



DISCOVERY SCHOOL

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

NEWSLETTER

Week 8, Term 3

4 September 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](#)

[Students arriving before 8.30am](#)

[Election reminder voting closes on 10 September 2025 at 4pm](#)

[Out of Zone Enrolments for 2026](#)

[Year 7&8 Interschool Swimming Sports Results](#)

[Year 5 & 6 Interschool Swimming Sports Results](#)

[Artsplash Choir](#)

[NIWA Science Fair](#)

[Mathswell Competition](#)

[Dance NZ Made Competition](#)

[Discovery Pacific Voyagers](#)

[Māori Parents Group At Discovery School](#)

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

[Community Notices](#)

[Discovery School Parent Teacher Association \(DSPTA\)](#)

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

Kia ora e te whānau

We are fast approaching the end of the term and it's lovely to see the spring weather here this week.

If you've been on site lately, you'll see there's quite a few smaller **property projects** taking place around the school. It was really exciting to see the turf go down on the netball court this week. This project was undertaken as the court had become unsafe to play on with uneven surfaces. The project was funded by the board, supplemented by a \$10,000 grant from New Zealand Community Trust, for which we are very grateful. We have also had 2 ramps replaced (to the hall and Room 20), as well as the balustrade outside Rooms 21-23. These had become old and unsafe, so this was completed with some of our MOE property funding. Work has just started on some window replacement, a project which will be completed between now and the end of the holidays. This project sees the replacement of all the old blue sash windows in Rooms 4-14. The next project after that includes the removal of the library conservatories that have been sealed for a number of years (which will be replaced by an external door to the friendship tree and a bay window). We also have a refurbishment of Rooms 4-7 in our plans. I've had lots of comments from a number of parents about how good the school is looking and we appreciate the feedback.

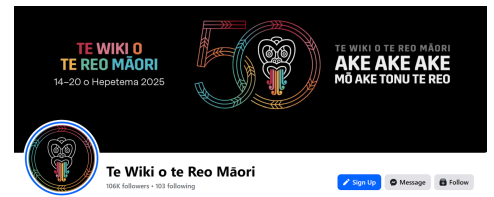


The Leadership Team recently visited some other schools to learn about their practice and generate ideas to feed into our future planning. We saw a range of practices and property ideas that we can adapt or use and it was a great opportunity. When visiting one school, we loved this **community library** outside the office. We'd be keen to talk to any parents in our community who might be interested in helping (and having the skills) to build one here at school. It doesn't have to be on a post - it could be attached to a fence. We think it would be a great way for our children to be able to recycle/reuse books they no longer read. We'd be really keen to involve students in this project if possible too (such as our Student Council, or a group of interested students). If you are keen to work with us on this and have the skills to build it, please let me know.



I hope you are finding the **Hero App** easy to use. As the year has progressed, we have learnt more about the features within this and have now made your child's progress graph live in the system. This graph plots the information shared with you mid year about your child's achievement in reading, writing and maths. At the end of the year and then in future years, you will see your child's progress. The graphs don't show previous years as the curriculum has changed. Teachers use a phasing code (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, etc) to enter the information, which relates to different levels of the curriculum. This then translates to whether children are working towards, within, or above curriculum expectations, which is the important thing for you to know (which we told you in the mid year reporting). At the end of the year when we make your child's final judgements, we will give you more information about the phasing codes we use. For our new entrants who started in Room 8 this year, the graphs may not be completely accurate due to their limited time at school, however the information given to you on Seesaw in the middle of the year was correct.

In the last week of school, we will be celebrating **Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori**. I encourage you to think about how you are going to celebrate our indigenous language in your homes. Your tamariki will be great teachers - they will know more than you may think. If you don't already, follow the Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori facebook page. The poster below may also give you some ideas you can try, or use the bingo board for some fun with the whānau or at work - if you use the word in a day, you get to tick it off.



10 REO REVITALISATION STRATEGIES 4 USING YOUR REO

FIND SOMEONE YOU TRUST WITH WHOM YOU CAN
KŌRERO MĀORI

ALWAYS HAVE A
KARAKIA, WAIATA OR WHAKATAUKĪ
THAT YOU ARE LEARNING

PLACE NEW
KUPU & KŌRERO
AROUND WHERE YOU
EAT, WORK,
RELAX, EXERCISE ...

ALWAYS GREET PEOPLE
IN REO MĀORI

PRACTICE YOUR
PRONUNCIATION
OUT LOUD !!

LISTEN TO
MĀORI RADIO

ALWAYS ANSWER YOUR PHONE
IN REO MĀORI

SET YOURSELF
WEEKLY CHALLENGES

WATCH
MĀORI TV

LEARN YOUR
PEPEHA

START A GROUP OF FRIENDS AND WHĀNAU TO
PLAY GAMES IN REO MĀORI

TE REO WINS

BINGO EDITION

1 Whānau	2 Kia ora	3 Mahi	4 Tēnā koe
5 Kai	6 Hikoī	7 Āe	8 Kāo
9 Waiata	10 Whare	11 Hui	12 Ngā mihi
13 Paraire	14 Tamariki	15 Haere mai	16 Miharo

Kia pai te wiki (have a good week).

Kaylene

Students arriving before 8.30am

Please make sure your children are not arriving at school prior to 8.30am. We guarantee supervision from 8.30am and any children arriving before that should be enrolled in Kelly Club for before school care.

Election reminder voting closes on 10 September 2025 at 4pm

Thank you to all the candidates who have put themselves forward for a position on our board. As the nominations received exceeded the number of positions available, voting is currently open. You should have received information about voting directly from Election Pilot. If you haven't received this information, please contact the school office. **Voting is electronic and closes at 4pm on 10 September 2025.**

Out of Zone Enrolments for 2026

The Board of Trustees invites applications from parents who wish to enrol out of zone students at Discovery School for 2026. Enrolment at the school is governed by an enrolment scheme, details of which are available from the school [website](#).

The Board has determined that up to 15 places for out-of-zone children are likely to be available for children turning 5 between 19th December 2025 and 16th December 2026. Priority will be given as per our enrolment scheme. The exact number of places will depend on the number of applications received from students who live within the school's home zone.

Applications are accepted via the official [online enrolment form](#) on our website. The deadline for receipt of applications is **3.00pm, Wednesday 15th October 2025**.

If the number of out of zone applications exceeds the number of places available, students will be selected by ballot. If a ballot is required, it will be held on Friday 17th October 2025.

If you are currently living out-of-zone and have a younger child starting school next year, you must get your enrolment completed within the above process, so please complete your application now. If you previously completed a survey, you now need to complete the online enrolment form.

Year 7&8 Interschool Swimming Sports Results

Discovery School finished 3rd overall in the year 7&8 event at Cannons Pool. This was held on Wednesday, 20th August. Results of Finals are as follows:

Year 7 Girls Freestyle - 3rd Annabelle O, 6th Poppy

Year 7 Boys Freestyle - 3rd Orion, 4th Theo

Year 8 Girls Freestyle - 5th Milly

Year 7 Girls Breaststroke - 1st Annabelle O, 6th Claudia

Year 7 Boys Breaststroke - 3rd Orion, Zac W 5th

Year 7 Girls Backstroke - 3rd Poppy

Year 7 Boys Backstroke - 3rd Orion, 4th Theo

Year 7 Girls Butterfly - 1st Annabelle O, Poppy 6th

Year 7 Boys Butterfly - 3rd Theo

Year 8 Girls Butterfly - 3rd Milly

Relays

Year 7 Boys team - 1st

Year 7 Girls team - 2nd

Year 8 Girls team - 2nd



Year 5 & 6 Interschool Swimming Sports Results

Discovery School finished 4th overall in the year 5&6 event at Cannons Pool. This was held on Thursday, 21st August. Results of Finals are as follows:

Year 5 Girls Freestyle - 6th Anastasia

Year 6 Girls Freestyle - 5th Vivi

Year 6 Boys Freestyle - 2nd Michael, 4th Jackson

Year 5 Girls Breaststroke - 5th Anastasia

Year 6 Boys Breaststroke - 1st Jackson

Year 5 Boys Backstroke - 3rd Isaac, 6th Alasdair

Year 6 Boys Backstroke - 1st Michael

Year 5 Girls Butterfly - 4th Anastasia

Year 5 Boys Butterfly - 5th Isaac

Year 6 Boys Butterfly - 1st Michael, 4th Jackson

Relays

Year 5 Boys team - 2nd

Year 6 Girls team - 6th (it's important to mention that we had our 2 year 5 girls swimming in this event to make a team)



Artsplash Choir

Our year 4-8 Choir worked extremely hard to learn nine songs to perform at the Artsplash Festival. They sang as part of a massed choir at the Michael Fowler Centre on Tuesday, 26th August.



NIWA Science Fair

On Thursday, 28th August, a group of our seniors represented Discovery School at the NIWA Science Fair at Victoria University. They were selected from their investigations at our school science fair last term.



Mathswell Competition

On Tuesday, 19th August, six of our senior students represented Discovery School at the regional Mathswell competition. This was held at Victoria University. The team was chosen from our Otago Problem Solving Competition.



Dance NZ Made Competition

Danielle, Raya and Lucia represented Discovery School at the Regional Dance Competition at the Lower Hutt Events Centre.

Their results were as follows:

Raya and Danielle won the year 7&8 duo category
Raya won the year 8 solo category
Lucia won the year 6 solo category

Congratulations girls!



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.

Term 3 DSPTA Events

Event	Help needed	When
Lunch time Sausage Sizzle	Taking orders before school Setting up Cooking sausages Serving	Thursday 4 September
Disco	Selling snacks Doorman DJs Cleaning Up	Friday 12 September

Our next meeting is tonight, Thursday 4th September, 7pm in the staffroom. All are 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 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 if you want to make contact, or can help us with events.

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/

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora