



NEWSLETTER

Week 8, Term 4

Thursday 5 December 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

This is the last newsletter for the year. Our final day of school for the year is Wednesday 18th December and school will close at the conclusion of the poroporoaki around 12.30pm.

The end of the school year always brings around farewells. As previously advised, we have a number of teachers leaving at the end of the year. Jess Scammell is heading down to Dunedin, Anya Berlad is travelling overseas, Sarah Taylor (one of our part time teachers) has picked up additional work at Titahi Bay School where she already works part time, and Rebekah Wright has decided not to return to us from maternity leave. As mentioned in our previous newsletter, Nicky Kenny is off to Papakowhai School and Kelly Gibbs is moving to Taranaki. Kim Holden, one of our Learning Assistants, has decided to hang up her LA boots and enjoy her retirement. We are incredibly grateful to all the staff who are leaving. Some have been with us for many years, while others only this year, but they have all contributed to our team and worked really hard for our tamariki and school community. We wish them all the very best for the next adventure in their lives.

We are also preparing to farewell 50 Year 8 students as they move to college, as well as a small number of children who are moving to schools outside the area. Our Year 8 group have made great contributions to our school in the time that they have been here, with many earning their school badge. We wish all departing students the best.

We are welcoming new staff to our team and have also made some great reappointments of staff who were with us on a fixed term basis. Jessica Shariff, John Manville and Marie Carkeek are all staying on as reappointments, which is great news. We have two new teachers joining our team as well - Amy Richards, who comes to us from Titahi Bay North School and Vicki Howarth who comes from Paraparaumu Beach School. Some of you who have long links with Discovery School may know Vicki as she used to teach here prior to 2016. Shaun Bishop and Suzette McVicar are both returning after taking leave in 2024. Once again, we have a great team of quality teachers ready for the new year ahead. The school organisation of who is teaching in which classrooms and teams is noted later in the newsletter.

I'd like to congratulate Ailish Akavi who has just completed her 2nd year teaching. This makes her a fully qualified teacher! Ailish is an outstanding teacher and we are lucky to have her on our team.

2024 has been another big year in the world of Discovery School. We've had more property development, are enjoying the wonderful administration block, seen some amazing work done around our grounds, and seen the green paint be replaced with Resene's Key Largo, or what some call smurf blue - either way, I get many comments about how great the school is looking. We've had some exciting learning programmes, an excellent arts trail event and an increase in school trips. We've worked really hard to increase our use of te reo Māori across the school, with many of our staff attending courses in their own time. We have also been involved in a revisioning process and the students who led this have done an outstanding job. The new vision will be confirmed and published next year - watch this space!

I would like to end by acknowledging the work of the staff, DSPTA and Board. The staff work incredibly hard to ensure we are providing a great education for our ākonga - I very much appreciate their work. The Board continues to have a strong focus on strategy and governance, and we now also have Cheyna Matenga, a representative from Ngāti Toa, sitting on our board. Our board is proactive and committed to doing the best for our tamariki and school community.

Once again, the DSPTA has supported us by providing a significant amount of funding this year. They work alongside us to help fund items parents would otherwise need to fund, as well as trips and activities for our tamariki. There are a lot of programmes at our school that couldn't happen without the support of our DSPTA. They are a small, but incredibly dedicated group who work to support our students and it is a great pleasure to work alongside all of them. Thanks also to all the parents and community members who have supported us throughout the year.

Meri Kirihimete! I hope you have a fabulous festive season and a safe summer break.

Kaylene

Hero

Next year, we will be using a new database system for our school (moving from Edge to Hero). Hero provides more of a one stop shop for whānau and is also much easier to use at our end. In the New Year, you will be provided with details about how to download the new app and log into the system. You will be able to make payments, view our calendar, notify us of absences, view notices, etc. It won't all happen immediately - we'll be introducing aspects in bite size bits so that it is easy for everyone. As part of this transition, from Monday 9th December, we will no longer be accepting any payments to school through the Edge/Musac system. Between then and when the system is set up in the new year, you can still make payments into our school bank account - Discovery School, 12-3254-0122028-00 ASB Porirua.

Congratulations

Congratulations to a number of students who have represented our region and/or have done really well in their sporting codes. Peyton W was selected in the Tag NZ Wellington boys representative team for his age group. Evelyn W attended the New Zealand junior girls rugby festival. She played for Wellington Junior Girls rugby team, U12 Wellington Wāhine Toa.

Michael W had an outstanding performance at the Wellington Schools Inter Zone Swimming Champs, placing 1st in the 25m Backstroke and 3rd in both the 25m Freestyle and Butterfly. We are incredibly proud of all these students.

Year 6 Speech Finals

We had 10 year 6 students present in the middle teams' speech finals. They all worked incredibly hard to produce and deliver their speech. Congratulations to Ada, Zac and Leo for placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in a very tight final. A special congratulations to Ada who represented Discovery School at the inter school event and won the Year 6 final!. Thank you to Gary Nicholson for judging our speech finals.



Senior Speech Competition Results

Congratulations to the following speakers:

Year 7

1st Annabelle P
2nd Raya
3rd Jake

Year 8

1st Kayla A
2nd Emmy
3rd Nellie

Well done to Kayla who represented Discovery School at the inter-school competition.



Regional Athletics Success - Tuesday 26th November

We had 21 Discovery School athletes represent our Parumoana Region in the Wellington Regional Athletics.

Congratulations to the following students who had some top 10 results:

Lucia H - 7th - Year 5 Girls Long Jump

Michael W 4th - Year 5 Boys 800m

Charlie L - 1st - Year 6 Boys Vortex, 6th - Long Jump

Liam F - 3rd - Year 7 Boys Long Jump

Danielle G - 4th - Year 7 Girls Vortex

Annabelle P - 3rd - Year 7 Girls Long Jump, 3rd= High Jump, 3rd - 100m, 4th - 200m

Amelia M - 7th - Year 8 Girls Long Jump, 10th - 200m

Cassie M - 1st= Year 8 Girls High Jump

Matthew Mc - 7th - Year 8 Boys Long Jump

Thank you to the community for all Sports Assistance

I would just like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who has offered assistance and support to me in Sports and netball over the last 9 years. I am moving to a new teaching role at Papakowhai school for 2025, so I will no longer be leading Sport at Discovery school, but wanted to say thank you before leaving.

I really appreciate the time and effort parent volunteers have put into helping, by coaching or managing sports teams, assistance with transport to various events, assisting at events such as Cross country, Swimming or Athletics meetings and the one offs like Rippa tournaments, cricket, Futsal and others.

I have loved my time leading sport and providing opportunities for the children at Discovery school. I will still be watching with interest and supporting from the various sidelines during the week, weekends and Parumoana events.

Nicky Kenny

Sports Shirt Amnesty

Could all blue Discovery school sports shirts (new and older version) please be returned to school ASAP. Please put in a named bag and drop to the office or Room 19 before Friday 13th December.

School Badges

Congratulations to the following year 7&8 tamariki who have earned their school badge. They have completed monitor jobs and assisted staff throughout the year. This shows dedication and perseverance.

Room 16: Morgan, Cassie, Nina, Grace, Emmy, Sophie, Eliana and Maddie

Room 17: Isla V, Kaila, Maddie T, Hugo W, Kellan, Lucas L, Matthew B, Matthew M, Max R, Andie, Anoushka, Kayla, Kyrrah and Emily

Room 18: Jess, Emerson, Annabelle R, Raya, Blake, Lee, Nereide, Amelia, Macy, Olivia, Alyssa and Ameera

Room 19: George, Troy, Briana G, Isla D, Nellie and Lucas J

Library Books Need to be Returned by 13th December

All library books need to be returned to the library by Friday 13th December. Thank you.

Provision of Before and After School Care Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed this survey in Term 3. The board reviewed the survey analysis and provided a summary of key themes to Kelly Club. The survey identified lots of positives and also some areas for Kelly Club to consider as part of their ongoing improvement and review. The board will repeat the survey again next year.

2025 Class Organisation

Next year, the school is outlined in the table below. Class placements are being finalised and will be shared with you next Thursday after school when social and academic report summaries come out on Seesaw. All children will visit their new class (and teacher) on Monday 16th December. Our new staff will be here on site for this too.

JUNIOR TEAM

Room 1	Year 2	Liz Chalmers	
Room 2	Year 2	Sarah Maudsley	
Room 3	Year 2/3	Kirsti Bourke	Team Leader
Room 4	Year 1	Jessica Shariff	
Room 5	Year 1	Amy Richards	
Room 7	Year 1	Marie Carkeek	
Room 8*	Year 1	Rebecca Griffin	Assistant Team Leader
Room 9	Year 3	John Manville	
Room 10	Year 3	Kelly Eteveneaux	

* this class will start later in the term

MIDDLE TEAM

Room 11	Year 4/5	Andrew Knight	Team Leader
Room 12	Year 4/5	Tam Dullabh	
Room 13	Year 4/5	Rhiann Wallace	
Room 14	Year 4/5	Vicki Howarth	
Room 21	Year 5/6	Rae Black	Assistant Team Leader
Room 22	Year 5/6	Ailish Akavi	
Room 23	Year 5/6	Natalie Dale	

SENIOR TEAM

Room 16	Year 7/8	Nic Kibblewhite	
Room 17	Year 7/8	Stacey Mew	
Room 18	Year 7/8	Sarah Jenner	Team Leader
Room 20	Year 7/8	Shaun Bishop	

Please [click](#) here for the School Map.

Meet the Teacher - Monday 3 February 2025 1-6pm

On **Monday 3 February 2025**, we would like to invite you to come in and meet with your child's new teacher to help them know your child better, so that they can work with them to get the best out of them as learners. The information on how to book this event will be sent out before the end of this term, so keep an eye out for that email.

Back to School Stationery - order now!



Order their
Back to School
stationery
now and
beat the rush!



Find your class list on
myschool.co.nz

Shop now

Our 2025 stationery list are now online. Click here for the link:

<https://www.discovery.school.nz/our-school/2025-stationery>

We've teamed up with OfficeMax to make your back to school shop super easy. Your child's class list is already loaded. Just go to myschool.co.nz. Simply add your details, check that you want everything on the list, then click and confirm — and OfficeMax will get your delivery underway with free delivery on orders over \$70.

You can pay by internet banking, credit card or debit card. Laybuy* is also available, so you can pay in 6 weekly, interest-free payments and still get your order right away. Plus you'll be helping our school earn school rewards* that we use to purchase much needed extra resources for our school.

We encourage you to order early to ensure your child has all their stationery requirements ready to go in plenty of time for the start of Term 1. So go ahead and beat the back to school rush, order today and give them the best start possible. *Terms and Conditions apply, see myschool.co.nz for details.

^Exclusions apply, see myschool.co.nz/delivery for details.

Also go to our <https://www.discovery.school.nz/our-school/donations> to view our school donations. These will be loaded onto your School account early in term 1 2025.

Discover Christmas - 6 December 5-8.30pm



FESTIVE FUN FOOD & DRINK CRAFT STALLS

DISCOVER
Christmas
AT DISCOVERY SCHOOL

6 DECEMBER
5 - 8.30PM

GOLD COIN
ENTRY

Southern Star
***** REALTY LTD



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HAPPY HIRE

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.

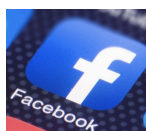
Please check your Musac Account <https://www.discovery.school.nz/parentcaregiver-portal>. Please note that from Monday 9th December, we will no longer be accepting any payments to school through the Edge/Musac system. Between then and when the system is set up in the new year, you can still make payments into our school bank account - Discovery School, 12-3254-0122028-00 ASB Porirua.

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.

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 and holiday programme.

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