



# DISCOVERY SCHOOL

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

Week 3, Term 3

NEWSLETTER

7 August 2026

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 Principal's Pen

Kia ora e te whānau

Welcome to Term 3! It was great to finish off Term 2 with our wonderful 50th Jubilee celebrations and I want to thank everyone who came and shared in the events during the week. A huge thanks to Andrea Smith and everyone who helped organise the events. Our tamariki were very keen to share their learning with whānau and past alumni of the school. Congratulations to the tamariki who represented Parumoana Cluster in the Regional Cross Country last term. Many Discovery students finished in the top 50 which is a great achievement, but special mention goes to Stella (R11) - 10th, Leo (R22) - 12th, Isaac (R22) - 15th and Theo (R20) - 20th. It's always wonderful to see our tamariki doing so well.

Our next Year 0 class starts soon and Laura Yousif, one of our part-time teachers, will be picking up the class in a full time role. Marilyn Daly, one of our amazing relievers, will cover Laura's part-time days.

Thank you for your attendance at the recent learning conversations. We had 94% of children attend with their whānau and your support and interest in their learning is appreciated. Thanks also to those of you who popped into the Book Fair in the Library. Our commission on the sales resulted in us getting library books and literacy resources to the value of \$2597.35!

### Connecting Our Learning: Kaitiakitanga and Our Local Waterways

Language-learning platform Babbel recently named the te reo Māori word **kaitiakitanga** the world's most beautiful word. Selected by an international panel of linguists and cultural experts from over 220 words across 75 languages, *kaitiakitanga* stood out not just for its sound, but for its deep, timeless meaning: guardianship, stewardship, and the collective duty to care for the environment and water for generations to come. That recognition comes at a fitting time for our school community. This term, every class across the school is exploring sustainability, with a focus on our local waterways. Our tamariki are putting the spirit of *kaitiakitanga* into action as they explore our local ecology, understand human impact and take action with their learning. Rather than treating sustainability as an abstract concept, our students are experiencing it as an active relationship with the land and water around them. We look forward to sharing more updates, photos, and student reflections as our term-long inquiry unfolds!

Ngā mihi

Kaylene

## Curriculum Day Reminder - Monday 24 August (term 3)

As previously advised, our second Curriculum Day for staff professional development is Monday 24 August.. As part of the Ministry of Education's rollout of new curriculum documents, all schools are allocated two days for staff to engage with these changes. **School will be closed on Monday 24 August.** Please note this date in your diary; Kelly Club will be available for those who require childcare arrangements for the day. (Note Kelly SPORTS won't be on as per their notification to parents.)

## Toys at school

Just a reminder that children should not be bringing toys to school. These can get damaged or lost and it is best to leave them at home. This includes the Disney Ooshies that Countdown are currently promoting. We have had students trading these and it just ends in upset. They can do that at home if you would like them to.

## Raising Safe and Resilient Kids Online

Netsafe are running a webinar for parents that you may be interested in on the 18th of August at 7pm. For more information and the registration link, [please click here](#).

## New resources to help keep ākonga healthy and at school

We've been working with Health New Zealand on resources and information to help keep our ākonga healthy and at school. These practical, easy-to-use resources are designed to help schools and early learning services support students and whānau to:

- prevent illness
- manage common winter bugs
- support ākonga | students to return to learning as soon as they are well enough.

You can find the resources on our website:

[Healthy habits for learning – Ministry of Education](#)

## Basketball Congratulations

Congratulations to our year 7&8 Basketball team who won the plate of the local basketball league, held at Rangikura School each Wednesday afternoon. They won 35-33 in the final against Whitby Collegiate. A big thank you to Van for coaching the team.



## Sponsorship for our Long Jump Pit Cover

One of the key sports event days on the school calendar is our athletics day. This happens in Term 4 for our year 4-8 students, and at the beginning of the year, as a 'run, jump, throw' event for our Te Puna students.

While we host the actual event at Adventure Park, our practice is done here at school. One of the key areas that we use is our long jump pit. This has gone a long time without a restoration, and so the sand level is low and makes practicing long jump difficult.

We have tried to get a grant to restore this space, but were unsuccessful.

If you are a local business, or know of a local business, who would be interested in being a sponsor to restore this part of our school we would love to hear from you!

The rough costs of the restoration are as follows:

Replacement sand purchased and delivered - \$700

Outdoor cover to protect the long jump pit - \$1,000

(these are estimated costs based off of quotes, and are subject to change)

If you are able to help, please contact Shaun Bishop at [sbishop@discovery.school.nz](mailto:sbishop@discovery.school.nz)

## Supervision Before School - Students should not be on site before 8.30am

We provide supervision for tamariki in classrooms from 8.30am. If your children are on site prior to 8.30am, they should be enrolled with Kelly Club. We have noticed a number of children arriving at school before 8.30am. Please ensure your child is not here before 8.30am if they are not attending Kelly Club. The only exception to this is if there is an activity arranged by a teacher that requires them to be at school early (e.g. trip, sports practice, etc.).

## 2027 Term Dates

Our term dates for next year have now been confirmed. Please note these on your calendar. If you are planning a holiday next year, these should be booked within the term breaks wherever possible.

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Term 1</b> | 3 February - 9 April 2027<br><u>School Closures:</u><br>Waitangi Day observed - Monday 8 February<br>Good Friday - 26 March<br>Easter Monday - 29 March<br>Tuesday following Easter - 30 March |
| <b>Term 2</b> | <b>Tuesday</b> 27 April (Monday 26 April Anzac Day observed) - 2 July 2027<br><u>School Closures:</u><br>King's Birthday - 7 June<br>Matariki - 25 June                                        |
| <b>Term 3</b> | 19 July - 24 September 2027<br>No public holidays                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Term 4</b> | 11 October - 17 December 2027<br><u>School Closures:</u><br>Labour Day - 25 October                                                                                                            |

We will have 'meet the teacher' meetings on **Tuesday 2 February 2027**.

There will also be 2 closures for curriculum days during the year - the dates of these are to be confirmed.

## Use of Hero

Our school uses Hero, a secure cloud-based education platform, to support teaching, learning, communication, administration and school operations. To provide these services, personal information about students, parents, caregivers and staff may be disclosed to and collected by Hero on behalf of the school. This information may include contact details, enrolment information, attendance records, achievement and assessment information, wellbeing information, health information provided to the school, and other information necessary for the delivery of educational services. Hero collects and processes this information solely for the purpose of providing services to the school and in accordance with the New Zealand Privacy Act 2020. Hero may use trusted third-party service providers and infrastructure partners to support the delivery of its services. Further information about how Hero collects, stores, uses and protects personal information can be found in Hero's Privacy Policy. [View Hero's Privacy Policy.](#)

## School Bank Account Numbers:

We suggest you set the accounts as follows:

**DSchool** for all school payments and donations please use the school bank account:

**Discovery School Board**  
**12-3254-0122028-00**

**DSchool Pizza** for Pizza fundraisers

**Discovery School Board**  
**12-3254-0122028-52**

**DSchool PTA** for DSPTA fundraisers

**Discovery School Parent Teacher Association**  
**12-3254-0129836-00**



## DSPTA News: Term 3

### Whittakers Chocolate selling

Chocolate selling kicks off this term! A box of Whittaker's chocolate will go home with the eldest/only child in each family on Monday 10 August. Each box has 30 chocolate bars, to sell for \$3.00 each.



You'll have three weeks to sell your chocolates - returning \$90 dollars by Monday 31st August 2026.

Ideally, please pay into the DSPTA Account:

12-3254-0129836-000

Statement details: Child's name, child's class, Chocolate.

Alternatively, you can return cash to the school office using the envelope provided.

We really appreciate your support in getting these choccies sold. We have chosen not to do a raffle this year - we know it's a big ask for families, and small businesses who donate prizes are doing it tough at the moment - so chocolate selling is our main fundraiser.

## Glow Disco - Tonight!

Our yearly GLOW Disco is happening **tonight**. Always a favourite with the kids - come dressed in your best neon!

We'll have glow products available to buy on the night, along with the usual snacks and drinks. We're pleased to say we'll also have gluten-free snacks available for purchase. These will be sold from the kitchen (where we sell drinks) to ensure they don't get mixed up.

If you're able to assist with selling treats please email

[dspta@discovery.school.nz](mailto:dspta@discovery.school.nz) or sign up here  **7.8.26 Disco Helpers - Glow**



## Sausage sizzle dates and class allocation for whānau helpers

Our new approach of assigning a class to each sausage sizzle for whānau helpers, to share the workload more evenly across the school community, has been working well and we've loved seeing some new faces helping out. Please check out which classes are supporting the last sausage sizzles for the year, and add your name if you can.

### **Upcoming dates and class allocations:**

Tuesday 8th September - Room 6 , 9, 20 parent helpers  **8.9.26 Lunch Helpers**

Tuesday 20th October - Room 10, 21, 22 parent helpers  **20.10.26 Lunch Helpers**

Tuesday 17th November - Room 7, 8, 23 parent helpers  **17.11.26 Lunch Helpers**

Big thank you to everyone who has volunteered time so far this year, and of course our lovely sponsors New World Whitby who donate the kai.



