



## **SAVE THE DATES!**

### **2026 Term Dates:**

Term 2: Monday 20 April - Friday 3 July  
Term 3: Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September  
Term 4: Monday 12 October - Monday 14 December

### **Term 2 - No School Days**

Friday 29th May - Teacher Only Day  
Monday 1st June - King's Birthday

### **Assemblies for Term 2: (1:45 - 2:30pm)**

Friday 15th May - Tiitoki (Pink Shirt Day)  
Thursday 28th May - Kawakawa 5  
Friday 12th June - Koromiko Tahī

### **Junior Football Tournament Year 3-4**

Friday 15th May

### **Pink Shirt Day - Anti bullying dress up**

Friday 15th May

### **Year 7 and 8 Leadership Day**

Wednesday 27th May

### **Arts Celebration Week**

Tuesday 2nd - Friday 5th June  
Strike Drumming Performance - Tuesday 2nd

### **Year 5-6 Winter Sports Tournament - Horotiu**

Friday 12th June

### **Tough Guy and Gal** - Friday 19th June

**Ki o Rahi Tournament** - Friday 26th June

### **Matariki Celebration - Final week of Term 2**

Wednesday 1st July - Awa Planting Day  
Thursday 2nd July - Hautapu Ceremony

## **Panui/ Newsletter: May 2026**

### **Principal's Message! *A Note from Jo:***

Kia ora e te whaanau,

It was great to see so many of you in kura recently connecting with teachers around your child's learning. Those conversations really matter — when kura and whaanau are on the same page, our tamariki feel it straight away. If you haven't had a chance to meet yet, please reach out — there's always time to connect over the coming weeks.

I want to acknowledge all those who play that nurturing role in our children's lives — mums, step-mums, nans, aunties, sisters, cousins and those who stand in that space with aroha and care. We hope you had a chance to slow down, put your feet up (even briefly!), and feel appreciated over the weekend for Mother's Day — you deserve it.

A reminder that our Teacher Only Day is coming up on Friday 29th May. School will be closed for instruction on this day, however Journey Kids will be running a holiday programme at Te Ao Marama School (7:30-5:30) for any whaanau who need support with care.

On Friday, 15th May, we will be coming together as a kura to promote a strong anti-bullying message for Pink Shirt Day: Speak Up, Stand Together, Stop Bullying! This is about reinforcing with our tamariki that we all have a role to play — speaking up, supporting each other, and creating a school where everyone feels safe, included, and respected. It's simple, but powerful (and something we expect to see lived every day, not just on one Friday).

Looking ahead, although Matariki falls within the school holidays this year, we will be celebrating together as a kura in Week 11 (29th June – 3rd July). This is always a special time for us to reflect, connect, and acknowledge the stories, values and traditions that sit at the heart of Aotearoa.

Ngaa mihi nui for your ongoing support — it makes a real difference.

Jo

## What We’ve Been Up To:

### ANZAC Services - Lest We Forget

Horotiu School commemorated our fallen soldiers and those alongside them in a very special school ANZAC Service recently. Class-made wreaths to represent each of the classes, the staff and Board, as well as Journey Kids, were laid during the service at our school flagpole. These were later placed by Horotiu School students in attendance at the Ngaruawahia Cenotaph during the Civic Service on ANZAC Day.

We would like to formally thank our bagpiper, Michael, who has attended and played at our school services regularly over the past few years and also thank whaanau who came along to join us on the day. Thank you also to Mrs Parker who organised our school event and the students who stepped up to lead and represent our school.

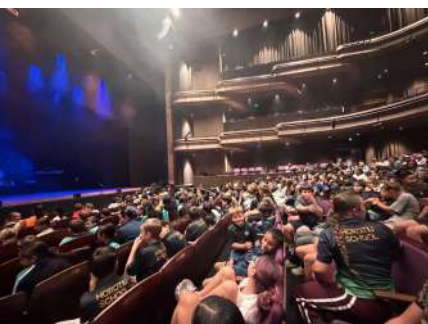


### Year 4-8 Students Headed to the Theatre!

Last week we were lucky enough to once again be invited to watch Fraser High School’s production at the newly-opened BNZ Theatre in Hamilton. With 121 students loaded on board two buses and the school vans, we were away for an afternoon at the theatre.

What we saw was an amazing collection of musical and dance pieces pulled together with the narrative of a trip through a museum. We went back in time with ‘old-time’ musical tributes to Michael Jackson, Freddy Mercury, ABBA and the Spice Girls (not so long ago as you may think) right through to Ed Sheeran today. The audience were also treated to cultural performances representing the Cook Islands, Tonga, Samoa, Hawaii, the Phillipines and more. With over 140 performers putting on a 2 hour show that kept the audience mesmerised, they should feel a great deal of pride in their efforts and talent.

