



SAVE THE DATES!

2025 Term Dates:

Term 3: Monday 14 July - Friday 19 September
Term 4: Monday 6 October - Friday 12 December

Year 7/8 Tech:

- Thursday 14 August
(please note not a Friday due to Interschool Cross-Country)
- Friday 29 August

School Colour Fun Run:

- Thursday 7 August

Interschool Cross-Country

- Friday 15 August

Term 3 Teacher Only Day:

- Friday 22 August
Please make alternate arrangements for your child(ren)

Daffodil Day Ball Run:

- Thursday 28 August

Assemblies:

- Friday 8 August, 3 and 19 September



Panui/ Newsletter: August 2025

Principal's Message: *A Note from Jo*

Kia ora e te whaanau,

It's been a wonderful start to the term, with our aakonga straight back into the swing of learning! Our kura continues to hum with energy and excitement – we've been celebrating the Arts with a week of engaging activities. From flashmob dances on the blue court to the sound of basketball drumming echoing through the school, our tamariki have been fully immersed in dance, and music. A massive mihi to Whaea Kiri and Miss Stirling for running the Horotiu 'Chorus' performance – the singing and dancing were an absolute hit!

Mid-term reports will be coming home soon, sharing your tamariki's progress, next steps, and goals for the rest of the year. If you have any questions or would like to koorero about how to support learning at home, please reach out to your child's kaiako (teacher). When whaanau are engaged in learning, amazing things happen – it truly takes a village, and we love having you as part of ours.

A couple of reminders: Our kura will be closed for a Teacher Only Day on Friday 22nd August as our kaiako take part in valuable professional learning and development for Mathematics. Please make alternative arrangements for your tamariki on this day. Coming up soon is the Koroneihana – a significant occasion for us here in the heart of Kiatinga.

We also have our Colour Fun Run just around the corner. For those training hard – kei runga noa atu koutou! A special mihi to Michelle and Shane for the use of The Pit over the past two decades – this may be our final year running through that iconic patch of whenua before it is developed. Nau mai, haere mai – we'd love to have whaanau join us on the day!

Coming Up:

School Colour Fun Run: Thursday 7th August

All whanau are invited to come along and get involved as the staff and students spend an hour of time running the fun run around our school. It does involve coloured powder, obstacles and lots of fun as we all head around the course together. Students may wish to wear their House colours or could wear something white which will show up the coloured powder. A warm, dry change of clothes for afterwards is a good idea to pack that day please. For those students who wish to be involved but don't want to have coloured powder on them, never fear - a simple 'X' of your arms signals that you prefer to stay non-powdered. We will be providing a free sausage sizzle for all students after the run.

Daffodil Day: Thursday 28th of August

Our Daffodil Day balls are all ready to roll for our annual fundraiser for the Cancer Society. For the last few years it has been getting more and more difficult to find balls with a decent bounce, for this reason we have changed to quality tennis balls this year. These are more expensive but will be much more versatile for play, along with having maximum impact on race day. The balls cost \$3 and can be purchased online through our official [Cancer Society fundraiser link](#) or by bringing cash to the school office. If paying via the Cancer Society page, please include your child's first name and hub, ie Megan Tiitoki. It is also helpful if you can email me on m.parker@horotiu.school.nz to make sure I see it. Once payments have been made, I will write your child's name on a ball, get it race ready and they will receive it after the race.

We have a limited supply of balls. They will be sold on a first in first served basis. All proceeds will go to the Cancer Society. Spot prizes will be given on the day. All whanau are welcome to attend. Please dress up in Daffodil Colours on the day.

Please note as the as National Daffodil Day falls on our Tech Day, we are holding ours the day before, Thursday 28th August.



MOE: Maths Teacher Only Day: Friday 22nd August

As you will be aware, our team engaged in a Ministry of Education Maths Development day for in Term 2. We are set to continue with the second part of this on Friday 22nd August. Our staff will be once again be working alongside MoE, Ngaruawahia Primary, Waingaro and Glen Massey schools for this. This was hugely beneficial as we navigate the updates in the NZ Maths Curriculum. We kindly ask that parents and caregivers make alternate arrangements for students on this day. We will send out reminders closer to the time.

Ag Day: Wednesday 17th September

Agricultural day (calf club) is a tradition at Horotiu School. This is where children learn to care for, commit to and be responsible for an animal (lamb, calf or kid). Our school's Ag Day will be held on Wednesday 17th September. All animals need to be at least 4 weeks old, healthy and well-cared for.

If you are planning for your child(ren) to enter an animal, please let us know by emailing or phoning the office so we can add them to the registration list. This needs to be done by 22nd August. Further information will be forward out to relevant families in coming weeks.

