



Newsletter 13 - Wednesday 26th August 2026



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

We were delighted to welcome Numicon Maths Facilitator Trish Bunting to our school for three days last week. During her time here, Trish observed teachers teaching Numicon, she modeled teaching Numicon and we had also an open morning for staff from other schools to come and see Numicon in action at Pine Hill School. Trish was immensely impressed by the high standard of instruction across our classrooms, as well as the wonderful engagement of our tamariki with their learning. Our Open Morning was equally successful, leaving visiting educators genuinely inspired by the practice on display. We extend our sincere thanks to our teachers and tamariki for their outstanding dedication to Numicon, with special recognition to Miss Ally Ward for her exceptional organisation of the visit, seamless facilitation of the Open Morning, and warm connections with visiting staff.

We are excited to invite our school community to our annual Cross Country event this **Friday 28th August** at 12:00 pm. The event is scheduled to conclude around 1:00 pm, after which tamariki are welcome to leave with a whānau member provided the school has been notified. Any tamariki without a whānau member present will remain at school until 3:00 pm. Should inclement weather force a postponement, the event will take place on **Monday August 31st** at 12:00 pm. Our tamariki have been training diligently, and we look forward to seeing their hard work in action! If you plan to attend and support our runners, please ensure you are inside the school grounds by 11:55 am. The pedestrian gates will be locked at this time to maintain safety, as the running course crosses these entry points. We appreciate your cooperation in arriving early so that our tamariki can perform without interruption.

Preparations are also well underway for our upcoming Polyfest performance at The Edgar Centre on **Wednesday September 9th** at 11:18 am. The entire school will attend this wonderful occasion, with our Year 2–6 tamariki taking the stage as part of our Kapa Haka group and our Year 0–1 tamariki supporting from the audience. To ensure everything runs smoothly, all participating Kapa Haka group members **must arrive at school by 8:30am**, to get organised with their uniforms, as our transport departs promptly at 9:45 am. We extend our thanks to Nikita and Hope Rewha for assisting with facial tattoos, as well as Miss Duncan and Miss Ally Ward for their dedicated leadership in preparing our group.

In other exciting news, our school hall interior transformation is complete! The space now features freshly painted walls and entryways, updated flooring, a new kitchen, three modern heat pumps, and the removal of old exercise equipment and curtains. We are thrilled with this fresh new look and look forward to showcasing the improvements at Assembly this **Thursday August 27th** at 2:20 pm (rescheduled from Friday this week due to Cross Country). Following these extensive upgrades, alongside the renovated toilet facilities completed in 2024, the hall continues to be available for public hire. Please note that hire rates have been adjusted to help preserve and maintain the significant investment made in the hall. If you are interested in booking the space, please contact Nikola at the school office for further information and booking details.

Kā mihi, Melissa Ward - Tumuaiki/Principal

School Notices

PINE HILL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

There is a board meeting **Monday 21st 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.

CLASSROOM UPDATE: MISS DUNCAN AND MISS ALLY WARD

It has been another busy and productive term at Pine Hill School! We extend a warm welcome to our Master's Teaching Students from the University of Otago, Miss Chatterjee and Miss Taylor, who will be with us for the term. Miss Chatterjee is in Room 3 with Miss Duncan, while Miss Taylor is in Room 4 with Miss McGoff. We are also pleased to welcome some new tamariki who have joined us this term. A very warm welcome to Charlie Miller, Franco Visser, Hazel Guzuzu, Aroha Richardson and Kahu Richardson. We are excited to have them on board and among our school community. Our tamariki have been busy getting prepared for Polyfest which is not far away! Our performance is at 11:18am on Wednesday the 9th of September at the Edgar Centre. We have been working extra hard at learning new waiata and waiata ā-ringā, and we hope you are able to join us. Along with getting ready for Polyfest, we have also been busy preparing for our school cross country, which is happening this Friday, the 28th of August. It has been great to see the effort and determination from our tamariki during their training every day. You are more than welcome to come along and support your tamariki during their races! Our art focus for the first half of the term was around printmaking, and our tamariki had a special visit from the Dunedin Art Gallery. As a school we explored the process of printmaking using water, and each class created a garden of flowers to display in their classrooms. We started by drawing a circle around our individual paper flowers, and then we coloured the circle using felt tip pens. From there, we sprayed water onto the felt and pressed the face of the flower onto it, creating amazing and colourful patterns. Thank you again to the Dunedin Art Gallery for their visit! We recently had Trish Bunting, our Numicon facilitator, come down from Christchurch to do some more professional development with us. Our kaiako were lucky to have Trish in action within the classrooms, as she modelled and observed each kaiako taking a lesson which was of great value to us. Alongside this, we hosted an open morning for kaiako across Dunedin who are also integrating Numicon within their schools. It was a fantastic morning filled with lots of questions and new learning for all involved. Thank you to Trish for her guidance around Numicon, we really appreciate all the support you give us! We have also been waiting patiently for the final upgrades to be completed in the school, and we are very excited to now be able to use our new bike shed and hall. They look great! We look forward to seeing all the wonderful learning that will continue throughout the rest of the term.

TRANSITION TO SCHOOL - FOUR YEAR OLDS: TERM THREE

Each term at Pine Hill School, we hold Transition to School visits for all four year olds. These visits allow new tamariki to become familiar with the school environment. These sessions are held over three different dates each term, and the final date for **Term 3** is: **Wednesday 16th 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 Room 1 tamariki. 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.

ENROLMENTS

We welcome new enrolments at Pine Hill School. 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 at school. Enrolment information is very helpful with planning for the immediate and distant future. Enrolment packs can be picked up from the school office.

ATTENDANCE

Every school day counts, and regular attendance is crucial for the learning, social development, and academic progress of tamariki. If your tamariki are going to be absent due to illness or an unavoidable appointment, please notify the school office via phone, text, email, or the Skool Loop app by 9.15am on the day they will be absent.

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE

We have Before School Care available every Monday to 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. The earlier the notice, the better.

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.

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) 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

Thursday 27th August	Assembly, 2.20pm in the hall
Friday 28th August	School Cross Country 12pm
Monday 31st August	School Cross Country postponement date, 12pm
7-11th September	Polyfest Week - our performance date to be confirmed
Wednesday 16th September	Transition to School, all 4 year olds in the area
Wednesday 16th September	School photos
Friday 18th September	Assembly, 2.20pm in the hall
Monday 21st September	Board meeting, 6pm on Zoom
Friday 25th September	Term three holidays begin at 3pm
Monday 12th October	Term four begins, tamariki welcome from 8.30am
Thursday 10th December	Last day of school for 2026



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

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www.pinehilldunedin.school.nz

Aiming High | Respect | Responsibility