DISCOVERY SCHOOL

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

Week 3, Term 4 **NEWSLETTER** **30 October 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

Learning programmes have kicked off and we have another packed term ahead of us. Classes have settled into the term well and the school has a great vibe, with lots to be proud of. Term 4 is always a busy time in schools, as we complete programmes for this year, while looking ahead and planning for next year.

Thank you to those of you who have provided feedback to us through the two surveys we sent out last term. One was the Health Curriculum consultation and the other around communication. While we are still working through the communication survey, the Health Curriculum consultation summary is included in this newsletter. We also surveyed the children last term with regards to their engagement in learning and how safe they feel at school. The results of this will go to the board at our next meeting, then come out to you via the newsletter, but in the meantime I can assure you that responses strongly indicate that the vast majority of our tamariki feel safe and happy at school.

I'd like to extend our thanks to Falyn Tipene, who has been a co-opted member of our board this year, bringing the lens of a Māori parent to our mahi. Falyn is stepping down from this role due to a number of commitments and we are grateful for the work she did in this role. Ngā mihi nui ki a koe Falyn! Early next year, we have our mid term board elections, so if you are interested in becoming a board member, look out for information about how to get involved.

Ngā mihi

Kaylene

Community Health Consultation: Survey Results & Next Steps

Thank you to the 126 parents who participated in our 2026 Community Health Consultation. Your feedback provides essential information to consider when planning future Physical Education and Health Programmes. It is worth noting that the curriculum is currently under review and a new curriculum comes into effect in 2028. In the meantime, we continue to work from the 2007 New Zealand Curriculum for this particular learning area.

Key priorities from the perspective of respondents were safety & body care (including cyber safety, basic road safety, personal body care, and sun safety); water safety & physical wellbeing (including regular fitness, fundamental skill development, and fair play over specific competitive sports codes); and mental health & values (supporting students to manage peer pressure, deal with bullying, build self-esteem, and model our core values received widespread backing).

It was interesting to also note that mindfulness practices rated lower for some parents. In classrooms, these are important strategies to help students self-regulate and settle, particularly after break times. Views were mixed on overnight camps, but school sleepovers for Year 4, along with Years 5–8 camps, will continue as key opportunities for outdoor education, teamwork, and independence. Age appropriate, sexuality and relationship education is seen by most respondents as an important aspect of learning programmes for tamariki. When programmes are taught in this area, parents are always informed and can opt children out of lessons.

As always when we survey parents, there were some minority or individual views that sat outside of the themes and trends. There were also comments that asked for things that we already teach and cover in classes. A vital part of our health curriculum programmes across the school include ongoing, age appropriate reminders and lessons about positive peer relationships and how we work well together to ensure everyone is happy and safe at school.

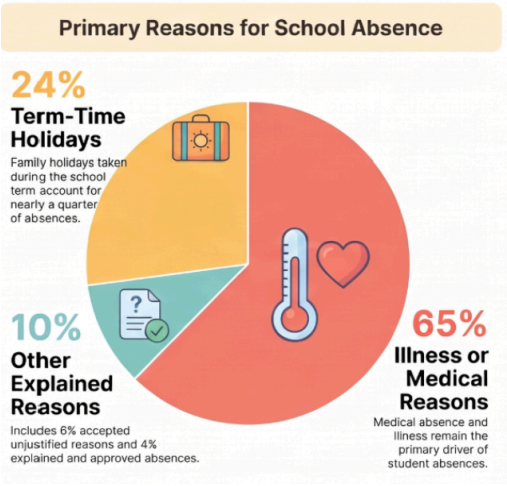
Absences & Attendance

The Ministry of Education has recently shared our Term 3 attendance data. We want to start by celebrating a huge win: our **on-time arrival rate was 99%**! Thank you for prioritizing smooth morning starts—it makes a world of difference for your children and their classroom focus.

Overall, 66% of our students achieved regular attendance (attending over 90% of the term).

As shown in the infographic, holidays taken during term time made up a noticeable portion of our overall absences. We completely understand the value of family travel and spending quality time together. At the same time, consistent attendance builds essential learning momentum. Because today's learning is interactive and relies heavily on direct teacher guidance and classroom collaboration, it isn't something that can easily be duplicated through take-home work.

Where possible, we ask that family trips be scheduled during standard school holiday breaks. Thank you for partnering with us to keep our tamariki connected, confident, and learning every day!



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 4 policies	Review open 12 October–13 November
• **Curriculum and Student Achievement Policy**	Board review
• **Reporting about Student Progress and Achievement**	Board review
• **Learning Support**	
• **Māori Educational Achievement**	
• **Religious Instruction***/Religious Observances*	
• **Health Curriculum**	Board review
• **Privacy Policy**	Board review

*Not all schools have this policy

These are the policies specified on the review schedule. You can also review any other policy in these sections.

Please note - we do not have the religious instruction policy at our school. 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

Nut Free Policy has Changed

As per our communication over the term break, effective from the beginning of Term 4, our nut free policy changed and nuts are now allowed at school. To help make our school a safe place for students with food allergies, we do not allow students to share food or drinks. The exception is the occasional shared lunch which is carefully managed to ensure food is free from allergens for any particular students.

Academic Competitions

Congratulations to the following students who received 'Merit' or 'Excellence' in the Kiwi Competition exams held at the end of term 2:

Maths

Year 5: Hugo L (Excellence)
Year 6: Cillian T (Excellence), Max B (Merit)
Year 8: Theo B (Merit)

English

Year 5: Hugo L (Merit)
Year 6: Emilia C (Merit)
Year 7: Toby C (Merit)

Science

Year 5: Theo C (Merit), Hugo L (Merit)
Year 8: Theo B (Merit), Ee Fann L (Merit)

Otago Problem Solving Challenge

The following year 7&8s received an overall 'Merit' in the Otago Problem Solving Challenges held throughout the year:

Theo B, Benji M, Toby C and Mason T.



Dance NZ Made Nationals

Congratulations to our Discovery School team, Charlotte, Esme, Keira, Maeve, Millie, Patrick, Sadie, Sofia, Stella, Tayla, Taylor, Tui who came 4th at nationals in the Y3-6 section.! There were 10 amazing troupes they competed against and they smashed it!

Thanks Sarah J for all the organising, & Jo Evans for all of your help with our tamariki and creating such a beautiful dance!

Congratulations to the following students who qualified to represent Discovery School at Dance NZ Made Nationals and achieved outstanding results:

Patrick 1st in Year 6 Nationals
Lucia and Keira 1st in Year 7&8 Duo Nationals
Lucia 3rd in Year 7 Nationals

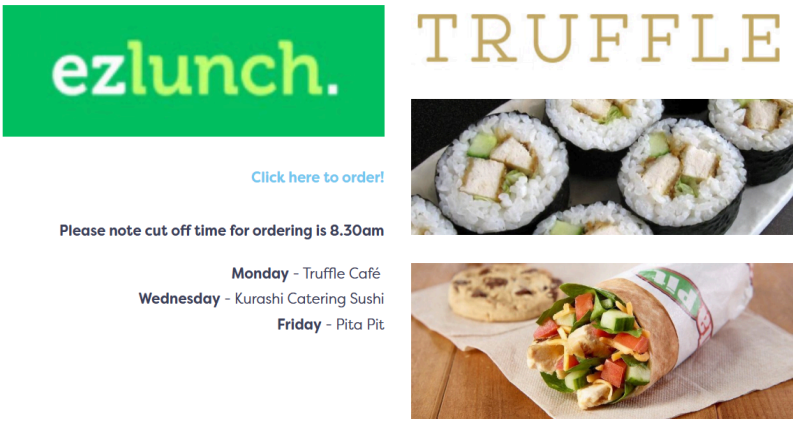




2026 ezlunch

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





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 tauira (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

DISCOVERY SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Discovery School PTA - DSPTA News - Term 4

Future sausage sizzle dates & Class Parent Help Allocation

This year we're trying a slightly different approach to our lunchtime sausage sizzles, with the aim of sharing the workload more evenly across our school community.
Each classroom will be assigned to one sausage sizzle during the year, for which we'd love support from the parents and whānau from those classes to run.

Tuesday 17th November - **Room 7, 8, 10, 21 and 22 parent helpers assigned to support**
17.11.26 Lunch Helpers

Many hands make light work! Thanks in advance and to those who have already helped. It has been so lovely to have your support! Thank you Whitby New World for donating the kai!





Discover Christmas is back again this year, on Friday 4th December.
Join the school community in celebrating the holidays with a craft market, food trucks & sausage sizzle and festive fun! We know this is a busy time of year, but if you can/are available, please add this event to your diary/calendar and lend a hand for an hour or so, if possible. We need to ask for help with the roster as there are many jobs to make this a great community event for our school.
2026 Discover Christmas Volunteer Roster - Friday 4th Dec 2026

We are not running the student stalls this year, but the tamariki can still hire a stall in the hall like in previous years. Here is the stall holder information that you might like to share with older tamariki, or if you are interested in running a stall Discover Christmas 2026 Stall Holder Info

Fundraising
The success of our fundraising over the last few years means that we have increased our spending commitment this year and supported the 50th Jubilee earlier this year. We thank those who have continued to support the DSPTA throughout this year. Our focus remains on spending to enhance the educational opportunities of the tamariki by providing materials needed in the classroom, EOTC- including trips, swimming lessons and educational programmes, and camps and reduce the amount that is required to be paid by families.

The DSPTA has approved expenditures of over $37,000 in 2026!

In addition to our classroom donations of $800 per class, we have contributed another $12,000 for:

- Life Education
- Dances for Schools and EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom)
- Part funding swim lessons and buses
- Grip Leadership Conference
- Library resources
- Supporting school events- including our Mihi Whakatau welcoming new families to the school, and the Year 8 dinner.
- $4000 was used to help build the play shed and support the 50th celebrations

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 for more details, or come along to one of our meetings!

DSPTA
Chairperson - Alison Heath
Deputy Chairperson - Hannah Humphrey
Secretary - Siobhan Allan
Treasurer - Abbey Berry, Co-Treasurer Michelle Christensen

Teacher Representative- Sarah Jenner
Board Representative- Andrea Smith

DSPTA Website: Check out the new DSPTA page on the Discovery School webpage

DSPTA | Discovery School

Discovery School PTA Facebook Page https://www.facebook.com/discoveryschoolpta

Discovery School Helpers Page https://www.facebook.com/groups/dsptahelpers