



DISCOVERY SCHOOL

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

NEWSLETTER

Week 3, Term 2

Thursday 15 May 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

It's **Support Staff Week** this week and I'd like to start by acknowledging our amazing team. We have a dedicated, hard working group of staff who ensure our grounds, administration, library, learning support and cultural programmes are running efficiently to support our tamariki. Thanks to our office team (Susan, Helena & Tracey), Librarian (Donnella), Grounds Team (Michael & Tom), our Pacific Coordinator (Faiva) and our Learning Assistants (Donnella, Raewyn, Tracey, Cathy, Catherine, Simone & Jean). This group are key in helping us take steps towards our vision - *Whanake rā tātou kia pai ai te āpōpō | We thrive and grow today for a better tomorrow.*

We are currently experiencing a huge amount of rapid **change in curriculum expectations**. While I believe this change is necessary, in that the refreshed curriculum provides greater clarity to teachers about what to teach and when, I am very concerned at the rate of change and the narrative that is sitting alongside it. On Monday, I was very disappointed to hear a press conference where our Prime Minister stated "*we are facing a total failure of our children through an education system that was not delivering anything except shocking achievement levels.*" In my view, this comment is not only incorrect, but offensive to the people working in our education system, our tamariki and their whānau. Under the curriculum that has been in place, our teachers and support staff have done a wonderful job of ensuring tamariki reach their full potential and our achievement data has been reflective of the vast majority of tamariki achieving expectations. A truly enriching curriculum extends far beyond reading, writing and mathematics. While these foundational skills are undeniably crucial, our curriculum should also focus on opportunities for tamariki to explore their passions, develop diverse talents and become well-rounded individuals.

Teachers were provided with new curriculum documents at the very end of last year, with implementation expected from February and reporting to start mid year. Year 0-6 teachers have 2 new curricula (Maths and English) in that time, while Y7-8 have 1 (Maths), as the English for their level has not yet been confirmed. As a school, we have participated in all professional development offered to us, while trying to support our teachers to still have time to teach! While the public messaging has been that the curriculum changes have come with new assessment supports, we have not found this to be the case - there are some tools trickling out, but with little time to learn about them and for the most part, we are still using the same assessment tools as before, most without any calibration to the new curriculum. When the Minister visited our school in the first week of term, I expressed to her my concern that having to report on the new curriculum to parents mid-year with accuracy, was unmanageable. While we appreciate the government's focus on educational improvement and the clarity that well-defined expectations can bring, we also recognise that introducing new initiatives and reporting expectations too rapidly can inadvertently hinder the very improvements we strive for.

As we move through this curriculum change, we will keep you informed and our priority will be doing our best to ensure changes are implemented thoughtfully and sustainably, in the best interests of tamariki, while allowing our teachers the time and space to integrate new approaches effectively. I will be sending separate communications about the mid-year reporting. As much of the reporting guidance from the Ministry is still in draft, at this point, we have tried to correlate what we know about the new curriculum with the previous one without making changes to the language and format we use. Watch this space!

