



NEWSLETTER

Week 3, Term 3

Friday 9 August 2024

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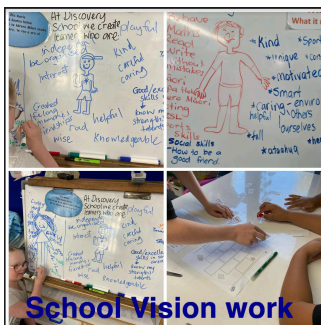
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He waka eke noa – we're all in this together
E so'o le fau i le fau – unity is strength

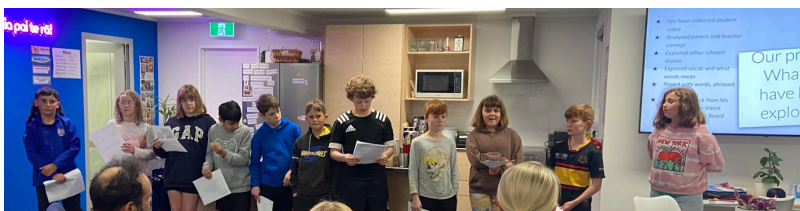
Mai te pene a te Tumuaki | From the Principals' Pen



We have continued the journey in creating a **new vision statement** for our school. A group of Year 6 tamariki have been working with Mrs Smith throughout Term 2 to analyse our parent and staff surveys from last year. They've also created ways to gather the ideas of our students to find out what type of place they want our school to be. Using all this information, they have created some potential new vision statements for our school.



The tamariki presented their process and potential new vision statements to the board and staff at the end of last term. They are now in the process of working with Ngāti Toa to explore a Māori perspective. The photo below shows the group presenting to the Board.



This term, the group is working on a survey so they can communicate their ideas and present some potential new vision statements for your feedback. Keep an eye out for this later in the term.

There has been a lot in the media over the past few weeks about the **new curriculum** and the reasons for the government rushing this through with little consultation with educators. I was very concerned about the messaging around students failing in maths. The data that is being shared in the media to support this policy is from the *curriculum insights* sampling. I haven't seen this testing and I understand it is based on the draft refreshed curriculum (now not going ahead, that wasn't even in its final form and hasn't yet been taught in schools). I want to assure our community that based on the current curriculum levels, our student data shows that at the end of last year, 70.2% of our Year 8s were achieving at or above the expected curriculum level. This is an overall teacher judgement (OTJ), taking into account their test results and classwork, so there is some subjectivity. However, we also have specific test results using eASttle (a national test we use to inform our OTJs and one the government have indicated we will be required to use moving forward) and at the end of last year, 74.5% of our Year 8s were achieving at or above the expected curriculum level in this test. There is no doubt there is work for us to do to improve this data and I certainly support the notion of greater clarity and consistency in our curriculum, which is why the curriculum refresh started in 2019. However I don't think a fair, and necessarily accurate, data set has been presented. Our teachers work really hard to implement our current curriculum and we are watching with interest to see the detail of the recent policy announcements.

We have recently appointed 2 **new staff**. Faiva Brown is taking on our Pacific Coordinator role. Faiva's work focuses on supporting pacific programmes in our school and connections within our local pacific community. John Manville has been appointed to teach our next Year 0 class (new school entrants). John starts his class on the 2nd of September (with school visits prior to this) and comes to us from Ross Intermediate in Palmerston North. He has taught a range of year levels, including primary and secondary. We are excited about Faiva and John joining our team.

Ngā mihi

Kaylene

Porirua Leadership Awards

It was a pleasure to attend the Porirua Leadership Awards for primary schools last week. These awards are run by Rotary and the Porirua City Council. Matthew M and Zac W were very deserving recipients of their awards.

Regional Cross Country Success!

Congratulations Michael W - 9th in Year 5 Boys Regional Cross country. This is a huge achievement and as he placed in the top 10, Michael has been invited to the Nationals to represent the Wellington Region.

Maths Week 12th-16th August (week 4, term 3)

During Maths Week we will be exploring different ways mathematics can be used in everyday life and across different subjects. There will be some fun activities each day that students can take part in.

Marvellous Maths Morning-Parents invited

On **Friday 16th August** between 8.30am and 9.30am we will have a **Marvellous Maths Morning** where parents are welcome to come into their child's class and play some maths games and other fun activities. You may like to take some of these game ideas and do them at home to help your child build on their basic facts and place value.



School docs

We use School Docs to house our school policies. This system ensures we are complying with legislation and also allows for parents and staff to have input into board policy review. This term, we are reviewing the policies listed below:

- Concerns and complaints
- Media
- Performance management
- Professional development
- Protected disclosures
- Staff conduct
- Staff leave

School Docs enables parents to log in and give feedback on policies that are then considered when they are up for review. Please log into the system and use the review tab/comment function to send us your feedback. Log in details can be found on our school website:

<https://www.discovery.school.nz/board-of-trustees/school-docs-policies-and-procedures>

DSPTA Helpers Survey

The Discovery School PTA are a small group of parents and staff providing opportunities for the school and local community to come together, and organise fundraising opportunities to support the needs of the school community.

We need your help please! We would like to gain some more understanding around the visibility of the DSPTA in our school and how we can work best when we are all busy. If you could please take the time to share your thoughts by completing this short survey to help us with planning. Many hands make light work! [Click here to complete the DSPTA Short Survey](#)

To keep up to date, please join us here:

www.facebook.com/discoveryschoolpta www.facebook.com/groups/dsptahelpers

DSPTA Raffle Fundraiser

DSPTA RAFFLE FUNDRAISER is well underway. Last week your oldest or only child would have brought home a booklet of ten raffles to sell. All of our prizes have been generously donated by members of our community, local businesses and supporters, with the total value of prizes just under \$5,000!

Please sell your allocated tickets, and please return the money (cash or deposit into DSPTA account 12-3254-0129836-00) and ticket stubs (each with the name/contact details completed) to the School Office. If you would like to sell additional tickets please request additional tickets on dspta@discovery.school.nz or pick up from the School Office. There will be prizes for the families that sell the most tickets.

We understand not every family is in a position to buy or sell tickets so there will also be opportunities to sell tickets outside New World Whitby. If families are able to donate an hour or two of time selling allocated tickets and additional tickets they can email dspta@discovery.school.nz

ALL tickets need to be returned by Monday 19th August, close of school business (3.00pm). For auditing purposes it is important to have ALL stubs returned- sold or unsold. **Ticket prices are \$3 each.** The raffle draw will take place at Discovery School on **Friday 23rd August 2024**. Winners will be notified by Wednesday 28th August 2024. All money raised goes directly back into the school community into the classrooms supporting teachers' needs, off-setting costs of out of class learning such as camps, swimming lessons and field trips, health and safety products and equipment around the grounds. This is our main fundraiser for the year and much of the money goes to offset costs otherwise charged to families.

Save the date - Emergency Preparedness

We will be hosting a parent evening in collaboration with WREMO and Discovery Kindergarten about household emergency planning. We will also be sharing information about school and kindergarten procedures in a large-scale emergency. This session will be held on 16 September at 6.45-7.45pm in our school hall. More information will be sent out over the next 2-3 weeks.

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.

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. 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>