

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

**Term 1 Week 6**

**Thursday 11 March 2010**

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Kia ora koutou

With two syndicates being on camp during the past fortnight, this week is the first time for a while that we have had all classes in school. Many thanks to the parents/caregivers who assisted with these camps, without your continued support we would be unable to provide such a wide range of opportunities for our children.

A huge thank you also to the eight teachers who organised and ran the camps. Planning for the camps began in 2009 and involved many extra hours of work notwithstanding the time away from their own families when on camp with the children.

#### **Car Parking**

You may have noticed that we have reserved the two car parks closest to the school for staff cars. This has been done in case emergency access is required eg fire-engine or ambulance. If staff cars are parked in these spaces they can be quickly moved to allow access for emergency vehicles.

#### **Safe Internet Use**

As children become more knowledgeable about the internet it is important that they are reminded about on-line safety. A lot of our children are signed up to social networking sites such as Facebook, Club Penguin and Bebo, as well as online games such as RuneScape. These sites often involve making "friends" with other users. Unfortunately not all "friends" are necessarily innocent. It is important to remind your child not to divulge information such as full name, age, address and phone number. It may also be a good idea to make sure they only accept "friends" invites from people they know. Taking steps such as checking what information your children have shared on these sites, checking internet and chat histories will help parents to make sure that their children are safe.

The Netsafe website is an excellent source of information and advice for parents and caregivers regarding your children's safe use of ICT. The Ministry of Education recommends this site as a source of good practice for both schools and parents/caregivers. The Netsafe website homepage has a link to a Parents and Caregivers area which covers a range of topics including:

- Communicating
- Researching
- Publishing
- Gaming
- Trading
- Downloading and uploading

This information is explained in everyday non-technical language. The website address is:

*<http://www.netsafe.org.nz/>*

#### **Book Club Orders**

Book club order forms were sent home recently. Orders will close on Friday 19 March. Please ensure that your child's teacher's name is included on the order form, this will help us with distribution of the books.

Please also ensure that the correct money is included with the orders as they are not processed straight away.

#### **Netball News**

##### **Registrations**

Netball registration forms were sent home last Thursday for players in Years 5, 6, 7 & 8 for the upcoming Netball season. Please return the registration form along with payment by Friday 19 March.

##### **Year 7 and 8 Trials**

Trials for Year 7 & 8 players will be held at the Discovery School netball courts on Friday 12 March starting at 3.10pm.

#### **Whitby Community Guardians**

As you may be aware the Whitby Community Guardians was set up recently to help ensure that Whitby remains a safe community. The guardians' presence has led to a significant drop off in vandalism at our school.

The group currently has 16 local residents as WCG patrollers. This allows them to call on each member's services once a month. It does not allow for times, when through illness, holiday time or social commitments people are not available.

The time commitment is for either a Friday or Saturday night for 2-3 hours. A 1-2 hour training session is given by the local Community Constable. If you are interested in joining the Whitby Community Guardians please contact John Earley, 234-7880.

#### **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](http://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

### DSPTA 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 Ice Block Sales

The DSPTA will be selling ice blocks this Friday 12 March at morning teatime.

- Ice-blocks all \$1
- Money to class teachers before school please.

Lemonade flavour only.



### DSPTA 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.

### DSPTA Discos

We will be holding our DSPTA Discos tomorrow Friday 19 March. Door entry is \$3, with sweets, chippies and drinks ranging in price from 50c to \$1.

Disco times are:

- 4.45pm - 5.45pm for New Entrants - Year 3
- 6.00pm - 7.15pm for Years 4 - 6
- 7.30pm - 9.00pm for Years 7 & 8.

The discos are just for Discovery School children. DSPTA members will be on duty throughout the evening but we would appreciate some extra parent help with supervision to ensure the events are fun and safe for everyone.

Children will not be allowed to leave the hall until their parent/caregiver has arrived to collect them. Children will only be allowed to use cellphones to contact parents/caregivers at the end of each disco. Cellphones used to text friends etc will be confiscated.

If you are able to help at one of the discos please fill in the details on the form included at the end of this newsletter and return it to the school office. A DSPTA committee member will then contact you.

### A thought to share with your children:

- To make mistakes is human; to stumble is commonplace; to be able to laugh at yourself is maturity. (William Arthur Ward)

### Dates for your diary

Fri 12 March	Year 7 & 8 Netball Trials
Tues 16 March	Athletics Sports
Fri 19 March	Athletics Sports (Postponement Date)
Fri 19 March	DSPTA Discos

Conrad Kelly  
Principal

### Community Notices:

**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.

**The Porirua Grand Traverse** is being held this year on March 28<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**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.

**The Porirua City Council Holiday Programme** - The Porirua City Council Holiday Programme runs quality programmes for children aged 5-14 years at 5 convenient venues in the Porirua Basin and Churton Park. We are an OSCAR approved programme, so our policies and operation of the programme are of a very high standard and which also means that you may be eligible for a WINZ subsidy. Contact (04) 2371523 for bookings and information. The April programme will be running from 6-16 April 2010. Bookings open Monday 15th March .

### ✂ ..... DSPTA Discos Friday 19 March - Parent Help

I can help at the:

- New Entrants to Y 3 Disco - 4.45pm to 5.45pm
- Years 4 - 6 Disco - 6.00pm to 7.15pm
- Years 7 & 8 Disco 7.30pm - 9.00pm

*(Please circle one)*

Name:

Contact Telephone number/s: