

# Newsletter

**6<sup>th</sup> December 2023-Term 4 Week 9**

Kia ora koutou

As we approach the culmination of another enriching year, with just eight school days to go, it is opportune to reflect on our journey and look forward to what exciting prospects are ahead for our school. Time and again visitors to our school, tell us what a beautiful school we have, that our outlook across the panorama of farmland is stunning and that our students are friendly, open, and welcoming. Add to that, dedicated staff who work extremely hard to ensure the academic success, whatever that looks like for each individual and the well-being of our students, you can see how fortunate we are. We are very lucky to live and work where we live, and to be free to express our opinions without fear.

Thank you to all those in the community who took part in our comprehensive survey, sharing your insights with us that will shape our Strategic Plan for the next 2 years. The Board has met on several occasions and is in the final stages of completing the Plan. Once it is finalised after our meeting next week, it will be published on the school website for all to view.

From the three core Strategic aims of Communication - Connection, Behaviour and Achievement, the Annual Plan for implementation in 2024 is taking shape. We anticipate potential adjustments in Education from the change of government, our commitment is to our students, and it will be business as usual.

An important outcome of our consultation process has been the clarification from our local iwi that our school's name Horahora should not be one word but 2, Hora Hora. In the past, our school's name has been written as Horahora, HoraHora and Hora Hora. We have adjusted the resources we can do immediately to reflect this change and will gradually update the rest as resources and items are renewed and/or replaced.

I am pleased to share that I have been granted a Sabbatical by the Teachers' Council for Term 1 next year. The Board is actively working on securing a relieving principal during my absence and we anticipate they will announce the appointment within the next three weeks. During my time away, I will delve into local stories and history, finding resources to help us to teach these and taking some time out for rest and rejuvenation. I will be back in Term 2 refreshed and ready to embrace whatever the rest of 2024 brings.

A big thank you to those parents and grandparents who joined us in supporting their children and grandchildren during our recent school Athletics day. We were blessed with the weather, fine but not too hot, and all students participated enthusiastically their very best and enjoying themselves in the process.

We had eight of our students represent the Rural Schools Team at the Cambridge Interschools' Athletics recently. It is great to see our students being able to represent us at these events and experience larger competitive events. Congratulations to you all!

In 2024, we are making slight adjustments to the configuration of our classes to alleviate pressure on Tawa especially as we welcome new entrants throughout the year. Tawa will be the smallest class with Year 1 & 2 students, Karaka will start with Year 3 & 4 students (with some Year 2 students transferring mid-year), and Rimu will have Year 5 to 8 students. This configuration is flexible and will be adjusted as needed for the best educational outcomes of all our students.

Next Wednesday, we celebrate the end of year with a Fun Day at Finlay Park with fun games, team sports and water activities, Parents and siblings are welcome to join us at any time.

Reports and sample books will be distributed next Wednesday. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher, and arrange a meeting before the term ends.

I am excited to announce that Sara Williams, the current Karaka class teacher, is now a permanent part-time member of staff as my Principal Release. We look forward to working together again next year, and beyond.

We are also pleased to share that Mr Fawcett is finally on the road to recovery, with the expectation that by the end of the holidays, he will be fit and ready to return.

As we approach the end of the year, and before we switch off for a well-earned break, teachers will meet on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of December to plan for 2024.

Thank you all, for your strong support throughout the year. Your commitment helps to create the thriving and supportive environment for our students.

Joanne, Chantal, Sara, Liz and Sue.

Dear Community, Parents, families and students,

On behalf of the Horahora School Board, I would like to thank you for your contribution to our Horahora School community consultation. We feel very privileged to have your feedback and ideas.

Over the last six weeks, we have had our surveys out, held workshops, conducted interviews and spoken to as many people as possible. We have received lots of information on what our school does well, what is appreciated about our school and also what we can improve on. We are thrilled to have so much information to guide our strategic plan and help us become the very best school we can be for students who will come here as they begin school, our students we already have and who will leave us to go to high school, and our community.

We have information on Horahora School's warm rural family feel, our teaching and learning, our communication, our achievement and reporting to parents on this, our school team, our local curriculum opportunities and much more.

The Board and the school team will use this information to assist us in drafting our strategic plan and annual implementation plan, as well as informing our school operations and how the school runs - what we can build on and what we can work on.

We look forward to sharing the plans with you in the near future. Thank you again for your time and your contributions.

We would like to wish Joanne a wonderful sabbatical after her many years of contribution to our school. Joanne will be away for term one 2024 and the board's appointments committee is in the process of selecting a relief principal. We are committed to implementing our new strategic plan so will hit the ground running in term one.

Have a great Christmas and New Year.

Roger Laxon - Board of Trustees Presiding Member

Hi everyone,

A big thank you to all the PTA members, our sponsors, and supporters for a wonderful year of fundraising. Don't forget we are having a Softball and Carols evening at the school on the 14<sup>th</sup>. All welcome!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From Mary-Ellen PTA chairperson

Dates to remember:

**Last day of Term 4 2023:**

Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December at  
1:pm

**First day of Term 1 2024:**

31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

**Teacher only day:**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Waitangi Day: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>**

February 2024



**Softball and Carols**  
**Save the Date!**  
**Thursday December 14th from 5.30pm**  
**Horahora School**

**BBQ**  
**Food**  
**Candles**

**Ice Cream**  
**Raffle**

Horahora PTA invites the community to join us for softball and carols

The poster features a background image of a softball field with two yellow softballs in the foreground. The text is overlaid in various colors and fonts, including green, red, and white. The bottom of the poster has a blue banner with white text.