



Newsletter 15 - Wednesday 8th October 2025



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

It is great to be back for Term Four! We hope everyone had a nice holiday break. Welcome to Ishaan Prayag who is 5, and his whānau who have joined our school community. We hope they enjoy their time with us at Pine Hill School. Farewell to Charlotte and Isabella Duder and Hope Burgess-Wells. We thank them and their whānau for their support of our school during their time here and wish them all the very best in their new adventures.

Term Four is set to be a busy and action-packed 10 weeks! We have a significant amount to fit into the calendar, including Sports Day at Forsyth Barr Stadium, the much-anticipated biennial Scholastic Book Fair, and the excitement of the Halloween Disco. Later in the term we have the Year 6 Big Day Out where our year 6 tamariki celebrate their time at Pine Hill School coming to an end, and our Final Assembly, where we farewell our graduating Year 6 tamariki. Please keep a close eye on the reminders table at the back of the fortnightly newsletter—it's going to be a busy term!

Thank you to those who have offered to help with the school disco. This means it will be going ahead on **Friday 31st October**. More information to come about this event next week. A reminder, this disco is for Pine Hill students only. Parents/guardians are asked to drop their tamariki off for the disco at 6pm and pick them up at 7.30pm. We respectfully ask that adults do not remain in the hall for the disco. The school library will be open for any adults that need to remain at school during this time.

We are pleased to confirm our teaching team for the 2026 school year. Our teaching staff will consist of Valentina Alvarez Farias, Ally Ward, Tait Duncan, and Tara McGoff. Sadly, we will be saying farewell to Olivia Culbert at the end of the year. Olivia has been a wonderful member of our staff, and we thank her for being an outstanding teacher and someone our senior tamariki have been very lucky to have as their teacher this year. Following Olivia's departure, we welcome back Tara McGoff to Pine Hill School after her year of travelling and look forward to having her part of our team again. We are excited to continue to have an amazing calibre of teachers in front of our tamariki next year. Thank you to the Board for committing the necessary funding to ensure we can operate with four classrooms in 2026 as we have seen huge benefits of doing this, this year. This allows for small class sizes and targeted teaching for our tamariki. Next year, classrooms will be renamed Room 1, Room 2, Room 3, and Room 4, and their respective teachers will be Mrs Alvarez Farias (Room 1), Miss Ward (Room 2), Miss Duncan (Room 3), and Miss McGoff (Room 4). The specific year levels for each classroom will be confirmed later in the term.

Athletics training has kicked into action this week and we are looking forward to a great day out next Tuesday at Forsyth Barr Stadium for the Portline Schools Sports Day. All information regarding this event was sent home on a notice on Monday (on email or hardcopy, however you get school information). Friends and whānau are welcome to come down and support us at any time throughout the day.

Kā mihi, Melissa Ward - Tumuaiki/Principal

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

School Notices

PINE HILL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

There are board meetings at 6pm on **Wednesday October 29th (Zoom)** and **Wednesday December 3rd (at school)**. 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

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 two dates in Term Four, and they are: **Wednesday October 22nd** and **Wednesday November 19th**. 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).

POTENTIAL STRIKE ACTION

NZEI, the union which represents many primary teachers, principals and support staff, has given notice of potential strike action on **Thursday October 23rd**. NZEI members are taking industrial action because the Government has failed to provide offers in negotiations that will ensure educators get the resources we need to support tamariki or the pay that will attract and keep quality professionals in our schools. If the strike goes ahead we will have drastically reduced numbers of staff as the vast majority will be striking this day as they are union members. Due to this, our school will be **closed** for the day if the strike goes ahead as we are unable to staff it safely. Thank you for your understanding and support as we manage the situation. The Education and Training Act requires the formal notification of the strike to be made three days before it commences so you will receive formal notification of the strike on **October 20th**. We appreciate that this notice does not give any clarity, however we wanted you to have as much time as possible to make alternative arrangements this day.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Our biennial Scholastic Book Fair is taking place from **October 28th-November 7th**. A Book Fair is when there are books set up at school and you are able to purchase them. You are able to view books for purchase from 8.30-9am and from 3-3.30pm on weekdays during these dates in our spare classroom beside the office. **Cash and online payments** can be accepted if you are wishing to purchase books. Books make great Christmas presents and proceeds from all purchases are put back into our school so we can buy books for our library. On **Friday November 7th** there is an optional Book Character Dress Up Day. Tamariki are welcome to come dressed as a book character of choice. We will need volunteers to set the Book Fair up the week before this starts and we will also need help to man the Book Fair from 3-3.30pm. We will be asking for helpers early next term. We appreciate your support with our Book Fair and we hope to see you all there!

REMINDERS

Tuesday October 14th	<i>Sports Day with portline schools at Forsyth Barr Stadium</i>
Wednesday October 22nd	<i>Transition to School, all four year olds in the area 10.40am-1pm</i>
Friday October 24th	<i>Assembly, 2.20pm in the hall</i>
Monday October 27th	<i>Labour Day - school CLOSED</i>
Friday October 31st	<i>Halloween Disco for Pine Hill School tamariki only: 6-7.30pm</i>
October 28th-November 7th	<i>Scholastic Book Fair in the library</i>
Wednesday October 29th	<i>Board meeting, 6pm on Zoom</i>
Friday November 7th	<i>Book Character Dress Up Day - optional</i>
Wednesday November 19th	<i>Transition to School, all four year olds in the area 10.40am-1pm</i>
Friday November 21st	<i>Last Friday Assembly of the year, 2.20pm in the hall</i>
Wednesday December 3rd	<i>Board meeting, 6pm at school</i>
Friday December 5th	<i>Year 6 Big Day Out to celebrate their time at Pine Hill School coming to an end</i>
Friday December 12th	<i>Last day of school for 2025, Final Assembly at 11am</i>
Thursday January 29th 2026	<i>First day of school for 2026, tamariki welcome at school from 8.30am</i>