



Newsletter 15 - Wednesday 23rd September 2026



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

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of another term! It has been a busy term packed with fantastic learning, highlighted by our Polyfest performance, which was absolutely amazing! A huge thank you goes to our tamariki for their fabulous efforts, as well as to Miss Tait Duncan and Miss Ally Ward for their dedicated work in preparing our group. I was extremely proud of our awesome group - everyone shone brightly on stage, and the hard mahi put in behind the scenes was clearly evident in their performance on the day! Ka mau te wehi-fantastic!

We would also like to express our gratitude to our Masters of Teaching student teachers from the University of Otago, Anindita Chatterjee and Lily Taylor, who have been working alongside Miss Tait Duncan in Room 3 and Miss Tara McGoff in Room 4 this term, and Deepasha Priyajoti who has been placed here since April as part of her Otago Polytech studies. Thank you to you all for your time, dedication, and hard work while here on placement - we have thoroughly enjoyed having you all as part of our team and wish you well for your futures.

Thank everyone who has filled in the Board's community consultation survey to help with our strategic planning for 2027-2028. This survey remains open until the last day of term, so if you haven't done so already, please take a moment to share your thoughts and ideas with us.

Please find our Guidelines for Parents/Guardians with a Concern Flowchart attached with this newsletter. This document is sent out yearly to our school community and can be found at any time in SchoolDocs, which holds all of our official policies and procedures.

Looking ahead, Term 4 will be a fast-paced 9 week term, and we have a lot to fit in. Our upcoming calendar includes Sports Day with West Harbour Schools at Forsyth Barr Stadium, in school golf coaching, a Symphony Orchestra show at the Town Hall for Years 4-6, a visit from the Life Education Bus, a trip to the Orokonui Ecosanctuary, and the Year 6 Big Day Out to celebrate their time at Pine Hill School finishing. We will wrap up the year with our Final Assembly where we farewell our Year 6 leavers on **Thursday 10th December** at 11am, which will also be the last day of school for the year.

Further on in the newsletter you will find all dates for Term 4, including the start date for school in 2027. We wish everyone a happy and safe break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for a busy Term 4, that will fly by in nine weeks!

Kā mihi,

Melissa Ward - Tumuaki/Principal

School Notices

PINE HILL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

There are board meetings **Monday 2nd November (Zoom)** and **Wednesday 2nd December (school)** at 6pm. 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

What a busy and productive term it has been across our school! Our tamariki have worked incredibly hard throughout the term, and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm, effort and commitment to their learning. As we come to the end of Term 3, everyone is certainly ready for a well-deserved two-week break! One of the many highlights of the term was our Kapa Haka performance for Polyfest at the Edgar Centre on Wednesday 9th September. Our tamariki did an absolutely amazing job, and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. They put in so much time and effort practising and preparing, and it was fantastic to see them get up on stage and give it their all. They should be very proud of themselves and the way they represented our school. Ka pai, tamariki!

We have also had plenty of exciting things happening around the school this term. Last week, we had our school photos, and it was lovely seeing all of our tamariki looking so smart and tidy. Another highlight has been having Maggie and Madison from Otago Polytechnic join us on Monday afternoons to take all four classes for PE lessons. The tamariki have absolutely loved these sessions, and it has been fantastic to see everyone getting involved, trying new skills and having lots of fun. A huge thank you to Maggie and Madison for bringing so much energy and enthusiasm to our school each week.

We are also coming to the end of our time with our Masters students, Anindita and Lily from the University of Otago, who have been working alongside Miss Duncan in Room 3 and Miss McGoff in Room 4. We have loved having them in our classrooms, learning and teaching alongside us, and becoming part of our school community. We will certainly miss having them around and wish them all the very best as they continue their teaching journeys.

We are also saying farewell to Deepsha, from Otago Polytechnic, who is finishing her studies with us this term. Deepsha joined us in term 2 and has been a wonderful addition to our school, taking our tamariki for PE lessons as well as spending time in our classrooms working alongside the tamariki. We will all miss her smile, positive attitude and the enthusiasm she brings with her each day. We wish Deepsha all the very best for her future!

As we wrap up a very busy and productive term 3, we would like to wish all of our tamariki, whānau and staff a wonderful two-week holiday. We hope you all enjoy some sunshine and get plenty of rest. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for term 4 on Monday 12th October.

TRANSITION TO SCHOOL - FOUR YEAR OLDS: TERM FOUR

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 two different dates in term four, and the dates are: **Wednesday 11th November** and **Wednesday 25th November**.

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 Ms Alvarez Farias at school.

HALLOWEEN DISCO

We are planning to have our Halloween Disco in Term 4 for Pine Hill School tamariki only! This event is a huge highlight for our tamariki and something they talk about with excitement for weeks.

This event can only go ahead if whānau members/family friends are available to help set up the hall on the day from around 1pm. The date we are planning to have the disco is **Friday October 30th from 6-7.30pm** in the hall. If you can help out, please text or email to let us know by **Wednesday 21st October..** We will then be in touch to confirm details regarding the set up. Thank you in advance!

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

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



	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
Classroom Certificate	Franco Visser	Farrah Sipa	Eva Murphy	Autumn Storer
Principal Awards	Year 1-3: <i>Eli Douglas-Martin Aiming High</i>		Year 4-6: <i>Max Gale-Hargreaves Aiming High</i>	
Attendance Shield	<i>Room 1 with an attendance rate of 95% over the last three weeks! Well done!</i>			

SCHOOLDocs

SchoolDocs is a website where our school policy and procedures are held. Each term, policies are up for review and whanau are able to review policies inside SchoolDocs, and provide feedback if desired. Please see instructions below on how to review and provide feedback. If you have any questions or would like to review the policy/ies on paper, please contact Melissa at school.

If parents/caregivers are involved in this review, send them the following instructions:

1. Visit the website
<http://pinehilldunedin.schooldocs.co.nz/1893.htm>
2. Enter the username (pinehilldunedin) and password (hislop).
3. Follow the link to the relevant policy as listed.
4. Read the policy.
5. Click the Policy Review button at the top right-hand corner of the page.
6. Select the reviewer type "Parent".
7. Enter your name (optional).
8. Submit your ratings and comments.

If you don't have internet access, school office staff can provide you with printed copies of the policy and a review form.

REMINDERS

Monday 12th October	<i>Term 4 begins, tamariki welcome at school from 8.30am</i>
Tuesday 20th October	<i>Sports Day with West Harbour Schools - Forsyth Barr Stadium</i>
Wednesday 21st October	<i>Symphony Orchestra Concert Town Hall - year 4-6</i>
Thursday 29th October	<i>Assembly, 2.20pm in the hall (Thursday due to disco on Friday 30th)</i>
Friday 30th October	<i>Halloween Disco in the hall: 6-7.30pm for Pine Hill tamariki only</i>
Monday 2nd November	<i>Board meeting, 6pm on Zoom</i>
Tuesday 17th November	<i>Harold and the Life Education Bus visit</i>
Friday 20th November	<i>Final Friday Assembly of the year - 2.20pm in the Hall</i>
Friday 27th November	<i>Orokanui Ecosanctuary Trip</i>
Wednesday 2nd December	<i>Board meeting, 6pm at school</i>
Friday 4th December	<i>Year 6 Big Day Out to celebrate their time at Pine Hill School finishing</i>
Thursday 10th December	<i>Final Assembly 11am in the hall, school finishes for the year at 12pm</i>
Monday 2nd February	<i>School begins for 2027, tamariki welcome at school from 8.30am</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!

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Find us on
Facebook

www.pinehilldunedin.school.nz

Aiming High | Respect | Responsibility