



SAVE THE DATES!

2025 Term Dates:

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

Assemblies:

- Friday 19 September

Ag Day and Bucket Potato Counting:

- Wednesday 17 September

End of Term 3:

- Friday 19 September @ 2.30pm

Term 4 Powhiri:

- Monday 6 October 9.15am

Flower Show:

- Wednesday 8 October

Kapa Haka Festival Hosted at Horotiu School:

Tuesday 14 October

Labour Day - No School

- Monday 27 October

School Athletics:

- Thursday 30 October

Koromiko EOTC Experience:

Thursday 20 November

Interschool Athletics:

Friday 21 November

Maanuka EOTC Camp:

Tuesday 25 - Friday 28 November

Kawakawa EOTC Experience TBC

Schoolwide Transition Day:

- Wednesday 3rd December

Year 8 Dinner

- Monday 8 December

Whole School Service Awards

Thursday 11 December 11am

Whole School Prizegiving:

Thursday 11 December (evening)

Panui/ Newsletter: September 2025

Principal's Message: *A Note from Jo*

Kia ora Horotiu whaanau,

Spring has well and truly arrived, and with it comes Ag Day on Wednesday 25th September. Students will be proudly bringing in their bucket potatoes and seedlings for judging, a tradition that highlights patience, care, and the joy of seeing things grow. Of course, no Ag Day would be complete without the familiar bleats and moos.

We want to acknowledge a significant local milestone — the first Koroneihana for Te Arikinui Kuini Nga wai hono i te po, which took place last week at Turangawaewae Marae. This was an historic and meaningful occasion, and we recognise the importance of this event for mana whenua, ahika and the wider Waikato community.

A huge mihi to those students who represented Horotiu at the Interschool Cross Country in Waitetuna. Competing on challenging courses, our tamariki showed determination, resilience, and pride — qualities that embody our school values.

Our Kapa Haka roopu are also stepping up in a big way, as they prepare to host the Cluster Kapa Haka Celebration here at Horotiu on Tuesday 14th October.

As we wrap up the term, a reminder that school reports will be coming home on the last day. These reports not only share achievement levels, but also give clear next steps to guide learning for the remainder of the year.

Finally, we farewell Dave, Dwyane and Dana from the School Board. A special nga mihi nui to Dave (12 years of service) and Dwyane (nine years) — your contributions have left a lasting legacy.

Ngaa mihi, Jo

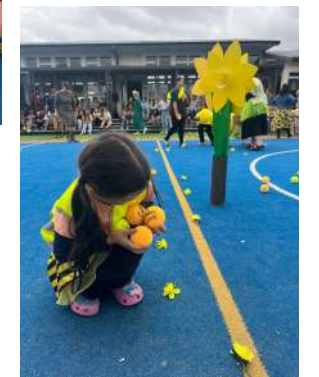
Notices and Celebrations:

Thanks for Supporting Daffodil Day!

Our annual Daffodil Day Ball Run was another great success with over \$640 being raised for the Cancer Society.



Thank you to all who donated and/or dressed up for the day. Special mention also to Mrs Megan Parker, who goes all out every year to ensure that this fundraising event is successful as well as fun for all.



Orchestra Central Trust Performance

We were very lucky to have Orchestra Central's string quartet 'Kulios' visit us last week.

With a focus on emotions and 'Aroha's Way' book, they took us through a musical journey from '**boredom**' (which can motivate us and spark curiosity) to '**amusement**', '**excitement**' (which helps activate our enthusiasm and imagination for possibilities and opportunity). We visited '**frustration**' (belly breathing, mindfulness or physical activity can help us to release this emotion), '**anger**', '**loneliness**' (the need for connection) and '**shame**' (by talking about our embarrassment we can create empathy and compassion). The quartet also took us through '**acceptance**' (helps us to find comfort even in the uncomfortable and means we don't have to judge something as good or bad; it just is), '**kindness**' (helping us feel gratitude, joy and happiness) and '**love**' (making you and others feel important and cared for). Their performance culminated with '**wonder**' (captivated and completely present in the moment driving us to find answers for things we can't explain) and finally, '**joy**' (the intense feeling of happiness or delight when you succeed or help others).



It was such a privilege to have the quartet visit and to enjoy the outcome of all their hard work and musical skill. Thank you Kulios!

Coming Up:

School Photos: Previewing and Ordering

Our school photos are finally ready for previewing and ordering. Students will be sent home with Photo360 flyers this week with the link and individual passwords to access them. Orders are to be made online. If for some reason you lose your password, please reach out to the school office or your child’s teacher. We have them noted.

2026 Enrolments:

With Term 4 creeping up and just around the corner, we are currently looking ahead to planning for 2026. Now is the time to let us know (if you haven’t already), of any pre-schoolers or other siblings you may intend to enrol here at Horotiu School in the coming months or year.

