



HOROTIU SCHOOL

Te Kura o Horotiu

Horotiu Bridge Road, RD8, Hamilton 3288
(07) 829 9892

office@horotiu.school.nz
www.horotiu.school.nz



SAVE THE DATES!

2026 Term Dates:

Term 3: Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September

Term 4: Monday 12 October - Monday 14 December

TERM 3:

Disco

- Thursday 27th August 2:30-5pm

Daffodil Day

- Friday 28th August

Koroneihana

- Monday 31st Aug - Friday 4th September

School Photos

- Friday 11th September

Te Wiki o Te Reo Maaori:

- Monday 14th - Sunday 20th 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

TERM 4:

Pōwhiri:

- Monday 12th October 9.15am

Y7/8 Technology:

- Tuesday 13th-Friday 16th October

Flower Show:

- Monday 19th October (note change of date from Week 1 to Week 2, Term 4).



Panui/ Newsletter: August 2026

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

Kia ora e te whaanau,

This term, our learning focus is Social Sciences, with a particular emphasis on civics and society as we head towards the election later this year. Our tamariki are exploring how communities work, how decisions are made, and how people can participate and have their voices heard.

Term 3 reports are also just around the corner. These will share your child's progress, next learning steps and goals for the remainder of the year. If you have any questions or would like to koorero about how you can support learning at home, please contact your child's kaiako.

As a Duffy School, we were fortunate to have the Duffy Theatre visit last week. Alongside plenty of laughs, the performance shared an important message about the value of reading, using our imaginations, making good choices and not letting screens and gaming take over our lives. One of the key messages was how constant screen and gaming use can make it harder for children to concentrate, persist when learning becomes challenging, and enjoy activities that don't provide the same instant rewards. This reflects a major international review led by the University of Auckland, which found consistent links between higher screen use and later difficulties with attention, planning, impulse control and self-regulation.

As a school, we see every day that children who are well-rested, active and engaged with the people around them are often better able to focus, cope with challenges and enjoy learning. Even small changes at home – such as screen-free meals, keeping devices out of bedrooms, or swapping half an hour of screen time for a game outside or reading together – can make a real difference.

Ngaa mihi nui - Jo





Notices:

Welcome to our two new School Board Members

There have been some changes around our School Board, with one of our members moving into Hamilton. We thank Aaron for his contribution to our kura and wish him well. We are delighted to welcome two new Board members, Aiden Cossar and Vic Apiata. Both bring valuable skills, perspectives and a strong commitment to our school community. Nau mai, haere mai – it is great to have you on board!

Whaanau Survey

A big thank you to everyone who completed our recent whaanau survey. We received some fantastic feedback, giving us valuable information to guide our planning and decision-making for the future. Congratulations to our three prize-draw winners — Ganga, Amelia and Naia — who have each won a \$50 voucher! Your feedback helps us understand what is working well and where we can continue to grow. Ngaa mihi for having your say.

Friends of Horotiu School – We Want You!

Part of our survey results have led us on a path looking for parents, whaanau and community members who would enjoy helping us bring people together and support great opportunities for our tamariki. The group will help plan a major fundraising event every second year, with a smaller, relaxed community event in between. Whether you're full of ideas, great at organising, have useful connections or are simply happy to lend a hand, we'd love to hear from you!



Emergency Procedures: Real and/or Drills

At Horotiu School, safety comes first. Last week we ran a Fire Drill at 8.45am just before the school bell. This helped to remind students and adults alike that an emergency can take place at any given time. It was a great test of our procedures and we were pleased how all those on-site and outside the school, responded.

In an emergency all those on-site (parents and visitors included) need to follow the following steps: For **fire**, **meet on the field**; for an **earthquake**, **'drop, cover, and hold'**; and for a **lockdown**, **enter the closest classroom immediately and stay away from windows, doors etc and from view if needed. For anyone outside of the gate, please do not enter the school. Remain outside the gate - unless it is not safe to do so.**

Please note that lockdowns can be for a passing swarm of bees, a gas leak and/or a roaming dog etc. Parents and whaanau are asked not to come to school in a lockdown situation. In such an event, communication will be sent home as to when it is safe to enter the property and how to be reunited with your children.

The school will communicate when it is safe to enter the property and be reunited with your children once everything is checked and appropriate to do so. This is a timely reminder that if your contact details have changed, please email the office@horotiu.school.nz and let us know.



Around the Rooms:

Harakeke 1 - New Entrants: Our Newest Classroom and Learners



It has been a fantastic start in Harakeke 1 as our tamariki have been getting to know one another, welcoming our newest classmates, and preparing to greet even more friends joining us soon! In the classroom, our learners have been diving into literacy and numeracy, strengthening their fine motor skills, and happily settling into our daily school routines.

A recent highlight was definitely our kura's Colour Run - it was wonderful to connect with whaanau over engaging exercise, vibrant colours, a delicious sausage sizzle, and a special visit from the ice cream truck!



Tiitoki



Tiitoki have been busy planting their class potato and bean plants which are starting to grow. We have been talking about civics and society for our topic. For maths we have been looking at numbers to 20 and how they are made. We have been getting very good at our writing skills and enjoying some co-operative running games for Physed.