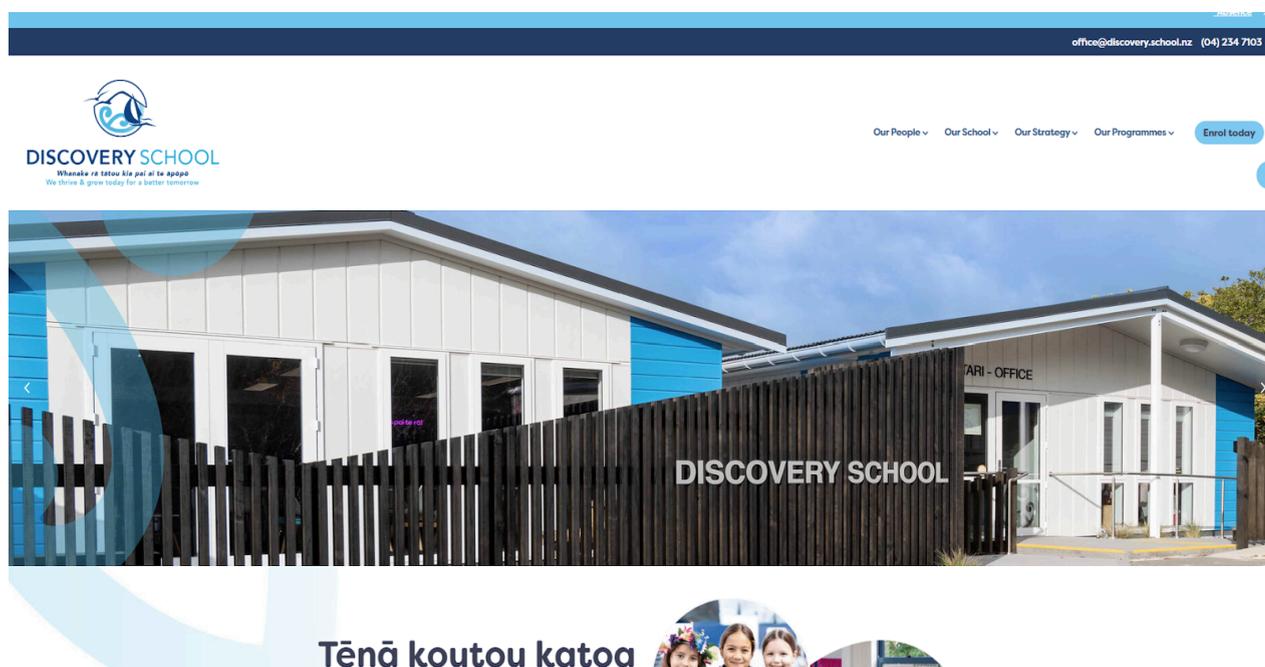
On a brighter note, when the Minister and Tim Costley visited our kura, our tamariki welcomed them very warmly and were eager to share their learning. Tim noted how confident they were at speaking to adults, looking them in the eye. Our tamariki really are a joy and they bring smiles to our faces every day.

Kia pai te rā.

Kaylene

New Website

If you've been online to look at our website lately, you'll be aware that we have had it redesigned! [Check it out](#) and a huge thanks to Ashley at Mish Mash Design for her work with us to upgrade the site.



BOT Update

The board would like to extend a huge thanks to Georgia Taingahue who has been our Māori parent representative since June 2021. Ngā mihi nu nui kia koe Georgia! Georgia has done a tremendous amount of work, including helping to recruit a new member of the parent group to step into her role. We welcome Colby Osborne to the board, whose profile is below.

Colby Osborne

Kia ora koutou! My whānau and I recently moved to Wellington. I have five children, with two girls currently enrolled at Discovery School, making me very motivated to help our kura be the best it can be.

We have lived all over the world including America, Tahiti, Hong Kong, and China. For me, it's crucial that all our tamariki not only thrive academically but also feel a strong connection to their Māori culture. I believe celebrating and embracing their cultural identity is key to their overall well-being and success in life. I'm passionate about supporting initiatives that weave te ao Māori into the fabric of Discovery School, helping every child feel a strong sense of belonging and pride in who they are.

I have done volunteer work with youth for over 20 years. My husband and I have owned businesses around the world. I'm keen to share the skills I have with the board and the wider school community to enrich our school and give every student the opportunity to reach their full potential, both in their learning and in their understanding of their cultural heritage.



Staff Appointment

We are pleased to inform you that we have appointed Lynley Stewart to join our Junior Team and to teach our next roll growth class (5 year olds). Lynley is an experienced teacher who has worked in ECE and roll growth settings. We are very excited to have her join our team.

Mobility Park Clarification & Parking

Just to clarify, both Discovery School Mobility parks are only suitable for one car each so that wheelchairs can have easy access. Please do not share mobility parks. The person exiting the vehicle must have a Mobility Parking Permit to use these parks, and the permit must be displayed. You may have noticed the parking wardens here this week. They do come to schools from time to time. Please remember, whether they are here or not, yellow lines are no parking areas.

Reminder Curriculum Date Change - Friday 13 June

Just a reminder that **school will be closed on Friday 13 June** for teachers to undertake professional learning about the new curriculum. *(This was originally planned for 30 May)*

Please make alternative arrangements for your child on the 13th June. [Kelly Club](#) will be offering a programme on the day.

KELLY CLUB A FUN PROGRAMME THAT KIDS LOVE!

Friday 13 June
TEACHER ONLY DAY PROGRAMME

DISCOVERY SCHOOL

We've got an amazing programme planned including baking, crafts, games and more!
Book online now for our fun-filled one day holiday programme. See you there!

