



SAVE THE DATES!

2025 Term Dates:

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

School Athletics:

- Thursday 30 October

Koromiko EOTC Experience:

- Thursday 13 November

Interschool Athletics:

- Friday 21 November

Maanuka EOTC Camp:

- Tuesday 25 - Friday 28 November

Schoolwide "Future Hub" Day:

- Wednesday 3rd December
Whanau invited 1.10-2.30pm.

Kawakawa EOTC Experience

- Monday 8 - Wednesday 10 December

Year 8 Dinner

- Monday 8 December

Whole School Service Awards

- Thursday 11 December 11am

Whole School Prizegiving:

- Thursday 11 December (6pm)



Panui/ Newsletter: October 2025

Principal's Message: *A Note from Jo*

**Nau mai, haere mai ki te Waa Tuawhaa —
welcome to Term 4!**

It's hard to believe we're already in our fourth and final term of the year. We've hit the ground running with an action-packed start — the Flower Show, Amazing Race, and the huge Kapa Haka Festival are already behind us! It was fantastic to see so many aakonga and our community being a part of these kaupapa.

Our spring property mahi is nearly complete — new chip has been ordered for our playgrounds, garden beds are planted, we have our new trees seedlings to start growing for next year's Matariki planting and the pool is looking ready.

The pool will open for school use on Monday 3rd November - students will need to start bringing their togs and towels from next week. The pool will open for community access from Monday 17th November. Season passes will be available from the office for \$100 from Monday 10th November. We're proud to provide our tamariki with a well-resourced, tidy, and attractive kura environment — and we appreciate everyone who helps keep it that way.

Staffing changes for 2026 are almost finalised. We will be saying 'ma te wa' to Whaea Paula, who has a year's leave - moving to the South Island to support whaanau. Miss Gibbens will also be leaving us to build a house and life in Raetihi. Good luck to both of you! A warm welcome to Miss Jaimee Swindells who will be joining the Horotiu teaching team next year.

We will be in touch with classes and student placements in the next few weeks and you can put Wednesday 3rd December in your diaries for our Transition Day where students will "try out" their 2026 class for the first time.

Ngaa mihi, Jo

Notices and Celebrations:

Western Rural Cluster Kapa Haka Festival

It was truly heartwarming to see all the schools and our wider community come together to celebrate our culture and passion for Kapa Haka. Despite the weather, the spirit and enthusiasm of all participating kura shone brightly. It was a beautiful display of kotahitanga and aroha!

This special event would not have been possible without the incredible support from our community. We extend our sincerest mihi to those whose mahi and generosity made the day a success.

Special thanks to Matua Harley who was our charismatic MC for the day, keeping everything running smoothly. Matua Ngaro for playing the guitar for our kura. Donna Allen at X-Site for providing our beautiful marquee, and Koro Eddie for providing the dividers in the hall to create our dressing rooms. We are grateful for the generous donation of fantastic spot prizes from Terini Rangitaawa from Te Waananga o Aotearoa and Bryce Turner from Waikato Tainui.

The resounding success of the 2025 Kapa Haka Festival was a direct result of the extraordinary commitment and collective effort of our dedicated staff. We extend our deepest gratitude to Whaea Antonia, Whaea Kiri, and Matua Gig for their tireless commitment and leadership. The countless hours they devoted not only to the meticulous event organising but also to the cultural preparation of the Horotiu School Kapa Haka group ensured a great performance.

Profound thanks are also owed to Whaea Amelia and Matua Dwayne. Their invaluable knowledge and expertise in tikanga (cultural protocol) were essential, providing the guidance needed to ensure the festival was run with the utmost respect and cultural integrity.

We extend our sincere and specific thanks to the Horotiu School Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Leadership Team. Their commitment, strategic support, and vision were instrumental in ensuring that Horotiu School had the necessary resources and backing to host such a memorable and significant event.

Finally, we recognise the vital support of our Facility Manager, Brendon Graham. We want to specifically thank him for the extensive work he did behind the scenes to ensure the physical running of the event, especially his massive effort to manage the substantial pack-down and clean-up the day after the festival. This dedication was crucial for a smooth and efficient conclusion.

Thank you once again to everyone who contributed to this wonderful celebration of te ao Maaori.



Celebrations:

Flower Show: A Blooming Great Day

We kicked off the term with our Annual Horotiu School Flower Show. Tamariki look forward to this event every year, showing their creativity, flair and their artistic talents. Many students had practised in the holiday and taken the time to plan and prepare for the event. This was reflected in the high standard of the exhibition pieces. It was wonderful to see the school hall in a beautiful array of colours, with paper creations, pottery, lego flower displays and playdough creations.

Thank you to those whaanau members and extended family and friends of our tamariki who took the time out of their day to help out across all of our hubs. This helped make our flower show the success that it was.

We are so proud of our students' artistry and look forward to carrying this wonderful tradition on next year!



The Amazing Race: Great Success!

Horotiu School was proudly represented by two dynamic teams—a Year 5 & 6 and a Year 7 & 8—at 'The Amazing Race', hosted at the Hamilton Gardens. This fantastic event offered a day of engaging team challenges designed to promote collaboration, creative problem-solving, communication and the development of both mental and physical resilience among our students. Both teams displayed exemplary perseverance and determination throughout the day. Success was measured not only by the completion of challenges within the ten-minute timeframe for each challenge, but also by the awarding of bonus points for demonstrating outstanding communication, collaboration, team cohesion by ensuring all members arrived together, and manners. This scoring system truly brought out the best in all participants, making the observation of their efforts a genuinely rewarding experience.

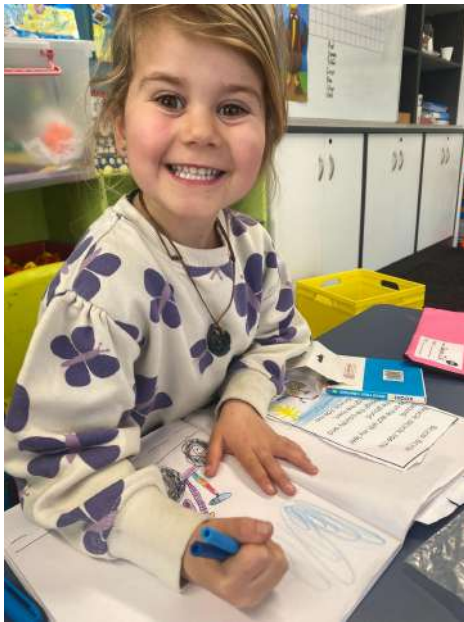
Adding to the success of the day, we were fortunate to enjoy gorgeous weather, which contributed to a completely successful event for everyone involved.



Around the Hubs

Pohutukawa

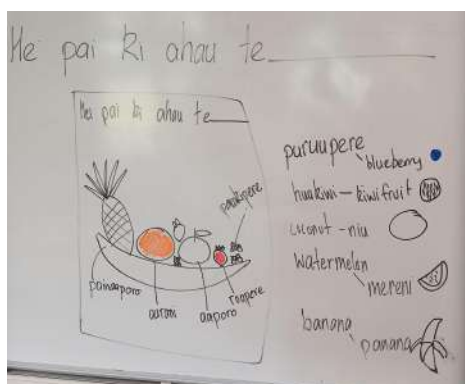
We have been busy on Fridays learning to ride bikes. After our bike riding we learnt a poem about bikes and illustrated it. We have some very good artists in Pohutukawa. We have started *Navigating the Journey* and are learning to express our feelings and how to be a good friend. For PE, we are learning to run in a lane as we get ready for our Athletics Day. Soon we will be practising for our House Relays.



Koromiko

We kicked off the term training for our upcoming School Athletics Day and the Te Uku Tabloid Sports day! Tamariki have been practising their running, jumping and throwing skills and perfecting their techniques. We will be doing trials soon to pick our teams for the house relays and learning about how to pass the baton.

In Te Reo Maaori we have been learning the kupu for fruits and vegetables, which connects nicely with our recent focus in *Navigating the Journey* about how to take care of our bodies by fuelling them well.



Reception Y0



Y1-2



Y3-4



Kawakawa Y4/5
Kawakawa Y5/6



Y7-8



Harakeke (Year 3-4)

Our Flower Show was a huge success! The room looked beautiful with all the wonderful creations. We extend a huge mihi to all the whaanau who came in and helped our tamariki bring their artistic ideas to life. Your support and creativity made it a truly special event for the class.

A new initiative we are loving is our **Paraire Paepae** (Friday routine). Every Friday morning, two students get the special job of being the kaiako and leading our morning routine. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to build their confidence, practice leadership skills, and share their knowledge with their classmates.

Looking ahead, we are all gearing up for Athletics Day! This annual event is a highlight of the school calendar, and we have been busy practicing our running, jumping, and throwing skills. Tamariki are excited to compete and show off all their hard work.



Kawakawa 4/5 (Year 4 & 5):



Kawakawa 4/5 have enjoyed a great start to the term, combining creative pursuits with physical development and a core curriculum focus. Our students enthusiastically embraced artistic ventures during the Flower Show, demonstrating creativity and skill. We are now developing our skills for the approaching Athletics Day. Academically, our attention remains firmly on the Core Curriculum subjects: Reading, Writing, and Maths. Year 4 students have been concentrating on the interpretation of graphs, enhancing their data analysis skills. Year 5 students have been exploring geometric principles, beginning with right, obtuse, and acute angles, followed by parallelograms, and are now progressing into the foundational concepts of symmetry. The Kawakawa teachers are now shifting our focus to planning an amazing camp for our tamariki at the end of this term. How exciting!





Kawakawa 5/6 (Year 5/6)

We were super lucky to go Matamata Primary school for a Leadership Challenge Day, Activities included making a marshmallow tower, a scavenger hunt, an oreo face race, jelly bean race, a sponge race and scooping ice-cream onto a cone while being tied up with skipping ropes!



Maanuka (Year 7/8):

Term 4 has begun with a rush of excitement, immediately immersing students in major events like the Kapa Haka Festival, the preparation for the annual Flower Show, and the high energy Amazing Race.

Tech kaiako have been particularly impressed, noting that as students conclude their final technology rotation, the practical transferable skills; from collaboration to problem-solving and, the overall increased confidence they've developed are strongly evident and are now benefiting their successful engagement in these complex school activities.

Students in printmaking have also completed new signage for the pool changing sheds as part of their learning.



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.

Horotiu School History: The Swimming Pool

With everyone eagerly awaiting the arrival of summer and the opening of the school pool, you may be interested to read about early swimming at Horotiu School and how and why the school pool came to fruition.

This excerpt comes from the *1962 Reunion and Farewell to Mr Dan McPherson (Principal) Souvenir Brochure*. You may recognise the old school building in the background which has since been relocated to Nga Miro in Ngaruawahia.

THE SWIMMING POOL

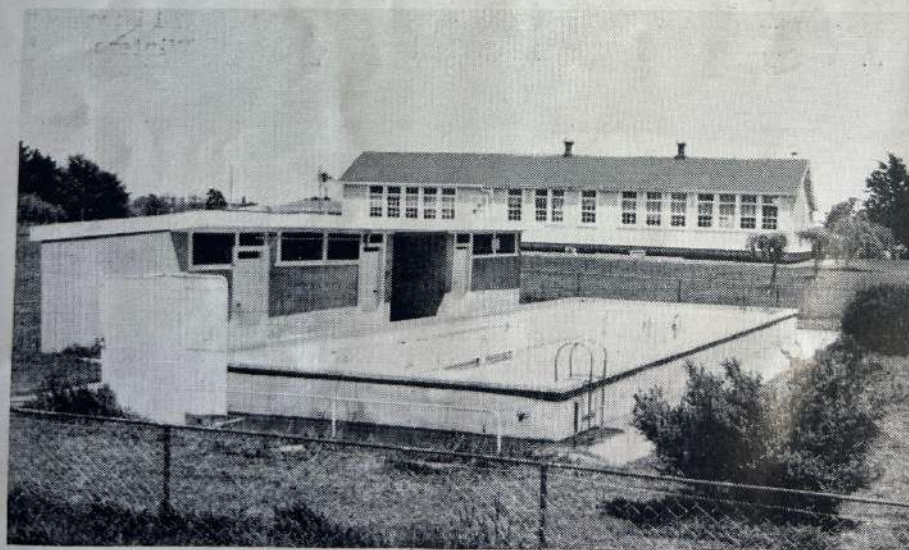
For many years swimming parades were held at the Waikato Riverbank, where a learners' pool had been netted off, and diving platform and springboard provided for the stronger swimmers. A very watchful eye had to be kept, however, and parents and staff welcomed the advent of a handier and safer pool in the school grounds.

A great deal of the initial work was done by working bees, and considerable help was given by the Waipa County Council in the matter of drainage. The response from the residents to a canvass for funds was remarkable for such a small district, for over £600 was subscribed in a couple of days. Mr. Keith Hay giving £50.

Mr. George Sullivan, the then Secretary of the School Committee and an old pupil, incorporated several original facilities, which were copied by a number of other schools. A modern filter and our own bore-water, ensure hygienic conditions at all times.

Visitors are intrigued at the paintings on the walls and the bottom of the baths, but these are there to aid the "tinies" to gain confidence in the water by putting their heads under to count the fish etc.

The pool was officially opened in 1958 by Mr. J. McWhannell. Chairman of the South Auckland Education Board.



THE SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL



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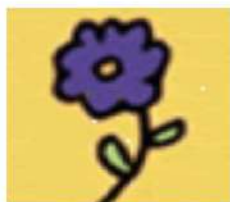
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For account and invoice queries: accounts@journeykids.co.nz

For general Enquiries: admin@journeykids.co.nz



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

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Horotiu Playcentre Facebook Page

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