



# DISCOVERY SCHOOL

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

## NEWSLETTER

Week 3, Term 3

Thursday 31 July 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 was great to have such high attendance at our **Learning Conversations** last week. We had 97% of tamariki have a learning conversation with their teacher and whānau - this shows great commitment from our school community to ensure our tamariki are well supported in their learning. Thank you for taking the time to attend these meetings. This year, we included ensuring you are clear about your child's attendance rate. If your child has a low attendance rate, they have less chance of success at school. If you need help with increasing your child's attendance - please speak to your child's teacher or a member of our Leadership Team. If you have any feedback about the Learning Conversations, please send it through to me. We are looking at the possibility of moving our reporting from Seesaw to Hero next year. A few of our staff will be trialing the use of Hero for reporting as we move through the next few terms - you won't notice anything different during the trial as we'll do it all behind the scenes, but we'll keep you posted on any developments.

It was lovely to see so many of you come through the staffroom on the Learning Conversation evenings last week - we had 70 families come and share their thoughts with us. **Curriculum** is our main purpose, so getting feedback from whānau about aspects of curriculum delivery is really helpful. If you missed the opportunity to give us feedback, we'll be sending you a survey next week to complete if you are interested as it will help us with our strategic and future planning.

Thanks also to the people who completed our survey a few weeks back about the **relevance of our current strategic goals** moving forward. A summary of the whānau and staff surveys was presented to the board on Monday and [can be found here](#). This information is one piece of information within a wider consultation that will be considered as we develop our strategic plan for the next 3 years.

It's been great to see some nominations coming in for our **board elections**. Information that had previously been sent out can be found later in the newsletter - please remember that nominations close at 12 noon on the 6th of August. Election day is the 10th of September.

Kia pai te wiki | have a good week.

*Kaylene*

## End of School Day

We are noticing an increased number of older children not leaving the school grounds at the end of the day and instead, staying around school to play basketball or hang out with friends. Just a reminder that tamariki are to go home after school and should be vacating the grounds by 3.15pm (unless they are in an organised activity such as Kelly Sports or Kelly Club). Once home and back in your care, they are welcome to return to school to play in the playground if they arrange that with you.

## Donations

Last term, we sent out information about why our school is so reliant on parent donations as we don't receive the same amount of government funding as some other schools. This is because the government believes we are a school that has a parent community that can and do, pay their school donations. A huge thanks to everyone who has paid all or some of their 2025 school donations. We know things are tight for many families, so we budgeted for 65% of families to pay (\$57,720). We have seen an increase since our last communication about donations, but we are still significantly under our budgeted income with \$38,700 paid - this means we are still \$20,000 under budget. Every little bit helps, so if you are in a position to pay all or some of your donation and haven't yet done so, it would be much appreciated, as we rely on this money for our resources and equipment.

## Term Dates for 2026

For those of you who like to plan your 2026 holidays, the term dates are below and are also on our website. Please avoid planning holidays during term time wherever possible.

- Term 1 - 4 Feb - 2 April
- Term 2 - 20 April - 3 July
- Term 3 - 20 July - 25 Sept
- Term 4 - 12 Oct - 16 Dec

We will be having a curriculum professional development day on 6 March and school will be closed for instruction. There will be one more day in the year, but the date of this will not be confirmed until next year and you will get plenty of notice. We will have a meet the teacher day on Tuesday 3rd February.

## Regional Cross Country Results

It was great to have 17 of our students participate in the Regional Cross Country late last term. The following students deserve a special mention as they placed in the top 25 for their year level, which is a huge achievement. Some of them are likely to get the opportunity to represent Wellington at the national event.

### Year 4 Boys

Sammy W - 9th

### Year 5 Boys

Leo C - 4th

Isaac B - 11th

### Year 6 Girls

Lucia H - 18th

### Year 6 Boys

Michael W - 5th

### Year 7 Boys

Zac W - 23rd

Theo B - 24th

## Board Elections

Just a reminder that our board elections are coming up. We appointed Election Pilot as our Returning Officer and you should have been receiving communications directly from them about the process for nominations which close at 12 noon on Wednesday, August 6th. If you have any questions about the election process, then the best people to talk to are the team at Schooled Election Pilot.

You can contact the Returning Officer directly on:

**0800 VOTENZ (0800 868 369) or [election@electionpilot.nz](mailto:election@electionpilot.nz)**

We will continue to keep you updated through the various stages of the election process. **Our election date is Wednesday 10th September.**

## 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 3 policies	Review opens 30 June
• <b>Child Protection</b>	Board review
• <b>Abuse Recognition and Reporting</b>	Board review
• <b>Food and Nutrition</b>	
• <b>Safety Checking</b>	Board review
• <b>Police Vetting</b>	
• <b>Missing Student Procedure</b>	

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>

## No Nuts at School - Reminder

Discovery School is a nut free school as we have several children who have severe allergic reactions which are life-threatening. Our aim in being nut free is to make the school environment as safe as possible for these children. We have made the request to all parents and caregivers that they omit nut products (for example, peanut butter, peanut cookies, Nutella, muesli bars or satay sauce), from children's lunches. By doing this we aim to avoid the possibility of what is called cross-contamination whereby nuts or nut products may be spread to a child with this allergy.

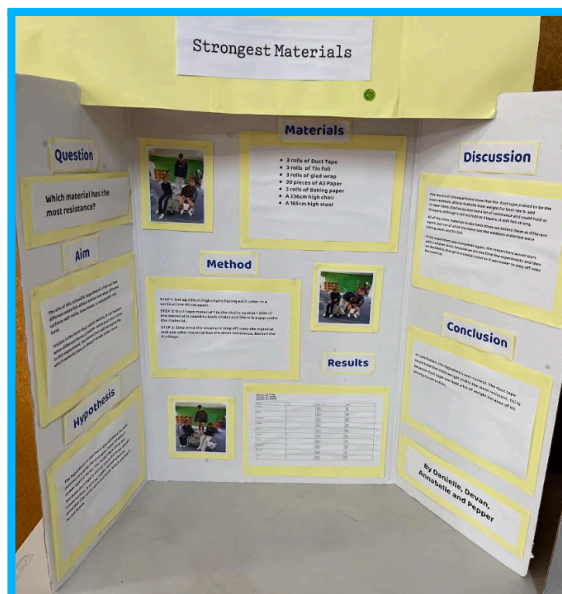
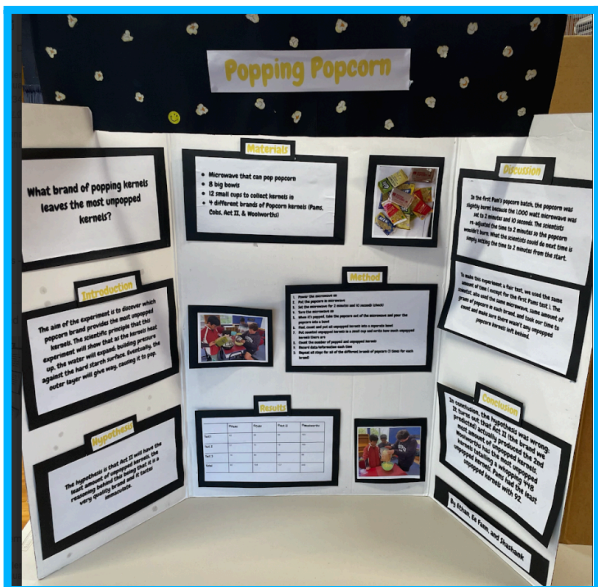
Many products are marked with the warning that they "may contain traces of nuts". Please note that our request does not apply to these products, but simply to those where nuts constitute an actual ingredient.

## Science Fair

On Tuesday, 24th June we held our biannual Science Fair. Tamariki from across the school completed experiments and those in years 4-8 did small group investigations and displayed them for families to view.

Congratulations to the following year 7&8 students whose projects were chosen by Aotea College Science teachers to compete in the Regional NIWA Science and Technology Fair:

- Strongest Materials - Danielle, Annabelle P, Pepper and Devan
- Popping Popcorn - Ethan, Shashank and Ee Fann
- Balloon Rockets - Finn, Timothy and Christopher
- Water Filters - Lyla P and Gabriella
- Yeast versus Sugar - Isla V and Kaila





During Maths Week we will be exploring different ways mathematics can be used in everyday life and across different subjects. There will be some fun activities each day that students can take part in.

#### **Whānau Morning-Parents/Grandparents/Caregivers all invited**

On **Friday 15th August between 8.30am and 9.30am** we will have a Whānau Maths Morning where families are welcome to come into their child's class and play some maths games and other fun activities. You may like to take some of these game ideas and do them at home to help your child build on their basic facts and place value. This is also a chance to have an informal chat with your child's teacher about what you could do at home to support learning in everyday maths.

### **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](#)

### **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](#).

## Discovery School Parent Teacher Association (DSPTA)

The DSPTA is a small group of parents and staff that aim to raise funds and create events that bring our Discovery School community together. A large portion of the DSPTA's fundraising goes directly back into the school community to reduce the amount parents/caregivers are asked for throughout the year, for things like trips, resources and equipment. We would really appreciate your support to help us with fundraising this year.

### Whittakers Chocolate Mixed Fundraising Box

Thank you very much for supporting this fundraiser which has brought in over \$8000 for our fundraising efforts.

**Events happening this term: Can you help us please with any of these events?**

## Term 3 events

Event	Help needed	When
Lunch time Sausage sizzles	Taking orders before school Setting up Cooking sausages Serving	Thursday 31 July Thursday 4 Sept
Disco	Selling snacks Doorman DJs Cleaning up	Friday 12 Sept

**Our next meeting is Thursday 4th September, 7pm in the staffroom. All welcome!**

### New Members

We are on the lookout for some new parents to join the DSPTA. Can you help us? In the near future, both our Chairperson and Treasurer who have given many years service will be stepping down, as their tamariki are moving onto college. Can you help us with these roles? We would love to work with new members, and support them if these roles are of interest to you.

### Annual Discovery School PTA Raffle

We will be doing our annual raffle at the beginning of Term 4. This is our biggest fundraiser for the year, and we ask each family to sell one book of raffle tickets.

**We need raffle items for our annual raffle -**

- Are you able to help with a prize for our annual raffle?
- Can your company donate a voucher or items to help us make up the raffle prizes?

Please email [mbashford@discovery.school.nz](mailto:mbashford@discovery.school.nz) with how you can help.

### Discover Christmas Event

**Save the date: Friday 28th November 2025, 5pm - 8:30pm**

This is a community event with 30+ cool stalls in our hall, food trucks and family entertainment on the field. If you are interested in booking a table for our market the details for Stall Holders are here: [2025 Discover Christmas Stall Holders Info](#)

Here are the links to our pages - please sign up to keep up-to-date and help where you can.

[Facebook - DSPTA Page](#) [Facebook DSPTA Helpers](#)

Please email us at [dspta@discovery.school.nz](mailto:dspta@discovery.school.nz) if you want to make contact, or can help us with events.



# DISCOVERY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

**Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.**

## About the DSPTA

We're a group of keen supporters providing opportunities for the school community to come together and fundraise.

A large portion of the DSPTA's fundraising goes directly back into the school community to reduce the amount parents/caregivers are asked for throughout the year, for things like trips, resources and equipment.



## Can you help?

We're always looking for helpers for our events, and there's opportunities to give as little or as much time as you can. It's a great way to meet families and staff, participate in your children's education and role model giving back.



## Term 3 events

Event	Help needed	When
Lunch time Sausage sizzles	Taking orders before school Setting up Cooking sausages Serving	Thursday 31 July Thursday 4 Sept
Disco	Selling snacks Doorman DJs Cleaning up	Friday 12 Sept

If you can help at these events in any way, please follow our "DPSTA Helpers" page on Facebook, and look out for the sign up sheets.



Find us on Facebook - "Discovery School PTA" and "DSPTA Helpers"

Email - [dspta@discovery.school.nz](mailto:dspta@discovery.school.nz)

Next meeting - Thursday 4 Sept, 7.00pm in staffroom. All welcome!

# WINTER ILLNESS

**Colds, flu and other respiratory illness are common in schools during winter. Here are some simple tips to prevent the spread of illness:**



- Wash and dry hands regularly, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, and using the toilet
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow, not your hand
- Regularly clean high touch surfaces – door handles, taps, table tops, phones, computer keyboards, etc
- You should keep your child at home from school if they are too sick to learn and need time to rest and recover
- Get a flu jab NOW – it's FREE for people who are pregnant, over 65s, and people at higher risk of getting very sick. Check with your healthcare provider to see if you are eligible

For more information see: [\*\*info.health.nz/pregnancy-children/childhood-conditions/\*\*](https://info.health.nz/pregnancy-children/childhood-conditions/)

**Health New Zealand**  
Te Whatu Ora