We do have some spaces in the Year 7/8 level for 2026 but these are limited. More information and the QR code can be found further in our newsletter - look for the yellow advertisement. Please take a few minutes to complete an online application if you wish to signal interest for your child.

Welcome to Our New Board Members

We are very pleased to welcome Del Bredesen and Aaron Rangitaawa to the Horotiu School Board. Del and Aaron bring fresh perspectives, strong community connections, and a genuine passion for supporting the growth and success of our Tamariki.

The new board has already come together for its first meeting, where we had the opportunity to connect as a team and begin our mahi for the year ahead. Their skills, insights and dedication will add real value to the important work of governance at Horotiu School. We look forward to their contributions as we continue working together to create the best possible opportunities and outcomes for our students.

‘Navigating the Journey’

Next term as a part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum, ‘Navigating the Journey’ will be taught across the school, building on previous learning. We will be covering three of the five themes: Relationships, Growing and Changing, Staying Safe.

Information about the programme can be found on the clip: [Introduction to Navigating the Journey: For Parents and Whānau](#). Teachers will be sending home further information about the specific activities they will be teaching. Feel free to come in and discuss any questions you have with the team. After viewing the resources, if you wish your son or daughter to be withdrawn from the hub/class while activities in ‘Navigating the Journey’ are being taught, please make this known in writing to the Principal.

Te Awa Lakes ‘Sneak Peek and Street Treats’ - Saturday 13 September, 10am-2pm

Te Awa Lakes are excited to announce an open day coming up on Saturday 13 September with an open invitation for people to visit the Te Awa Lakes development site and to tour the houses currently under construction.

As part of the event, there will be food trucks, market stalls, live music and entertainment for the kids. If you are interested in finding out more about this local development, this will be the place to be, any time between 10am -2pm. Further information can be found

<https://www.foodtruckevents.co.nz/event/sneek-peak-and-street-eats-te-awa-lakes>

Congratulations and Celebrations:

Congratulations and Farewell to Rebecca Foster: A New Chapter

It is with mixed emotions that we congratulate our Learning Support Coordinator, Rebecca Foster, on her new position as Principal of Whitikahu School. Whilst we know this is a position that Rebecca is well-suited and ready for, we are also sad to see her leave her position here at Horotiu School. Thank you Rebecca for all that you have done in your time here, supporting students, staff and whaanau in their educational journeys at Horotiu School. Rebecca begins this role in Term 4 and we know Whitikahu School will benefit from all the skills and experience she brings.



Success on the Sporting Scene:

Max Fendall (Inline Hockey)

Congratulations to one of our Year 8 students, **Max Fendall**. In the July holidays, Max played in two Oceania teams which came 2nd and 3rd in the tournament. He also captained his Under 11s team and did an amazing job by all accounts.



As a result, Max has been selected to play in the USA next year as part of the State Wars, a major international inline hockey tournament. Teams from North America and around the world compete in various age and skill divisions, including representative teams from Australia and combined ‘Team Oceania’. Between now and then, we’re sure there will be a lot of training and organising for this event. We wish Max all the best for a bright future in the sport.

Sam Marcroft (Lacrosse)

We also to acknowledge a former student of Horotiu School, **Sam Marcroft**, now 18 years old. Sam has been selected for the New Zealand Mens Under 20 Lacross team and is off to play in the U20 World Champs in Korea later this month. This is a great example of our students persevering and making the most of all opportunities at Secondary School and to try new things - you never know where it may take you. Sam only started playing Lacross in Year 12 and is already representing NZ on the world scene.



You may also recognise the surname as Sam’s sister, Cate Marcroft, is one of the Kelly Club coaches at before and after school care.

We love hearing of how our students and former students are doing in their journey beyond our school. It’s amazing to see how far and wide they travel and what opportunities they experience in their lives.

Around the Hubs

Pohutukawa

Pohutukawa have been talking and writing about the impact rubbish has that blows into our waterways, goes out to the ocean and effects our sea life. We have been looking at the impact on sea turtles and watching turtles that have been tracked by sea cleaners. We did a big rubbish clean up all the way down to the awa from our school.

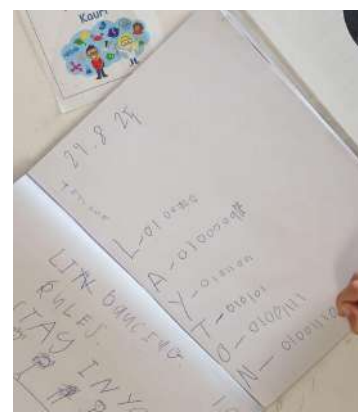
To integrate with our digitech topic we have been writing codes to programme the Blubots to pick up a piece of rubbish on a grid and put it in the rubbish bin at the end of the grid.



