

Discovery School
"Educating for successful living"
"Te whakaako kia momoho ai, kia ora ai"

Term 1 Week 1

Thursday 04 February 2010

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia ora koutou

For those of you new to our school community, welcome to Discovery School and welcome back to those of you who were with us in 2009. I hope you've all had a great holiday and that the New Year has begun well for you.

As usual we intend to have a great learning focussed year with the children. As a staff we have a number of focus areas for 2010, these include; a continued emphasis on our literacy and numeracy programmes and further development in our approach to inquiry learning and ICT. As you may be aware from the media, primary schools will also be focusing on the introduction of national standards in literacy and numeracy and the associated reporting requirements.

The start to the school year has been very smooth. It was wonderful to see so many children arriving early on Wednesday, really keen to catch up with their friends and begin work. A huge thank you to all our staff who worked very hard during the holidays to ensure that everything was 100% ready for the children's first day.

Many thanks to those parents/caregivers who purchased stationery during the holidays; this meant a very organised start to the year in all classes.

Please remember that we have an open door policy at our school, do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns regarding your child or the programmes we have on offer at Discovery School.

There are number of organisational reminders and notices in this newsletter, it might be worthwhile keeping it close at hand for the first few weeks of term.

School Organisation 2010

Please find below the class organisation for 2010, we have been very fortunate to once again have very stable staffing and look forward to another great year at Discovery School.

Adventure Syndicate

Year 1	Gerie Harvey
Year 1/2	Barri Dullabh (Assistant Principal)
Year 2	Vicki Howarth
Year 2	Beth Lough

Year 1 An additional Year 1 class, taught by Jan Braddock, will open in Term 1.

Resolution Syndicate

Year 3/4	Sharon Hall (Syndicate Leader)
Year 3/4	Gina Miller
Year 3/4	Rebecca Griffin
Year 3/4	Sandy Moeke

Discovery Syndicate

Year 5/6	Kirsten Reakes
Year 5/6	Yvonne Thomson (Syndicate Leader)
Year 5/6	Tania Atkinson
Year 5/6	Tam Dullabh

Exploration Syndicate

Year 7/8	Kylie Foot
Year 7/8	Carl McManaway
Year 7/8	Sarah Jenner
	Natalie Francis (Deputy Principal) will continue as the Exploration Syndicate Leader but will not be teaching a class.

Teacher Aides

Michelle Cochran
Raewyn Tibble
Cara Wiszniewska
Mary-Ann Gardner

Librarian

Karen Nicholson

Part-Time Teachers

Michele Saunders
Rachel Berney
Jeanelle Ymker

Reading Recovery

Julia Stevens

Caretaker

Brian Kell

Office Staff

Kathy Wall
Paula Nichols-Cox
Raewyn Tibble

Principal

Conrad Kelly

Syndicate Information Evenings

We will be hosting Syndicate Information Teacher Evenings next week. The purposes of these meetings are to allow you to meet your child's class teacher, learn a little about the routines in his/her class this year and find out about syndicate plans for the year. This will be a great opportunity to find out more about your child's education and how you can support school programmes in the home. Dates and times for the meetings are as follows:

Tuesday 09 February

- **Adventure Syndicate** (Years 1 & 2) (7.00pm to 8.00pm)
- **Discovery Syndicate** (Years 5 & 6) (8.00pm to 9.00pm)

Thursday 11 February

- **Resolution Syndicate** (Years 3 & 4) (7.00pm to 8.00pm)
- **Exploration Syndicate** (Years 7 & 8) (8.00pm to 9.00pm)

Parent Reading Tutors Sought

We will be running our extremely successful Parent Reading Tutor Programme again this year. In recent years all children involved in the programme have made great learning gains.

Volunteer reading tutors are again being sought to help with the programme. The programme is aimed at children who need some tuition to attain and maintain their chronological reading age.

Tutors will be trained in basic reading support skills, and given specific instructions by a trained teacher individually aimed at each child in the programme.

The time commitment for tutors is 1½ hours per week between 9.00am - 10.30am on the same day each week. The same children are seen each week so a rapport can develop between tutor and student. Tutors see one child at a time. Grandparents and other adults who can make the commitment are most welcome to be involved.

If you or anyone you know is interested in finding out more please leave your name, phone number and address at the school office and you will be contacted about coming to a training meeting in a few weeks time.

Numeracy Support - Parent Help Wanted

As you may be aware in 2008 we introduced a very successful Numeracy Support programme called Parents Helping In Numeracy Knowledge (PHINK). This programme has helped a significant number of our children improve their achievement in maths.

We need parents or grandparents who would be available for one morning every week to work with small groups of children. Full training will be given as will ongoing support from our Numeracy Leader, Yvonne Thomson. If you can help, please leave your name at the school office (2347103) and Yvonne will contact you.

Child Safety

Absence Procedures

A reminder of the procedures for notifying the school when your child is absent.

- The school office *the central and only place* for parents to notify us when children are absent or going to be absent.
- If your child is absent or going to be absent please either telephone the **school office** (234 7103) or send a

note with a sibling to the **school office**. The school has an answerphone so messages can be left at any time.

- Please call the **office** every day your child will be absent. If you know your child will be away for an extended period of time eg a trip, please send a signed note to the school office.

Our procedures at school for checking absences are as follows:

- Teachers call the roll and send the names of absent children to the office.
- The list of names of absent children is checked by office staff against the names of children notified by parents/caregivers as being absent.
- Office staff attempt to contact parents/caregivers of children who are absent and for whom we have had no notification of the absence.

Early Arrival at School

At times last year a number of children were being dropped off at school before 8.00am. I appreciate that dropping children at school early is necessary in some cases because of parental work commitments. I am also aware that a number of children arrive early so that they can play with their friends.

Parents however need to be aware that although their children may be at school before 8.40am; the children's behaviour and safety remains the responsibility of their parents until 8.40am. Staff will obviously act and intervene if they see incidents happening but parents should note, that we do **not** have staff 'on duty' supervising the playground before school.

Staff are involved in a variety of meetings and planning and preparation activities before school and cannot take responsibility for children's behaviour and safety before 8.40am.

Please note that from this term, Kelly's After School Care are running a before school care programme. The programme runs from 7.30am-8.30am and costs \$6 per child/per day. If this is of interest to you, **PLEASE** contact the Kelly's After School Care Team on kellyclub@xtra.co.nz or 0273212112.

Newsletters

Please check your child's bag every Thursday; this is the day when the weekly school newsletter is published and sent home. The school newsletter contains a lot of important information which you need to be aware of. One school newsletter is sent home per family. The newsletter and syndicate newsletters are also published on the school website; www.discovery.school.nz.

I also email the school newsletter to over 80 parents and caregivers. If you would like to join this email distribution group and receive the newsletter via email please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and return it to the school

office or send an email to principal@discovery.school.nz requesting that your email address be added to the newsletter distribution list.

In addition to school newsletters each syndicate publishes a newsletter once or twice a term. The syndicate newsletter includes an outline of the programmes operating in the syndicate and keeps you updated about events specific to your child's syndicate. The first syndicate newsletters for 2009 will be sent home next Thursday 11 February.

A Student Computer and Internet Use Agreement for each child accompanies this newsletter. The agreement must be signed and returned to your child's teacher before your child can have access to computer equipment including the internet and email at school.

Next week each family will also receive an envelope including:

- ☉ An emergency contact information update form.
- ☉ A letter outlining and requesting the school donation.

Peanut Allergy Reminder

As you are probably aware we have a number of children who have severe allergies to peanuts. Children are not allowed to bring products to school that have peanuts as a major or listed ingredient in them, eg peanut brownies, peanut butter, muesli bars that contain peanuts or peanut oil.

There are however a number of manufacturers who include the wording, "May contain traces of peanuts" or "May contain traces of nuts" on their packaging when there are no peanuts listed as an ingredient. Products such as these, where no peanut derivatives are listed as an ingredient, are permitted at school.

We ask that you be especially vigilant as the smallest amount of peanut oil can have major consequences for some children. We endeavour to keep school a safe place for all our children and thank you for your support with this.

Parking Safely

A reminder about parking safely in and around the school.

We have had occasional problems in the past with parents/caregivers double parking. This seems to be either so they can wait for their children at the end of the school day or drop children off before school.

In comparison to many other schools we are very fortunate with the amount of parking we have available near the school. I often return to school from meetings at around 3.00pm and have never had to park more than a couple of minutes walk away from the school.

Please use the carparks available and if there are none free drive out of the carpark. Double parking, slows down traffic flow and obscures the view of other drivers, creating a safety issue.

You may also have noticed in the media that the police are targeting the area around schools particularly the time just before 9.00am and just after 3.00pm. Please take care, we want all our children to be safe.

I am sure that the vast majority of parents/caregivers are responsible and considerate and do take this issue seriously.

Sun Hats

It was great to see that almost 100% of children arrived with and wearing sunhats on the first day of school. All children are expected to wear a sunhat when outside at breaktimes. Children not wearing a cap or hat at breaktimes will sit in a designated covered area near to the staffroom.

Guidelines for Cellphone Use by Children

A number of our children have cellphones at school. Please find below our guidelines for cellphone use.

- Children may have a cellphone at school however, parents who wish their child to have a cellphone with them must be aware that school staff will take no responsibility for any loss of or damage to the cellphone.
- Cellphones must be turned off from 8.55am to 3.00pm, including breaktimes. If children use a cellphone during these hours the phone will be confiscated and only returned to the child's parent or caregiver. Confiscated cellphones will be kept in the school office until a parent or caregiver is able to collect the phone.
- If parents need to contact their children during school hours this can be done, as for any child, via the school office.

Should you have any questions regarding these guidelines, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lost Property

A reminder that we have a zero tolerance of lost property at Discovery School. Items of clothing etc which are dropped in the school grounds are left where they are to allow the owner to return and be able to find them.

Lost property is not collected or stored and unnamed items left lying for more than two days are disposed of to charity. Named items are returned to the owner.

