



DISCOVERY SCHOOL

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

NEWSLETTER

Week 8, Term 4

27 November 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

This is the last official newsletter for the year, but there may be some updates via Hero that come your way. Our final day of school for the year is Wednesday 17th December and school will close at the conclusion of the poroaki around 12.30pm.

The end of the school year always brings around **staff farewells**. As previously mentioned, Tam Dullabh is leaving us to take up a teaching position at Papakōwhai School. Tam started working at Discovery School in 1998 as a long term reliever. She picked up a permanent position in 1999 and since then has worked in various full time and part time roles, as well as taking some time out for maternity leave. Over the years, Tam has held curriculum responsibilities and mentored other teachers starting out in the profession. Tam is an experienced teacher and has contributed a huge amount to our school in the time she's worked with us. Her tamariki have attended here and many of you will know her husband, Barri, who also worked here for a number of years. We are very grateful for the work Tam has done and wish her well for her next adventure in her career. Lynley Stewart's fixed term contract with us to take the roll growth class ends at the end of the year too. Lynley has been a great addition to our team and has been a wonderful teacher for our tamariki. She is warm, nurturing and experienced - just what you need as a first teacher! We appreciate Lynley's work and there's a chance you may see her around next year when our roll starts to grow again.

We are also preparing to **farewell students**, with 52 Year 8s moving to college, as well as a small number of children who are moving to other schools. Our Year 8 group have made great contributions to our school in the time they have been here, with many earning the school badge (some multiple badges!). Best wishes to all our departing students.

We are looking forward to welcoming Angela Stanley to our team next year, in the **new Learning Support Coordinator** role. Angela brings a wealth of experience in working with students who require additional learning support, as well as those who need extension. This is a new position created through additional Ministry of Education staffing for our school and we know it will help us to add valuable additions to the work we already do in this area. 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.

2025 has seen more changes around the school - we have seen more property improvements with the turf, new windows in a number of classrooms, painting and grounds work. We've seen the launch of our new vision and had some great learning going on to support this. It has been a very challenging time for teachers with so much change in the curriculum, some of which has since significantly changed again! We will be taking any changes at a pace that is manageable for staff, in order to ensure learning is not compromised for the tamariki. We are really excited about sharing our cultural performance with you at Te Moana Nui a Kiwa here next Thursday evening.

We also have a couple of property projects in the pipeline for next year with the internal refurbishment of some classrooms and the bay window removal/replacement in the Library - watch this space!

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the staff, the DSPTA and Discovery Board (current and recently departed members). The tamariki who come to Discovery every day are very lucky to have such a dedicated team of people working to support their learning. We have high quality teaching and governance, coupled with great financial support from the DSPTA and then there's a wonderful group of whānau (that's you 😊) working alongside us to support tamariki in their learning. It takes a team effort and our school community is a great team to be part of. Thanks to everyone for their support during the year.

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

Kaylene

Supervision Before School

We provide supervision for tamariki in classrooms from 8.30am. If your children are on site prior to 8.30am, they should be enrolled with Kelly Club. We do not have teachers on duty before school as they are in classrooms, however some tamariki choose to use the field and other outdoor areas. There are always teachers nearby in rooms (and some with a view of the field), but parents should be aware that supervision is in classrooms and you can talk to your child(ren) about staying in class before school if you have any concerns about supervision. There is also an option to arrive at school just before the first bell at 8.55am, however we suggest 8.45am is a better time as it allows tamariki to settle into the classroom. It is also worth noting that prior to 8.55am, the gates are open to allow tamariki access to the school grounds so they can come to school independently. The gates are closed after the first bell. While staff who aren't in classrooms try to be around the front gate, it's not always possible. From time to time, we have children who get anxious about drop off and struggle to say goodbye to their parents and plans are put in place to ensure they are happy and safe. If your child is in this situation, please talk to your child's teacher, or a member of our Leadership Team, so we can make a plan to support them at drop off times.

Welcome to our New Board Members

Welcome to our recently elected board members whose profiles are below. We also have two co-opted members finishing up - David Pulemagafa, who has been our Pacific Parent Representative, and Colby Osborne, our Māori Parent Representative. We are very grateful for the work that both David and Colby have done in their time on the board. It is very important for us to have diversity on our board as this brings additional perspectives to our mahi (work). We are in the process of confirming co-options for their replacements and will let you know formal arrangements in the new year.

TYSON EDWARDS

Kia ora,

I'm Tyson, a proud parent of two boys, John at Discovery and his younger brother William. My partner Jaclyn is also a Discovery alumna, so our family has a longstanding personal connection to the school.

Originally from Canada, I moved to New Zealand at 17 and have called it home ever since. My professional journey began in clinical dietetics, before moving into education as a lecturer at the University of Otago, and now (after a return to study for an additional degree in economics). I work at Pharmac where I help fund medicines for my fellow New Zealanders.



In my spare time I love to read and learn, as well as getting outdoors with the kids biking, swimming, and generally enjoying the sunshine.

LAUREN MCINTOSH

Tēnā koutou katoa

My name is Lauren McIntosh and I'm so thrilled to be on the board of our amazing Discovery School!

I'm a Mum to three students at the school, next year I'll have one in each syndicate which I can't quite believe! We also have a little black English Staffy who is almost 13 and the soul of our household.

I am currently working at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and have spent most of my career working in policy in the central government - the Ministry of Justice, Ministry for Primary Industries, Office of Treaty Settlements and Education. I also spent a year working at the NZ Embassy in Santiago de Chile which was a highlight and I love speaking Spanish, although it's getting pretty rusty!

In my spare time I enjoy playing Tennis for the Whitby Tennis Club, and I spend lots of time being a mum taxi to ballet and football.



Parking

You will notice the new parking signs around the front of the school encouraging people to think about where they park. These were produced by Porirua City Council and we are very grateful. We know the parking on The Companion Way is dismal at times, which creates an unsafe environment for our tamariki. Unfortunately, we require council permission to put signs out the back and they have not agreed to this. Drivers are responsible for parking and driving safely. Ignoring road markings, or parking on the berm is dangerous - please don't do this.

The Porirua City Parking Wardens visit schools across our city. We have requested that they patrol both entrances to our school, so please be aware you may be ticketed if parking incorrectly. If anyone sees illegal parking, we encourage you to report it by [following this link](#) which goes directly to the parking team to action. Feel free to include number plates.

At the front of our school in our carpark, please DO NOT stop on the crossed yellow lines. They are not a safe place to drop your child off.

If you struggle to find an appropriate place to drop your child off to school, please come a little earlier, park down the road and have them walk a little bit further. Better still, encourage your child to walk to school from home.

Athletics

A big thank you to all the parents that helped at our school Athletics day. We really appreciate your help to run this programme. Congratulations to the following students who got a certificate for their results at the Parumoana Athletics.

Annabelle P (YR8 G) - 1st 200m, 3rd 1500m, 1st Long Jump, 1st 100m

Danielle G (YR8 G) - 2nd High Jump

Milly H (YR8 G) - 1st Discus, 3rd Shot Put

Liam F (YR8 B) - 1st Long Jump

Maylah-Vee T (YR7 G) - 2nd Vortex

Theo B (YR7 B) - 1st Vortex

Zac W (YR7 B) - 3rd 1500m

Lucia H (YR6 G) - 1st High Jump

Roimata H (YR6 G) - 2nd Vortex, 1st Shot Put

Beau B (YR6 B) - 3rd High Jump

Jake B (YR6 B) - 1st High Jump

Anastasia E (YR5 G) - 2nd= Long Jump

Relay teams - Year 6 boys 3rd, Year 6 girls 3rd, Year 8 girls 3rd

Year 7&8 Speech Competition

On Friday, 21st November, we held our senior speech finals. Congratulations to all of our speakers and well done to the students who received a placing. Thank you very much to Mr Nicholson for being our judge.

Year 7 - 1st Ada, 2nd Leo, 3rd Pepper



Year 8 - 1st Annabelle, 2nd Blake, 3rd Raya



Year 5&6 Speech Competition

Last Friday we also held our Year 6 speech finals. The students all did incredibly well and it was clear that they had taken on board some of the tips and tricks Mr Nicholson had given them earlier in the term.

Congratulations to the following place getters:

Year 6 - 1st - Lucia, 2nd Blake D, 3rd Annaliese



Our overall winners, Annabelle and Lucia, will be representing Discovery School at the Interschool Speech Competition on Friday, 28th November.

2026 School Organisation

We have now confirmed the classrooms and levels teachers will be working in next year as per the table below. The blue classes are in the Junior Team, green in the Middle Team and Red in the Senior Team. Parents will be informed of their child's teacher when final reporting posts are uploaded to Seesaw on Wednesday 10th December.

Year 1 roll growth	Rebecca Griffin	Room 7
Year 1	Jess Shariff	Room 4
Year 1	Amy Richards	Room 5
Year 2	Sarah Maudsley	Room 2
Year 2	Liz Chalmers	Room 1
Year 2/3	Kirsti Bourke	Room 8
Year 3	John Manville	Room 9
Year 2/3	Kelly Eteveneaux	Room 10
Year 4/5	Andrew Knight	Room 11
Year 4/5	Marie Carkeek	Room 12
Year 4/5	Rhiann Wallace	Room 13
Year 4/5	Vicki Howarth	Room 14
Year 5/6	Rae Black	Room 21
Year 5/6	Ailish Akavi	Room 22
Year 5/6	Nat Dale	Room 23
Year 7/8	Shaun Bishop	Room 20
Year 7/8	Sarah Jenner	Room 18
Year 7/8	Nic Kibblewhite	Room 16
Year 7/8	Stacey Mew	Room 17

sueallmanpeople

Thank you - School Photo Orders

Thank you to all the families who purchased school photos from SueAllManPeople. We received \$518.44 commission on the sales, which we will put towards learning resources for classrooms.

Yummy Stickers

A big thank you to everyone who collected Yummy stickers during the year. We have got \$370 worth of free equipment for our tamariki to use.



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. [Kelly Club Before and After School Care](#)

Kelly Club will be available for bookings on Wednesday 17th December from 12.30pm.

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](#).