Koromiko

Last week we performed our line dancing in front of the school! The kids did an awesome job with their performance and looked the part too!

We recently started a new topic for Inquiry: Digital Technology! The tamariki have enjoyed engaging in unplugged activities to introduce them to algorithms. So far we have explored binary coding (so many 1s and 0s!), used some blocks to make a line of code for others to follow and learned we need to be very clear with our instructions if we want things to work the way we want!



Reception Y0



Y1-2



Y3-4



Kawakawa Y4/5
Kawakawa Y5/6



Y7-8



Harakeke (Year 3-4)

It has been a busy and exciting time in Harakeke, filled with incredible achievements and lots of learning. Just a few weeks ago, some of our 8 and 9 year olds showed incredible perseverance at the Interschool Cross Country in Waitetuna. The course was super hilly, but every one of our students pushed through and showed amazing determination. A few students were also selected to represent our kura at the Koroneihana, where they did a tremendous job waiting tables and should feel so proud of themselves!

Back in the classroom, we have been exploring the world of Digitech! Tamariki are learning the basics of coding by exploring “Scratch”, a fun program that lets them create their very own interactive stories, games and animations. It has been wonderful to see their creativity come to life through technology.



Kawakawa 4/5 (Year 4 & 5):



Kia ora te whānau, Kawakawa 4/5 have been busy exploring *Digital Technology* as part of our Inquiry learning. Across the Senior Syndicate, students engaged in a variety of activities including stop-motion animation, AI drawing tools, and programming a range of exciting tech gadgets.

Our tamariki built on their existing knowledge of Blue Bots—learning to programme, debug, and even record sound for communication between devices. They then progressed to Edison robots, developing skills in battery handling, coding, and understanding built-in sensors and extensions. It’s been an engaging and hands-on learning journey, and we’re proud of the curiosity and creativity shown by our students!





Kawakawa 5/6 (Year 5/6)

We have loved doing all things digitech in Kawakawa 5/6. Below are some snapshots of us engaging with Stop Motion using lego to create scenes, one picture at a time, Some people took 80 photos to create their animation.



Maanuka (Year 7/8):

The Maanuka students have been exploring the world of digital technology, embracing a hands-on approach to learning and creativity, exploring a variety of innovative tools.



M Blocks with Whaea Antonia: The students learned to use M Blocks, a visual programming tool, to code and control robots. This station was all about logical thinking and problem-solving, as they programmed their creations to move and react.

Makey Makey with Whaea Alex: Students discovered how to turn everyday objects into touchpads using the Makey Makey. They transformed things like pencils and play-doh into musical instruments and game consoles, learning about circuits and conductivity in a fun way.

Blue Bots with Whaea Kristie: The focus here was on basic coding and sequencing with Blue Bots. The children planned out paths and commands for the little robots, helping them understand simple algorithms and directional language.

Stop Motion Animation with Whaea Paula: Students used apps and cameras to create their own stop motion animations. They learned about storytelling, sequencing, and the magic of bringing inanimate objects to life, one frame at a time.



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

There are so many things I want to say as I type this last entry in the Horotiu Newsletter. Firstly, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the teachers and whaanau that I have worked with during my time as the Learning Support Coordinator and Literacy Facilitator here at Horotiu. Your support and trust have meant the world to me. Together, we've navigated challenges and celebrated success.

Of all the things I'll miss, the small victories we call lightbulb moments are at the top of my list. Nothing compares to sitting with a student who has been struggling, and then, with a little encouragement and praise, they read a new word. Their face lights up and their smile says it all - they've just gained a superpower! It's a reminder of why I became a teacher.

To all the tamariki, keep being your awesome selves and remember to dream big! You are all capable of incredible things, so never stop being curious, working hard, and being kind to one another. I have loved hearing about your passions and seeing you learn and grow over my five years at Horotiu School.

I feel so lucky to have been a part of this amazing community where everyone strives together for success. I will carry the memories of my time here with me always.

Yummy Stickers:

Yummy stickers convert to school points which in turn earn us sports gear! The more stickers we collect the more sports gear we can order for our playground.

This is the last term for collecting Yummy apple stickers for 2025.

Please bring your Yummy stickers and charts to the School Office.



Experience
Year 7 & 8
HOROTIU SCHOOL

Experience:

- Structured Numeracy & Literacy
- Rich EOTC Experiences
- Student Leadership Opportunities
- Personalised On-Site Tech Programme
- Well-Resourced School
- Strong Relationships

LEARN MORE

www.horotiu.school.nz
07 8299 892

Kelly Club:

Before- and After-School Care

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

Holiday Programme

Kelly Club will be running their fun and busy Holiday Programme the September/October school holidays. 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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