



CAMBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

— Striving for Excellence —

Linking the past and future

CAMBRIDGE Primary School was built in 1864, and is one of Tasmania's oldest schools.

Cambridge Primary School is very popular in the local area and many children are the second generation in their family to attend the school.

In fact, Rebecca Joseph in kindergarten is the fifth generation of her family to attend Cambridge, while Nicholas Hoad, also in Kinder, is a fifth-generation Hobden — the great, great, great grandson of the school's first headmaster, John Hobden.

Over the past 13 years, the school population has increased from 149 to 315 students. Free buses bring students from Seven Mile Beach, Acton, Cambridge, Dulcote and Mt Rumney.

Students from 1864 would hardly recognise their school if they came back today. The buildings have been updated. Our uniform is more comfortable, with bright rugby tops, polo shirts and track pants rather than

starched collars and blazers.

We have a bigger range of subjects to study. The 3 R's — reading, writing and arithmetic — have become PE, health, and a wide range of sports, library, music, including choir and instrumental groups, science, Japanese, literacy, numeracy, technology and studies of society and the environment (SOSE).

Teaching methods have changed a lot since 1864. Instead of slates and chalk, we use computers, digital cameras and the Internet.

The whole school is networked and senior students have a school email address. A protective system filters inappropriate sites and messages. The school has its own Intranet and most classes have their own homepage.

The new curriculum being trialled at Cambridge is preparing children for a world the children from 1864 could not have imagined but the rural aspect of the original school remains.



ABOVE: Grade 5/6 buddies Blake Cox and Kevin Woolleman work on a numeracy task with Grade 2/3 buddies Adrian Hutchinson and Matthew Burgess.

A world of sport

STUDENTS at Cambridge love their sport. A recent survey showed more than 50 per cent play in a school team.

The school offers soccer, netball, tennis, t-ball, swimming, table tennis, athletics and cross-country.

During the Wimbledon Tennis Championships each July, senior students hold their own mini-Wimbledon.

This year, Grade 5/6 teacher Mr Watkins organised the month-long table tennis event.

The series began with a knockout tournament and the whole school turned out to cheer at the Grand Final.

When the Commonwealth Games were held in August, Grades 5 and 6 held their own version — the Cambridge Friendly Games.

Students were divided into groups, each named after a Commonwealth country. Class activities included researching the country, developing short plays, maintaining a Games scrapbook and representing countries in a variety of games.



LEFT: "Canadian" team Megan Woolley, Liam Hill and Nick Leith tell their class about Canada. **BELOW:** Governor Sir Guy Green presents Jesse Scott and Atalaya Airey with Cambridge's National Literacy Award.



Literacy award

ON September 5, two students and our principal travelled to Launceston to accept a National Literacy Award and a cheque for \$1000 from the Governor of Tasmania, Sir Guy Green. The award was presented for the school's successful Literacy Support Program, coordinated by Mrs Kempster, to help children in upper primary years needing extra help with spelling and reading.

Jump rope

JULY 23 was an active afternoon at Cambridge with the whole school skipping. Students raised a total of \$3,320.10. The school retained 10 per cent of the total.

Singers

AN amazing 76 Cambridge students participate in choirs and choral groups. In July, all choirs entered the Hobart Eisteddfod with Maggie Butler taking first place for her solo. At the recent Clarence Eisteddfod, the Grade 4 and Grade 5/6 choirs received a Certificate of Merit and our choral group was awarded a second place.

Tokens galore

CAMBRIDGE students collected 27,727 tokens for *The Mercury's* free books for schools last term. We have been able to order book sets for guided reading, dictionaries and new library books.

Newspaper team: Rhiannon McVilley, Alice Saul, Samantha Percival, Amy Pennington, Jarrod Cole, Nick Leitch, Megan Woolley, Freya Gosnell, Blake Cox, Miles Pyke, Elly Hope, Estelle Newstead.

New styles of learning on trial at school

CAMBRIDGE Primary has been a project school for the Curriculum Consultation since 2001.

Our teachers have been looking at the way they teach and how children learn, trying many new teaching techniques and working with other schools and the Education Department.

Our learning is organised around the Essential Learning Frame-

work — Communicating, Thinking, Personal Futures, Social Responsibility and World Futures.

One of the new learning techniques Cambridge students have mastered is the use of rubrics for assessing their own work.

A rubric is an assessment tool with four ratings — excellent, good, fair and poor. The class

develops the rubric together for a piece of work. They decide on important criteria and what is needed for each rating.

The rubric helps students know what they are aiming for and how to improve their work.

In Grade 5 and 6 this year, we have used rubrics to assess our Number Systems Project, our Picture Book studies and

our Commonwealth Games Scrapbook while Grade 1s use rubrics to assess their listening skills.

Linking our learning to our interests and our community is a feature of our curriculum. One interesting topic for Grade 5/6E was Skateboard Safety.

We surveyed 124 people, asking the question "Do you think a law

should be passed which makes it illegal to ride a skateboard without safety gear?" We graphed the results, learning how to use Excel.

We also invited Jeremy Xepapas to speak to us. Jeremy had ridden his skateboard downhill at 70kmh and crashed. Hearing Jeremy and seeing his injuries made us much more aware of the need for safety.

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