



## Newsletter 13 - Wednesday 31st August 2022



*Kia ora, Hello, Kia orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Bula vanaka, Marhabaan, Salaam, Namaste*

We are now halfway through term 3. The weeks are flying and we have been very busy here at school.

We welcome Tutanekai Knight-Kepa and his family to our school. Tutanekai is in year 2 and has joined the Junior Learning Team. We hope Tutanekai and his family enjoy their time at Pine Hill School. Aria Nader-Turner has joined our school as a Teacher Aide in the JLT. A big welcome to Aria and we hope she enjoys her time working with us.

Our Kapa Haka group is busy building for their Polyfest performance in two weeks time. We are very excited to be involved in this event after a couple of years not attending due to Covid. Performance times will be shared with our community once we know when we are on stage.

I am heading to the New Zealand Principals Conference in Christchurch in two weeks. I am really looking forward to listening to a range of different speakers, attending workshops and also reconnecting with Principals from across the country. I will be away from Tuesday 13th September for the rest of the week and Renee Hodges will be acting in my role as Principal while I am away. There will be no newsletter the week I am away and the final newsletter for the term will come home on Wednesday 28th September.

It is great to see the number of Covid cases in Dunedin and across the country dropping. We continue to be very appreciative of our families keeping their children home when they are unwell. I will not be notifying our school community of positive Covid cases involving school families anymore. The reason is that Covid is going to be around for quite some time and we need to adapt to this. Everyone needs to keep vigilant regarding their own and their children's sickness symptoms and test for Covid if required. Families still need to inform us if someone in their family has Covid so we ensure children stay at home for the required isolation period. If families require RAT tests or facemasks, please let us know as we have these available for families.

Renee Hodges is taking leave from her teaching job at Pine Hill School in term one of 2023 to do some traveling. Renee will be back to school in term two 2023 and we wish her all the best for her travels. Information regarding classroom teachers for 2023 will be announced later in the year.

On Monday 26th September, school will be closing at 12.30pm for teachers to undertake local curriculum professional learning development from 1-4.30pm.

Ngā mihi nui - Melissa Ward

**CARING RESPECT**

**RESPONSIBILITY AIMING HIGH**

# School Notices

## JUNIOR LEARNING TEAM (JLT) UPDATE

The Junior Learning Team has had a busy few weeks. We have had a big focus around relationships in our classroom and are working on always being kind, speaking nicely to each other and working as a team. We got to learn more about this when we went to visit Maria and Harold on the bus from the Life Education Trust. Harold the giraffe reminded us to treat others how we would like to be treated. During reading time, we have been thinking about all the different emotions we might feel - what makes us feel happy, angry, sad or worried and what tools we can use to help us if we aren't feeling too great. The JLT have been absolutely loving our topic learning about bugs and have been so engaged with all the amazing learning we have been doing. We have been reading about bugs at reading time and writing about some of our favourite bugs we would like to know more about. In the afternoons, we have been completing some detailed bug drawings to go with our writing. They look so realistic; it looks like we have a bug farm in our classroom! We will post these on Seesaw for you all to see! Don't forget to check your child's Seesaw and feel free to post anything exciting from at home your child might like to share with our class.

## SENIOR LEARNING TEAM (SLT) UPDATE

Our Senior Team has had a full on few weeks! There has been lots of new learning and experiences. Students have been working really hard on building relationships and learning from others. We are trying really hard to work as a team and help others when it is needed. The SLT have had a great time working on our theme topic by exploring our outside surroundings and seeing what beautiful bugs and insects we could find around our school. Our tamariki have been learning about the anatomy of different bugs and their life cycles! We cannot wait to learn some more about how these little creatures are so helpful for our Ecosystem! The Senior Learning team had the wonderful opportunity to have Maria and Harold the giraffe and the Life Education bus on Friday! It was so awesome learning lots of new information in a different environment full of cool lights! We were able to learn about the importance of eating healthy, how our organs work and how our body digests food. The SLT also learned about how nutrients are essential for our bodies to function well every day. We are looking forward to continuing to learn from each other and working on building strong relationships in the Senior Learning Team. Remember to check out Seesaw to see ākonga learning!

