



HOROTIU SCHOOL

Te Kura o Horotiu

Horotiu Bridge Road, RD8, Hamilton 3288
(07) 829 9892

office@horotiu.school.nz
www.horotiu.school.nz



SAVE THE DATES!

2025 Term Dates:

Term 2: Monday 28 April - Friday 27 June

Term 3: Monday 14 July - Friday 19 September

Term 4: Monday 6 October - Friday 12 December

PB4L Reward Breakfast:

- Thursday 26 June

Term 3 Powhiri:

- Monday 14 July 9.15 am

Year 7/8 Tech:

- Friday 18 July, 1 & 14 August, 29 August

'Chorus' (formerly Horotiu Idol):

- Thursday 24 July

School Photos

- Tuesday 29th July

School Colour Fun Run:

- Thursday 7 August

Interschool Cross-Country

- Friday 15 August

Term 3 Teacher Only Day:

- Friday 22nd August

Daffodil Day Ball Run:

- Thursday 28 August

Assemblies:

Friday 27 June (Term 2), 28 August, 5 and 19 September

Panui/ Newsletter: June 2025

Principal's Message: *A Note from Jo*

Kia ora e te whaanau,

What an incredibly productive and vibrant Term 2 we've had here at Horotiu School! It's been filled with highlights that showcase the engagement and achievements and prove the value of our community.

Your participation in parent interviews during Week 4 was great to see. This strengthens the partnership between home and school, ultimately supporting the learning and development of our tamariki. Our Teacher Only Day last week provided a fantastic opportunity for professional development for our kaiako, who immersed themselves in new curriculum learning strategies and pedagogical techniques. This will undoubtedly enrich our students' educational experiences.

This term has also seen a dedicated week of student leadership opportunities, with our students working alongside other schools in the Waikato area. Their enthusiasm, ideas, and leadership skills were inspiring and bode well for the future of our school community. We've also had fantastic trips out to local sites, planted 1800 trees on the Waikato Awa Trail, and shared a beautiful experience at Waikeri Marae.

Sporting activities have been in full swing, with our students actively participating in various interschool events. Our students displayed excellent sportsmanship and teamwork during the Ki-o-Rahi event, with the key focus for the day being wairua pai – good spirit. These events are not only fun but also foster leadership opportunities and connection outside of our kura.

As Term 2 draws to a close, I want to wish all our parents and students a fantastic and well-deserved break. Enjoy the time with your whānau!



Celebrations & Notices:

Welcome to our Team!

As you'll be aware from our previous newsletter, two of our treasured teachers, Britney Stirling and Mikayla Callaghan, are leaving us in the coming term. Whilst we'll still continue to see them in and around our school for a few weeks next term (they will be helping both classes transition smoothly through the transition), we will also be welcoming two new teachers to our school.

We are pleased to have Mr Bernard Butler join us from Week 1, Term 3. He will be working alongside Whaea Kiri in the Harakeke class and is very excited about getting to know all the students in the hub and wider school

A note from Bernard:

Kia ora. I am really excited to be joining you all at Horotiu School at the start of Term 3. I have been a teacher in Hamilton and Auckland primary schools and enjoy teaching Year 3 and 4 students. I've already had the pleasure of meeting some of you when I've been relieving over the last couple of weeks, and am looking forward to getting to know you more and being part of the community. I live in Hamilton and enjoy going to the gym, working in my garden and cooking and eating cakes!



Further into Term 3, Mrs Kristie Gribben will join us. She will become the new teacher for Kawakawa %.

My name is Kristie Gribben, and I am thrilled to be joining your kura soon! I'm an experienced teacher who has had the privilege of working with a wide range of students—from New Entrants to Intermediate level—in both Aotearoa and Australia. I absolutely love working with tamariki; their curiosity about the world is inspiring and makes every day in the classroom exciting and meaningful. Outside of school, I am a Mum of two, and have a house load of pets- 3 dogs and 2 cats! I enjoy spending time at the beach and exploring nature, watching sports, and getting involved in cultural activities. I'm really looking forward to getting to know you all and becoming part of your amazing school community.



Both teachers bring a wealth of knowledge, ability and personal qualities that we value highly at Horotiu School, and we feel very lucky to have each of them working alongside our students and staff.

Another Special Congratulations:

Congrats to Whaea Mikayla who recently got engaged! We wish her and Quintony all the best for their future together.



Celebrations & Notices: Annual Awa Planting Day

What an incredible day we had recently at our annual Awa Planting Day! Seventy of our wonderful tamariki, from Harakeke through to Maanuka, came together to plant around 1700 native plants along the awa. A huge shout-out goes to our amazing 2024 and 2025 Enviro Teams who have been meticulously nurturing 950 of these plants since they arrived as tiny seedlings in September last year. This special day wouldn't have been possible without the fantastic support of our community partners. A massive thank you to Trees for Survival, Cushman Wakefield, City Care, Bluelight Police, and Waikato District Council for their invaluable contributions. Your partnership helps us foster a deeper connection to our environment and instil a sense of guardianship in our students. It was truly a memorable day, reinforcing the importance of kaitiakitanga and community spirit. We're so proud of our tamariki for their efforts in making our awa a healthier, more beautiful place for everyone.



‘Chorus’ Congratulations :

Well done to all students who auditioned for next term's ‘Chorus’ showcase. It takes a lot of courage to put yourself out there especially when there's only a few places available. Congratulations to Natalie and Izzy, Eva, Te Whiutahi and Kenny, Paige and Sara, Marley, Deja and Mackenzie, Demi and Skyla and Hannah who have made it through. We look forward to an evening with you all on the 24 July.

Are you in a position to help?

You may remember three of our former students, Amelia, Lachlan and Harry Turner. They spent most of their primary years at Horotiu School before moving into Hamilton. In 2019, Amelia and Lachlan sang a duet ‘Shallow’ for our Horotiu ‘Sing!’ (the predecessor to ‘Chorus’).



Unfortunately Amelia has been unwell and recently diagnosed with multiple abdominal vascular compressions that cause issues of blood flow, pressure and pain. The condition is rare and options for treatment in New Zealand are limited. The family are making arrangements for her to travel to Germany when surgeons can help with her conditions.

A Givealittle page [‘Amelia’s Hope for Healing’](#) has been set up for support Amelia and her family in this journey. If you are in a position to help, no matter how big or small, we know it would be greatly appreciated. Our thoughts and positive wishes are with Amelia and her whaanau in this challenging time.

Celebrations & Notices:

Student Opportunities to Connect with Others:

Over the past few weeks a number of our senior students have participated in opportunities to mix with other students from schools across our area.

One of these was the **National Young Leaders Day** which was held at Claudelands Arena. With 1500 students attending and a range of role-models speaking about their experiences, there was lots to learn and reflect on.

Another group of students attended the **Ngaruawahia Leadership Day** where they spent the day problem-solving, collaborating and celebrating teamwork and success. After a morning rotation of tasks, groups had to build a creation that could carry water from the Waterfall in the Hakarimata Ranges all the way back to the entrance! Their outcomes exceeded expectations and they were collectively able to fill three big buckets of water. Special thanks to our Kahui Ako Lead, Kim Rangihika, POET and Sport Waikato for the great day of learning and also to Ngaruawahia Primary for hosting us so well.



Students across the school have also participated in the **Junior Tough Guy & Girl Challenge** at the CYC Camp in Ngaruawahia. It was an extremely muddy event this year which suited all students who attended. It's a super-sized version of our school Fun Run and Interschool Cross-country coming up in August and it's great to see our kids so keen to be involved year after year.



Horotiu School also hosted the annual Year 7 and 8 Rain Tournament recently for our Interschool Cluster of schools. The mix of weather conditions did not dampen the day for those involved, in fact, it added to the challenge and competition. We are grateful to the support of all those who helped make this day happen including the Maanuka students who played, scored and supported the event, the teachers who trained and guided our teams, the parents who helped with kai in the kitchen and the Ngaruawahia High School students who came and reffed the games on the day. It's such a special day that is always enjoyed by those on the field and the sideline.



Around the Hubs

Pohutukawa

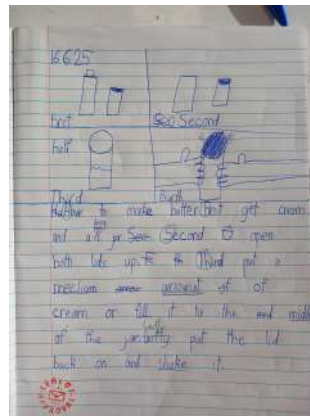
A busy week celebrating Matariki. A picnic morning tea at the Awa looking at the new planting, making yummy vegetable soup to feed our visitors for our Hautapu ceremony and lots of art creating a mural which depicts the Pohutukawa star with names of our loved ones who have passed away.



Koromiko

It has been a busy few weeks in Koromiko! This term for our writing we have been looking at writing a set of instructions for someone else to follow, and the tamariki have had a few goes at testing out their work! Some of our favourites have been: making butter, making milos, making paper planes and having a competition, drawing an animal and making sandcastles! We also planted some bulbs which we look forward to seeing in the spring!

For Science this term we have been learning about the water cycle, which paired well with all the rain we have had throughout this term, and erosion. Both topics involved some cool experiments that the tamariki enjoyed!



Reception Y0



Y1-2



Y3-4



Kawakawa Y4/5
Kawakawa Y5/6



Y7-8



Harakeke (Year 3-4)

It's been a busy and exciting time in Harakeke! In Procedural Writing, we became master instruction-followers! We put our skills to the test by carefully following steps to complete various cooking activities and exciting experiments.

A truly special event for us was participating in the **Hautapu Ceremony** right here at school. This was a profound experience, connecting us to the Maaori New Year. We then shared a wonderful **haakari** (feast) of Hangi, which some of us helped prepare!

Our **Matariki art** has been buzzing with creativity! This year, we focused specifically on two important stars: **Waitii**, representing fresh water, and **Waitaa**, representing the ocean and saltwater. Our art pieces beautifully captured the essence of these vital connections to our environment.



Kawakawa 4/5 (Year 4 & 5):



Over the last couple of weeks we have started to prepare for the celebration of Matariki. Our tamariki have been learning that Matariki is a time of remembrance, celebration and planning for the future. We did some artwork to learn about the different stars and we also did some goal-setting activities and helping with the kai prep for our Hangi.



Reception Y0



Y1-2



Y3-4



Kawakawa Y4/5
Kawakawa Y6



Y7-8

Kawakawa 5/6 (Year 5/6)

Kawakawa 5/6 are thoroughly enjoying Statistics for Maths at the moment. Last week the Year 5's braved the cold and ventured into the mist to find the Perry Bridge for a Maths investigation. It was quite an adventure, thankfully the sun eventually found us. The Green Bridge was an amazing classroom, it's not everyday you get to spend an hour or two directly above the Mighty Waikato River! The pupils posed a mathematical question then set about measuring, recording their findings on a table or tally chart and used their knowledge of repeated addition, skip counting and times tables to work out different aspects of the bridge. This week they will attempt to present their findings in the form of a pictogram, bar or line graph.



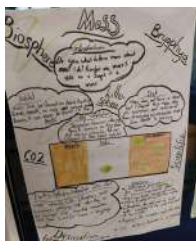
Some Year 6's also replanted our big green pot with a young kawakawa plant for us to nurture. It's pleasing to see how 2024 Kawakawa plant is thriving in our Native Grove after being planted there last year. Making school memories!



Maanuka (Year 7/8):

Just like that we wrap up another busy and rewarding term and we'd like to celebrate some of the highlights.

Students explored non-fiction text features and created their own informative posters, while deepening their understanding of Earth's systems through inquiry. They showed creativity in Technology, teamwork in Ki o Rahi, and leadership during our special Leadership Days. We also connected with the environment during Awa Planting Day and embraced tikanga Maaori through our visit to Waikeri Marae, Matariki art, haangi preparations and the Hautapu Ceremony. It's been a term full of learning, growth, and connection.



Are your Contact Details Up-to-Date?

If you have changed your contact details please take a couple of minutes to let us know via email office@horotiu.school.nz or via text on 027 829 9010.

Maths at Home & at Horotiu School

Following up on May's newsletter about our **Maths Programme**, we wanted to share some other useful information about "Maths Mastery."

At Horotiu School, we've always used the **Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract (CPA) Model** to teach maths. This means we help children understand new ideas by:

- first using **concrete** objects (like blocks or counters),
- then moving to **pictorial** representations (drawings or diagrams),
- and finally to **abstract** symbols (numbers and equations).

We're working hard to make sure we have these hands-on materials available for every maths session at every level, and it's really making a difference for some of our tamariki!

WHAT IS MATHS MASTERY?

Maths mastery is about helping all children truly understand mathematical concepts - not just how to calculate, but how to use maths to solve real problems.

Maths mastery does not assume knowledge. Instead, it teaches children to become confident, flexible thinkers who can explain their reasoning and make connections across different contexts, concepts, and complex examples.

The five big ideas in teaching for Mastery

(from the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics)

1. **Coherence** Learning is broken into small, connected steps to build understanding over time.
2. **Representation & Structure** Children use objects, drawings, and diagrams to see maths and make sense of it.
3. **Mathematical Thinking** Children discuss, reason, and explore ideas with others
4. **Fluency** Knowing number facts and methods well - and using them efficiently
5. **Variation** Concepts are shown in different ways to help children understand deeply.

What does this mean for my child?

- Your child is learning maths in a way that helps them understand, not just memorise
- They'll use real objects, images, and discussion to explore maths
- They'll become fluent, flexible, and confident with numbers
- All children are included and supported to succeed
- Advanced learners are challenged through depth - exploring more complex problems, reasoning in greater detail, and developing deeper conceptual understanding

Why Strong Foundations Matter

Imagine building a skyscraper. Without deep, strong foundations, you can't build higher. The same goes for maths. We need to support all learners to secure the foundations of mathematical knowledge - so they can go further, with confidence.

Concrete - Pictorial - Abstract Approach

Children (and adults!) can find maths difficult because it is abstract. The CPA approach builds on children's existing knowledge by introducing abstract concepts in a concrete and tangible way. It involves moving from concrete materials, to pictorial representations, to abstract symbols and problems.

In Maths - No Problem! Children often begin by using physical objects like counters, blocks or base 10 equipment, then move to drawings or diagrams, before using numbers and symbols. This helps them understand *why* the maths works, not just *how*.

Holiday Maths Challenge

Put on your Maths Goggles.

Ask:
Where is the Maths?
"Is there a pattern?"
How does this connect to what I am learning at school?

Maths In The Outdoors QR Code

Maximum number of 20 per child.

Symmetry

Find something in nature that shows **bilateral symmetry**, mirror image. Can you see **halves and balance**? Think leaves & butterflies. Find something that shows **rotational symmetry**, looks the same after being rotated around a central point. **Angles and repeating patterns.**

Counting & Estimation

Estimate the number of petals on a flower. Estimate the height of a tree using an object of known height, like yourself! You could also try the "pencil method": hold a pencil **vertically** at arm's length, line up the bottom with the tree's base, then mark where the top of the tree is. Then **rotate** your arm **90 degrees** and see how many tree-lengths wide it is on the ground to get a rough idea of height.

