



HOROTIU SCHOOL

Te Kura o Horotiu

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(07) 829 9892

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www.horotiu.school.nz



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

Year 7/8 Ki-o-Rahi Tournament

- Friday 26th June: hosted here at school Come along and watch the competition!

Matariki Celebration - Final week of Term 2

- Tuesday 30 June - Reward Breakfast
- Bucket Potatoes home to plant
- Wednesday 1st July - Awa Planting Day
- Thursday 2nd July - Hautapu Ceremony (7am)

Last day of Term 2 - Friday 3rd July

Term 3:

- Monday 20th July - Back to school
- Pōwhiri at 11am (note time change)

Year 7&8 Tech:

Tuesday 21st July - Friday 24th July

School Colour Fun Run:

- Friday 31st July
All whaanau welcome to join us!

Interschool Cross-Country @ Waitetuna School

- Thursday 6th August

Teacher Only Day

- Friday 7 August : Maths Curriculum

Year 7/8 Leadership Day @ Glen Massey

- Thursday 27 August

Daffodil Day

- Friday 28th August

Koroneihana

- Monday 31st Aug - Friday 4th September

School Photos

- Friday 11th September

Te Wiki o Te Wiki Te Reo Maaori:

- Monday 11th - Friday 14th September

School Ag Day:

- Wednesday 23rd September
- Bucket Potatoes tipped and counted @school

School Reports Home and Last Day of Term 3

- Friday 25th September

Panui/ Newsletter: June 2026

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

Kia ora e te whaanau,

It has been a term full of learning, connection, leadership, sport, and community moments that continue to show the strength of our kura. Your participation in parent interviews earlier this term was great to see. These conversations are an important part of the partnership between home and school.

Our recent Teacher Only Day gave our kaiako valuable time to focus deeply on mathematics. As a staff, we are working on how we make maths learning clearer, more explicit, and more connected for our learners. One of the most powerful things whaanau can do at home is to keep the koorero about maths alive in everyday life. Cooking, shopping, sport, building, gardening, sharing kai, measuring, counting, comparing, estimating, and solving little problems together all help children see that maths is not just something that happens in a book — it is part of real life.

We are looking forward to our upcoming week of Matariki celebrations. Matariki is a special time to remember those who have passed, celebrate the present, and look ahead to the future with hope. It is a time that fits strongly with who we are as a school — a community that values whaanau, whenua, learning, and togetherness. As part of this, we will plant our two new specimen trees, a jacaranda and a puuriiri, between the Waka area and the wooden playground. These trees are more than just landscaping. They are part of our story. Over time, they will provide shade, beauty, learning opportunities, and a living reminder that the decisions we make now can benefit tamariki for many years to come. Like our children, they will need care, time, patience, and the right conditions to grow strong.

As Term 2 moves towards its end, I want to thank our staff, students, whaanau, Board, and wider community for the energy and support you continue to bring to Horotiu School.

Enjoy the upcoming Matariki celebrations and, when the holidays arrive, I hope you get some well-deserved time with your whaanau.

Notices and Celebrations:

Setting Your Child Up for Daily Success: School Starts at 8.50am

Well done to all our whaanau who are getting their children to school regularly every day, and/or are communicating with our school office team where their child is absent and for what reason. We have been really pleased with attendance of late and there has been a calm, focused sense of learning and behaviour throughout the school as a result. Keep up the great work on getting your child to school every day.

One attendance pattern we have spotted recently is lateness. We know morning routines can at times be rushed and getting all our ducks in a row, doesn't always quite go to plan and recently, We'd really love to set our students up for success and will be closely monitoring this pattern - please help your child by ensuring they are at school on-time.

When students arrive at school with a few minutes to spare in the morning, they have time to hang up their bags, catch up with friends, and settle in before the bell rings at 8.50am. Arriving even 5 or 10 minutes late can mean missing out on important morning announcements, instructions for the day, and that key settling-in period with their teacher and classmates. Just knowing that getting here on time helps our kids feel calm, confident, and ready to learn.

🐝 From Hive to Jar – Horotiu School Honey 🍯

What started as a single beehive project has grown into a fantastic hands-on learning opportunity for our students. Over the past year, students have worked alongside local beekeepers Tim and Jim (and other volunteers) to learn about bee health, feeding programmes, hive splits, queen bees, mite treatments, honey production, and the important role bees play in our environment. Students have helped inspect hives, add boxes and frames, feed bees through winter, harvest honey, and even assist with preparing the hives for the changing seasons.

This year all that hard work paid off with a harvest of 55kg of honey from our two school hives. After the honey was extracted, students helped jar the honey and then took part in a school-wide label design competition. Congratulations to our winning designers - Zoey and Sara, whose ideas have been combined to create the final label now featured on every jar. We are proud to offer our very own Horotiu School Multifloral Honey, available now from the school office for \$12 per jar. Stocks are limited, so bee quick!

Horotiu School HONEY

NOW AVAILABLE!

- Locally produced by our school bees
- Multifloral honey
- 630g jar
- Supporting learning for our students

Fresh from our hives to you! ♡

♡ Stocks are limited - get in quick before it sells out! ♡

SOLD FROM OFFICE FOR \$12 EACH

Horotiu School
630gm
89 Horotiu Bridge Road
BATCH: BT-202604-0110
Extracted at RMP SFHN214

Up & Coming: Save the Dates!

School Colour Fun Run: Save the Date: Friday 31st July - Our Final Time Using the Pit Paddock:

All whaanau 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. This will be the final time we are able to make use of the 'The Pit' paddock as land developments have already started next year there will be homes there.

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 participants after the run.

Ag Day: Planning Ahead

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 23rd September. All animals need to be at least 4 weeks old, healthy and well-cared for.

For now: 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. **Next term** we will get registration forms out to participating students when families have chosen their animal.

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.

Dental Clinic - Here at Horotiu School!

Dear Whanau at Horotiu School

The Mobile Dental Unit team will be onsite to provide dental care from **Tuesday 23rd June**. We are looking forward to providing dental care for those tamariki who are eligible and currently enrolled with our dental service and are overdue for their yearly dental checks.

For tamariki who are not enrolled with the service - we will issue paperwork for completing, please return these at your earliest to ensure your tamariki are seen while we are onsite.

If tamariki require treatment, we will send a consent form home, please complete and return to school with your tamariki for us to complete the required treatment before we leave the school.

We will collect your tamariki from class for their appointment. If you would like to attend the appointment please call or text the mobile dental unit on **021 356 325**.

Nga Mihi

Mobile Dental Unit 1 – Oral Health Waikato



Notices:

Thank you Matariki Ki Waikato!

Last month we were excited to hear that our grant application to Matariki Ki Waikato was successful. The Te Ohu Whakaita Trust have kindly donated \$1000 to Horotiu School to purchase some more Ki-o-Rahi equipment and a contribution towards our hangi kai. The extra Ki-o- Rahi gear will be very useful, not only for our school but also benefit our cluster schools later in the term, when we host our long running Ki-o- Rahi tournament.

Check out the [Matariki Ki Waikato](#) booklet to see the many events are happening in Waikato for Matariki, including ours here at Horotiu. Some events are free but require you to register through the 'buy tickets' button.



Ka Mau te Wehi Junior Tough Girls and Guys!

On Friday, 22 of our Year 3-8 students took part in the Junior Tough Girl Guy Challenge held at CYC Camp in Ngaruawahia. With the best weather of the week and rain having fallen earlier in earlier events, the ground was perfect for this very fun mud run!

Students and parents alike traipsed through the mud to either get to the start line or to get a good position for viewing the 1500 kids that ran the track. Over 6000 kids ran this huge interschool event last week - reportedly the best turn out of the nationwide competition.

Some of our students were muddier than ever before the race started but they were definitely up to the challenge, heading off over the hills laughing, supporting each other and enthusiastically sliding down hills and through tunnels.



Around the Rooms:



Harakeke 1 - New Entrants: Our Newest Classroom and Learners

It's been a pleasure to welcome new ākonga to our kura this term!

Harakeke 1 opened after King's Birthday weekend with 5 students, which will increase in number after the school holidays and throughout the rest of the year. The ākonga have all settled in so well and have enjoyed being guided on school life by the lovely Tiitoki tamariki.

Harakeke 1 showcased their amazing drumming skills when Strike Drumming visited for Arts Week. They have been painting some vegetables that grow from the ground to represent our Matariki star Tupuānuku for our Matariki Week (which we look forward to celebrating in Week 11). Another highlight is learning some fun sporting skills for Ripper Rugby and Hockey!



Tiitoki

Tiitoki enjoyed our art week doing drumming, making wind chimes, decorative kites, pastel work and Matariki stars. Our display will be up in our class for our Matariki celebration day at the end of the term. In maths/science we have been doing measurement using water play, building beds and chairs of the right size for different toys, and measuring things in the playground using our cut out foot size. In Physed we have been enjoying Ripper Rugby and now are learning Hockey skills.



Koromiko Tahī

Koromiko Tahī thoroughly enjoyed Arts week - drumming, creating Kereru and berries for our Matariki wall. This will be displayed in our classroom for our Matariki celebration at the end of the term. For Maths we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes and looking at what 2D shapes can be the footprint for a 3D shape. We also hosted the duffy assembly where our tamariki showed courage to lead this.



Around the Rooms:

Koromiko Rua - Year 2



We've been having an absolute blast in class lately, turning our room into a mix of a science lab and a concert hall. For Arts Week, the kids traded in paintbrushes for drumsticks and learned how to bucket drum—it's been loud, high-energy, and awesome for teaching them teamwork and rhythm. We also channeled our inner scientists by making a natural "indicator" out of red cabbage juice; the kids loved watching it magically turn blue-green when we added baking soda, which taught them all about alkaline reactions in a hands-on way.

On top of that, we've been gearing up for Matariki by diving into the stories of the stars, focusing specifically on **Waiti**, the star connected to fresh water and all the creatures living in our rivers and lakes. It's been a wonderful way to talk about caring for our local environment.



Harakeke - Year 3



During Arts Week in Week 7, we felt the beat with an energetic Strike Drumming performance and a hands-on class drumming lesson. We also celebrated Samoan Language Week with Mrs Parker by exploring the beautiful patterns and designs of traditional tapa cloth.

We cleverly connected our art with mathematics by using arrays to design our tapa cloth in neat 3 x 3 grids. Over the last two weeks, our mathematical minds have also been focused on measurement. We've been heading out with tape measures and metre rulers to explore the length and width of various objects both in the classroom and around the school.

In reading and writing, we have been diving into non-fiction texts about New Zealand manu (birds). Students are currently busy writing detailed information reports on different native birds, expanding our vocabularies with important scientific words like native, endemic, predators, nocturnal, incubate, and colonies.

In Week 8, we were lucky enough to have Whaea Gaynor spend the whole week in our classroom teaching a number of lessons. One of the highlights was writing from a bird's-eye view, with students imagining what it is like to see the world as a native New Zealand manu.

Over the next few weeks, our learning will shift towards Matariki. Our class focus will be on Hiwa-i-te-rangi, the wishing star, as we look ahead to the future and set our own goals.



Around the Rooms:



Kawakawa 4 - Year 4

Kia ora e te whaanau,

We have had a busy and exciting term so far in Kawakawa 4! We recently celebrated Arts Week and Samoan Language Week by creating visual art pieces using traditional Siapo patterns.

In Science, we have been putting on our researcher hats to explore the different states of matter. Our class has turned into a mini-lab as we investigate how solids, liquids and gases change and interact. Currently, our focus has shifted to learning about Matariki as we prepare for our upcoming Hautapu ceremony. Tamariki are working hard and learning so much about this special time of year.



Kawakawa 5 - Year 5

In Kawakawa 5, we have been busy learning about the sacred taonga that is our namesake- the Kawakawa Plant. Having previously learnt about the medicinal properties of the plant and making Kawakawa balm, we have moved to more of a research based inquiry, learning about the plant itself- identification, size, how long it lives for, where we can find it and so on. We have created some great art to go along with our work.

Arts Week in Week 7 saw us explore a range of music, drama and visual arts. A lot of this work will be on display for our Matariki celebrations in Week 11, ready for the nationwide Matariki celebrations which falls in the holidays this time. We are really looking forward to the Matariki commemorations our kura will have to honor and observe Matariki.

