



NEWSLETTER

Week 8, Term 1

Thursday 27 March 2025

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

The term is flying past at an incredible rate as we head into April. We have been doing lots of mahi (work) about our vision here at school and we are looking forward to sharing this with you next week. If you can, please come along to school between 2-3pm on Friday, April 4th, to hear from our tamariki about their **learning in relation to our vision** this term. This will take place in the hall.

I recently attended some professional learning around the **importance of sleep**. There were some interesting insights I thought you may find useful for your whānau. These things apply to both adults and children:

- A consistent wake time is as important - it causes social jetlag, so we need to avoid big sleep-ins on the weekend - it makes Monday hard!;
- Consistent bedtimes are also really important and can be helped by a good bedtime routine; and
- Devices in bedrooms should be avoided - if you do nothing else, for the sake of your child's wellbeing, please consider making their bedroom a no go zone for devices.

Understanding how much sleep we need is a good start. The chart below shows the recommended sleep times.

Age range	Recommended hours of sleep
4-12 months	12-16 hours (including naps)
1-2 years	11-14 hours (including naps)
3-5 years	10-13 hours (including naps)
6-12 years	9-12 hours
13-18 years	8-10 hours
18 + years	7 hours or more

We had an excellent day of professional development around the maths curriculum a few weeks ago. Unfortunately, our facilitator is now not available on the 30th of May, so we have had to change our next curriculum day for professional development to Friday 13 June. **School will no longer be closed on May 30th, but WILL be closed on 13 June.** Please note this in your diaries and make alternative arrangements for your child on the 13th. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the change of date.

The upcoming **holiday break** includes the Easter Holiday and Anzac Day. The last day of school is Friday, 11 April and we open again on Monday 28th April. Over the holidays there will be some roofing work going on here at school, so please be aware of that when using the school grounds.

Have a great weekend when it arrives!

Kaylene

Message from the School Board

We are thrilled to share some exciting news with our school community. At the Term 1 Wellington Regional Primary Principals' Association (WRPPA) meeting, our principal, Kaylene Macnee, was awarded Life Membership in recognition of her outstanding services to principalship in the Wellington region.

The Life Membership is a special honour, acknowledging individuals who have made significant contributions to the development, support, and leadership of primary education within our region. This recognition reflects Kaylene's dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to our students and the broader educational community.

We are incredibly proud to have Kaylene as our leader, and we congratulate her on this well-deserved achievement. Ka mau te wehi, Kaylene!



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

Our NEW Vision through art!

You have been invited to join us!

WHAT: Vision through art: A celebration of learning at Discovery School to explore our new vision.


WHEN: Friday 4th of April, 2pm - 3 pm.

WHERE: Discovery School Hall

Come along for afternoon tea and explore our new vision through art. Tamariki will be there to talk you through their learning and what it means to **thrive and grow** at Discovery School.

Hope to see you there!

Afternoon Tea provided by our DSPTA



DSPTA PRESENTS

Discovery School Disco!

FRIDAY 4TH APRIL

JUNIORS YRS 0-3 5:00-6:00
MIDDLE YRS 4-6 6:15-7:15
SENIORS YRS 7-8 7:30-8:30

\$2 entry on the door

Let's Dance!

DRINKS & TREATS SOLD

IF YOU'RE ABLE TO ASSIST WITH SELLING TREATS PLEASE EMAIL DSPTA@DISCOVERY.SCHOOL.NZ

ERO Report

Last year, the Education Review Office (ERO) visited our school. Prior to their visit, they reviewed a large amount of documentation. During their visit, they met with tamariki, staff, and members of the board. They observed in classrooms across the school and discussed plans, observations and future directions with us. They report on both compliance with legislation, and the quality of teaching and learning. [ERO's report of Discovery school](#) has been published on their website.

Key headline statements include:

- Most students achieve well, and outcomes are increasingly equitable;
- Strategic and well-informed leadership drives improvement and sets high expectations for teaching and learning;
- Responsive teaching and learning reflects learners' strengths, needs and interest and builds on existing knowledge and skills to promote progress; and
- Well-aligned systems, structures and practices are embedded and underpin successful learner outcomes.

ERO worked with the Leadership Team to confirm next steps for improvement and we are very pleased that these confirm our strategic direction.

Attendance

Attendance at school is vital in order for tamariki to achieve and make positive social connections. You will no doubt be aware that attendance is also a government priority. Below is a snapshot of our attendance data in Term 4 of last year.

How many students regularly attended school this term?



What were the main reasons given for absence this term?

1. (M) Illness / Medical Absence 63%
2. (G) Holiday 20%
3. (J) Justified (other) 10%
4. (E) Accepted (but unjustified) 7%

Regular attendance equates to over 90% attendance (missing fewer than 5 days across a term). You can see that term time holidays are the second highest reason for non-attendance at school. A day here and there can also be an issue that affects learning. Sometimes we don't realise how non-attendance adds up.



Please do what you can to ensure your child is at school every day that they can be. If we can help you in any way, please reach out to your child's teacher or a member of our Leadership Team. The ERO has published a [guide for parents about school attendance](#).

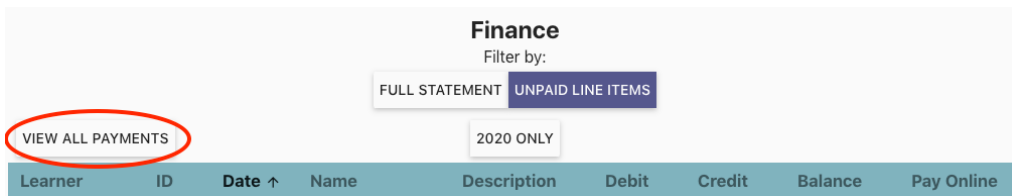
School Statements

We will be emailing out statements to all families in the next couple of days. We are unable to separate payments and donations on our statements, so you will see both items included. With regards to donations, we rely upon the generous support of our community. We are aware that it is a tough financial climate for our parents, but if you are in a position to support us with your donation (and we certainly hope you can), your donations are greatly appreciated (even if it is a part payment). For every donation over \$5, you can claim back 33.33% from the IRD.

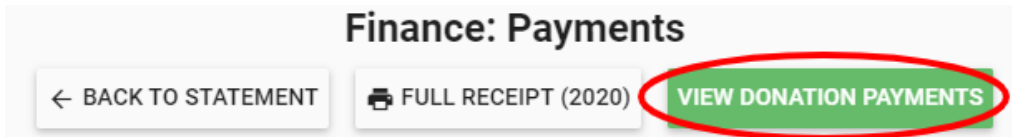
How a Caregiver will print a tax donation receipt

Please take the time to print and file your receipt for donations at the time of payment.

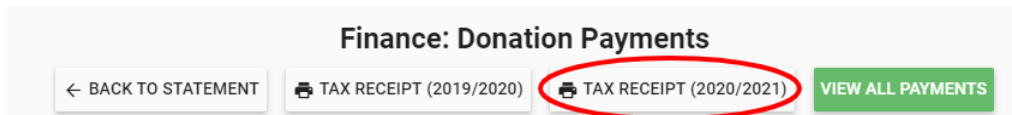
1. The caregiver will log into Hero **via a web browser**
2. The caregiver will select **FINANCE** from the menu to view the statement of the students they have finance access to view
3. The caregiver will click **VIEW ALL PAYMENTS**



4. The caregiver will click **VIEW DONATION RECEIPTS**.



5. The caregiver will click the **Tax Receipt** button for the year they require. This will download as a protected (uneditable) Word document.



AIMS Games

The Vision of Discovery School is to provide a community where *Whanake rā tātou kia pai ai te āpōpō | We thrive and grow today for a better tomorrow*. Attending the [AIMs Games](#) provides tamariki in Year 7 & 8 with the opportunity to live up to this vision at a national level for their chosen sport.

The AIMS games allow students to be exposed to strong competition at a high level on a large scale environment. They will enjoy a representative experience where they are representing Discovery School and are required to demonstrate the core values of Integrity, Respect, Excellence & Responsibility outside of the school environment.

Criteria

The board is now considering expressions of interest in attending the AIMS Games. Applicants will be selected based on top performers or teams in their league who would benefit from the extension, the experience and the exposure.

Off the back of last year's success, Discovery School will be sending one netball team. This team will be confirmed after trials.

Expressions of Interest

If you would like more information about AIMS Games, you can view the link above or contact Kaylene directly for the Discovery School AIMS games policy.

All expressions of interest should be sent to Kaylene by **Monday, 7 April**. They should include the name of the applicant(s), the name and contact details of the key contact person and why they meet the criteria to participate. Expressions of interest will be considered by the board and subject to confirmation of registration by AIMS Games.

It is the expectation that all participants are representing Discovery School, however, all costs are to be met by participants. AIMS Games is only available to year 7 & 8 students.

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.**

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, kai and a space for other 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 education 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](#).

WATER ONLY

Water IS BEST at home and school: give your child a drink bottle they can fill with plain tap water



- At home, keep sugary drinks for extra special occasions only.
- New Zealand tap water is safe to drink straight from the tap and it's FREE.
- Unlike sugary drinks, water doesn't cause tooth decay, obesity, or diabetes.
- When we're thirsty, water is perfect.
- Add fruit slices to plain water to make it more appealing.

For more information:
[healthify.nz/hauora-wellbeing/w/water/](https://www.healthify.nz/hauora-wellbeing/w/water/)

SUN SMART

Simple tips for being sun smart:



- **Slip** into a shirt or shade
- **Slop** on some sunscreen
- **Slap** on a hat that covers your face and neck
- **Wrap** on a pair of sunglasses

For more information:
www.sunsmart.org.nz