

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

Term 1 Week 5

Thursday 04 March 2010

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia ora koutou

We have had a very busy last two weeks with both Discovery Syndicate (Year 5 & 6) and Exploration Syndicate (Year 7 & 8) being on camp. Last week Discovery Syndicate were at El Rancho in Waikanae, this syndicate goes on camp every second year. Exploration Syndicate have been at Makahika, which is east of Levin, this syndicate goes on camp each year.

Next Thursday 11 March Yvonne Thomson, Vicki Howarth and I will be attending a workshop regarding the implementation of the new National Standards for primary schools.

Next week we also will be holding our Parent/Teacher/Child Conferences. Almost 300 bookings have been made using www.schoolinterviews.co.nz. This seems to have been a very efficient and effective way to timetable the conferences.

Please remember that the main focus of these meetings is to set learning goals with your child for the first half of the year. Please bring your child to the conference so that they are part of the goal-setting process. If there are issues that you wish to discuss with his/her teacher that you do not wish him/her to overhear, he/she could leave the room for a few minutes.

Please remember that school finishes at 2.00pm on both Tuesday 09 March and Wednesday 10 March. Kelly Club will begin their **after school care programme** at 2.00pm on Tuesday 09 March and Wednesday 10 March during parent/teacher/child conferences. Kelly Club children should go to the hall when school finishes as per normal.

Board of Trustees News

The Discovery School Board of Trustees meets on the 4th Monday of each month - 7:30pm in the school staffroom. At the 22nd February meeting, a number of school governance topics were discussed, including:

- **Exploration Syndicates Camp at Makahika.** The Board's prior approval is required for all camp activities, including transport to and from the camp site. The Board ensures detailed plans are in place for a safe and effective camp for our children, prior to the camp commencement.
- **Discovery Syndicate Camp at El Rancho.** A last minute change in the proposed programme required the Board's approval for a new activity - Go Karting.
- **Mr Kelly's Principals Report.** This comprehensive report covers all facets of school life, including updates on student learning, student welfare, school finances, recent renovations to the Resolution Block, the enrolment scheme

and staff development. The Board use this information to gauge how effective and efficient Discovery School is being managed and meeting our children's needs.

- **Board elections.** Later this year a number of parents will be standing down from the board, including the Chairperson and Deputy. We are keen to see parents who have an interest in the governance of Discovery School, stepping forward for election as a parent representative. Further information will follow.

These are a few of the topics covered at the February Board meeting. Please feel free to attend any of future Board meetings. Your input is most welcome. (Craig Marsters)

We Need Your Help

Parent Reading Tutor Programme

We run a very successful reading support programme, Parent Reading Tutor Programme. The programme is aimed at children who need some tuition to attain and maintain their chronological reading age. In recent years all children involved in the programme have made great learning gains.

One of our volunteer reading tutors is unable to continue with the programme next term and we are seeking a replacement. Tutors are 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 we will contact you.

Parents Helping in Numeracy Knowledge (PHINK)

Wednesdays from 9.00am - 10.30am

Do you want to help your child with maths homework? Or learn fun maths games to play with your child? Join our PHINK team, play games once a week for just over an hour, with a small group of 4 children. You and your child will both benefit. You don't need to be a Maths whizz...just eager to learn.

You will need to be available on Wednesdays from 9.00am to 10.30am and would work with another parent helping a small group of children with numeracy knowledge. Full training will be given as will ongoing support from our Numeracy Leaders, Yvonne Thomson and Sarah Jenner. If you can help, please leave your name and contact details at the school office (2347103) and Yvonne will contact you.

Netball Registrations

Netball registration forms are being sent home today for players in Years 5,6,7 & 8 for the upcoming Netball season.

DSPTA News

DSPTA Fundraiser - Family Photo Day

What a way to record how well you scrub up! Be quick to book a space to have your family photos with Positive Negatives photography (for more info see www.positivenegatives.co.nz).

Each booking is for 10 minutes and there is no charge. You get your proofs back to keep and orders will be back to you in time for Mothers Day! For further information please contact Bernee Koschak, 2341226.