Caring for an animal is a huge commitment so please consider whether you have enough space and time for a lamb, calf or goat at your property when deciding whether or not your child will be involved. Animal wellbeing is paramount.

Celebrations & Notices:

Oh What a Night: ‘Chorus!’

A huge mihi to everyone who made our school talent show, “**Horotiu Chorus**”, such an incredible success! It was a night filled with remarkable performances that showcased the amazing talent of our tamariki. A special thanks to our guest judges, Javiyah Nikoia and Harley Pitihira, for their time and thoughtful feedback. Most importantly, we want to give a massive mihi to all our participants. Getting up on that stage and performing takes incredible courage, and every single one of you should be so proud. You all did an amazing job, and truly made the night one to remember!



PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning).

As part of our schools commitment to creating a positive learning environment for your tamariki, we have “rolled” out a new reward, introducing The Golden Scooters. Students who are demonstrating our 3 Be’s and/or showing our Learner Profiles (Being an Active Learner, Positive Role Model, Confident and Communicator), are able to earn the use of our brand new gold scooters. They will also be given a Golden Scooter Ticket as a celebration to bring home and share with their whaanau.



Whaanau Voice – Parent Survey Winners

A big mihi to all our whaanau who took the time to complete our recent parent survey – your insights help shape the direction of our kura and ensure we’re doing the best for our aakonga. We had an awesome response, with 39 responses, a third of our families participating.

Feedback showed that 92% of respondents feel Horotiu School is a safe and welcoming place, and 89% agreed their tamariki enjoy coming to school each day – tino pai! As a little thank you, everyone who completed the survey went into the draw to win one of three \$50 vouchers. Congratulations to our lucky winners: Ben, Elenoa, and Nicole! Ka pai koutou!

What Happens Next?

Your feedback doesn’t just sit in a spreadsheet — it drives real change. From your suggestions, we’ll be focusing on a few key areas moving forward: strengthening communication between home and school, creating more opportunities for whaanau to be involved in learning, and continuing to grow our inclusive, culturally-rich environment. These insights will help inform our strategic planning and ensure we’re staying true to our Horotiu values.

Around the Hubs

Pohutukawa

We have had a great start to Term 3 with seven new tamariki joining us and settling in very quickly. We have been busy making music, dancing, painting, making seed pots and planting seeds. One day we read a unicorn story and unicorns have been appearing in our class. We are writing about them and sending them letters.

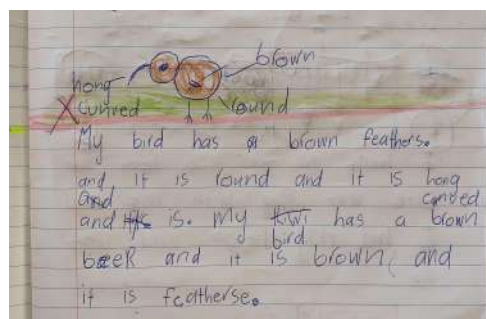
We also had a visit from Ryman knitting club who made all Year 0 and 1 students nice, warm knitted hats, gloves and slippers. How lucky we are!



Koromiko

This term we have started lots of new topics! For writing we have been focusing on descriptive writing. We have been learning about the different kinds of adjectives and to use them in our work to help add detail. For inquiry this term we have been having a go at Line Dancing. We have learned so far that staying in our lines is a key part and that there is lots of repeating which help us learn the moves.

A highlight from our term so far has been the Duffy theatre that came to our school! There were lots of laughs as we helped Duffy and Scruffy on their mission.



Reception Y0



Y1-2



Y3-4



Kawakawa Y4/5
Kawakawa Y5/6



Y7-8



Harakeke (Year 3-4)

What a wonderful and busy time it has been in Harakeke! We have welcomed our new kaiako, Mr Butler, into our space and are thrilled to have him part of our whaanau.

A highlight of the term was a surprise visit from Black Fern superstar Awhina Tangen-Wainoho. It was a privilege to have her at our kura, and we are proud that three of our very own Harakeke students won spot prizes! It was also fantastic to see some of our talented tamariki shine on stage at “Horotiu Chorus”.

Finally, we have been immersing ourselves in The Arts, with a special focus on Music. We have been exploring the world of sound through drumming, and students have shown great enthusiasm for learning about rhythm and beat.



Kawakawa 4/5 (Year 4 & 5):

Over the past month, our class has been incredibly busy working through a series of units across all learning areas. Each unit has allowed us to explore different skills and concepts in creative and hands-on ways. One of the standout highlights has been our dance to *One Bites the Dust*. Students have loved learning the routine, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow each week. In Physical Education, this dance has provided a fun way to practise key movement skills such as timing, coordination, and rhythm, while also encouraging students to think about how they use space and energy when performing.



In addition to dance, we have also placed a strong emphasis on oral language in our classroom. This has involved not only learning to listen carefully to instructions but also understanding how to give clear and specific directions to others. These skills have been woven into a variety of activities, but one favourite has been our “Six Bricks” challenges. In this task, students create a model using six bricks, then take turns explaining how to replicate it so their partner can build an identical model. This simple yet powerful activity encourages students to communicate clearly, all while having fun and working collaboratively.

This week we also welcome Kristie Gribben as Kawakawa 4/5's class teacher and thank and farewell Whaea Mikayla for her work as teacher this term. Exciting times ahead for you both!





Kawakawa 5/6 (Year 5/6)

In Kawakawa 5/6, our students have been channeling their creativity and teamwork in a unique and engaging way. Over the past few weeks, we have been exploring the dynamic fusion of sports skills and dance. In small groups of two and three, the students have been collaborating to choreograph original routines that incorporate the skills of dribbling and passing. This process has been a wonderful opportunity for them to develop not only their coordination but also their collaborative and problem-solving abilities as they translate athletic movements into a captivating dance.

Building on this, the entire class has come together to create a single, synchronized class dance. We are all very excited to share their fantastic performance with the school community at our assembly this Friday. We hope to see you there to celebrate their fantastic efforts and creativity!

Maanuka (Year 7/8):

We're incredibly proud of how well our tamariki have embraced the *Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA)*. Their positive attitudes and adaptability to this new style of learning have been truly inspiring. BSLA focuses on key building blocks for reading and writing, and our students are making fantastic progress. This approach helps children develop strong foundational skills, setting them up for future success in literacy.

For our Dance Inquiry, we've been grape-vining into the fascinating world of line dancing! We're exploring where it all began, how it brings people together and expresses culture around the world. We're also experiencing the health and wellbeing benefits with regular line dancing sessions.



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.

Home and School Learning Support:

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



This month, I wanted to talk about sleep and how important it is for us and our tamariki.

For our children to thrive academically and emotionally, quality sleep is just as important as healthy eating and physical activity. Establishing consistent bedtime routines helps set children up for success, allowing their brains and bodies to rest.

If you find yourself asking: "Ka kite au i a koe e mirimiri ana i ō karu – kei te ngenge koe?" - I see you are rubbing your eyes - are you tired?, it might be a sign to reassess sleep habits. Adequate sleep supports better concentration, improved memory, and a more positive mood - all crucial for a productive school day!

Here are six things you can do to encourage great sleep habits:

- **Stick to a consistent sleep schedule:** go to bed and wake up around the same time each day, even on weekends.
- **Create a relaxing bedtime routine:** This could include a warm bath, reading a book, or listening to some soothing music.
- **Limit screen time before bed:** The blue light from screens can interfere with melatonin production, a hormone that helps with sleep.
- **Ensure a comfortable sleep environment:** A dark, quiet, and cool room is ideal for sleep.
- **Avoid caffeine and sugary drinks in the evening:** These can make it harder for children to fall asleep.
- **Encourage regular physical activity during the day:** This can help children feel tired and sleep better at night.

How much sleep should children have per night?

According to recommendations from the CDC and Sleep Foundation, school-aged children (6-12 years old) should aim for 9-12 hours of sleep per night. For children aged 5, it is generally recommended they get around 10-13 hours of sleep.



"Kia au te moe" – sleep well, night night.

Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) - Whaanau Survey



As you may know, our school is using the Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) for literacy instruction. The BSLA research team at the University of Canterbury would like to ask whaanau about their thoughts and opinions of their child's literacy learning and the Better Start Literacy Approach using an online survey. The survey is completely anonymous and you will not be identified (by the school or research team) should you choose to take part in this study. This study has received approval from the University of Canterbury's Human Research Ethics Committee.

Every person who responds to the survey will go into a draw to receive one of five \$100 Prezzy cards. This research is funded by the Ministry of Education. If you would like to take part in this survey, please click on this link: https://canterbury.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_24YHvxHp2PvPi9o

Horotiu School WHOLE SCHOOL COLOUR FUN RUN

Thursday 7th August
@ 11-12.30noon
(whole school running together)

Dress in your House colours
or white if you prefer
and get ready to have some fun
on our back fields!

Bring a change of clothes and a towel
as we will be using coloured powder!

Let your teacher know if you
wish to compete at the
traditional Interschools Cross-Country event
on the 15th August and train accordingly.



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.

Every week at Kelly Club we have activities based on a different theme with a different type of activity each day (Cooking, Arts & Crafts, Games, Sport, or Discovery). We vary our activities day-to-day to keep kids engaged, give them opportunities to try new things, and develop a range of skills. We encourage kids to participate, while providing options for playing fun games, quiet play and creativity

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

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For more information

Horotiu Playcentre Facebook Page

Email: horotiu@playcentre.org.nz



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