Pattern Power

Find a **repeating pattern** in nature ie bark patterns, ripples in water, the scales on a fish or reptile. Identify the '**unit**' that repeats. Find an example of **fractals**. A fern leaf is, where the fronds are like smaller versions of the whole leaf. Things look the same at different **scales** - zoomed-in parts look like the whole.

The Operations

Find examples of **multiplication** and it's **inverse division**. Can you see **repeated addition** or **subtraction**? **Arrays**?

Upload your Maths Noticings using the above QR Code to win 1 of 5 prizes.

We are also focused on making maths more **exciting and relevant** by finding ways to see it all around us, especially in **practical situations** and outdoors. When students connect maths to their everyday lives, they're more likely to see how important and useful Math is. Maths Is Everywhere!

This holiday, we **challenge your family** to head outdoors to look at the little things around you, put on your "Maths Goggles" to notice the maths that is everywhere. This is exactly what our Year 5 students from Kawakawa 5/6 did when they visited the Perry Bridge last week. Not only did the Green Bridge have heaps of maths on and around it, but so did the pinecones, plants, and flowers they noticed along the way. Upload your photos using the above QR code. Any questions please email Megan Parker m.parker@horotiu.school.nz

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Home and School Learning Support:

Mrs Foster - Learning Support Coordinator (LSC) & Better Start Literacy Approach Facilitator

Beyond the Screen: Nurturing Tamariki Through Non-Device Activities

Building on our last chat about devices, it's clear that in today's digital world, screens can easily take over our kids' free time. While devices certainly have their place, it's super important to encourage extracurricular activities and real-world interactions that aren't tied to a screen. These experiences are vital for building skills that no app can teach.

When children get into sports, arts, clubs, or just play outside with friends, they're doing more than having fun. They're actually laying down the groundwork for future success! These activities spark critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity as kids tackle new challenges and express themselves in different ways. They also pick up key social skills like teamwork and compromise. Just imagine the life lessons learned on the sports field, in a dance rehearsal, or while building a fort with mates!

Here at Horotiu, there are plenty of chances for our tamariki to get involved beyond the classroom. From playing a game of Gaga ball, to signing up for baking club, or trying out for Chorus – these opportunities make Horotiu School an awesome place for every child to find what they love and really shine!



Kelly Club:

Before- and After-School Care

We believe in giving kids opportunities to do the things they love and enjoy in a supportive and encouraging environment. We provide quality childcare in safe and fun surroundings for kids out of school.

Holiday Programme

Kelly Club will be running their fun and busy Holiday Programme these July school holidays. Click [here](https://kellyclub.co.nz/) for the Horotiu School July Holiday Programme timetable. Bookings can be online at <https://kellyclub.co.nz/> and enter Horotiu as your school. Kelly Club staff look forward to seeing your kids there. Any questions - pop in and see the team at KellyClub in the school hall.

OSCAR Subsidies

Kelly Club is an OSCAR approved provider and complies with all of MSD's childcare requirements. Qualifying families can therefore receive WINZ subsidies towards their fees. Click on the Kellyclub link below for more information.

TO BOOK: <https://kellyclub.co.nz/horotiu>

Phone: 07 8399017

Email: horotiu@kellyclub.co.nz

Facebook: @KellyClubHorotiu

Looking for a Playcentre?



Did you know on the Horotiu School site we also have Horotiu Playcentre? They provide early childhood education sessions where the caregivers are the first educators with the playcentre philosophy of child initiated play. Watch you child develop and gain great life skills and friendship, through positive guidance. We also provide free adult education, whanau cooperative and above all fun.

Birth - School Age

Multiple Sessions throughout the week

9.00 am - 12 noon

3 FREE Visits, under 2's FREE
Spaces Available Now!

For more information

Horotiu Playcentre Facebook Page

Email: horotiu@playcentre.org.nz



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Horotiu School
NEWSLETTER

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