



## NEWSLETTER

Week 8, Term 2

Thursday 20 June 2024

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He waka eke noa – we're all in this together  
E so'o le fau i le fau – unity is strength

## Mai te pene a te Tumuaki | From the Principals' Pen

Kia ora e te whānau

I hope you have had a good week. This term seems to have flown by and we have been hit hard with lots of **winter illness** here at school, including staff. Unfortunately, there is a lack of casual relieving staff available at the moment. We have some wonderful relievers, but they aren't always available when we need them. On the odd occasion, we have had to split a few classes across the school, but this is a last resort for us. I apologise if this had affected your child's class.

We are now half way through the year and the new **school structure** with 3 teaching teams is working really well. The staff have identified a few areas for improvement, as well as things that are going really well. Generally, feedback from parents has also been really positive. We are always open to hearing feedback and if you have any that you would like to share with us, please email me or pop in for a chat - [principal@discovery.school.nz](mailto:principal@discovery.school.nz)

We have had some great **new staff members** join our team this year. Those of you with children in Room 1 will have met Anya Berlad, who has replaced Rebekah Wright. Marie Carkeek has now started our next Year 0/1 class and Laura Yousif has picked up some of Marie's part-time classroom release days. We also have our new grounds team - Michael Moxon (Caretaker) and Tom Rogers (Grounds Assistant). All of our new staff are making a fabulous contribution to our team!

Rebekah Wright welcomed a beautiful wee girl, Poppy, to the world at the end of May. It is always lovely to have a new baby join the wider Discovery staff whānau and we are excited to meet her soon.

Every year the board produces an **annual report** that is audited, which shows our financial position. This is submitted to the Ministry of Education, and includes a statement of variance in relation to achievement targets set by the board. Achievement targets are set after consideration of progress and achievement of our students in relation to the NZ Curriculum. The annual report can be [found here](#). Every half year, we also collect and analyse achievement data and this is reported to the board. I realised we didn't share the end of 2023 data with you in Term 1, so a summary is available below in the newsletter. We will update you on mid year progress towards the middle of next term.

Ngā mihi

*Kaylene*

## Introducing our Pasifika Parent Representative - David Pulemagafa



Talofa lava, and warm pacific greetings. I'm honoured to be the Pasifika Parent Representative on the school board.

I grew up locally and now reside in Whitby with my wife and our two busy boys. Our weekends are filled with activities such as football, rugby, fishing, biking, swimming, and spending time with family. We cherish being part of this fantastic community and look forward to contributing to its growth and success.

I am currently working for the New Zealand Police as the National Senior Partnerships Advisor – Pacific and I am also an active member of the Porirua Pacific Service Network, an organisation dedicated to supporting the wellbeing of Pacific peoples in our region.

Although this is my first year in this role, I am eager to contribute and make a positive impact alongside the current board members and principal. My goal on the school board is to continue the excellent work of my predecessors while enhancing cultural competency and ensuring our Tamariki are proud of their identities. I am passionate about finding strategies to support our learners who need extra assistance, aiming to equip all Tamariki with the tools for Successful Living.

## Book Fair - Can you help?

The Scholastic Book Fair will be visiting our school in the last week of term. This will be set up in the Library and we encourage you to visit with your children. The book fair coincides with Learning Conversations and will be open at the following times:

Tuesday 2 July - 2.00-7.45pm

Wednesday 3 July - 8.30-9.00am & 3.00-3.30pm

Thursday 4 July 8.30-9.00am & 3-5.15pm

It would be helpful for us to have a small number of volunteers to help in the bookfair. If you can help at any of the times above, please contact Kaylene Macnee to let us know - [principal@discovery.school.nz](mailto:principal@discovery.school.nz)

## Property Update - the old temporary office is on the move!

We are really excited to let you know that the temporary building in front of the office is finally going to be removed from our site! We have been waiting for some time for the MOE to move this and have been informed that it will be happening over Matariki weekend. There will be some disruption to the front of the school next week as they remove decking and get it prepared for removal. It will then be craned over the front fence over the long weekend and is likely to move out on the Saturday or Sunday evening. The site will remain cordoned off while asphaltting is remediated. Please take care around the office area over the next few weeks.

## Cross Country Success!

A huge congratulations to the following students who did really well at the Parumoana Cross Country and are in the Regional Cross Country team and will attend the Lower North Island/Wellington Regional Cross Country championships on Tuesday 2nd July at Mackays Crossing.

**Year 4 Boys** Isaac B - 4th, Cillian T - 10th

**Year 5 Boys** Michael W - 5th, Beau T - 6th

**Year 6 Boys** Zac W - 2nd, Charlie L - 3rd, Theo B - 10th

**Year 7 Girls** Briar G - 9th

**Year 7 Boys** Finn T - 2nd

**Year 8 Girls** Amelia M - 3rd, Grace S - 4th, Cassie M - 5th

**Year 8 Boys** Matthew M - 2nd, Kellan H - 3rd, Jak Cl - 8th

Thanks to Nicky Kenny, Andrew Knight, Rae Black, Michael Moxon and all the parents who helped with the Parumoana event.

## Office Max Rebate

Thank you so much to all parents who purchased your child's 2024 stationery through Office Max. When you purchase online with them, they give a percentage back to the school and we have just been allocated a rebate of \$779.46. This money has been used to go towards tissues and other school stationery items, reducing costs for parents this year.

## Health and Physical Education Community Consultation 2024

One of the requirements of the Education Act is to consult with our school community once every two years, in regards to our health programmes and priorities. The purpose of this is to get your input and feedback about the teaching programmes that support the health and well-being of your children.

We would really appreciate your input, please complete the [survey](#) by Friday, 21st June.

## Matariki Celebration Invitation

Thank you to all of the families who have RSVP'd for our Matariki event next Thursday, 27th June. If you are planning on attending, please complete this [Google Form](#) by 3pm, Monday 24th June, for catering purposes.

**Note that any tamariki coming to this event need to be supervised by an adult please.**



## Items for Sale / Koha

We have had a bit of a clean out and have a few items available - please contact our school office if you are interested.

We have a number of student desks that families may be interested in for a desk for your child at home. We are happy to take a koha for these and we can probably find a chair to go with them!

Delonghi FA-0261 Coffee Machine - pictured  
Purchased new in August 2019 for \$1,199 and had had very little use  
Sell price \$300 ono



## Learning Conversations - booking code

As per our note in the last newsletter, we are going to take a slightly different approach to our mid-year meetings with parents. We are going to trial moving to Learning Conversations this year, which provides students with a different way to share their learning with you. While the majority of parent feedback over the past 2 years has been very positive about Student Led Conferences, we know some parents would prefer a 1-1 hui (meeting) with the teacher. Next year we intend to move back to a Student Led Conference.

The Learning Conversation will be in the form of a 15 minute time slot booked just for you and your child with the teacher. Your child will still lead this conversation and it is important they are at the hui. If you want some 1-1 time without your child present, you can let the teacher know prior and this can probably be arranged within the timeframe or at another time, depending on what you want to discuss. Dates for these meetings have been set for **Tuesday 2 July and Thursday 4 July**.

In order to fit all the appointments in, the first appointment will be 2pm on the Tuesday. Therefore, we are asking those parents who can, **to pick their child up early at 1pm on Tuesday 2 July**. If you can't pick your child up early, we will have a small number of staff available on site to provide cover for them here at school. Please complete [this google form](#) to ensure we know what the arrangements are for your child **if you are unable to collect them at 1pm**. You only need to complete the google form if your child will be staying at school.

Codes for the 'Learning conversations for 2nd and 4th July are below.

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code>

Code: **dtm8c**

## School Donations/Annual Charges/Credits

Thank you to those parents/caregivers who have paid their annual charges/donations for the year.

All school donations are voluntary, but they are a crucial source of funding for our school. Some schools can opt into a scheme where the Ministry of Education funds an additional \$150 per student to the school. Unfortunately, Discovery School is not eligible to access this as it is assumed we can access additional revenue through parent donations. Discovery School's expenditure budget (in particular our curriculum budget) is prepared on the basis of providing the best possible education outcomes for your child. The reality is we cannot do this without your help. Your donation is spent on staffing to keep our class sizes smaller, curriculum resources such as art paper, physical education gear, mathematics books, library books, computer consumables, lessons with outside providers such as Big Air Gym, subscriptions and musical instruments, all of which are used in the day to day education of your child.

Parent donations are an essential part of ensuring that we resource our school adequately. Without donations many of our wonderful school activities would not be able to proceed. While we understand not all whānau are in a position to pay a donation to the school, we are very grateful to those of you who can assist us through providing a donation.

Please check your Musac Account <https://www.discovery.school.nz/parentcaregiver-portal> if you are unsure what you have paid. You can either pay through the portal using a credit card (surcharge applies) or pay directly into the school bank account (account details are on the stationery lists).

Please contact the office on 234 7103 if you have any queries/concerns.



## A note from the librarian.

Kia ora koutou

I would appreciate it if you could please chat to your child/ren about keeping school library books away from drink bottles in their school bags. We are seeing an increasingly large number of books being returned with water damage to be repaired, so they are having to be withdrawn and thrown away. If this does continue to happen, we may have to look at recouping the costs. Myself and teachers have talked to the children about this but it would be great if this message can be shared at home also. Thank you for your support in this. Donnella Matchett  
Discovery School Librarian.

## Hand Sanitizer

Just a quick note to say that the school provides alcohol free hand sanitizer for our students. Please do not send any sanitizer with your child/ren to school that has 'alcohol' as an ingredient. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Summary of Achievement Data

Our end of 2023 achievement data is in relation to the NZ Curriculum levels. The table below shows overall achievement figures for our students last year.

In Writing, 82% of students were achieving at or above the expected level for their age. 65% of Māori and 89% of Pasifika students were achieving expectations.

In Maths, 84% of students were achieving at or above the expected level for their age. 68% of Māori and 81% of Pasifika students were achieving expectations.

In Reading, 90.1% of students were achieving at or above the expected level for their age. 84% of Māori and 89% of Pasifika students were achieving expectations.

While Māori and Pasifika students overall percentages are lower, the size of the groups are significantly lower and this can skew data comparisons. All students not achieving, regardless of ethnicity, are supported to progress and it is progress that is most important. It is also worth noting that these three areas of the curriculum paint a narrow picture of achievement and when we look at strength in aspects like culture and identity, our minority ethnic groups such as Māori and Pasifika groups, often have a strong sense of culture and identity, which often brings a strength in leadership, and values such as manaakitanga.

## Emergency Contact Details/Medication

Please check your child's caregiver and emergency contact details in the Musac Edge portal. **It's a good idea to have a local emergency contact who can get here if we have an emergency that requires a school evacuation.** If you have any changes please email [contactupdates@discovery.school.nz](mailto:contactupdates@discovery.school.nz). Click on this link if you need instructions on how to download the app. [Musac Edge portal instructions](#) Please check that your child's medication has not expired, eg asthma inhalers, epi pens etc. If you are unsure please contact the office.

## Musac Edge App - New Feature - Absences (preferred option)

You can now inform the office of absences via the app and it is super easy. We really encourage parents to use the app for absence notification if you can as it logs directly into the attendance register, which will assist with efficiency and accuracy at our end!

It's super easy to download the app (<https://www.discovery.school.nz/parentcaregiver-portal>)

Access to the edge caregiver portal and app uses the existing email address that Discovery School has on record. This App allows you to view school information about your child(ren), notify the school of absences and view and pay school bills online (note there is a small surcharge for credit card payments). It gives you quick and easy access to the information for students in your household. Once you are in, click on 'notify school of absence' and follow the prompts. If your child is away sick, we do need the type of illness/reason noted. If you have any questions, please contact the office. You can also check your contact details and emergency contacts on the App.

## Discovery School Facebook page



Please join our [school Facebook page](#). This has regular updates, reminders and notices as well as photos of school events. You need to state your child's full name and class to be accepted into this closed group. Please note that students won't be accepted to this page and commenting is always turned off on posts. Private messages to administrators will not be answered, please contact your child's teacher or the school office via email if you have questions about school programmes and/or events.