Koromiko Tahi



What a lovely start we have had in Koromiko Tahi. We have planted our Radish seeds which have already started to sprout with the love and care each tamariki have been giving their seeds.

We have started learning about nouns, verbs and adjectives and how we can make our writing more interesting by using them.

The Colour Run was a massive highlight, with everyone having so much fun while being active. A huge congratulations to Kalaya who went to Interschool Cross Country and placed 1st for the 5 year old girl category. Tu Meke!



Around the Rooms:

Koromiko Rua - Year 2



Our hands-on learning is already in full swing inside the classroom! The children have loved planting pea seeds in individual cups, keeping a close eye on their daily growth as they sprout on our windowsills. We are looking forward to seeing how big they will be by the time it is Ag Day. On the high-energy side of things, our recent Colour Run was a massive success!

This term, our Civics and Society inquiry takes us close to home as we explore Horotiu and its surrounding environment. Students will be diving into local history, understanding our place in the local community, and learning what makes our region unique. We look forward to sharing more of their discoveries with you as the term unfolds!



Harakeke - Year 3

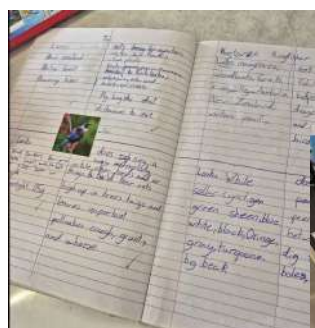
Check out what's been happening in Harakeke this Term!

Harakeke 3 has been packed with exciting learning and new discoveries this term!

In **reading and writing**, we have been looking at non-fiction texts to learn about features like headings, labels, and glossaries. We put these reading skills into practice by researching native New Zealand birds (*manu*). Using Chromebooks, QR codes to watch videos about our chosen birds and gathered information into four key categories: what they look like, where they live, what they do, and what they eat. We practiced taking notes using only key words before writing introductions and detailed paragraphs. Now, we are publishing our findings on Google Docs while picking up awesome new computer skills along the way!

In **Maths**, we have been exploring money. We are practicing adding different amounts together and figuring out how much change is left over when spending money.

It has been a busy, fun-filled start to the term, and we are excited to keep learning!



Around the Rooms:



Kawakawa 4 - Year 4

Kia ora e te whaanau,

We are excited to introduce *Taataki Kupu*, our new spelling programme that uses a structure literacy framework to build strong overall encoding skills. To ensure all tamariki are supported and learning at their correct levels, we are working closely alongside Whaea Kristie and our Learning Assistant, Mrs Latif.

In P.E., we have been retraining ourselves on bike safety using our *ABCD's* check – Air, Brakes, Chain/Control and the Drop test. This prep is getting us ready for an exciting bike ride during our EOTC Camp in Term 4. Keep an eye out on ClassDojo for more details coming near the end of term.



Kawakawa 5 - Year 4



Kawakawa 5 has been very sports-focused this term, celebrating both the FIFA World Cup and the Commonwealth Games. We have integrated these themes right across the curriculum: predicting probability and graphing results in Maths, researching the participating countries, and learning about the Commonwealth—specifically who belongs to it and why. This focus has translated into a variety of team-building skills and games in Physical Education, including class favourites such as football, basketball, and netball. Over the next few weeks, we will be moving on to racket-based sports.

As the winter cold has begun to bite, we have also been extensively graphing and comparing the daily weather. By plotting the hourly temperature each day using MetService data, we have compared different days and times to build a practical understanding of temperature variations and the mathematical language needed to communicate our findings.

Finally, our Inquiry focus on "Rules and Laws" has been exceptionally engaging. The students have learned the key differences between the two and are developing a strong appreciation for the role both play in a healthy, functioning society.





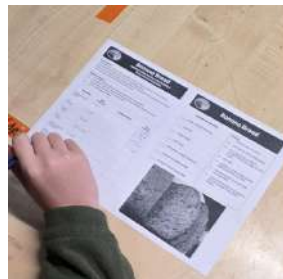
Around the Rooms:

Pohutukawa - Year 6

Our Year 6 students recently turned their classroom into a buzzing bakery and branding agency! Students engaged in a real-world learning experience that connected mathematical concepts directly to everyday problem-solving and communication.

To master adding fractions with unlike denominators, students rolled up their sleeves and got baking. They gathered and combined ingredients calculating total amounts by adding fractions together, by finding common denominators to combine fractional parts, they saw firsthand how mathematical precision ensures baking success!

Once their banana bread was in the oven, students shifted into creative gear. They explored how language creates impact by designing custom packaging for their loaves. Drawing on persuasive language techniques, students created eye-catching designs tailored to engage an audience. Learning has never tasted so sweet or looked so professional!



Maanuka - Year 7 & 8

Our recent Leadership Day at Pirongia Lodge with Glen Massey School was such a fantastic experience! Teaming up with our neighbouring school, our tamariki jumped headfirst into awesome physical challenges that really pushed them to give things a go. Throughout the day, tamariki showed amazing resilience as they made brave choices under pressure and cheered each other on with heaps of encouragement and support.

