Tākiri o te Ata: Kāpiti Kapa Haka Festival

18 and 19 November 2026 Southwards Car Museum

Proudly hosted by Te Horo School

Pānui October 2026 : Information for THS Community

This newsletter aims to keep you informed about what is happening in the festival week - pop on the fridge as a reminder.
You can also join us for our information meeting: Friday 30 October, 9am in the staffroom

Te Horo School is proud to be hosting this year's Festival, celebrating 32 years of Tākiri o te Ata in our region. We are supported by our partnership with the Kāpiti Coast District Council and celebrate over 1000 performers taking the stage from our local kura, colleges and community groups.

We would like to thank, to tautoko, Whāea Jo Fothergill, Matua Ricki Baker and Nina Williams for their mahi in preparing our performance group and the whole-school, supporting their successful participation in this event. We also celebrate and thank Reuben Batten, who has stepped up to be our superstar MC for the festival.

I have offered to help!
Thank you!
Your support is so greatly appreciated to make our hosting of this event successful.
Coordinators will be (have been!) in touch to share details and timetables. Please email Wendy if you need any information.

Helping with rōpu dressing, preparation for performance?
Please head to dressing rooms 5-6 (at rear of building, above back stage area) as soon as you get to Southwards.
Providing baking? Please drop to the school office anytime Tuesday 17th November (for Wednesday) and Wednesday 18th November (for Thursday).



Our schedule:

Wednesday 18 November		
By 7.15am	Kapa Haka kids dropped to library	Leaving by bus at 7.30am
By 7.30am	All other kids dropped to classrooms - roll with teachers **Children need:** To wear: red school polo/sports shirt if they have one (or will be provided with a red top) black shorts/pants/skirt if possible Usual backpack, lunch etc for the school day	Thank you for supporting student safety by dropping all children to school. Leaving by bus at 7.45am **NB: no school bus will operate this morning**
	Attending the Pōwhiri or performance? Please head to Southwards Parking - Māori Wardens will guide you Meet by THS flag, outside left of entrance	Parents, caregivers, community: Please wear long pants (men), below knee pants/dress/skirt (women)
8.20am	THS group to move into theatre Children will sit at front in audience area, community seated in audience behind us (we have reserved seating)	As mana whenua (hosts), please stand as guided by our team You are welcome to sing or listen (There are links on our school website to our waiata if you would like to have a look before the event.)
9.15am	Pōwhiri concludes Our MC (Reuben Batten) will open the festival	You are welcome to stay on for the THS performance
9.30am	THS Kapa Haka rōpu performs	THS students will tautoko at the end of their performance (Ka Mate) You are welcome to join in
10am	THS leaves theatre with teachers Roll then morning tea on grass area (Kai provided) Joined by THS kapa haka kids after they have changed	You are welcome to join us or head away
11am	All THS kids board buses for return to school	Arrival at THS 11.30am ish

	NB some Year 7-8 students staying as helpers	
11.30	School day resumes	**Usual finish 2.50pm School bus as usual**

Thursday 19 November		
7.30am	Kapa Haka kids dropped to library Year 7-8 helpers also	Leaving by bus at 7.45am
	Participating in Mihi Whakatau at Southwards 8.30am	Then returning to THS approx 11am
8.15 - 9am	**All other kids arrive at school** **Usual school day**	**Usual finish 2.50pm** **School bus as usual**
12.30	Kapa Haka kids and Year 7-8 helpers will return to Southwards to support close of festival, handover to 2027 hosts	Returning to THS by 3.30pm Students can be collected from Southwards - please let Adam or Bobby know. No school bus for Kapa Haka kids please.

Friday 20 November HALF DAY		
8.15 - 9am	Usual start for all students	**Finish at 1pm School bus leaves at 1.15pm** Supervision will be available if you are unable to collect your child - please let the teacher know.

Thank you to our entire community for supporting this event. Our kura will not have this honour for another 25 years - hosting in 2026 is a memorable opportunity for our whole community.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch with any questions, suggestions, and helpful feedback!
Ngā manaakitanga,
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