HOROTIU SCHOOL

Te Kura o Horotiu

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www.horotiu.school.nz

SAVE THE DATES!

TERM 4 DATES:

School Athletics: (NB: Separate days this year)
- Junior Athletics: Wednesday 4th Nov 11-12 noon
- Senior Athletics (am) and Schoolwide Sprints Finals/Relays (pm): Thursday 5th November

Elections : Voting available at the School Hall
- Saturday 7 November

Swimming Lessons Start
- All students to bring togs & towel every day please
- Monday 9 November

Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC):
- Kawakawa 4: Wednesday 11- Friday 13 Nov
- Kawakawa 5: Wednesday 18 - Thursday 19 Nov
- Koromiko Rua & Harakeke 3:
  - Thursday 19 Nov-Friday 20 November
- Maanuka: Tuesday 24 Nov - Friday 27 Nov

Whole School Assembly:
- Friday 13 November (led by Harakeke)

Interschool Athletics: (8-13 yrs Reps)
- Friday 20th November @ Bremworth Park

Whole School Assembly:
- Friday 27 November (led by Tiitoki & Harakeke 1)

Schoolwide Future Class Transition Day:
- Thursday 3rd December

Kapa Haka & Road Wardens Trip
- Friday 4 December

Year 8 Dinner
- Monday 8 December

Junior School Major Reward
- Wednesday 9 December

Whole School Service Awards
- Thursday 10 December 11am

Whole School Prizegiving:
- Thursday 10 December (evening)

Senior School Major Reward & Final Full Day of School:
- Friday 11 December

School closes at 12 noon Monday 14 December.
No bus running.

Panui/ Newsletter: October 2026

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

Kia ora Horotiu whaanau,

We're already in our fourth and final term of the year. We've hit the ground running, with the Flower Show and Kapa Haka Festival already behind us! It was fantastic to see our aakonga taking part in these kaupapa and our whaanau coming along to support them.

Our Kapa Haka roopuu made us proud at the interschool festival hosted by Whatawhata School. A huge thank you to our kaiako for their time, energy and guidance, and to everyone who supported our tamariki to take the stage with confidence.

We have a big term of camps and education outside the classroom ahead, with exciting experiences planned for every class. These opportunities help our tamariki build confidence, strengthen friendships and take their learning into new places. Thank you to the staff and whaanau who make these experiences possible — there is plenty of organising behind every adventure!

We're also looking ahead to 2027, with class organisation and student placements being worked through. We'll share more information over the coming weeks. In the meantime, please put Thursday 3rd December in your diaries for 'Future Class Day', when students will spend time in their 2027 class.

There's plenty to look forward to as we make the most of our final term together.

Ngaa mihi,

Jo

Notices:

Staff Changes: Welcomes, Farewells and Bye for Now!

There are exciting times ahead for Whaea Kiri Kaywood, who is preparing to welcome her baby later this term. We wish Kiri and her whaanau all the best for the new arrival. Matua Gig will take over her class when her parental leave begins. Our students already know Matua Gig well, which will help ensure a smooth transition.

Next year, we’ll warmly welcome Miss Madi Whitfield to the Horotiu teaching team to cover Kiri’s parental leave. Miss Whitfield joins us from nearby Pukete School, and we’re excited about the passion for teaching and learning she will bring to our kura.

Sadly we also have to farewell Billy Jackson-Taha who works as a learning assistant in the Harakeke space. Billy has been accepted into Police College and will start his training in Wellington, midway through November. We are very proud of Billy and although we need to farewell him as part of our staff, he’ll always remain a valuable member of our school community. Thanks Billy for all you have done for our students and staff. Come back and visit after you’ve graduated!

School Athletics

You may have heard that our classes are out learning about and practicing their track and field skills this term, throwing frisbees and discus, sockputs and shotputs, sprinting and leaping. This year we have split the Junior and the Senior Field events to run over two days. This frees up the fields for groups to spread out for each of their rotations.

The **Junior athletic events** will involve all students from Year 0-2 (Tiitoki, Harakeke 1, Koromiko Tahi and Koromiko Rua) from **11-12pm on Wednesday 4th November**. **All students from Harakeke 3 up** (Year 3-8) will participate in the **Senior Athletics on Thursday 5th November** - field events and sprint heats will be in the morning and **schoolwide sprints and relays (including the Juniors) will take place in the afternoon**. Whaanau are all welcome to come and support our students in these events.

Bookfair

Book fair will be in our school hall from Monday 2 November till Thursday 5 November. It will be open for parents, friends and whaanau to buy books for their families every day from 8.00am till 9.00am and 2.30pm till 5pm. Every purchase gives our school points to purchase books for our school library. Books make great Xmas presents so come along and do some Xmas shopping. There will be a ‘Guess how many bookworms in the jar’ competition for everyone who purchases something.

