



DISCOVERY SCHOOL

Whanake rā tātou kia pai ai te āpōpō
We thrive & grow today for a better tomorrow

NEWSLETTER

Week 8, Term 2

Thursday 19 June 2025

He waka eke noa – we're all in this together

E so'o le fau i le fau – unity is strength

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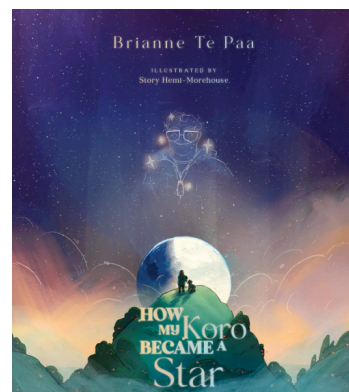
Mai te pene a te Tumuaki | From the Principals' Pen

Kia ora e te whānau

A few weeks ago, I sent you all a letter outlining how much **school donations** are an essential income stream for our operating costs. It's unfortunate that we are unable to access the same level of government funding as some many other communities. I want to say a huge thank you to those of you who paid your donation prior to this, or have since paid your donation. Since I sent the information, we have had a further \$10,610 in parent donations paid. We are very grateful for these payments, which now means we have collected just over half of our budgeted donations. Just a reminder that if you have not yet paid, we do really rely on these donations and still have a significant income shortfall. If you are unable to pay the full amount, we are happy to take part payments or small, regular contributions. If you missed the information I sent out, I have included it at the very end of this newsletter.

Next week, you will receive your child's **mid year progress report** via Seesaw. When this is posted, you will also receive a letter from me explaining how the new curriculum in Maths and Literacy has impacted our reporting. It will be very important for you to read this alongside your child's report. You will also receive information about booking your child's **learning conversation**, a meeting with you, your child and their teacher, to discuss their learning. These will take place on 22 & 23 July, so mark the dates on your calendar and look out for that booking information next week.

Tomorrow, school is closed for our **Matariki** public holiday, signifying the Māori new year. Different iwi have unique stories and beliefs. Our local iwi, Ngāti Toa, believes there are 7 Matariki stars representing various aspects of our natural environment, while some other iwi across the country believe there are 9. Many of us have only recently learnt about Matariki with it becoming highlighted over recent years. If you are new to Matariki, you may find [this website](#) helpful - it explains Matariki and you can see what to look for. Matariki is a time when we remember loved ones who have passed in the previous year. If you haven't read it, the book *How My Koro Became a Star* is a great explanation of the Hautapu ceremony to acknowledge those who have passed. [This clip has the story read aloud](#) and is a great story to watch with your whānau. Our whānau Māori came together recently and were fortunate enough to have the book's



illustrator, Story Hemi-Morehouse, join us for the evening. The Hautapu ceremony is a beautiful and important part of Māori culture. If you don't know about it, I really encourage you to learn about it over this long weekend. At school, the tamariki learn a lot about the Matariki stars and what they represent, so they may be able to share their knowledge with you, or sing you a waiata! If you want to view the Matariki stars, get up early and head to a place where there isn't too much light pollution and you can get a good view of the night sky. [This website](#) will help you know where to look.

Mānawatia a Matariki - this is a greeting to wish a happy Māori new year and speaks to honouring, acknowledging or welcoming Matariki.

Kaylene

Office Max Donations - Thanks to you!

Thanks to those of you who ordered your stationery through OfficeMax at the beginning of the year. Office Max donated a percentage back to us and we have just received a donation of \$644 which helped pay for Martin Chatterton's visit a few weeks ago. Martin is an author and performer who shared his knowledge with all of our tamariki and they all really enjoyed his comical illustrations.