## Community Notices

For information on activities in our community click on this link, these will be updated as we receive information regarding events in the community. [Community Notices](#).

## Kelly Club Before and After School Care

Click on this link for more information about our before and after school care.

<https://www.discovery.school.nz/about-us/kelly-club-before-and-after-school-care>

## Kelly Club July Holiday Programme



**General Information:** We believe in giving children opportunities to do the things they love and enjoy in a supportive and encouraging environment. We provide quality childcare in safe and fun surroundings for children out of school. Our holiday programme is focused around sports, games, and outings to local attractions. Our friendly staff are passionate about working with children. They are provided with training on behaviour management techniques, first aid and activity planning/delivery.

**Who can attend:** Children aged 5-13 yrs

**What do you need to bring:** Shoes and appropriate clothing, jacket or sweatshirt, hat, drink bottle and food.

**Food:** Please bring plenty of packed food and drink for morning tea/lunch/afternoon tea. Lunch will be from approximately 12:30pm to 1:00pm each day.

**Programme activities:** Programme activities are adapted to suit children of all ages and children may be grouped by age depending on numbers. Programme activities may vary without notice dependent on weather conditions and programme numbers.

**Payment details:** Payment is required before the holiday programme begins. An invoice will be issued when a completed booking is received. All payment details will be included on the invoice.

**Work and Income OSCAR Subsidy:** Parents / caregivers that meet certain criteria will be able to access a WINZ subsidy to help cover the cost of our programme. For more information visit [www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)

**Please note:** Every care will be taken to ensure the safety of your child/ren and their property. However, organisers of Kelly Club accept no liability for any injury sustained to your child/ren or any loss or damage to his/her property whilst at a programme. If your child/ren are collected late after the conclusion of the programme you will be charged \$20 per 15 minutes or part thereof.

Website: [kellyclub.co.nz/discovery](http://kellyclub.co.nz/discovery)  
Contact: Julie England  
Email: [discovery@kellyclub.co.nz](mailto:discovery@kellyclub.co.nz)  
Phone: 027 321 2112  
Facebook: @KellyClubDiscoveryWhitby  
Address: Pullen Lane, Whitby

## JULY 2024 HOLIDAY PROGRAMME DISCOVERY SCHOOL

WEEK 1	Mon 8 July	Tues 9 July	Wed 10 July	Thurs 11 July	Fri 12 July
	 <b>ENVIRO-DAY</b> The Earth is our home so let's look after it! I wonder what we will see when we look closer with an epic outdoor scavenger hunt.	 <b>TREASURE QUEST</b> Every pirate needs some treasure! Wear your best pirate costume and hit the deck in a race against your pirate pals to build the best ship!	 <b>COLOUR BLAST</b> Wear your favourite colour and step inside the rainbow with prism science. If you're lucky you might just find a pot of gold.	 <b>SPACE PLACE</b> Join us for an awesome trip day to the Space place, where we will learn about the Galaxies and the Stars. Please remember a big lunch, drink bottle, shoes and a hat. \$20 extra for the day.	 <b>BRILLIANT BRAINS</b> Put your IQ to the test and flex your mental muscles to solve brain teasers and take part in some wicked experiments.
WEEK 2	Mon 15 July	Tues 16 July	Wed 17 July	Thurs 18 July	Fri 19 July
	 <b>DODGEM'</b> It's a day full of dodging! Will you be the moving target or can you dodge your way out of this one?	 <b>MOVIES</b> Join us for an awesome trip day to the movies to see Despicable Me 4. Please remember a big lunch, drink bottle, shoes and a hat. \$20 extra for the day.	 <b>NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM</b> When the sun sets, the museum comes to life! There'll be dinosaurs & mummies roaming around. We'll whip up a midnight snack with our newfound friends.	 <b>ULTIMATE CHALLENGE</b> Work as a team to overcome all sorts of fun challenges then re-energise with some nutritious grub.	 <b>PJ PARTY</b> Put on your snazziest PJs and rock up to Kelly Club today for an epic slumber party. There'll be no time for sleep between pillow fighting, a movie with popcorn, and a midnight snack!
<b>FULL WEEK:</b> \$280 7am-6pm <b>FULL DAY:</b> \$55 7am-6pm <b>SCHOOL DAY:</b> \$45 8:30am-3pm <b>HALF DAY:</b> \$35 7am-12:30pm or 12:30pm-6pm <b>EVENT DAY:</b> Extra \$20 (Included in Full Week)					

**OSCAR  
PROGRAMME  
SUBSIDIES  
AVAILABLE!**  
\*Conditions apply

**BOOK ONLINE NOW AT** [www.kellyclub.co.nz](http://www.kellyclub.co.nz)

## Kelly Sports Holiday Programme



Kelly Sports Holiday Programmes focus on giving children aged between 5 and 13 the opportunity to do things they enjoy in a safe, supportive and encouraging environment. The programme is packed with activities to entertain and inspire children. We have some exciting days planned including: GOOOOOAAALLLL, Power Play Day, King of the Jungle, Go For Gold, Unleash the Power of Red, Sports of the Tooniverse plus trips to Laserforce, The Lanes Ten Pin Bowling & Te Papa, Awesome Bounce, Movies to see Inside Out 2 plus lots more! To enrol [www.kellysports.co.nz](http://www.kellysports.co.nz) email [adminwgt@kellysports.co.nz](mailto:adminwgt@kellysports.co.nz) or call 021 972 728



## DISCOVERY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.

### About DSPTA

The Discovery School PTA are a group of keen supporters providing opportunities for the school community to come together and with fundraising opportunities to support the needs of the school community.

### Helpers needed

The Discovery School PTA is looking for helpers to assist in a variety of ways, including; planning fundraisers, helping with school lunches, discos or school activities, becoming new committee members or embracing sponsorship opportunities through their own professional connections. It is a great way to meet families and staff, participate in your children's education and role and model giving back.



### Funding

A large portion of the DSPTA's fundraising goes directly back into the school community, reducing the amount parents/caregivers are asked for throughout the year.



If you are keen to get involved in any way that suits you please join us for a meeting, email us, follow our DSPTA Facebook page or join our DSPTA Helpers page.

Please also look out for and participate in upcoming survey.

DSPTA Page- <https://www.facebook.com/discoveryschoolpta>

DSPTA Helpers Page- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dsptahelpers>

DSPTA email [dspta@discovery.school.nz](mailto:dspta@discovery.school.nz)



## Aims Games Update

For the first time this year, Discovery school students have the opportunity to take part in the Zespri AIMS Games, the largest intermediate aged tournament in the Southern Hemisphere. This year the All Stars netball team and one golfer are participating, but we hope that now the school is registered for AIMS, more students and a wider range of sports can participate in years to come.

This is an opportunity for students with strengths in their individual sport or team sports in the future, to get organised towards the end of each year with planning and fundraising.

The tournament runs this year from 7-13 September in Tauranga. We would like to wish the AllStars netball team and Peyton W (golfer) all the very best for this tournament. Students involved in this tournament are not funded by the school - a committee of parents is busy fundraising and parents will be funding any shortfall.



DISCOVERY SCHOOL  
- EDUCATING FOR SUCCESSFUL LIVING -

# Movie Fundraiser

## DISCOVERY SCHOOL ALLSTAR'S NETBALL TEAM

Are off to The Zespri AIMS Games, held in Tauranga this September!



Disney PIXAR  
**INSIDE OUT 2**

**SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> July / 5pm** (doors open from 4.30pm)  
- Light House Cinema, Pauatahanui -

**\$20** per ticket

We will be selling our raffle tickets, treats, baking and other items on the night. \*doors open from 4.30pm

Follow Facebook for updates 'Allstars Netball Aims Games' / Order: [michelle\\_dennis@xtra.co.nz](mailto:michelle_dennis@xtra.co.nz)  
We will also be selling our raffle tickets and drawing the winner's on the night!

*Thanks so much for your support!*