☉ Date: Saturday 20 March 2010

☉ Venue: Discovery School Hall

Bunnings Warehouse Fundraiser

Bunnings Warehouse has invited the DSPTA to take a fundraising table at their store on Saturday 20 March. We plan to have a cake stall and require volunteers to donate home baking. We also need volunteers to assist with the setting up and manning of the stall from 9.00am until approximately 2.00pm that day. If you can help with either of these, we would be very grateful for your assistance. Home baking can be dropped to the office on Friday 19 March or contact Gerie Harvey, gh@discovery.school.nz to be included on the roster.

DSPTA Fundraising Lunch - Sausage Sizzle

This, Friday 05 March, we are having a DSPTA Sausage sizzle.

- Sausage in bread \$1.50.
- Money to class teachers before school please.



Help Wanted

This term Sausage Sizzles will be coordinated by Rebecca Arrowsmith. We are looking for someone to work with Rebecca this term with a view to taking over coordination next term. If you are interested in finding out more please leave your name at the school office, 2347103, and one of the DSPTA members will contact you.

A thought to share with your children:

- A well-developed sense of humor is the pole that adds balance to your steps as you walk the tightrope of life. (William Arthur Ward)
- The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it. (Michelangelo)

Dates for your diary

Fri 05 March	DSPTA Sausage Sizzle
Tues 16 March	Athletics Sports
Fri 19 March	Athletics Sports (Postponement Date)

Have a great weekend.

Conrad Kelly
Principal

Community Notices:

Paremata Plimmerton Rugby Football Club Junior Registration

- Girls & Boys, Grades start at Under 6 (for 4 and 5 year olds) right through to Under 13 grade for Year 8 players. Registration at the Paremata-Plimmerton Clubrooms @ Ngatitua Domain, times:

- Saturday 6th March 10am - 2pm

New Players please bring a copy of your passport or birth certificate when you come to register. Cost: \$40 for 1 child, \$60 for 2 children, \$70 for 3 or more. For further details please contact: Martin Highgate - 232 4883

Mana Music Centre - Flute and Clarinet Vacancies for Term 1

- Lessons only \$12 per Term. These classes are available to primary/intermediate children aged 9 years and older. Lessons are held on Wednesdays after school at Discovery School. We have clarinets and flutes available to hire for \$20 per term. For further information and enrolments please phone Sandra 235-9019.

Northern United Junior Rugby Registrations - all held at our clubrooms on Mungavin Avenue.

25th Feb 5-7pm - Two Hurricanes' players will be there available for signing autographs.

- 6th March 11am - 2pm
- 13th March 11am - 2pm
- 20th March 11am - 2pm

New coaches welcome and also new committee members.

Tawa Junior Hockey Club - Registrations for anyone interested in playing 11-aside turf hockey are on March 9th and 11th, 6:00 - 7:00pm @ North City Cricket Clubrooms, Gee St, Linden. Players from previous years and any new players in years 5-8 are welcome. Subs: \$115 first child; \$95 each additional child. For further information contact Rik Foote on ph: 2355105 or email: rik459@hotmail.com.

The Porirua Grand Traverse is being held this year on March 28th. This is an event which involves teams of 5 participating in a 2 km waka ama challenge, 8km bike ride and 2 km run. If you and your friends are interested in finding out more, please email Graham Findlater pgt@nuttyb.co.nz.

Paremata Playcentre's 2km & 6km Walks and 6km Run - Paremata Playcentre's 2km & 6km Walks and 6km Run Sunday March 21: Paremata Playcentre's family-friendly 2km & 6km Walks and 6km Run. Walking options: 2km Ngati Toa Domain - Pauatahanui Inlet Beach Walk and 6km Ngati Toa Domain - Cambourne Walkway-loop walk and run. Registrations from 8.30am. Run starts 9am & Walks 9.30am. Family groups \$10 Entry. Lots of spot prizes. Further information ph Mel ph: 528 5575.

Discovery Kindergarten is holding a *Children's Secondhand Clothing and Toy Sale* and we need your help by *donating* your pre-loved Children's clothing (Newborn to 10 years) and Toys...Good condition and clean please. Drop off to Discovery Kindergarten during sessions or leave outside the door after hours (Checked daily). *Sale will be 9am-1pm Saturday 27th March in the Discovery School Hall. *Enquiries to Nic Kibblewhite 235 6683.