Last week we participated in the 'Winter Sports Tournament' here at Horotiu, showcasing the skills we had learnt during our PE sessions for the term, and our amazing ability to self manage and demonstrate outstanding sportsmanship.

Special congratulations to Cruz, who achieved Gold in the 2026 Wellington Junior Sanda Regional Championship last weekend.



Around the Rooms:

Pohutukawa - Year 6

Winter Sports Day Success! 🏆



On Friday, June 12th, we hosted Glen Massey School for an action-packed Winter Sports Day. The main goal of the day wasn't about winning trophies, but rather about "having a go" at Volleyball, Rippa Rugby, and Basketball in a friendly, supportive, and fun environment.

It was fantastic to see so many smiling faces, great sportsmanship, and students giving new sports a try with heaps of enthusiasm. I am incredibly proud of how our Pohutukawa students rose to the challenge and truly embodied our school values. They showed outstanding manaakitanga (kindness, respect, and hospitality) to our visitors from Glen Massey, making them feel welcome and supported throughout the entire day.

"Great sportsmanship isn't just about how we play the game, but how we treat our guests. Pohutukawa led by example!"



Maanuka - Year 7 & 8

In Maanuka, our classroom has been buzzing with exciting and meaningful learning over the past few weeks.

In maths, the tamariki wrapped up a unit on finding the area of composite shapes by taking their learning outside. Equipped with chalk and tape measures, they explored the playground to hunt for shapes, enthusiastically identifying trapeziums, parallelograms, and rectangles before measuring them to calculate their total areas.



Alongside this hands-on maths, we have been diving deep into the significance of Matariki, specifically focusing on the star Pōhutukawa and its role in connecting us to those who have passed on. Tamariki learned the beautiful tradition of Te Waka o Rangi, the waka that flies through the night sky to gather the souls of the departed in its grand net. This rich storytelling beautifully inspired our latest art project, where the tamariki blended deep paints to capture the essence of a night sky and thoughtfully integrated koru designs to represent their own ancestors.



Horotiu School Whaanau & Students

Please join us in:

Celebrating Matariki

Thursday 2nd July 2026

6.30-7.30AM MATARIKI HAUTAPU CEREMONY

LAYING OF THE HANGI

SOUP BREAKFAST & HOT DRINKS

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 -

FREE HANGI &/OR SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Join us in the school hall for lunch

The Being Real Parents Podcast :

Produced here in Aotearoa New Zealand, the podcast brings together evidence informed kōrero, practical ideas and lived experience to support whānau navigating the joys and challenges of raising children and teenagers.

Hosted by the Real Parents team, we bring backgrounds in psychology, social work and education, alongside many years supporting families through parenting programmes, coaching, school partnerships and community initiatives.

Recent topics include:

- Parenting neurodivergent tamariki
- Supporting children's wellbeing
- Friendships and belonging
- Behaviour and emotions
- The screen time challenge
- Grief and loss
- Resilience
- Te Tiriti and tūpuna parenting

Guests include:

The Wiggles,
Brainwave Trust,
Rebekah Lipp (Wildling Books),
Dr Cara Swit (University of Canterbury),
IHC and Ngā Awhi Mātua,
Aaron Hāpuku (University of Canterbury),
Elizabeth Emere-Harte (Tūpuna Parenting)
and Dr Lucy Hone (coming soon).

The podcast has been recognised both nationally and internationally, ranking among the **Top 100 Parenting Podcasts Worldwide** and being named a **Finalist in the New Zealand Radio & Podcast Awards**.

Many Mana Ake kaimahi, Social Workers in Schools and parenting professionals also share the podcast as a resource with parents and whānau.

FREE PARENTING RESOURCE

Evidence informed kōrero for real family life.

Practical ideas, expert insights and real kōrero to support you through the joys and challenges of raising children and teenagers.

Hosted by the Real Parents team, bringing together expertise in **psychology, social work and education** alongside the lived experience of parents and whānau.