Back in the classroom, that same energy is buzzing through our literacy sessions as tamariki jump into persuasive writing. Right now, tamariki are busy crafting super creative travel brochures to convince people to visit a Commonwealth country of their choice! To make their writing really stand out, they're learning a specific paragraph setup that keeps their thoughts nice and clear, alongside clever language features like strong action words, emotive descriptions, and rhetorical questions. On top of that, tamariki have been exploring modern technology by learning how to write effective AI prompts to help design and generate eye-catching title pages for their brochures. It's been so cool seeing our young writers combine smart digital skills with awesome writing strategies to bring their destinations to life!



Keep Up the Great Work of Getting Your Children to School Each Day!

We are really pleased with the increasing trend of students showing up at school every day, every week and of parents communicating when their child(ren) are away sick, have an appointment and/or are going to be away due to other circumstances. We have more students arriving on time ready to go at 8.50am which enables all students to be fully-prepared and organised for the day.

Parents - you may not realise how much your commitment to getting your children to school each day counts but it does! Every consistent day and week of being at school adds to your child's learning journey, setting them up for future success! Keep up the awesome work as whānau. We know it's a team effort.



KEEP THE ROUTINE GOING!

Winter can make getting to school a little harder, but regular routines help tamariki and rangatahi learn, connect with friends and feel part of their school community.

Whānau Tip
TERM 3



Every day at school
is a step towards
a brighter future.

HOW YOU CAN HELP



KEEP ROUTINES CONSISTENT

Regular bedtimes and morning routines make a big difference.



ENCOURAGE ATTENDANCE

If your child is well enough to be at school, encourage them to go.



LET THE SCHOOL KNOW

Let the school know if your child is unwell or if something is affecting their attendance.



REACH OUT EARLY

If you need support, reach out early – schools and attendance services are here to help.



STAY CONNECTED

Positive partnerships between whānau and school help tamariki and rangatahi thrive.



WHY IT MATTERS

Every day at school provides opportunities to learn, build friendships and develop confidence. Returning to school as soon as possible after illness or absence helps tamariki and rangatahi stay connected and reduces the likelihood of attendance becoming an ongoing concern.

*We're in this
together.*



**ATTEND TODAY,
ACHIEVE TOMORROW!**



Thank you for supporting
your tamariki and rangatahi
to be at school, every day.

Daffodil Day & Annual Ball Run - Friday 28th August!

Our Annual Daffodil Day is fast approaching. We have bouncer balls for this year's race! All profit goes to the Waikato Region of The Cancer Society. \$2 per ball. Please see the poster for details. Check out the QR Code or click on this link to [pay directly](#) to our Horotiu page.

HOROTIU SCHOOL'S

START!
BALLS TIPPED OUT

2026

**DAFFODIL DAY RACE
BALL RACE!**

1. BUY A BALL
Purchase an official Daffodil Day entry ball at the School Office for \$2. Your name will be written on it!
(PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO GLOBAL PRICE INCREASES, THE BALLS ARE SMALLER THAN PREVIOUS YEARS.)

2. SUBMIT FROM YOUR HUB
Balls will be collected and categorized by Hub in dedicated containers.

3. WATCH THE BIG START!
On Race Day, all balls will be simultaneously released. Track their exciting progress!

PRIZES!
WIN top 3 places in each race!
Multiple spot prizes up for grabs!

**YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS!
CANCER SOCIETY NZ**

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

1. Scan the QR code to pay directly to NZ Cancer Society.
(NOTE: In payment reference, include your child's full name and classroom number!)
2. Alternatively, place your order and payment through your classroom teacher.

REMEMBER: WEAR YOUR BEST DAFFODIL COLOURS! (Yellow, Green, White)

Welcome to our New Members of the Team:

This term we welcomed two new members to our Horotiu School team - Whaea Marcelle Waters and Matua Billy Jackson-Taha.

Both Marcelle and Billy work in our junior school to support all learners including those who are new to school. Marcelle is also going to be supporting learners throughout the wider school, specifically those whose second language is English.

Both Marcelle and Billy have connections to our school and we feel very lucky to have them both join our team.



Whaea Marcelle



Matua Billy

Lunchtime Maths:

With New Zealand Maths Week on the calendar our students have been out and about celebrating their maths skills with practical activities in the playground. Remember there are plenty of ways to support your child(ren) in their Maths. Inviting your child to follow recipes, measure and mix in the kitchen, measure out the length of the vege gardens using footsteps, a tape measure or just a broom handle. Discussion and problem-solving is all part of the process and makes learning real and fun!



Visual Glimpse at Recent Events: School Colour Run & Interschool Cross-Country



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

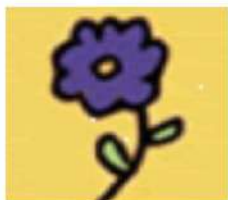
For OSCAR subsidy applications and queries: OSCAR@journeykids.co.nz

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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Respectful



Be a
Positive
Role-Model



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Come and Visit us at ChocolateWorks - Horotiu's very own
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We look forward to seeing you soon!

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Shop Hours: 10am to 4pm weekdays