We would love to be able to offer gluten-free sausages at our lunchtime sausage sizzles, but unfortunately at this time it's not feasible. If you've been involved in one of our sausage sizzles you'll know it's a hectic 15 minutes serving 400 sausages and bread to hungry kids!! For this reason, and the changing roster of volunteers, we don't feel we can offer a safe gluten-free environment. We're committed to exploring this again in the future and considering more options.

## Keen to be involved?

If you'd like to be involved in the PTA and help decide what fundraisers and events we run and where our contributions go, please get in touch by emailing [dspta@discovery.school.nz](mailto:dspta@discovery.school.nz) for more details, or come along to one of our meetings! All are welcome.

### **Dates for 2026 meetings - Discovery School Staffroom, 7pm**

Thursday 27 August (this has changed from previous newsletters)

Wednesday 23 September

Tuesday 27 October

Please also consider joining our ["DPSTA Helpers" Facebook group](#).

This is a no expectations, no pressure option if you'd like to be kept in the loop and just help out when you can. We post details of each event we run and a sign-up sheet for various jobs.

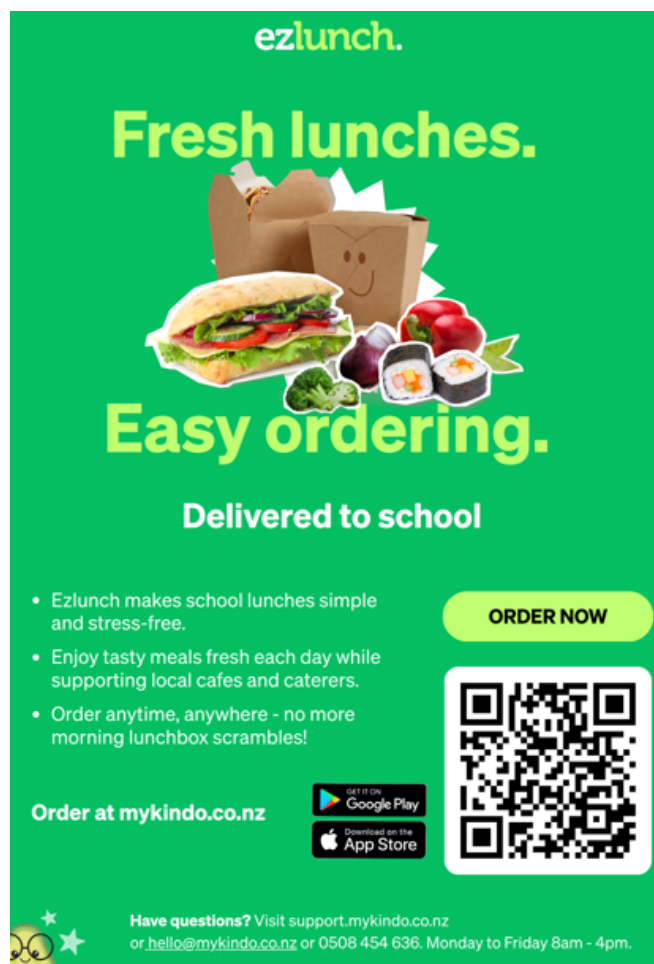
## More info

Check out the new DSPTA page on the [Discovery School website](#)

[Discovery School PTA Facebook Page](#)

## 2026 ezlunch

If you would like to open a **new account** for 2026 scan the QR code below.



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[Click here to order!](#)

Please note cut off time for ordering is 8.30am

Monday - Truffle Café  
Wednesday - Kurashi Catering Sushi  
Friday - Pita Pit

TRUFFLE



## 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](#)

**KELLY CLUB** A FUN PROGRAMME THAT KIDS LOVE!

Monday 24 August  
**TEACHER ONLY DAY PROGRAMME**

**OSCAR PROGRAMME SUBSIDIES AVAILABLE!**  
\*Conditions apply

**DISCOVERY SCHOOL**

Let's make unforgettable memories together and join the fun at our Kelly Club Party! A day filled with laughter, games, and exciting activities for kids to enjoy with their friends.

|                                          |                                            |                                                               |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Full Day:</b> \$58<br>7:00am – 6:00pm | <b>School Day:</b> \$48<br>8:30am – 3:00pm | <b>Half Day:</b> \$39<br>7:00am – 12:30pm or 12:30pm – 6:00pm |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|

Contact: Julie England  
Phone: 027 321 2112

Email: [discovery@kellyclub.co.nz](mailto:discovery@kellyclub.co.nz)  
Facebook: @KellyClubDiscoveryWhitby

**BOOK ONLINE NOW AT** [www.kellyclub.co.nz](http://www.kellyclub.co.nz)

## 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](#).