## TRANSITION TO SCHOOL - FOUR YEAR OLDS

We have Transition to School visits for all four year olds each term at Pine Hill School. The purpose of these visits is to allow students 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 dates for term three are: **Wednesday 31st August** and **Wednesday 21st September**. Children 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.

Children 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 Renee Hodges at school.

## KIDSCAN

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



## SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos are on **Wednesday 7th September**. Information has been sent home regarding school photos. Please follow the instructions on this information sheet if you want optional family photos. Contact Nikola at the office if you have any questions.

## PINE HILL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

There is a Pine Hill School Board meeting on **Monday 12th September** at 7.15pm on the online platform, Zoom. Public presence is welcome at our meetings and the board would like to welcome you along. Please contact Melissa, or Kirstyn Stanaway (Presiding Member) if you are interested in attending.

## SCHOOL CLOSING EARLY/TEACHER ONLY DAYS

School will be closing at **12.30pm** on **Monday 26th September** for teachers to undertake local curriculum professional learning development from 1-4.30pm. All children are required to go home at 12.30pm this day.

The Pine Hill School Board has approved two Teacher Only Days for 2022. The date for the remaining Teacher Only Day is **Monday 14th November**. School is closed to students on this day. A reminder will be sent closer to the time.

## HEAD LICE

Head lice are active at school. 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. Please check your child/ren's hair. If we notice lice in a child's hair we will contact you so that you can organise treatment.

**ALL** long hair **MUST** be tied up. If you would like a treatment kit, please contact us as we have these available for free.

## EMAIL ADDRESSES

You can contact us on the following email addresses:

<a href="mailto:renee@pinehilldunedin.school.nz">renee@pinehilldunedin.school.nz</a> Miss Renee Hodges: Junior Learning Team Teacher	<a href="mailto:valentina@pinehilldunedin.school.nz">valentina@pinehilldunedin.school.nz</a> Mrs Valentina Alvarez Farias: Senior Learning Team Teacher
<a href="mailto:principal@pinehilldunedin.school.nz">principal@pinehilldunedin.school.nz</a> Miss Melissa Ward: Principal/Senior Learning Team Teacher	<a href="mailto:office@pinehilldunedin.school.nz">office@pinehilldunedin.school.nz</a> Mrs Nikola Ballard: School Secretary

# REMINDERS

Wednesday 7th September  
 Thursday 8th September  
 12th-16th September  
 Monday 26th September  
 Friday 30th September  
 Monday 17th October  
 20th/21st October  
 Monday 14th November  
 Friday 2nd December  
 Thursday 15th December  
 Monday 30th January

*School photos*  
*Whole school trip to Otago Museum for Bugs study*  
*Polyfest Week (our performance day/time TBC)*  
*School **finishing** at 12.30pm*  
*Term 3 school holidays begin at 3pm*  
*Term 4 begins from 8.30am*  
*Senior Learning Team overnight camp @ Otago Museum*  
*Teacher Only Day - school **CLOSED** to students*  
*Beach Education, St Kilda beach. Parent help required.*  
*Summer school holidays begin, school closes at 12.30pm*  
*School starts for 2023*

## Kia ora,

Have you considered Pine Hill School for your child?



### AT PINE HILL SCHOOL WE OFFER:

- Low student to teacher ratios
- Highly skilled teachers
- Personalised learning
- interesting and engaging classroom learning programmes
- Innovative learning environments
- Strong use of digital technologies
- 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!**



Phone us: 03 473 9148  
 Email Melissa Ward: [principal@pinehilldunedin.school.nz](mailto:principal@pinehilldunedin.school.nz)  
 Go online: [www.pinehilldunedin.school.nz](http://www.pinehilldunedin.school.nz)  
 Visit us: 11 Hislop Street, Liberton, Dunedin

*Pine Hill School - the hidden treasure in Pine Hill*

**Pine Hill School**  
 A Community of Learners