



Newsletter 12 - Wednesday 14th August 2024



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

This week, Pine Hill School is pleased to introduce three new tamariki (children) and their whānau (families) to our community. Kaylani Paul and Ian and Iza Abraham are now part of the Junior Learning Team. We extend a warm welcome and hope that you all have a wonderful experience during your time here with us.

Congratulations to Marcel Rewha, Shahed Alibrahem, Lucas Gardiner and Isabella Duder who represented Pine Hill School at the year 5 and 6 North Zone Cross Country on Tuesday. They gave their races their very best efforts and were fabulous representatives of our school. Thank you to their whānau for taking them along to the event and supporting them.

Recently, the Government announced some pretty drastic changes to the teaching of maths, with a very short implementation timeframe for the beginning of 2025. This is unprecedented. The data shared was grim but is questionable, so I just want to clarify this for you all. The data quoted was taken in 2022 from a group of only 853 Year 8 ākonga (students) from 42 schools. The assessment that was undertaken was measured against the soon to be introduced Maths Curriculum - a curriculum that wasn't even out or being taught at the time of the assessments, meaning that some ākonga were being assessed against things that they hadn't even been taught. A quote from the research's author - Dr Charles Darr states: *"What we're seeing in mathematics is a change in curriculum and a new benchmarking process rather than a change in achievement. For year 8 students, there has been no statistically significant change in mathematics achievement scores since at least 2013."*

Here at Pine Hill School we are continually working to raise our achievement levels of Maths (and other learning areas), and with our implementation of Structured Literacy to support our ākonga/learners with Reading, Spelling and Writing, we are also looking at a clear focus on raising the teaching of Mathematical knowledge as a way to increase ākonga achievement in this area. **HOWEVER** - we all know that not all tamariki learn in the same way. This move seems like a one size must fit all approach to teaching and to learning. This would be like the Government telling doctors they must xray all patients in the same way and then treat them all in the same way. Just as each doctor's assessment of what a patient requires is individualised, so too does a teacher with tamariki's assessment information and teaching programme. We are very concerned about this roll out and I certainly hope we will still be able to tailor a maths programme that works best for each and every tamariki, rather than expecting all tamariki to do things the same way. We already know some of our tamariki struggle with maths, and further resources (such as additional teacher time) should be the priority and this is what needs to be considered, in order to support these tamariki and increase achievement. Giving everyone a workbook isn't going to enact the changes required long term. At this stage we have no idea of what will be expected of us in order to prepare for this new way of teaching maths from the beginning of 2025. When we know more about what is happening, I will let you know.

Thank you to everyone who came along to Student Led Conferences last week. It was fantastic to meet with you all and your tamariki were proud to share parts of their learning journey with you. We had 100% attendance at these conferences which shows how strong our home/school partnership is.

*Ngā mihi nui,
Melissa Ward - Tumuaki/Principal*

School Notices

PINE HILL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

There is a board meeting on **Monday 9th 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

We have Transition to School visits for all four year old tamariki each term at Pine Hill School. The purpose of these visits is to allow tamariki to become familiar with the school environment, getting a taste of school life. The sessions are held over three different dates each term and the remaining dates for term three are: **Wednesday 21st August** and **Wednesday 11th September**. Tamariki are welcome to come for morning tea at 10.40am, with spending the middle block from 11am-12.30pm in the Junior Learning Team, experiencing school. Tamariki are invited to stay for lunch after the class session with being collected at 1pm. If you would like your child to attend, please RSVP to Miss Tara McGoff at school. *Please note, we organise separate, tailored visits for four year old tamariki around four-six weeks before they are due to start at our school.*

KIDSCAN

We are lucky to be a member of KidsCan New Zealand. When tamariki start at school they get a free jacket. Some of the other things we have available for free include: shoes for tamariki, food for morning tea and head lice treatment. Please contact school if you require any of these optional items from KidsCan.



AWARDS

Congratulations to the following tamariki for receiving awards at our most recent Assembly:



	Junior Learning Team	Senior Learning Team
Principal Award - Responsibility	Indi Moeke	Faith Miller
Classroom Certificate	Farrah Sipa	Taksh Patel

REMINDERS

Thursday 15th August	<i>Year 6 Cycle Skills Day</i>
Friday 16th August	<i>Assembly. 2.30pm in the hall</i>
Wednesday 21st August	<i>Transition to School, all four year olds</i>
Friday 30th August	<i>School Cross Country, 11.45am at school</i>
Monday 2nd September	<i>School Cross country postponement date, 11.45am at school</i>
Thursday 12th September	<i>Polyfest Performance</i>
Wednesday 11th September	<i>Transition to School, all four year olds</i>
Friday 13th September	<i>Assembly. 2.30pm in the hall</i>
Friday 27th September	<i>Assembly. 2.30pm in the hall</i>
Friday 27th September	<i>Term three school holidays being at 3pm</i>
Monday 14th October	<i>Term four begins, tamariki welcome at school from 8.30am</i>
Monday 4th November	<i>Teacher Only day, school CLOSED to tamariki</i>
Thursday 12th December	<i>Final Assembly, 11am in the hall, school finishes for the year</i>