



DISCOVERY SCHOOL

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

NEWSLETTER

Week 2, Term 4

16 October 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](#)

[Board member thank you and new people](#)

[Policy Review Term 4](#)

[Donations](#)

[Student Success](#)

[Netball](#)

[Book & Soft Toy Sale – We Need Your Help!](#)

[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

Welcome to Term 4 which is always a busy time of year for us as we continue offering high quality teaching and learning, while also planning for next year. The term will fly by!

Thanks to everyone and the DSPTA (who need your help)

I'd like to start with a huge thanks to everyone who supported the DSPTA's chocolate fundraiser last term. This made over \$8,000! These funds go directly towards enhancing school resources and supporting student activities as we plan for 2026. We're so grateful for the enthusiasm and generosity shown by our school community for this fundraiser, and the amazing raffle items that have been kindly donated for this term's raffle fundraiser.

The DSPTA is a small group of parents and teachers who work together to create community events and fundraisers like the upcoming Discover Christmas, but they need your help. They are looking for some new members to share the load... there are many different ways you can help so please check out their details and how you can contact them later in the newsletter.

School Attendance

I want to share some important information with you regarding student attendance, following the recent report from the Education Review Office (ERO). The ERO report highlighted that while overall attendance is improving, there is an ongoing finding about the impact of parental decisions on attendance. The good news is that parents overwhelmingly understand the importance of their children not missing school. However, the report also pointed out that for a range of reasons, this understanding doesn't always translate into a commitment to daily attendance. Specifically, the ERO noted the high numbers of students being taken out of school for term-time holidays and the documented impact this can have on long-term progress and achievement.

I completely understand that costs for airfares and family trips are often significantly lower during the school term—a reality every teacher in New Zealand is very familiar with! However, we are seeing the direct impact here at school. For example, this week we have had more students away on holiday than due to sickness (e.g., yesterday, 15 students on holiday compared to 7 away due to illness). When students are away, even for a short time, it can disrupt their learning momentum, their progress and achievement, and their social interactions. If your child has already had multiple term-time breaks over their time at Discovery School, I

encourage you to carefully consider the cumulative effect on their learning journey. We are partners in your child's education, and we share this information to ensure every student has the best chance to succeed.

We were advised by the Ministry of Education last term that we have been allocated staffing for a Learning Support Teacher from next year. This is a permanent part time position that will significantly boost the resource in our school for students who require support with learning and extension. This also benefits all children as teachers will be better supported to cater for diverse learning needs.

Thank you for your support with the changes to our cell phone procedures I advised you of a few weeks ago. The new processes are working well.

Classes for next year

We are currently determining class structures for next year. This is never an easy job as each year group differs in size, ranging from 51-70 students! We have considered different options and are finalising one that best meets the needs of all learners. I will provide the class structure to you towards the end of term. In the meantime, we are beginning the planning process for class placements. When placing students in classes, we make every effort to ensure classes are well balanced (gender, ability, social/emotional and academic needs), as well as ensuring students are placed with others who they work well with. It is worth noting they do not always work to their full potential alongside their best friends! We aim to place students in classes where they can be catered for effectively, where they will be happy and well matched to teacher strengths. I acknowledge that parents can have information about their child that we may not be aware of and this can support us in making effective class placements. There is an opportunity between now and **Monday 27 October** to advise me in writing of anything that might be helpful in compiling class lists. I ask that you email me directly kmacnee@discovery.school.nz (as opposed to talking to teachers or other staff). Please include the educational reasoning behind the information you are sharing with me. The reason I ask you to email or write to me directly is to ensure I receive all the information, and nothing gets 'lost in translation'. If you have given us this information last year and you feel it is still relevant, or if you have spoken with a teacher during the year please still email me with the information. We will then use this information to assist us in making placements.

Please note that there are a range of factors to consider in this process and I cannot guarantee to accommodate all specific requests, rather we will consider them alongside other factors. What one parent might suggest could be cancelled out by the needs of other children/classes or teacher objective knowledge. Our timeframe for class placements is tight, therefore I ask that you meet the deadline above. Unfortunately it is likely to be too late to consider any information coming in after this date.

This is also the time of the year when some families move out of the area. If your child is not going to be returning in 2026, please email me kmacnee@discovery.school.nz as soon as possible to let me know.

Kia pai te wiki (have a good week).

Kaylene

Board member thank you and new people

Thank you to those who voted in our recent board election and those parents who stood for election. Our school is very fortunate to have such a high level of interest in becoming a board member. Congratulations to Lauren McIntosh, Tyson Edwards and Laura Lumley who were successful candidates. We'd like to thank and acknowledge our departing board members - Brayden Smith and Sam Taylor. Brayden and Sam both served on the board with a high level of commitment and integrity. Brayden also served as presiding member. We are very grateful for their service to our school during their time on our board. Our next newsletter will include profiles of our new board members.

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, which we are very grateful for. Unfortunately we are still under our budgeted income with \$46,602 paid - this means we are still just over \$11,000 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. Please also consider paying your technology (Year 7/8) and Athletics (Year 4-6) donations if you haven't already.