Cross Country

What a great day we had for our school cross country a few weeks ago. It was wonderful to see so many whānau members here to support the tamariki. Congratulations to everyone in Years 4-8 who participated in the Parumoana Cross Country. Special mention and best wishes to the following students who are off to the regional event to represent the Parumoana Cluster next week:

Year 4 - Bodhi, Sammy, Angelina & Henley

Year 5 - Leo, Isaac & Josh

Year 6 - Michael, Jackson & Lucia

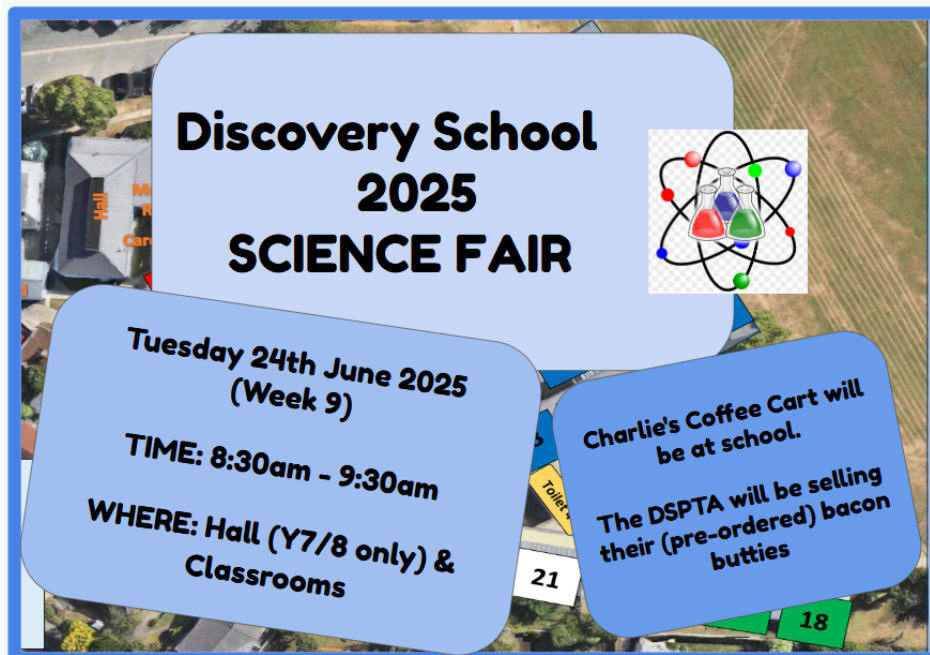
Year 7 - Zac, Theo, Samuel & Bella

Year 8 - Finn, Liam & Annabelle

AIMS Games

The AIMS Games provides an opportunity for Year 7/8 students to participate in a sporting tournament at an elite level. While we had some interest in participating in AIMS Games this year and the board approved participation in 2 sports (netball and golf), we do not have any participants attending the event this year. This is due to the large commitment involved and not all families being able to commit, as well as the AIMS Games selection processes. We see the AIMS Games as an opportunity for our tamariki to thrive and grow and are committed to supporting the participation of more students next year and beyond.

Discovery School Science Fair



The poster for the Discovery School 2025 Science Fair features a blue background with a white speech bubble containing the title. To the right is a graphic of a molecular model with red, blue, and green spheres. Below the title are two blue speech bubbles with white text. The first bubble contains the date, time, and location. The second bubble contains information about Charlie's Coffee Cart and the DSPTA selling bacon butties. The background of the poster shows an aerial view of the school grounds with a building and a field.

**Discovery School
2025
SCIENCE FAIR**

**Tuesday 24th June 2025
(Week 9)**
TIME: 8:30am - 9:30am
**WHERE: Hall (Y7/8 only) &
Classrooms**

**Charlie's Coffee Cart will
be at school.**
**The DSPTA will be selling
their (pre-ordered) bacon
butties**

DSPTA NEWS

Whittakers Chocolate Mixed Fundraising Box

On **Monday** we will send one box per family of 30 Whittakers Chocolates to sell for \$2.50 each, unless you notified us to opt out. **We will send the box home with the oldest child.** You will have four weeks to sell your chocolates - returning \$75 dollars at the end of Week 1, Term 3 - Friday 17th July. Thank you to the families who have offered to take more than one box. If you have any questions, please email dspta@discovery.school.nz

Movie Night Fundraiser - Sunday 29th June, 5pm

Can you get a group together and join us for this fun movie fundraiser? Email dspta@discovery.school.nz to book your tickets asap.



Discovery Pacific Voyagers

Kia orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Fakalofa lahi atu, Taloha Ni, Nisa bula vinaka and warm Pacific greetings everyone. This group was established in September 2013 with the vision of including some of our Pasifika cultures, languages, songs and contexts into the learning environments at Discovery School.

We are a group of parents/grandparents who want to work with the school's staff and leadership/management to support them to understand, strengthen and maintain the identities, languages and cultures of the Pasifika students and families of Discovery school. We welcome everyone who has an interest in supporting our Pasifika children and families at Discovery school. There are many opportunities for you to be involved and information about these opportunities will be on the school website and in the school newsletters. Meitaki maata, Fa'afetai tele lava

Join the Facebook page [Discovery Pacific Voyagers](#)

Māori Parents Group At Discovery School

Discovery School's Whānau Group is made up of whānau Māori within the school community who like to meet termly to celebrate Te Aō Māori and learn more about it. The Whānau Group is a space for our whānau Māori to develop their understanding of our culture and identity through celebrations, Māori traditions and practices, share kai and encourage whānau to meet and form relationships. We acknowledge the importance of identity in our taura (students) and how it contributes towards our tamariki enjoying and achieving educational success. We meet once a term and welcome the involvement of all Māori students and their whānau.

Join the Facebook page [Whānau group facebook page](#)

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/our-school/kelly-club-before-and-after-school-care>


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](#).

HEAD LICE

Five tips to prevent head lice:

1. Comb and brush your hair everyday with your own comb or brush
2. Avoid sharing hats
3. Wear swimming caps at the pool and avoid sharing towels
4. Wear your long hair tied up
5. Let an adult check your hair and check the whole family weekly



If you notice your child has head lice:

- Treat with wet combing or Dimethicone 4% lotion
- Notify school so that they can tell parents to check their children

See your Public Health Nurse or school office for resources and advice.

For more information:
www.rph.org.nz/public-health-topics/early-childhood-centres/fact-sheets/head-lice.pdf

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

PORIRUA EAR VAN

FREE ear checks for children 0-18 years.



This service is provided by a registered nurse who has special training in ear health.

The nurse provides:

- Assessment of ear problems
- Parental education and support
- Ear wax removal
- Removal of foreign objects in the ear canal
- Ear canal cleaning and more!

To book an appointment:
www.rph.org.nz/ear-van

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Information about donations sent out on 30 May

Tēnā koutou katoa,

We're writing to all our parents and whānau today to talk about school donations and why they're so important for our school's operations. We understand that "donations" can sometimes be a confusing term, and we want to be as clear as possible about how they contribute to your child's education.

You may have heard about the Ministry of Education's [donations scheme](#), which provides additional funding to schools with a higher [Equity Index](#) (EQI). This scheme aims to ease the financial pressure on families by giving schools extra money to cover costs that might otherwise be met through donations. Schools with an EQI of 432 or higher receive an additional \$163.50 per student from the government. This funding helps those schools operate without relying as heavily on contributions from parents.

Our school, however, has an EQI of 392. This means that, according to the Ministry's criteria, our community is considered to be in a position to contribute through school donations. As a result, we do not receive this additional government funding. To put this in perspective, if we were eligible for the scheme, we would receive an additional \$76,681.50 in our operations grant – a significant amount that would greatly benefit our students and programmes.

Because we don't receive this government funding, we budget income for school donations as a crucial part of our operational costs. We anticipate around 65% of our families will contribute, which would amount to approximately \$57,720. This money is not for 'extras' or 'nice-to-haves'; it goes directly towards essential resources, learning materials, and programmes that benefit every child in our school. Without these donations, we simply couldn't provide the level of education and support that we do.

Currently, we have only received \$22,747 in donations this year. This shortfall significantly impacts our ability to deliver the quality education our students deserve.

We firmly believe that all schools in New Zealand should be fully funded by the government, reducing the need for families to contribute financially. Unfortunately, this isn't yet the reality. We also know that many families are currently feeling the pinch of the rising cost of living, and we are incredibly mindful of the financial pressures you may be facing.

If you are in a position to pay your school donation, we want to express our sincere gratitude. We genuinely rely on these funds to operate and provide the best possible learning environment for your children. Every dollar makes a difference.

If paying the full amount isn't feasible right now, please know that any contribution you can make is deeply appreciated. Whether it's a part payment or small, regular contributions, every little bit helps us reach our goal and ensure our students continue to thrive and grow.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding. If you have any questions about school donations or would like to discuss payment options, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Ngā mihi nui,

Kaylene Macnee (on behalf of The Discovery School Board)