We look forward to seeing some of our current students on stage one day at High School, spotlighting their talent with confidence and pride. We will also have a long-lasting memory of our Horotiu School trip to the theatre when it opened way back in 2026.





**Notices:**

**Horotiu School - Parent / Whaanau / Community Survey 2026**

We value whaanau thoughts and feedback about what we do at Horotiu School and how we do it. In order to reflect on and to improve our practice we ask that you complete this survey by Monday 20th July, 2026. Use the QR code or [click the link](#) to have your say.



Scan the QR Code to take you automatically to the survey.

Thanks for your feedback!

As an incentive we will be offering three prizes (\$50 grocery voucher, \$50 warehouse voucher, \$50 petrol voucher) that all participants who complete the survey will go in the draw to win. Also, those caregivers who mention their child/ren's house will also get a house point.

**School Photos Postponed:**

Apologies for the postponement of our school photos this term. These have now been scheduled for 11 September, later in the year.



School-grown kumara ready for Matariki celebrations

Horotiu School Whaanau & Students  
Please join us to:  
**Celebrate Matariki**  
Thursday 2nd July 2026

6.30-7.30AM MATARIKI HAUTAPU CEREMONY  
LAYING OF THE HANGI  
SOUP BREAKFAST

At 7.30am please take your children home or book them into Journey Kids until the usual time of 8.30am

12.30PM KAI HAAKARI - SAUSAGE SIZZLE



## Around the Rooms:



### Tiitoki - New Entrants

Last Friday we had a lovely Autumn walk to the Awa. Here we followed up our NZ History work on our Maori Kings/Queens and practised our river 'Eights'.

Last Thursday we had a nice morning helping Matua Gig cultivate the kumaras with the help of some Senior children. We enjoyed getting our hands dirty and digging for the kumara.



### Koromiko Tahī - Year 1

What a wonderful start to Term 2 we have had in Koromiko Tahī. We have learnt about Anzac day and why it is special for us to acknowledge and making a special wreath for the ANZAC service as well as ANZAC biscuits which tamariki loved.

We were very lucky to have the ladies from Lynda Jones knit us beanies, slippers and gloves to keep us nice and warm over the coming winter months.

For maths we have been learning about measurement, we walked around the school measuring different things with our feet to see what was the biggest, smallest and the same.



## Around the Rooms:



### Koromiko Rua - Year 2

It's been a great start to the term, and the students have settled back into their routines quickly.

We've spent some time learning about Matariki, focusing on the significance of the stars and what this time of year means for us here in New Zealand.

Our winter sports sessions are also off to a good start. Tamariki have been out on the field practicing their football skills and have been enjoying playing Sharks and Minnow, Red light Green light.

Finally, we've been busy in the classroom with some Mother's Day craft projects. The students have worked hard on these, and they're looking forward to sharing their handmade gifts with all the wonderful and special wahine toa in their lives.



### Harakeke - Year 3



It has been an action-packed start to Term 3 for Harakeke! We recently explored an ANZAC mini-unit, reading about the bravery of soldiers and the animals who served. We loved the story of *Anzac Ted* and enjoyed the hands-on experience of making traditional Anzac biscuits and creating commemorative art.

We also turned into mini-scientists with our House of Science 'Food for Thought' kit. We dived into food chemistry - learning why popcorn pops, how gluten works, and why jellies wobble. From mastering big words like hygroscopic to investigating why milk curdles, our curious learners did it all. The best part? Getting to eat the jelly at the end of our experiment to see how gelatin works!

## Around the Rooms:



### Kawakawa 4 - Year 4

We have had an incredible start to the term in Kawakawa 4 with so much happening across the school. Here are a few highlights:

We were lucky enough to visit the new BNZ Theatre recently to watch the Fraser High Production. It was a fantastic opportunity to see a showcase of talents from different islands of the Pacific. In P.E. this term, we have been diving into our Winter Sports unit with a focus on large ball skills. So far, tamariki have been hitting the courts and fields to master Netball and Football (soccer). It has been awesome to see everyone working on their footwork, passing and teamwork! A massive good luck to everyone heading off to the Junior Football Tournament! We can't wait to see our students getting active, working as a team, and representing our kura with such high energy.



### Kawakawa 5 - Year 5

We have been busy exploring our Science Inquiry. For our Year 5 class, the focus has been on Physics - Forces and Motion. We have been learning that things can't start moving, stop moving, or change direction all by themselves-forces create movement.

We have learnt about the forces around us (such as gravitational forces, frictional forces, tension forces, magnetic forces etc), how there are often opposing forces at play, that force and distance can be measured, and that observed movement is a result of forces acting.

The combination of balanced and unbalanced forces acting on an object can be used to predict and describe its movement. We have used this information to help us make sense of a wide range of hands on experiments and investigations.



