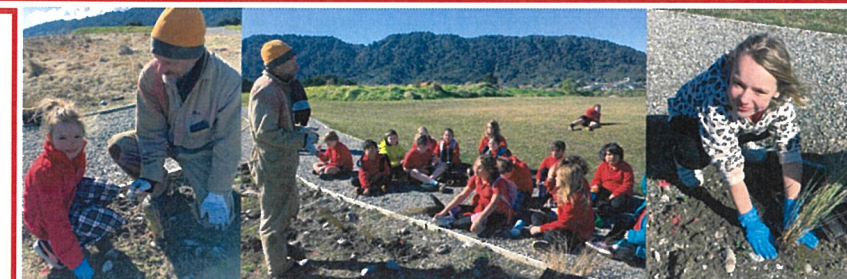
Cobden Basketball Roundup!

Cobden Comets (Year 5–6) – Our skill-building team. They showed determination and growth all season, building confidence and learning the game. Ka rawe, Comets!

Cobden Cobras (Year 5–6) – Played with grit and awesome teamwork! They fought their way into the finals and finished 2nd overall!

Cobden Crushers (Year 7–8) – What a season! They lifted their game, built a strong team bond, and smashed the Grand Final to be crowned CHAMPIONS!

Across all teams, we are so proud of the way our tamariki played, supported one another, and represented Cobden with pride. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our amazing coaches for their time and commitment, and to our whānau and supporters who cheered us on every step of the way.



Lagoon Planting

ASB Primary Netball

The 2025 Cobden School Netball team came 4th in the ASB Primary Netball competition.

Well done Keesha, Daisha, Ruhi, Jax, Kaelyn, Amiyah, Emilie & Lyric.



Apple turnovers were the first dish on the menu at the Cobden School Technology Kitchen!



Thank you for your support!

Our mufti day for the Westpac Rescue Chopper raised \$88.50

Wanted: Donations of second hand toys and children's clothing for the school shop.
(We are unable to accept electrical items or makeup) Please drop at the office.

Trophy Return - Its that time of the year again!

Cobden School Trophies received at last year's prize giving need to be returned to the office this term.