



NEWSLETTER

Week 9, Term 3

Tuesday 17 September 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

I had an amazing time on the **Principal's Study Tour in Finland** and I want to start by thanking the Board for their support and the staff for their work in keeping everything running smoothly while I was away (in particular, Sarah Jenner who acted as principal). I always find visiting schools to be really interesting and I learn heaps from school visits. Visiting schools in a different country takes it to the next level. There are a number of differences in our systems which the NZ contingent were very jealous of (all aspects of education being free right through to tertiary for a start), but there were plenty of take outs and learnings that I will share with the board and staff.

One noticeable thing from a parenting perspective, was how independent the children were with managing their basic needs, from a young age (in the preschool centres). The expectations were clear to the children and adults talked them through challenges rather than doing things for them. There were certainly no adults doing up zips or carrying children's bags! There were differences and similarities in the learning programmes, but in Finland, there were less differences between schools. You can see from the photo, I enjoyed playing on the ECE playground!





We went into the woods one evening, where we had to light our own fires to cook our meal - I'm sure you can imagine I was a bit out of my comfort zone, but those are my hands in the photo using the flint and a good pic of me bush bashing our way back afterwards! We also visited Nexus International School in Singapore on our way home. It was a very different school again, with a privatised funding system, but the programmes were very similar to NZ classrooms and I know where a lot of our kiwi teachers are as I met about 10 of them in the one school!



Once home, it didn't take long for the reality of my job to hit, with a board meeting, course and 2 days with our **Education Review Office (ERO)** evaluation partners on site last week. ERO were very impressed with their site visit and worked with us to determine our areas of continued improvement as we move into next year. Our ERO partners commented on the quality of leadership and teaching in our school and the visit was very affirming. The staff do a great job to serve our school community and it was nice that this was acknowledged by an external review team. The ERO team will publish a brief report and this should be available to share with the community at some stage next term.

Thanks to the parents who came to our **emergency preparedness** information session on Monday night. It was great to have Whetū from WREMO and our Kindergarten staff/parents along for this. One key message was to make sure you have at least 5 school contacts that could pick your child up in an emergency. We discussed our reunification plan (how we would manage to dismiss children to caregivers/emergency contacts in case of a big emergency) and we will be practising this next year. We would not be able to hand your child over to anyone not on your list. You can view your contact details in the Edge app and if you need to update these, please email contactupdates@discovery.school.nz. Please include your emergency contacts name, contact number, address and relationship to your child in the email. Also state if they are additional to the people you have on Edge or if you are replacing them.

Congratulations to the Allstars **netball** team who won Division 1 of the Ngāti Toa netball season this year and the Swifts who came second in their division. Thanks to Nicky Kenny, as well as all the coaches and managers, for their work to support our netball teams. The Allstars have also just returned from a great week at the **AIMS Games**, along with Peyton in Room 15 who participated in the golf tournament up there. I know both Peyton and the netball girls represented our school very well.

I am looking forward to catching up with you at the **Discover Artists Art Trail** on Tuesday afternoon/evening next week - see the flyer later in the newsletter for more details.

Ngā mihi

Kaylene

Grants Coordinator

After a number of years working in the background on grant applications for our school, Helena Coulton is on the move and won't be able to do this for us from the beginning of 2025. The board are very grateful for the work that Helena has done - we have literally received tens of thousands of dollars each year from grants that Helena has completed applications for. We are looking for a parent volunteer to take this role on from 2025. Helena has information to hand over to make it as easy and smooth as possible. We also support you here at school. Each application would take around 2 hours, with about an hour of planning each term. We probably apply for around 10 or so grants a year. If you might be able to help us with this, or are interested in finding out more, please contact Kaylene.

The Companion Way School Entry Closure - Advance notice

The building work at the back of the school includes a new retaining wall along the end of Room 20. This work will be started in the school holidays, however it will take longer than 2 weeks. Therefore, the Companion Way entrance to school **will be closed from 30 September until 1 November**. It may reopen early if the weather is kind to us. If you use The Companion Way entrance to the school, please get your child to walk down Capstan Lane and connect with the walkway that leads to the back gate on the field or the back entrance. This will ensure we don't add additional traffic to the front of the school.

A Few Important Reminders

Please remember to park according to the road rules, which means not on yellow lines. It is incredibly frustrating when we continually ask people to abide by the rules, yet we still experience people parking on yellow lines. The bottom line is it causes an unsafe environment for our tamariki. Please also only use the mobility car park if you have a mobility permit and avoid parking behind and blocking vehicles in. The yellow lines through the middle of the car park are not a stop and drop area.

Just a reminder that children can come to school at 8:30am. Teachers need time to prepare learning for the day. If you need before school care, please contact Kelly Club.

