



DISCOVERY SCHOOL

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

Week 8, Term 3

NEWSLETTER

10 September 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

I'm not sure where August went! We have had a lot of celebrations here at school over the last wee while - check out all the student successes mentioned later in the newsletter. I'd also like to give a big shout out to Ailish Akavi, one of our teachers, who is representing the Cook Islands in the 2026 IHF Nations Trophy and Oceania Qualifiers to the Asian World Qualifiers Championship this week. She's taking the court right here in Wellington and we're super proud to have a staff member playing at an international level - go Miss Akavi!

It was also lovely to attend the recent Porirua Student Leadership Awards, where Evelyn (Y8) and Maioha (Y6) were presented with awards to recognise their leadership at our school. We have many great student leaders across our school, however these two are real stand outs and they are both very deserving of the award. The event is hosted by Porirua City Council and the Plimmerton Rotary Club.



At our recent board meeting, we reviewed our middle-of-the-year student achievement data and we are pleased to share our mid-year learning progress across the school, showing strong growth and achievement for our students. Across all three core curriculum areas, the vast majority of our students are making expected progress or better. Specifically, 83% of students in Reading, 82.1% in Mathematics, and 87.4% in Writing have progressed as expected or accelerated over the past six months. Reading remains a standout area, with over 35% of our overall student body performing above their expected curriculum level.

To give you a snapshot of where our students are currently sitting in relation to mid-year expectations:

Curriculum Area	Working Towards Expectations	On Track	Above Expectations
Reading	16.98% (73 students)	47.21% (203 students)	35.81% (154 students)
Mathematics	18.6% (80 students)	61.4% (264 students)	20% (86 students)
Writing	25.81 (111 students)	60.7% (261 students)	13.49% (58 students)

Our teaching staff continue to focus on targeted initiatives to support and extend every learner. Over the second half of the year, we look forward to continuing these efforts. Identifying writing as our greatest need, we have also arranged for staff to have additional professional development in this area next year, to extend our kete of quality teaching practices.

As you may know, recent national curriculum changes in Mathematics and English have been introduced at a rapid pace. These new statements differ significantly from previous guidelines, which directly impacts how student progress and achievement are measured.

We encourage families to keep the following context in mind when reviewing achievement reports:

- Higher Standards: The updated curriculum sets more demanding content expectations for each year level than the previous framework.
- Annual Milestones: Learning targets are now measured strictly year-by-year, rather than across a flexible two-year band. This change accommodates less variation in individual learning rates.
- Shift in Reporting Categories: Because the benchmarks are now higher, some students who previously tracked "at" or "above" expectations may now be reported as "at" or "working towards" expectations.
- Mid-Year vs. End-of-Year Assessments: Mid-year reports reflect content taught to date, whereas final end-of-year assessments evaluate progress across the full academic year.
- Ongoing Teacher Development: Due to the swift implementation timeline, our staff are actively adapting to the new framework alongside their everyday teaching. As our familiarity with the new standards deepens, assessment consistency will continue to refine and stabilize over time.

We understand it can be concerning if a child appears to plateau or shift in their reported progress. Please be assured that your child's abilities and the high quality of teaching they receive remain steadfast—it is the curriculum and assessment framework that has shifted.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we navigate these educational updates together.

Ngā mihi

Kaylene

Parumoana & Regional Swimming Sports

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Parumoana Swimming Sports. We had some great results. Well done to the following students who are representing Parumoana at the upcoming Wellington Regional event.

Year 4 - Kohatu & Finnlay

Year 6 - Alasdair, Anastasia, Charlie, Isaac, & Josh

Year 8 - Annabelle

Mathswell

Six of our year 7&8 children represented Discovery School at Mathswell, which is a regional interschool maths competition held at Victoria University.

Our team was selected based on their excellent results in Otago Problem Solving Challenges: Theo, Saffron, Benji, Mason, Toby, Ee Fann - and Luke C and Levi (who were unfortunately sick on the day of the event).



Flag Tournament

Congratulations to our Year 5&6 team who were runners up in the Interschool Flag tournament and also to our Year 7&8 team who came third! A great effort and we very much appreciate the work of the parents who coached and managed the teams.



Dance NZ Made Competition

Over the past 10 weeks, 13 dancers (years 4-8) worked with Jo Mills to learn a dance to 'Lion Sleeps Tonight.' They performed it during the Dance NZ Made Competition on Thursday, 20th August at Lower Hutt Town Hall and won their category.

The troupe will be representing Discovery School at the nationals later this month at Regent Theatre in Palmerston North. Some of them have been selected for solos and duos as well.

We wish our dancers all the best at this competition! Thank you to Jo for her fabulous choreography and teaching.



Tournament of Minds

On Saturday 29 August, Discovery entered the Tournament of Minds regional competition for the first time. Four teams, composed of 23 Year 5 and 6 students, entered challenges across The Arts, Language and Literature and STEM strands. The challenges were complex and multifaceted, requiring students to be creative thinkers, performers, problem solvers and apply a high level of independence and organisation.

We are very proud of all of our students for taking on the challenge, and the level of team work, commitment, thought and effort that was displayed. Two Discovery teams had the distinction of winning prizes:

Merit award in the STEM primary division: Max Brown, Evan Hardgrave, Adam Murton, Wyatt Groen, Theo Croskery and Lucca Christensen.

1st place in The Arts primary division: Ceci Aaltonen, Hrida Panchal, Luna Crooks, Guin Jenkins and Leo Zachar.

The Arts team will be progressing to the national finals this coming weekend at Victoria University. We wish them all the best of luck.



Discovery School Communication Review 2026 - Reminder

Thank you to our families who have completed the Discovery School Communication Review. If you haven't done so yet can you please click on this link and take a few minutes to complete the survey [Discovery School Communication Review 2026](#). It will close on **Monday 14th September** at 8.30am.

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



**ELECTORAL
COMMISSION**
TE KAITIAKI TAKE KŌWHIRI

Electoral Commission - Get Ready to vote

The 2026 General Election will be held on **Saturday 7th November**. You must be enrolled by **midnight 25 October** to vote in the 2026 General Election. Enrol or check & update now. [Click here if you need to enrol.](#) We also have paper forms in the Discovery School office if required.

Hero Sign In



2026 ezlunch

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

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Please note cut off time for ordering is 8.30am

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

TRUFFLE



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Promotion runs 1.9.26 - 25.9.26. Terms & Conditions apply.

We're giving away \$10,000 in prizes this month!
Order lunch in September and go in the draw to win your share of fuel vouchers and Kindo credits.
Even better, we're guaranteeing at least one winner at every school.
Every order = an entry, so the more you order, the more chances you get.

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](#)

Message from Whitby Library - 11 August 2026

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are fortunate to have many children and young people visiting our library each week to read, attend programmes and enjoy our community spaces. To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children, we would like to remind families that children under the age of 14 must not be left unattended in the library. They must be actively supervised by a parent, caregiver or responsible person aged 14 years or older while visiting the library. The library is a public space and while our staff are committed to providing a welcoming and safe environment, they are unable to supervise children or assume responsibility for their care. Parents and caregivers remain responsible for the care and supervision of the children they bring to the library. We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe, welcoming environment for everyone. Our library's policy regarding children and young adults is available on our website. You can read the policy here: https://storage.googleapis.com/pcc-wagtail-media/documents/Care_of_children_and_young_people_in_libraries_policy_2026

Regards, Kerry Rubick
Whitby Library Branch Librarian



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](#).