Nits/Headlice

We occasionally have children with headlice at school. Please remember that it is very important that you regularly check your child's hair for headlice and take the necessary steps if any headlice are found.

The school takes action about headlice in the following ways:

- Teaching about body care and cleanliness as part of our health programme.
- Sending periodic reminders to all families via the school newsletter regarding checking children's hair and taking the appropriate action where necessary.
- Informing parents if their children are suspected of having headlice or if headlice have been found in their class.

In the past we have also offered to run parent education sessions led by the public health nurse. These however, have had to be cancelled due to a lack of interest.

It only takes one parent to not check his/her child's hair for the entire class to be put at risk of re-infestation. This undoes the

efforts of the vast majority of parents who have taken a responsible and proactive approach to this problem. If you receive a letter informing you that headlice are in your child's class, act straight away, leaving it until tomorrow only prolongs and worsens the problem.

"It is not the role of the school to conduct mass head inspections, treat children or give expert advice in this area. Inspection, detection and treatment are the role of the parent" (New Zealand Ministry of Education). Further information regarding head lice is available on the Ministry of Education's website, www.minedu.govt.nz, type 'head lice' in the search box.

If you have any questions about this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

School Lunches

Lunch orders will be taken at the hall from Monday 08 February, from 8.30am each day. As we have new lunch monitors operating your patience and tolerance would be much appreciated.

Please find below the lunch order menu and price list:

☺ Mince Pie (110 grams) *	\$1.30
☺ Mince & Cheese Pie (110 grams) *	\$1.40
☺ Potato Top Pie (110 grams) *	\$1.40
☺ Pizza*	\$2.00
☺ Sausage Roll (100 grams) *	\$1.20
☺ Fruit Juice	\$1.80
☺ Calci-Yum Chocolate Milk	\$1.50
☺ Calci-Yum Strawberry Milk	\$1.50
☺ Small Chocolate Chip Cookie*	70c
☺ Small Fudge Brownie Cookie*	70c
☺ Large Gluten Free Choc Chip Cookie	\$2.80
☺ Chocolate Muffin	\$1.20
☺ Blueberry Muffin*	\$1.20
☺ Chocolate Moosie *	\$1.20
☺ Lime Moosie *	\$1.20

Please note the items with the * carry the Heart Foundation's Tick of Approval,

A thought to share with your children:

- "Formulate and stamp indelibly on your mind a mental picture of yourself as succeeding. Hold this picture tenaciously. Never permit it to fade. Your mind will seek to develop the picture. Do not build up obstacles in your imagination." (Norman Vincent Peale, 1898 - 1993)

2010 Term Dates

Please find below the term dates for 2010. These have been agreed between the primary schools in our local cluster.

- Term 1; Wednesday 03 February to Thursday 01 April
- Term 2; Monday 19 April to Friday 02 July
- Term 3; Monday 19 July to Friday 24 September
- Term 4; Monday 11 October to Thursday 16 December
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Dates for your diary

Tues 09 Feb	Syndicate information evening (Adventure & Discovery Syndicates)
Thurs 11 Feb	Syndicate information evening (Resolution & Exploration Syndicates)

Tues 17 March School Athletics Sports

Looking forward to another fantastic year at Discovery. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about any of the information contained in this newsletter.

Conrad Kelly
Principal

Community Notices: *When we have space available in the school newsletter we are happy to include community related notices or notices we feel may be of particular interest to our families. Please note that we include as many notices as we can however, we cannot guarantee that the notice will be placed and we take no responsibility for any services offered.*

Mana Music Centre - Enrolment Day for 2010. Saturday 13th February 2010, 10.30am - 12 pm at Discovery School and Maraeroa School. Instrument tuition available to Primary/Intermediate children - only \$12 per term. Instruments include: recorder, piano/keyboard, clarinet, saxophone, flute, violin, guitar, music appreciation. Age restrictions do apply to some instruments. Further enquiries to Sandra Ph: 235-9019.

Kelly Sports After School on Mondays At Discovery School - Kelly Sports is again offering its multisport programme on Mondays after school this term. MIGHTY MULTISPORT is designed specifically so children can experience a range of sports. For those who have never joined a club before it gives them the confidence to give sport a go. For children already playing sport it gives them an extra chance to improve their skills for the summer and winter seasons. For further info or to enrol please contact Duncan Murray on duncan@kellysports.co.nz or 232 9409.

Western Suburbs Soccer Club - Registrations for the coming season will be held on Sunday 7 February 10-30am-2.30pm, Thursday 11 February 5.30pm-7.30pm and Sunday 14 February 10.30am-2.30pm, all at Endeavour Park Clubrooms, Albatross Close, Whitby. Any girls aged 7-14 who wish to register for the Capital Football Girls Sunday League can do so at the same time and venue as above. For more details please phone 234 8611 or email to juniors@westernsuburbs.co.nz.

The Pelorus Trust Wellington Round the Bays Fun Run/Walk and New Balance Half Marathon is being held on Sunday, 21 February. If you are interested in entering please register at www.wellingtonroundthebays.co.nz

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I would like to receive an email copy of the Discovery School newsletter.

Name:

Email Address: