HELENSVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Celebrating 150 YEARS in 2027!



Welcome To Our Second 150th Anniversary Newsletter

Welcome to our second newsletter as we prepare to celebrate 150 years of Helensville Primary School in 2027!

Our school's history is woven through the people who have been part of it, the friendships formed, the learning shared and the memories carried well beyond the school gates. Through these newsletters, we hope to reconnect with those people and share some of the stories that make our school special.

We would still love to hear from past students, staff and whānau. Whether you have a class photograph tucked away, a favourite memory or a story about where life has taken you, we would be delighted to include your contribution. It doesn't need to be long, even a few words can bring back memories for someone else.

Please keep Friday evening, 4 June, and Saturday, 5 June 2027 in your calendar. We will continue to share information about the celebrations as plans come together.

You can also help us spread the word by passing this newsletter on to friends, family and former classmates who have a connection to Helensville Primary School. We would love to see people from across the generations come together for this special occasion.

Please send your stories, memories and photographs to 150years@helensville.school.nz.

Thank you for being part of our school's story. We look forward to sharing more with you as we count down to 150 years!
150th Celebration Committee

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Save The Date :**
  4th and 5th June 2027
- **Spotlight On:**
- **Gallery**

Helensville Primary School

Ngā Taonga o Te Awaroa



Save The Date!

150TH CELEBRATION

DRAFT PROGRAMME

This programme is an early outline to give our community an idea of what to expect during our special 150th anniversary celebrations. Times are approximate at this stage and may change as planning continues. More information, activities and event details will be added as we get closer to the celebration.

FRIDAY EVENING • 4 JUNE 2027

5.30pm	Registration opens
6.00–7.00pm	Mix, Mingle and Reconnect with some History on Display
7.00pm onwards	Optional Kaipara Tavern Get-together

SATURDAY • 5 JUNE 2027

5.00am	Unveiling of Pou
7.00am	Breakfast
9.00am	Official Opening
9.30–11.30am	School Tours, Fun Workshops and Explore the School
11.30am–12.00pm	Touch Game and Tug of War
12.30–1.30pm	Planting of the Tree and Mauri Stone
1.30–2.30pm	Hangi Lunch
2.30pm	Official Closing
2.30pm onwards	Optional Kaipara Tavern Get-together







Spotlight On: Greta Pilkington

For former Helensville Primary School student Greta Pilkington, life is a careful balance of two very different worlds. When she is not working part-time in architecture at Jasmax, she can be found on the water, training and competing as she campaigns towards the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games.

Greta races in the ILCA 6 sailing class and has already experienced the honour of representing New Zealand at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Now, with her sights firmly set on LA 2028, she is putting everything she has learnt into becoming stronger, more consistent and better prepared to compete against the world's best sailors.

The past year has taken Greta to regattas around the globe. She has competed in eight events, six of them held overseas, which has meant many hours of training, travelling and being away from home. Among the challenges have been some exciting signs that her commitment is paying off, including an outstanding 11th-place finish at the 2026 ILCA 6 World Championships in Ireland — her best World Championship result so far.

Sailing has taught Greta that progress is not always straightforward. Even after doing everything right, the result may not fall your way.

"You have to learn from setbacks, stay patient and focus on what you can control," she says.

That belief has helped Greta both on and off the water. She has learnt to keep showing up, work hard and back herself, even when her goals feel a long way off. These are values she began developing during her school years and ones she believes are just as important in study, work and everyday life.

Greta's journey has not followed one single path. Her love of sailing sits alongside her career in architecture, and she has discovered that it is okay not to have the future perfectly mapped out. Staying curious, trying new things and saying yes to opportunities have taken her further than she once imagined.

Her ultimate goal is to win an Olympic medal at LA 2028, but her dreams extend beyond the next Olympic Games. Greta would also love to explore opportunities in the America's Cup and SailGP, continue growing as an architect and encourage more young girls to give sailing a go. She hopes her journey will help others see that there is space for them in the sport and that big dreams are worth pursuing.

Looking back, Greta wishes she could reassure her younger self that there is no need to have everything figured out.

"Keep saying yes to opportunities, work hard at the things you love and don't be afraid to take a different path from the people around you. There will be setbacks, moments of doubt and times when things don't go to plan, but those experiences will shape you just as much as the successes."

Reflecting on just how far her journey has taken her, Greta admits:

"If someone had told me in my final year of school that I'd go on to compete at the Olympics, I'm not sure I would have believed them!"

Her story is a wonderful reminder to our students that the path ahead does not always need to be clear. Sometimes, it begins by finding something you love, giving it your best and being brave enough to see where it might take you.

Greta, we are so proud to have you as part of our Helensville Primary School whānau. Thank you for sharing your incredible journey and for showing our young people where hard work, courage and a willingness to keep going can lead. We cannot wait to see what comes next and will be cheering you on every step of the way as you chase your dream of LA 2028.



Photo Gallery