Topics we explore

- Parenting neurodivergent tamariki
- Supporting children's wellbeing
- Friendships and belonging
- Behaviour and emotions
- The screen time challenge
- Grief and loss
- Resilience
- Te Tiriti and tūpuna parenting

Featuring kōrero with
Brainwave Trust • Rebekah Lipp (Wildling Books) • University of Canterbury researchers
IHC • Aaron Hāpuku • Elizabeth Emere-Harte (Tūpuna Parenting)

Coming soon
Dr Lucy Hone (wellbeing and resilience)

Listen wherever you get your podcasts or visit realparents.org.nz

Top 100 Parenting Podcasts Worldwide

NZ Radio & Podcast Awards Finalist



If you think this is something that would support your whānau, feel free to have a listen. All episodes are free and available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and other major podcast platforms. Listen to the Being Real Parents Podcast: realparents.org.nz/podcast

Keep being awesome!
Anna and the Real Parents team

JOURNEY KIDS WEEK 1

6TH JULY - 10TH JULY 2026

MONDAY

\$59.99

Taiaha Training & Tiger tag

An educational and fun day learning the art of taiaha (using a Māori weapon) and painting rākau (Māori stick game). Then we'll play a hilarious game of tiger tag, to tucker us out!



TUESDAY

\$59.99

Pancake Races and Painting Faces

We will compete in a number of team challenges to gain the tools and ingredients we need to make pancakes! After we bake and decorate these, we'll round out the day with some fantastical face painting.



OR

WEDNESDAY

\$59.99

Space & Sequins Day

An unforgettable day of space fun! We will work in teams to build spaceships, and launch our very own air rockets outside! Then we will create sparkly sequin art pieces, for gifting or keeping at home!



OUT DAY

\$139.99

Te Awamutu Space Centre & Gardens

A fascinating visit to the Te Awamutu Space Centre, with a chance to earn "astronaut wings"! Followed by the Pioneer Walk, to the gardens and playground.

THURSDAY

\$59.99

Roadside Stall and Dodgeball

Kids will construct and run their own roadside stall, being shopkeepers selling delicious bakery treats. Then we'll play dodgeball, to test our coordination skills.

13TH JULY - 17TH JULY

WEEK 2

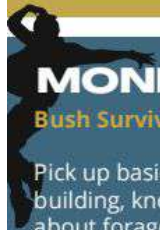


MONDAY

\$59.99

Bush Survival and Dance Lesson

Pick up basic survival skills about gadget building, knots and lashing and learning about forageable foods, for your outdoor enthusiast! Switching gear to a fun dance lesson, to get us grooving. Bring your boots and your dancing energy!



TUESDAY

\$59.99

Storm Simulation + slipper making

A science-filled day where we will create an electrical storm, raindrops and even a tornado! Children will make their very own pair of fleece slippers, a cosy shoe perfect for winter.



OR

OUT DAY

\$199.99

Ice skating in Auckland

A riveting trip to Paradise Ice Skating Rink in Botany! Learn to skate, with lots of laughing. Remember to bundle up warm, provide a full change of clothes (with socks!) and bring a bike helmet if you can.

WEDNESDAY

\$59.99

Talent Show and Clay

An unmissable day of entertainment and clay. Kids will get a chance to show us their skills (think dancing, singing, any other talents!) in our very own talent show! Then we'll model clay creations using air dry clay.



THURSDAY

\$59.99

Archery and Ants

A thrilling day of archery practice and other sporting activities, to challenge our coordination and strength. Followed by science afternoon with a fascinating session on the amazing ant, creating an ant farm.



BOOK EARLY, NUMBERS LIMITED!



FRIDAY

Wearable Art + Jam Tarts

\$59.99

We will create our own wearable art creations, from new and recycled materials. Children can then parade their costumes, with prizes for best and most creative designs! We'll finish with delicious jam tarts.



To book please head to www.journeykids.co.nz & click **BOOK NOW** and select HOROTIU SCHOOL before booking. We are WINZ registered and OSCAR SUBSIDY supported. Children must bring their own lunch and snacks.
Programme Run time: 7:30am - 5:30pm
Programme location: Horotiu School
Phone Number: 0273033493



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

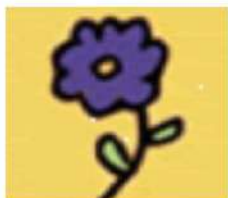
For OSCAR subsidy applications and queries: OSCAR@journeykids.co.nz

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

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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MUSIC TUITION**



**Drum, Guitar and Piano
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**NEW WORLD
Ngaruawahia**

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