Policy Review Term 4

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 4 policies	Review opens 6 October
• Bullying and Harassment	Board review
• Behaviour Management	Board review
• Searches, Surrender, and Retention of Property	
• Minimising Physical Restraint	Board review
• Stand-down, Suspension, and Exclusion	
• Staff Wellbeing and Safety	

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:

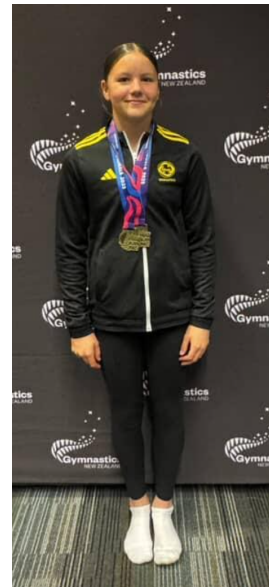
<https://www.discovery.school.nz/charter/school-docs-policies-and-procedures>

Student Success

A HUGE shout out to Leo C from Room 14 and Michael W from Room 22 who traveled to Christchurch late last term to represent the Wellington Region in the National Schools Cross Country. They both came 7th in their Year group races, which is incredibly impressive. We are super proud of them.

Congratulations to Annabelle P who represented Wellington at the National gymnastics competition in Auckland during the term break. Annabelle is now the National Bar Champion and the National Vault Champion for her level. She managed 2 perfect vault scores during the competition, which is very rare and incredibly impressive. We are super proud of you too Annabelle!

We also had Jackson S, Michael W and Annabelle O represent the North Porirua Schools in the Regional Swimming event. Again, we had some great success with Jackson placing 3rd place in Y6 boys 25m breaststroke, Michael placing 1st in Y6 25m backstroke, 2nd in Y6 25m freestyle and butterfly. Annabelle O placed 3rd in Y7 girls 25m butterfly.



Netball

Congratulations to the following players who won Player of the Year trophies at netball prizegiving:

Year 8 - Milly

Year 7 - Bella

Year 6 - River

Juniors - Maioha (absent from photo)



Congratulations to the year 7&8 Swifts netball team who won the division two final against Plimmerton School.



Well done to the year 7&8 Tornadoes netball team who won the division three final against Papakowhai School.



Thanks to Nic Kibblewhite for her outstanding netball coordination this year, and also to all our coaches and managers who supported our girls throughout the season.

Coaches: Shaun Bishop, Vicky Glassey, Zoe Kibblewhite, Nic Kibblewhite, Tash Morrell, Georgia Taingahue, Martin Leighton, Crystal Fisher, Elise Hungerford, Brierley Montgomery, Marissa Eveleigh, Andrea Smith & Falyn Tipene.

Managers: Anna Morgan, Steph Harvey, Drina Foote, Lee Leighton, Mandy Simpson, Rae Black & Rachel McGrory.

Book & Soft Toy Sale – We Need Your Help!

This term we will be holding a Book and Soft Toy Sale on **Thursday 30 October** to raise funds for our Year 5/6 and Year 7/8 school camps in 2026. Camps are a special part of the school experience – they give our tamariki the chance to grow in independence, strengthen teamwork, and create lasting memories. Fundraising helps us keep costs down so that every student has the opportunity to take part.

To make this event a success, we would love your support. We are asking for donations of children's books (in good condition) and soft toys your whānau may no longer need. These are always a big hit with our students and families.

Please note: we can only accept books and soft toys for this fundraiser – no other toys at this time.

Where to donate:

- Give them to your child's teacher
- Drop items to Room 11

When to donate:

- From Monday of Week 1 through to Wednesday of Week 4 next term

Every book or toy donated brings us closer to our goal, and every purchase on the day directly supports our tamariki in getting to camp. Your generosity makes all the difference, and we are so grateful for the way our community pulls together to give our students these valuable learning opportunities outside the classroom.

Ngā mihi nui,
Middle and Senior Teachers

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.

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.

Discovery School Raffle

Raffle Reminder: Please return **ALL raffle tickets by Friday 24 October**, close of school (3pm). For auditing purposes it is important to have ALL stubs returned - sold or unsold. Thank you for your support with this fundraiser.

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. Please add this event to your calendar, we look forward to seeing you at the event to shop or lend a hand.

Check out our flyer of Term 4 events and dates for BBQ lunches, the Halloween Disco, Discover Christmas and our DSPTA meeting. **As always, we would love some more help to run these events so if you are interested, please reach out to us.** 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.

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 of money 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 4 events

Event	Help needed	When
Raffle	All families will be given a book of tickets to sell	Start of term 4
Lunch time Sausage sizzles	Taking orders before school Setting up Cooking sausages Serving	Thursday 16 Oct Thursday 13 Nov
Disco	Selling snacks Doorman DJs Cleaning up	Friday 24 Oct
Discover Christmas	Setting up for the event Sausage sizzle	Friday 28 Nov

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

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

Email - dspta@discovery.school.nz

Next meeting - Thursday 16 October, 7.00pm in staffroom. All welcome!



MEASLES

Measles is one of the most dangerous and contagious diseases. If you are not vaccinated and come into contact with someone who has it, you are very likely to catch it and pass it on to others.



Measles can cause a rash, flu-like symptoms, or more serious problems like brain swelling, chest infections, or death.

The best prevention is two MMR vaccinations. The MMR vaccine protects against 3 viral infections – measles, mumps and rubella. If you are unsure how many your family have had, check with your healthcare provider. Vaccines are free for tamariki and adults who have not had two doses.

Call Healthline on 0800 611 116 if you have symptoms and need advice or see **www.ProtectAgainstMeasles.org.nz**

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora