



**Pine Hill
School**
'Reaching for the Top!'



Newsletter 1 - Wednesday 4th February 2026



Kia ora, Hello, Kia orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Bula vanaka, Marhabaan, Salaam, Namaste, Kumusta, Asalaam alaikum, Hola, Welkam, Mâlô

We are thrilled to welcome everyone back for the start of the new school year. We hope your summer was filled with rest, relaxation, and lots of happy memories. Everyone seems energised to be back at school, and we are looking forward to a year of personal growth, learning and exciting new opportunities for all our tamariki.

Welcome to Eric Thorburn (5), Liyah Rewha (5), Hudsyn Atkinson (5), Dalia Matar (5), Sophia Chaudhary (5), Rātā Houghton (5) and Piper Souquet (5) who have all joined Room 1. Liyah, Dalia and Sophia have siblings at our school and Eric, Hudsyn and Rātā are the first tamariki in their whānau to join our school. A special welcome to all new whānau who have joined our school community and we hope everyone who is new at Pine Hill School enjoys their time with us.

On **Thursday 5th February** we have our Meet the Teacher/Orientation morning from 8.30-10am. This will begin in the library with a hot/cold drink and there will be time to meet teachers and connect/reconnect with other whānau. Information has been emailed about this. Please ensure you RSVP by **later today (Wednesday 4th February)** for catering purposes. We look forward to seeing lots of you at this event. All those that attend will go into the draw to win a \$30 grocery voucher of choice.

I know that many of you will have seen the Minister of Education's announcement on Monday regarding nationally consistent assessment and reporting. Please be assured that we remain committed to providing clear, meaningful information about the progress of your tamariki. Our school is working through the details of new assessment and reporting requirements alongside implementing new English and Mathematics curriculums. Regular and ongoing teacher professional judgement, informed by multiple assessment approaches, remains at the heart of understanding and reporting on the learning and progress of all tamariki at our school.

A reminder that school is closed on **Friday 6th February** to observe Waitangi Day. We hope you enjoy the long weekend.

*Ngā mihi nui,
Melissa Ward
Tumuaki/Principal*

'Reaching for the Top!'
Aiming High, Respect, Responsibility

School Notices

PINE HILL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

There is a board meeting on **Monday 23rd February** at 6pm at school and **Monday 30th March** at 6pm on Zoom. Public presence is welcome at our meetings and the Pine Hill School Board would like to welcome you along.

Please contact Melissa, or Amie Hawkins (Presiding Member) if you are interested in attending any meetings.

TRANSITION TO SCHOOL - FOUR YEAR OLDS

Each term at Pine Hill School, we hold Transition to School visits for all four year olds. These visits will allow new tamariki to become familiar with the school environment. These sessions are held over three different dates each term, and the dates for **Term 1** are: **Wednesday 25th February, Wednesday 11th March, and Wednesday 1st April.** Tamariki are welcome to come for morning tea at 10:40am, and then spend the middle block from 11:00am - 12:30pm with the Junior Learning Team. They are also invited to stay for lunch, with being collected at 1:00pm. If you would like your tamariki to attend, please RSVP to Mrs Alvarez Farias at school.

WAYS TO CONTACT/FIND US!

School phone number: 03 473 9148	School cell phone number: 027 528 7198
Website: www.pinehilldunedin.school.nz	Search Pine Hill School on Facebook and give us a like!
Download the Skool Loop app from the Google Play or Apple Store on your phone and search for Pine Hill School	

EMAIL ADDRESSES

You can contact Kaimah (staff)i on the following email addresses:

valentina@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Mrs Valentina Alvarez Farias: Room 1 (year 1) Kaiako/Teacher	ally@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Miss Ally Ward: Room 2 (year 2 & 3) Kaiako/Teacher
tait@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Miss Tait Duncan: Room 3 (year 3 & 4) Kaiako/Teacher	tara@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Miss Tara McGoff: Room 4 (year 5 & 6) Teacher/Kaiako
principal@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Miss Melissa Ward: Tumuaki/Principal	office@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Mrs Nikola Ballard

REMINDERS

2nd-13th February	<i>Whole school swimming - Dunedin North Intermediate pool</i>
Thursday 5th February	<i>Orientation/Meet the Teacher - 8.30-10am</i>
Friday 6th February	<i>Waitangi Day - school CLOSED</i>
Friday 20th February	<i>Assembly, 2.20pm in the Hall</i>
Monday 23rd February	<i>Board meeting, 6pm at school</i>
Wednesday 25th February	<i>Transition to School - all 4 year olds in the area</i>
Monday 9th March	<i>Goal Setting Interviews - 3.30-6.30pm</i>
Tuesday 10th March	<i>Goal Setting Interviews - 1-5.30pm</i>
Wednesday 11th March	<i>Transition to School - all 4 year olds in the area</i>
Friday 13th March	<i>Assembly, 2.20pm in the Hall</i>
Monday 23rd March	<i>Otago Anniversary Day - school CLOSED</i>
Friday 27th March	<i>Assembly, 2.30pm in the Hall</i>
Monday 30th March	<i>Board meeting, 6pm on Zoom</i>
Wednesday 1st April	<i>Transition to School - all 4 year olds in the area</i>
Thursday 2nd April	<i>Assembly, 2.20pm in the Hall (Thursday due to Good Friday)</i>
Thursday 2nd April	<i>Term one school holidays begin</i>
Monday 20th April	<i>Term two begins, tamariki welcome at school from 8.30am</i>