We will be having a Book Character Dress Up Day on Tuesday 3rd November for the whole school and there will be prizes for best costumes. Any questions about book fair please see Mrs Crook. Look forward to seeing you there!

Future Class Transition Day : Save the Date!

Thursday 3rd of December is our annual ‘Future Class Day’. On this day pupils will spend the day in their 2027 class making connections with their 2027 teacher. Over the years we have found this a very useful day to help with first day nerves for pupils, parents and teachers.

The day starts in the pupil’s current room and finishes with students being picked up from their new room. Parents/caregivers are invited to spend the afternoon with their child/ren in their 2027 space and to pick them up from there at the end of the day.

Notices:

Swimming Season Begins: Pack the Kids’ Togs Every Day Please

Our school pool is being prepared for the summer season. All classes will start daily swimming lessons from Monday 9th November - please make sure your child has togs and towel packed each day. We have restocked the pool resources so there’s plenty of fun to be had as your child gets more confident in and around the pool.

School Families Pool Access:

The pool will open for family use from Monday 16th November. Access to the pool is through an online app and this is arranged and paid for through the school office from Monday 9th November. More information will be forwarded out on Dojo closer to the time.

School Photos:

Class and individual photos have been proofed and are currently being finalised by the team at Shot360 Photography. Links will be shared out to families as soon as they are complete for ordering directly online.

Bus Changes for 2027

Due to low morning numbers and increasing costs, the morning school bus service will stop from the start of 2027. The afternoon service will remain unchanged at this time.

Coffee Cart On-Site Tuesday

We recently had Hema visit with his coffee cart ‘Orchard and Dough’ to supply hot drinks during the morning drop-offs. Although not here regularly at this stage, we are excited to say he’ll back on Tuesday 3rd November again should you wish to purchase a coffee on your way to work.



Keep Us In The Loop Please

If things have changed for your family and child next year and they will not be returning to school as initially expected, please let us know. We are currently planning for 2027 classes and these details are very helpful in looking ahead. Equally important is if your child has a younger sibling expecting to start even if its further into the year, please let us know so we can add them to our list.















Around the Rooms:

Harakeke 1 - New Entrants: Our Newest Classroom and Learners








What a fun and busy term it has been so far in Harakeke 1! Not only have we been working hard in literacy and numeracy, but we’ve already been on two super exciting trips and it's only week 4! First, we learnt all about our class namesake, the harakeke plant. Matua Gig led us on a hiikoi to the awa to see the harakeke plantings, sharing the plant's special significance, tikanga, and traditional harvesting protocols with us. We also had a blast on our trip to the A&P show! There were so many gorgeous animals to see, stroke, and learn about - and riding on the bus was definitely a highlight all on its own!

Tiitoki

We enjoyed this term’s Flower Show and made some good creations. Thanks to all the parent and grandparent helpers, we finished early and Whaea Sav our student teacher showed us how to draw flowers.

We have been working hard on our ‘Food and Nutrition’ unit sorting cards under different headings and we have been doing lots of planning and writing in our special *Te Whare Tapa Whaa* workbooks.

We are getting very good at our reading and are working on expression and some people are starting to read to our class.








Koromiko Tahi

It’s been a busy start to Term 4. We have been practicing lots for our up and coming Junior Athletics day, where tamariki are learning all about the different techniques to use for each event. We have been discussing all the different types of fruit and vegetables, which ones we have tried and liked and which ones we haven't, and don't like. Everyone enjoyed the Flower Show - Creating lots of different creations that they were so proud of!

We then have enjoyed going to the A&P Show, where tamariki saw lots of different animals, art and enjoyed lots of different experiences, it was a fun day had by all.








Around the Rooms:

Koromiko Rua - Year 2

What a busy and exciting few weeks we’ve had! Recently, our class had a fantastic time out at Te Uku for Tabloids Day. Under the bright, hot sun, everyone gave it their all, showing wonderful sportsmanship, teamwork, and energy across all the fun events.

Back on home ground, we have been hard at work practising our running, jumping, and throwing events in preparation for our upcoming athletics. Excitement is definitely building, and we are all looking forward to showing off our skills at the Junior Athletics Day soon!

In the classroom, our young authors have been flexing their critical thinking skills during our persuasive writing unit. The children have crafted some convincing arguments on two very important topics: *Why We Should Have a Three-Day Weekend Every Week* and *Why Every Child Should Get Pocket Money!*

Finally, our upcoming camp is just around the corner! The students are counting down the days, and we look forward to sharing all our stories, photos, and highlights with you in the next newsletter.






Harakeke - Year 3

October has been full of learning and adventure in Harakeke 3! Our student teacher, Whaea Gaynor, sparked incredible enthusiasm for persuasive writing with a mystery box. Students crafted convincing arguments on whether or not to open it; from needing new glue sticks and blue pens to admitting the suspense was too distracting! Their powerful reasoning convinced Whaea Gaynor to open the box on Friday, revealing fun squishies and clues to hidden chocolate treats.

On Thursday last week, our class took to the river trail on a bike ride to the green bridge alongside Matua Gig, Whaea Gaynor, and Casper’s mum. Thanks to Matua Gig's rich local knowledge, students discovered the history of the bridge and the awa, admired student mosaic artworks created by past students, and checked on native plants previously planted along the trail. It was an awesome boost for both our taha tinana and taha hinengaro!

We have also been busy preparing for athletics day next Thursday, and it has been so awesome to see students challenge themselves and push through the hard, when learning new skills and techniques. There were some huge breakthroughs in high jump specifically, where several students had their first-ever success at landing safely on the mat without knocking off the bar.
We are looking forward to our upcoming camp and can’t wait to share what we get up to in the next school newsletter.







Around the Rooms:

Kawakawa 4 - Year 4

Kia ora e te whaanau,

It has been a wonderful few weeks in Kawakawa 4. We have loved having our student teacher, Miss Frank, with us for her 5 week placement. A huge congratulations to all our tamariki for their incredible creations at the Flower Show; we are so proud of your hard work and creativity. Meanwhile, Athletics Training is in full swing, and everyone is giving it their all.

Looking ahead, excitement is building for our upcoming camp! Next week, a team from the Waikato Regional Council will be running cycle skills workshops to help prepare tamariki for our bike-ride to The Point in Ngaruawahia.





Kawakawa 5 - Year 5

Term 4 is packed with excitement as we head toward the end of the year!

We kicked off with an amazing Flower Show, where our students explored a range of art activities and showcased incredible creativity. Most of our Kawakawa 5 students were focused, organized, and brave enough to try new things—resulting in some truly fantastic finished products!

Alongside their art, students have been honing their skills for school athletics day, as well as exploring outdoor cooking on the fire pits with Matua Gig to learn about *kai* and its *mauri* for our Food & Nutrition inquiry. In literacy, the children are hard at work writing detailed reports on the fascinating animals they will see on our upcoming trip to Kelly Tarlton’s.

Looking further into the term, we are excited for cycle skills training, school camp, and warmer weather so the pool can open for essential summer water safety lessons. It is set to be an incredible final term!







Around the Rooms:

Pohutukawa - Year 6

Connecting with Matamata Primary: We were thrilled to host Year 6 students from Matamata Primary School last week! Pohutukawa class took on the role of leaders, guiding their guests safely on a bike ride along the Awa while exploring culturally significant sites along the way. They also passed on valuable outdoor skills, teaching the Matamata students how to build fires and cook their own lunch. A big thank you to Pohutukawa for being such brilliant hosts and role models!

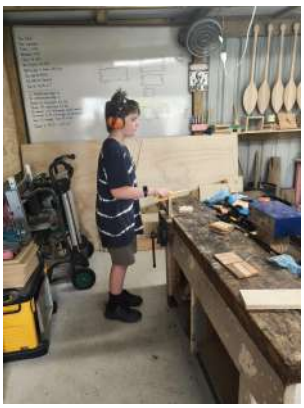






Maanuka - Year 7 & 8









Term 4 is officially underway, and our Year 7 and 8 tamariki have hit the ground running! They’ve just wrapped up their final round of Tech for the year, and it’s been wonderful to see how much their confidence and practical skills have grown over the first three terms - they’re tackling hands-on tasks with real precision and independence now. Alongside their classroom work, athletics training is in full swing as we prepare for our upcoming Senior Athletics Day, and the excitement among our sports-minded students is absolutely contagious.

In the classroom, our current inquiry focus is all about food and nutrition. Tamariki are diving into how we fuel our bodies, and I'm really looking forward to weaving their discoveries directly into our camp menu planning so they can see their learning come to life. It’s set to be a fantastic, action-packed final term!

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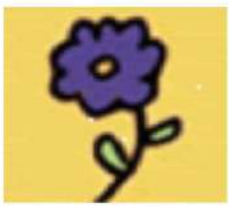
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For general Enquiries: admin@journeykids.co.nz



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
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For more information
Horotiu Playcentre Facebook Page
Email: horotiu@playcentre.org.nz



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