

Unlimited–Discovery Merged School

Naming the Merged School

Since the merger of Discovery 1 and Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti was announced, many things have had to happen quickly to ensure that we were ready to open on February 3 2014. Naming the school was a high priority. A name is our identity. It shapes us. It gives us a voice. It helps us belong.

On Monday 9 December the Board agreed on a new name for the school.

Our new name will be **Ao Tawhiti**.

We also agreed on a motto of *Unlimited Discovery*. Finally we agreed to carry the whakataukī of Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti of, *Ko te pae tawhiti whāia kia tata, ko te pae tata whakamaua kia tīna* which means *Seek out distant horizons and cherish those you attain* into the new school.

This name came about from a wide consultation process. Students, staff and parents were invited to contribute names. This list of potential names was then used to canvas the community as to what kinds of name hit the mark. We learned that our community wanted a link to the past and a name for the future. Unlimited, Discovery and Paenga Tawhiti all featured strongly.

We then started a process of consulting with Ngai Tahu and the Kaumatua of the schools. This process eventually led us to organising a whānau hui to discuss potential names. The hui had an inspiring moment, where the Board were challenged to agree on a name that takes us forward. When Ao Tawhiti was suggested

everyone at the hui agreed that this was the name of our new school.

The name checked a number of boxes that were evident in the consultation. The name Ao Tawhiti takes elements from both Maori names of the school (“Ao” from Discovery 1 Te Kura o Te Ao Whakahura, and “Tawhiti” from Paenga Tawhiti). It is pronounced as Ow Tah-fit-ti .

It also embraced the feedback from a group of students that petitioned us to come up with a new name – something that shows that two schools have come together. The meaning of Ao Tawhiti is *distant worlds in time and place ... an unlimited discovery*. It is a statement that celebrates our past and looks to our future.

We also wanted to recognise the importance of the names given to the school by the Discovery Learning Trust. The Y1-13 school is built on the foundations of Discovery 1 and Unlimited Paenga Tawhiti. As a Board we felt it was important that we honoured this by providing a motto of the school that would forever hold up the name Ao Tawhiti.

Tangata ākona i te Ao Tawhiti tūnga ki te ao tau ana.

People taught well at Ao Tawhiti can stand in the world with ease and confidence.

Please note that our name is subject to approval by the Ministry of Education.