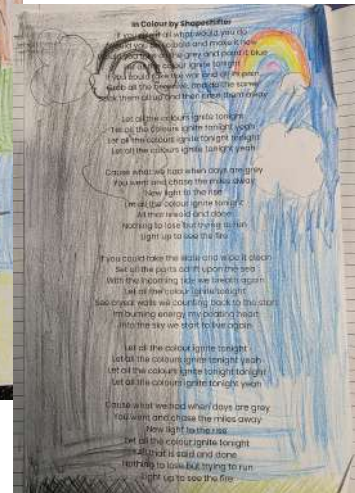
**Around the Rooms:**



**Pohutukawa - Year 6**

This month, we are celebrating NZ Music Month by diving into the world of Kiwi songs!

In class, we are busy analysing lyrics to identify literary devices like metaphors and personification while inferring themes to uncover the "hidden meanings" behind the music. To channel these insights, students are writing to inform by creating profiles on talented NZ bands and artists; this process involves learning to research effectively, where they must reference information accurately and master the art of paraphrasing to present their findings in their own unique voices.



**Maanuka - Year 7 & 8**

Late last year, a group of our Year 7 and 8 tamariki set the groundwork for a bountiful season by planting kumara tupu, kindly sourced by Mrs Parker. With the arrival of autumn, it was finally time to harvest the crop before the first winter frosts set in.

Our student experts - Duncan, Zoey, and Te Whiorangi - took charge of the harvest, expertly teaching the younger Titoki tamariki the techniques of lifting the crop. It was a wonderful display of tuakana-teina, passing on vital gardening knowledge to the next generation.

The results:

- Quality Control: Zoey carefully sorted the harvest, identifying which kumara were best for long-term storage and which were ready for immediate eating.
- Hangi Ready: We have a fantastic supply ready for our upcoming Matariki celebration!
- Sustainability: We've saved enough to grow our own tupu, ensuring our gardening cycle continues next season.
- 

A huge well done to all the students involved for their hard work and kaitiakitanga of our school garden!



# Every day counts!

## TERM 2: KEEPING OUR TAMARIKI/RANGATAHI ON TRACK FOR SUCCESS

Going to school every day helps our tamariki/rangatahi feel connected, confident and ready to learn.

TOGETHER,  
WE HELP OUR  
TAMARIKI/  
RANGATAHI  
THRIVE



## WHY IT MATTERS

Even a few days away can make it harder for tamariki/rangatahi to keep up with learning and stay connected with their friends.



Better learning



Stronger connections



More choices for the future

Being at school every day helps build strong habits that support success now and into the future.



## HOW WHĀNAU CAN SUPPORT



### Keep daily routines consistent

Good routines like enough sleep, morning prep and getting to school on time set tamariki/rangatahi up for a positive day.



### Talk positively about school

Encourage and show interest in their learning, friendships and goals. Celebrate their effort to be there each day.



### Let the school know early

If your child is away or something is making attendance difficult, please let us know.



### Reach out for support

We are here to help – just ask! You're not alone.



## WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

If you need support with attendance, please connect with your child's teacher, the school office or our attendance team.

Working together, we can make sure every tamariki/rangatahi has the best chance to succeed.



♥ Be here. Belong. Achieve. ✨

**Journey Kids:** Premium Before & After School Care for your children

**Journey Kids has one goal - extraordinary care!** Our team are made up of former teachers, professionals in the childcare industry and most importantly, parents. We assist schools with our extensive curriculum knowledge and childcare experience culminating to deliver the most diverse service offerings to the children in our care.

**We offer** sports and sports clinics, engineering activities, wilderness skills, life skills, camps, the Arts, homework club, holiday programmes, science experiments, technology-based learning and more.

**Contacts:** For bookings and last minute bookings: [bookings@journeykids.co.nz](mailto:bookings@journeykids.co.nz)

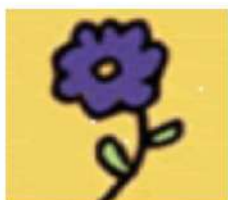
For OSCAR subsidy applications and queries: [OSCAR@journeykids.co.nz](mailto:OSCAR@journeykids.co.nz)

For account and invoice queries: [accounts@journeykids.co.nz](mailto:accounts@journeykids.co.nz)

For general Enquiries: [admin@journeykids.co.nz](mailto: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

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](mailto:horotiu@playcentre.org.nz)



**MAD COW  
MUSIC TUITION**



**Drum, Guitar and Piano  
Lessons Available**

Contact : Glenn Jackson  
Phone: 0212020269

To book email us at:  
[madcowlessons@gmail.com](mailto:madcowlessons@gmail.com)



**NEW WORLD  
Ngaruawahia**

**Thank you to our  
Sponsors and  
Supporters!**

