



Newsletter 10 - Wednesday 23rd July 2025



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

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a fantastic and restful break. A warm welcome to our newest tamariki who have joined us: Isla, who is settling into our Middle Learning Team, and Leah, who has joined our Senior Learning Team. We extend a special welcome to their whānau too, and we hope you all enjoy your time as part of our Pine Hill School community.

Due to roll growth, we have recently split our Junior Learning Team (JLT) into two classes: JLT 1 with Mrs Alvarez Farias and JLT 2 with Miss Ward. Currently our school roll stands at 62 tamariki, with more to join us as the year progresses. It is really fantastic for our school to have a growing roll and have four classrooms operating. We have small class numbers right across our school which is great for our tamariki and their teachers. There is also teacher aide support right through the school with three teacher aides currently working throughout the classrooms for certain periods of the day.

Last term, our Senior Learning Team enjoyed a fabulous overnight camp at the Otago Museum. It was really well organised and tamariki enjoyed the array of learning and activities on offer with the Museum Educators. It was pretty cool getting to sleep in Discovery World as well! Thank you to Aime Hawkins for her help with transport, and a special shout-out to Miss Culbert for all her wonderful organisation in making this memorable trip possible.

This term is set to be busy with activity! We're looking forward to lots of awesome learning happening in our classrooms, alongside exciting events like the Rippa Rugby tournament for our Senior Learning Team tamariki, our annual School Cross Country and Polyfest for our Year 2-6 tamariki. Dates for these events can be found in the reminders section of the newsletter and more information about them will come out as the term progresses.

Our upcoming Student Led Conferences are a good opportunity for your tamariki to share their learning journey with you. These conferences will be held on **Monday 25th August from 3.15 - 5.30pm**, and **Tuesday 26th August from 2.00 - 6.30pm**. Keep an eye out for booking times, which will be sent home during the week of 11th August.

Our triennial Board of Trustees elections are underway, and we have three seats to fill for the upcoming three year term. Nomination forms have been sent out to those interested in standing for election. Please remember that all completed nomination forms are due back at school by noon on Wednesday 6th August. We encourage anyone keen to contribute to the governance of our school to consider putting their name forward. If you have any questions about the role of the board, please get in touch with Amie Hawkins (presiding member) or myself. If you have any questions about the election process, please contact Nikola Ballard (our school secretary), who is the returning officer.

Kā mihi - Melissa Ward: Tumuaiki/Principal

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

School Notices

PINE HILL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

There are board meetings on **Monday 11th August** and **Monday 15th September** 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 allow tamariki to become familiar with our school environment. These sessions are held over three different dates each term, and the dates for **Term 3** are: **Wednesday 30th July, Wednesday 13th August** and **Wednesday 10th September**. 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 (valentina@pinehilldunedin.school.nz).

ENROLMENTS

We have a growing roll at Pine Hill School which is amazing and we welcome new enrolments. We are not zoned, which means we are able to take enrolments from all areas. If you know of or have any tamariki that will be attending Pine Hill School in the future, please let Melissa know. Enrolment information is very helpful with planning for the immediate and distant future. Enrolment packs can be picked up from the school office and appointments can be booked for school visits/tours for whānau through our school website, ringing the office or emailing Melissa.

ATTENDANCE FOCUS

As you are aware, we're placing a strong focus on attendance, aiming for a fantastic 95% attendance rate across the school each and every day. As of today it is **91%**, so we still have some work to do to increase this. To celebrate and encourage consistent attendance, we are awarding the Attendance Shield at our Assembly every three weeks to the class that achieves the highest attendance for the three weeks prior to Assembly. At the final Assembly of each term, we'll recognise those tamariki who have demonstrated excellent attendance with special Attendance Awards. We truly believe that being at school, when fit and able, is crucial for our tamariki to achieve to their full potential and learn to the best of their ability.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

You can contact Kaimahi on the following email addresses:

valentina@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Mrs Valentina Alvarez Farias: Junior Learning Team 1 (year 0-1) Kaiako/Teacher	ally@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Miss Ally Ward: Junior Learning Team 2 (year 1-2) Kaiako/Teacher
tait@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Miss Tait Duncan: Middle Learning Team (year 3 & 4) Kaiako/Teacher	olivia@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Miss Olivia Culbert: Senior Learning Team (year 5 & 6) Teacher/Kaiako
principal@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Miss Melissa Ward: Tumuaki/Principal	office@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Mrs Nikola Ballard: Secretary

REMINDERS

Wednesday 30th July	<i>Transition to School, all four year olds</i>
Friday 1st August	<i>Assembly, 2.30pm in the hall</i>
Monday 11th August	<i>Board meeting, 6pm on Zoom</i>
Wednesday 13th August	<i>Transition to School, all four year olds</i>
Wednesday 20th August	<i>Rippa Rugby Tournament @ Logan Park Turf - all Senior Learning Team tamariki</i>
Friday 22nd August	<i>Assembly, 2.30pm in the hall</i>
Monday 25th August	<i>Student Led Conferences, 3.15-5.30pm</i>
Tuesday 26th August	<i>Student Led Conferences, 2.00-6.30pm</i>
Wednesday 27th August	<i>Rippa Rugby tournament postponement date</i>
Thursday 28th August	<i>School Cross Country, 12pm</i>
Friday 29th August	<i>School Cross Country postponement date, 12pm</i>
1st-5th September	<i>Polyfest Week - performance day/time TBC</i>
Wednesday 10th September	<i>Transition to School, all four year olds</i>
Thursday 11th September	<i>School Photos</i>
Friday 19th September	<i>Term three school holidays begin at 3pm</i>