



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



## Newsletter 12 - Wednesday 20th August 2025



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

As we are on the downward slope of winter, it's wonderful to see more sunlight each day. While the last few cold and wet days are a reminder that winter isn't quite finished, they also make us long for the warmth of summer.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our student-led conferences next week on **Monday August 25th and Tuesday August 26th**. All conference times have been sent home via email or hard copy. Our tamariki have been busy preparing some special work to share, and they are excited to talk with you about their achievements and next steps in reading, writing, and math. We can't wait to connect with everyone and celebrate the progress your tamariki have made. A reminder that tamariki need to be present at their conference. As conferences are over two days, and Tuesday is a longer day (2-6.30pm), we ask if you can please pick up your tamariki (or they walk home etc) at **1pm on Tuesday August 26th**. School will remain open for tamariki needing supervision in the afternoon. Please **inform us if your tamariki need to stay at school** for supervision in the afternoon.

Today, our kaiako and I, as tumuaki, will be attending Paid Union Meetings. These meetings are a crucial part of our collective bargaining process with the Government. We're united in our efforts to advocate for better working conditions, increased support for our tamariki, and fair terms in our collective agreements. These actions are about ensuring that we, as educators, have the resources and support needed to provide the best possible learning environment for all tamariki. School remains open today as Union Meetings are being held at different times throughout the day so we can all attend.

It was fantastic to see Lucas Gardiner, James Lees, Kaea Moeke, Isabella Duder and Marcel Rewha represent our school with pride at the recent North Zone Cross Country at Chingford Park. A huge congratulations to all of them for their outstanding effort and determination. A special mention and congratulations goes to Isabella Duder for finishing 5th and qualifying for the Otago Cross Country. We all wish her the very best of luck as she competes in this event at Kaikorai Valley College on Friday 5th September. The entire Pine Hill School community is cheering for you, Isabella!

We're also excited for our upcoming Pine Hill School Cross Country event next **Thursday August 28th (postponement date Friday August 29th)**. Our tamariki have been training hard and are ready to put their best foot forward. The races will begin at **12pm**, and we warmly invite all whānau and friends to come along and support all of our tamariki. Tamariki are welcome to go home with their whānau after they have supported all of the races.

Today our year 5 and 6 tamariki are participating in the local Rippa Rugby Tournament. We have a boys and girls team entered and wish them all the best for the day. Thank you to Miss Culbert and Miss Ward for their organisation of the event and I look forward to attending in the afternoon, seeing their awesome rippa skills on display!

*Kā mihi - Melissa Ward: Tumuaiki/Principal*

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

# School Notices

### PINE HILL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

There is a board meeting on **Monday September 15th** 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.

## CLASSROOM UPDATES *(now with having four classes, we are doing two combined updates per term!)*

Welcome to Isla who has joined the Middle Learning Team, and Leah who has joined the Senior Learning Team! We hope you both enjoy your time at our awesome school! This term, our dedicated tamariki have been training hard for cross country each morning. It has been fantastic to see their effort and enthusiasm paying off! Many tamariki are showing incredible progress, increasing their laps each week, and consistently pushing themselves to improve both their speed and stamina. It is awesome to see many tamariki getting stickers on their certificates reflecting the amount of laps they are running on their map of NZ! On Tuesday 12th August we had five students from the Senior Learning Team attend North Zone Cross Country. We would like to congratulate Marcel, Isabella, Lucas, Kaea and James for their amazing efforts representing Pine Hill School. A special congratulations to Isabella who has qualified for the Otago Cross Country on Friday 5th September. Good luck Isabella! The Senior Learning Team have been training for their Rippa Rugby tournament on Wednesday the 20th of August. They are super excited to give it a go and use the skills they have been learning. In the afternoons, our Year 2–6 students have been fully immersed in kapa haka practice in preparation for the upcoming Polyfest performance. The group has been working hard to master all their items for their performance. The commitment and teamwork shown is truly inspiring. As we move closer to the performance in week eight (Wednesday 3rd September 2pm at the Edgar Centre), the excitement and anticipation is building, and we know their performance will be something very special to experience. It will be amazing to see lots of our school community there supporting us. We are also continuing to explore our new school-wide maths programme, Numicon. The tamariki have embraced the hands-on approach with enthusiasm, using colourful shapes and interactive activities to deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they make connections between the Numicon resources and the maths they use in everyday life. At the beginning of the term, our learning focus was 'Healthy Living and Wellbeing'. Tamariki explored a wide range of topics to support their Hauora (wellbeing), including the importance of eating a balanced diet, guided by the food pyramid, the benefits of regular physical activity, and what it means to have a healthy mindset. We have seen students making thoughtful choices in their own lives and sharing their knowledge with friends and whānau. Our iDeal spelling programme continues to be a highlight in the classroom. Our tamariki look forward to their spelling sessions each week and are showing amazing growth in their understanding of words, patterns, and sounds. It is awesome to see them applying these new skills so confidently in their everyday learning. Lots of these skills are being transferred into all areas of the curriculum, especially reading. In art, we have been teaching painting, focusing on fundamental techniques and encouraging the creativity of tamariki. As we head into the last half of the term, we are proud of the progress, effort, and positive attitude our tamariki are showing across all areas of learning. We're excited to see what the rest of the term will bring as they continue to learn, grow and shine!

## 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 remaining date for **Term 3** is: **Wednesday September 10th**. 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](mailto:valentina@pinehilldunedin.school.nz)).

## POLYFEST - WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER

Our Kapa Haka group is busy preparing for Polyfest! Our performance is **Wednesday September 3rd** at 2pm at the Edgar Centre. If you are coming to watch, please be there half an hour before our performance time in case the programme is running ahead of time. We would hate you to miss our performance!

## 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 items.



## 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 [principal@pinehilldunedin.school.nz](mailto:principal@pinehilldunedin.school.nz)

## HEAD LICE

Head lice are active at school, please check the hair of your tamariki. Treatment of head lice has to be done thoroughly. There are a number of ways to do this but one of the best ways is to cover the hair in conditioner to stun the lice. You then need to comb through the hair strands carefully and pull out any eggs along with removing the live lice. The egg cases can be empty but are still really sticky and need to be pulled out by hand or fine metal comb. The live eggs are dark and live approximately 1mm from the scalp. Live lice crawl around the head. We will contact you so that you can organise treatment if we see head lice or eggs in your tamariki's hair. **ALL** long hair **MUST** be tied up. If you would like a treatment kit, please contact us as we have these available for free.

## BEFORE SCHOOL CARE

We have Before School Care available every Thursday and Friday morning from 7.30-8.30am. Please text the school phone or email the office to tell us if you require this service. Bookings can be taken up until the day before and the cost is \$6 per child, before 8am and \$3 per child after 8am.

## EMAIL ADDRESSES

You can contact Kaimahi on the following email addresses:

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

## REMINDERS

Wednesday August 20th	<i>Rippa Rugby Tournament @ Logan Park Turf - all Senior Learning Team tamariki</i>
Friday August 22nd	<i>Assembly, 2.30pm in the hall</i>
Monday August 25th	<i>Student Led Conferences, 3.15-5.30pm</i>
Tuesday August 26th	<i>Student Led Conferences, 2.00-6.30pm</i>
Wednesday August 27th	<i>Rippa Rugby tournament postponement date</i>
Thursday August 28th	<i>School Cross Country, 12pm</i>
Friday August 29th	<i>School Cross Country postponement date, 12pm</i>
Wednesday September 3rd	<i>Polyfest performance - 2pm @ Edgar Centre</i>
Wednesday September 10th	<i>Transition to School, all four year olds</i>
Thursday September 11th	<i>School Photos</i>
Friday September 19th	<i>Term three school holidays begin at 3pm</i>



# Pine Hill School

Est. 1872

*'Reaching for the Top!'*

## Kia Ora!

### Have you considered **Pine Hill School** for your child?

**At Pine Hill School we offer:**

- Low student to teacher ratios
- A highly skilled teaching team
- Personalised and engaging learning opportunities
- Integrated learning programmes
- Sporting and cultural groups
- Exciting 'Education Outside the Classroom' programmes
- Before and after school care
- Expansive grounds
- A family focus and community engagement
- A friendly, welcoming environment



### Get in Touch!

03 473 9148

[office@pinehilldunedin.school.nz](mailto:office@pinehilldunedin.school.nz)

11 Hislop St, Liberton, Dunedin



Find us on  
Facebook

[www.pinehilldunedin.school.nz](http://www.pinehilldunedin.school.nz)

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