We have noticed an increase in the number of tired, distracted children in our classrooms. Many have commented that this is due to late night device use. We have also noticed gaming language appearing in written and oral language as well as in actions in the playground. We know that young children won't be playing R Rated games like Fortnite and Call of Duty, but they may be observing older siblings or parents playing. We would like parents to please monitor their children's phone and inappropriate gaming as this has an impact on their learning and relationships at school.

Congratulations to all the Raffle winners!!

Jodi C, Jim M, Taine W, Cedar H, C VanN, Simon L, Ronda T, Ellen L, Marion C and Diana H!

A big thank you to our school community for selling the raffle tickets and to our amazing DSPTA team for organising this raffle.

A big thank you to all our Raffle Donors



Interschool Swimming Sports

Here are the results for inter school swimming sports held recently at Cannons Creek Pool:

Year 5&6

Freestyle

Year 5 Girls - Vivi 5th

Year 5 Boys - Michael 1st

Year 6 Girls - Savannah 4th

Breaststroke

Year 5 Boys - Jackson 4th

Year 6 Girls - Savannah 3rd

Year 6 Boys - Orion 4th =

Backstroke

Year 5 Boys - Michael 1st

Year 6 Girls - Savannah 2nd

Year 6 Boys - Orion 2nd, Theo 3rd

Butterfly

Year 5 Boys - Michael W 1st, Jackson 6th

Year 6 Boys - Theo 3rd, Zac 5th

Relay

Year 5 Girls - 3rd

Year 5 Boys - 3rd

Year 6 Girls - 4th

Year 6 Boys - 3rd

Overall - Discovery finished 3rd

Year 7&8

50m Freestyle

Year 8 Girls - Macy 4th

Year 8 Boys - Sean 6th

25m Breaststroke

Year 7 Boys - Peyton 5th

Year 8 Girls - Macy 6th

Year 8 Boys - Sean 5th

50m Backstroke

Year 7 Girls - Danielle 4th

Year 8 Boys - Sean 6th

25m Butterfly

Year 7 Girls - Danielle 4th

Relays

Year 7 Girls - 3rd

Year 7 Boys - 3rd

Year 8 Girls - 3rd=

Year 8 Boys - 4th

Overall - Discovery finished 5th

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

If you wish to give us feedback, please do so by 3pm Monday in time for our policy meeting on Monday evening.

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/charter/school-docs-policies-and-procedures>

Discovery School presents “Discover Artists” Art Trail - 24 September

Discovery School presents
“Discover Artists” Art trail.

Come along and see your child's art exhibited in an arts trail in the hall and around the quad.

Each class has been focusing on an artist and has used their work to inspire their own interpretation.

Creative artworks that include recycling, painting, pastel, 3D creations, wool, and even jandals will all be on display.

Tuesday 24th September (Week 10)
3.30 - 6.00pm

Please support our sponsors!

CHARLIE'S COFFEE

Mr. Whippy

DISCOVERY SCHOOL
DISCOVERY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

**NORTH PORIRUA KĀHUI AKO
PRESENTS**

**KATHRYN BERKETT
PARENT EVENING FOR AGES
5 - 11 YEARS**

What can we do – as parents and community – to help our children?

We use the word resilience all the time, we want it for ourselves and for our children. But what does it actually look like? And how do we develop it? Understanding the neuroscience of how resilience develops, will help us recognise what we can do in our everyday lives and interactions, to increase resilience in our communities. This session will help you understand, in a simple yet sufficient way, how we can build resilience.

The beauty of this session is that you can take the information and immediately apply it to your world. Reports of 'you have changed our household' and 'I get it now' is very common feedback from those who attend this session. Come along to this unique, local opportunity to hear what might be the most useful information of your life!

**Tuesday 24th September
7pm - 8:30pm
Te Manawa, Aotea College**



Kathryn is a mother of two adolescents, with a Master of Educational Psychology. Kathryn teaches trauma-informed practice and has trained national and international audiences for over twenty years; working with groups such as Police, Teachers, Parents, Social Workers, NZL Rugby and many more. She also has a TEDx talk online, "Neuroscience of Device Zombies."

[Google Form](#)

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.

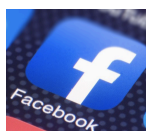
Musac Edge App - New Feature - Absences (preferred option)

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>



KELLY CLUB

FUN & EXCITING HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES!

We give your kids the opportunity to do the things they enjoy in a supportive and encouraging environment.

OSCAR PROGRAMME SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE!
*Conditions apply

BOOK NOW www.kellyclub.co.nz



Kelly Sports October 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: World Series of Sports, Survival of the Fittest, Bounce and Shoot Day, Ripa World Cup Day, Simply the Best Day, The Final Countdown Day plus trips to Space Place, the Movie "The Wild Robot", Hutt Valley Gymnastics and the Kelly Sports Inflatable will be coming to Kelly Sports plus lots more! To enrol www.kellysports.co.nz email adminwgtn@kellysports.co.nz or call 021 972 728