



Henderson South School

Caring Sharing Learning | Cultural Creative Critical Thinkers

Thursday 7th August 2025

Principal's Message

Kia ora whānau,

It's been a wonderful term so far, and we're proud to celebrate the amazing progress our students are making in their learning—particularly in Writing. Their efforts and achievements in the classroom have been truly inspiring. Please join us in congratulating them on their hard work and success!

Outstanding Progress in Writing at Henderson South School!

We're excited to share some fantastic news—our students are making exceptional gains in their Writing!

*This journey began with a strong focus on handwriting, led by professional development with renowned literacy expert **Dr Helen Walls**. Our teachers have embraced new strategies, becoming even more confident and skilled in helping students strengthen their writing foundations.*

Why Handwriting Matters

You might think handwriting is just about neatness—but it's so much more! When children can form letters fluently and automatically, it frees up their brainpower to focus on storytelling, structure, and creativity.

*Clear handwriting helps students read and edit their work, take pride in their efforts, and develop a sense of ownership over their learning. This renewed emphasis on handwriting has led to improvements not just in how students write, but in **what** they write—producing imaginative, thoughtful, and engaging pieces across many different styles.*

More Than Just Neat Letters

We're seeing students demonstrate a deeper understanding of writing and storytelling. By strengthening their handwriting skills, we've opened the door for them to express themselves more clearly and confidently.

This success reflects our school's commitment to high-quality teaching and learning and aligns perfectly with the New Zealand Government's goals for improving literacy. We're so proud of our students—and of our teachers, whose dedication and passion have helped make this possible!

Japanese Visiting Students

*We've had the pleasure of hosting two student groups from **Tokyo, Japan** as part of an international cultural exchange.*

The first group spent ten days with us, experiencing New Zealand life and culture, before departing on Monday. The second group arrives Today and will be with us until next Friday.

Our students have been wonderful ambassadors—warmly welcoming our visitors and making them feel part of the Henderson South School community. Ka pai to all involved!

In Loving Memory of Angela Scroggin

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Mrs Angela Scroggins, beloved wife of our Deputy Principal, Mr Keith Scroggins.

Angela was a highly valued former staff member at our school. She taught predominantly in our junior classes and was known for her dedication, professionalism, and warm, caring nature. Her contribution to our school was deeply appreciated by students, staff, and the wider school community.

*Angela's funeral service was held on **Monday 4th August**. She will be greatly missed, and our thoughts and aroha are with Mr Scroggins and his whānau during this time.*

*Mr Scroggins will be on leave until **Term 4**. In the meantime, **Ruth Cameron** will step into the role of Acting Deputy Principal.*

Kahui Ako Cultural Festival – Stallholder Invitation

We're thrilled to announce our upcoming **Kahui Ako Cultural Festival**, taking place on **Thursday, 11 September 2025** at the **Kumeu Showgrounds**!

We warmly invite members of our school and wider community to be part of this exciting event by running a **stall**. Whether it's **pre-prepared food, home baking, arts and crafts**, or other cultural items, this is a wonderful opportunity to share and celebrate our rich and diverse cultures.

Stall Details:

- **Cost:** \$10.00 per stall (payment details will be shared closer to the event)
- **Power available** for warming food (please note: **no onsite cooking is permitted**)

If you're interested in hosting a stall or would like more information, please contact the school office or email **Leticia Retzlaff** at leticiar@hendersonsouth.school.nz by **Friday, 15 August 2025** to register your interest.

We can't wait to come together and celebrate the vibrant cultures that make our community so special!

Leticia Retzlaff & Bridget Griffiths-Jones

ISLT – Henderson South School

Year 5 & 6 Camp Information Evening

We're holding a camp meeting for all parents and guardians of Year 5 and 6 students.

Date: Thursday 14th August 2025

Location: Top classrooms in the ILE Building

Time: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Come along to find out everything you need to know about this exciting camp experience. We look forward to seeing you there!

Henderson South School – Board of Trustees Elections

Nomination forms for the upcoming Board of Trustees elections should now have arrived in your mailbox. If you haven't received one and would like to nominate yourself or another parent or caregiver, please pop into the school office to collect a form.

*All completed nomination papers must be posted or delivered to the Returning Officer at Henderson South School **no later than noon Wednesday, 13 August 2025**.*

This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of the team helping guide the direction of our school. We encourage all interested whānau to get involved!

Thank you for your continued support,

Ngā mihi nui,

Trevor Diamond

Principal – Henderson South School