Full Day: \$56 7:00am - 6:00pm	School Day: \$46 8:30am - 3:00pm	Half Day: \$38 7:00am - 12:30pm or 12:30pm - 6:00pm
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Contact: Julie England
Phone: 027 321 2112

Email: discovery@kellyclub.co.nz
Facebook: @KellyClubDiscoveryWhitby

BOOK ONLINE NOW AT www.kellyclub.co.nz

Policy Review

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

Term 2 policies	Review opens 28 April
• Planning and Preparing for Emergencies, Disasters, and Crises	Board review
• Communication During an Emergency, Disaster, or Crisis	Board review
• Emergency Closure	Board review
• Emergency Management	
• Disaster Management	
• Crisis Management	

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:

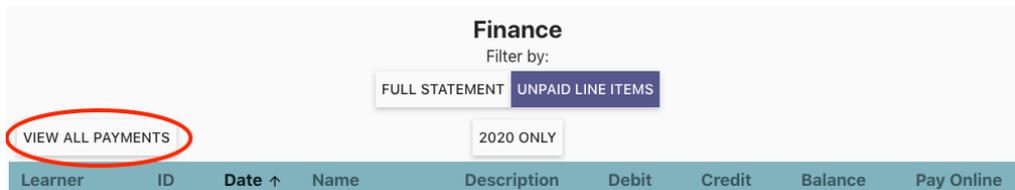
<https://www.discovery.school.nz/charter/school-docs-policies-and-procedures>

How a Caregiver will print a tax donation receipt

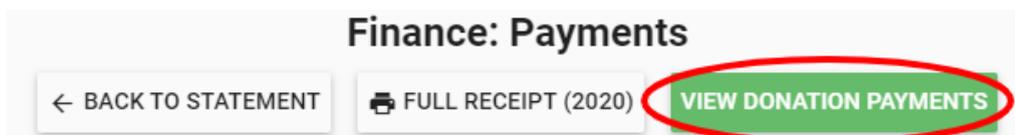
Unfortunately, some tax receipts did not have the parents name on the receipt, this has now been rectified so if you get a 'decline' from IRD can you please download the tax invoice again. Sorry for any inconvenience.

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.



School Cross Country

Our School Cross Country is being held on the 23rd May (Friday week 4) with the *postponement date of the 27th May (Tuesday week 5)*.

The Parumoana Cross Country event is on Tuesday the 3rd of June, with *postponement dates on the 5th and 10th of June*. We will need some parents to be at the event to help our school's students.

If you think your child has a good chance of making it into the Parumoana Team for Discovery, please keep an eye out for the parent help form on HERO as it is a fast turnaround between our Cross Country and Parumoana Cross Country.

We just want to make sure people have these dates so we can plan ahead. Thank you Shaun Bishop, Lead Sport Teacher

School Lunches

Discovery School lunches are available to order through Lunchonline.

Monday - Truffle Cafe sandwiches and hot food

Wednesday - Kurashi Catering Sushi

Friday - Pita Pit

Click on the link below to see menus. Please note cut off time for ordering is 8.30am

Go to <https://www.lunchonline.co.nz>

TRUFFLE



DSPTA PRESENTS...

Discovery School PINK SHIRT DAY Disco

WEAR PINK AND GET READY TO PARTY! ★



Friday 16th May

JUNIORS YRS 0-3 5.00PM - 6.00PM	MIDDLE YRS 4-6 6.15PM - 7.15PM	SENIORS YRS 7-8 7.30PM-8.30PM
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\$2 ENTRY AT THE DOOR DRINKS AND TREATS SOLD

PARENT HELPERS ALWAYS NEEDED - PLEASE EMAIL DSPTA@DISCOVERY.SCHOOL.NZ

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 taurira (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](#).

DENTAL HEALTH

Tips for keeping tamariki's teeth clean:



- Brush teeth with fluoride toothpaste for two minutes, twice a day.
- Spit, don't rinse after brushing.
- Avoid drinking sugary drinks. Tap water is still the best drink for thirst.
- Eat snacks with no added sugar.
- FREE dental care is available for under 18 year olds.

For more information:
www.beehealthy.org.nz



Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

COUGHING & SNEEZING

Here are some important points to teach your tamariki about coughing and sneezing:



- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze – then put the tissue in a bin.
- If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- Always turn your face away from people when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser after you cough or sneeze.
- Never cough or sneeze into your hands or open air.

For more information: info.health.nz/keeping-healthy/healthy-habits/

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora