Pine Hill School
Est. 1872
'Reaching for the Top!'

Newsletter 16 - Wednesday 21st October 2026

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

Welcome back to Term 4! I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful, restful break (seems a lifetime ago now!) with whānau and friends. It is fantastic to be back at school and enjoying some warmer weather - long may it last! We are thrilled to welcome O'Shae Lemesia (Malia's brother in Room 2) to our school whānau, and we hope he thoroughly enjoys his time with us. A warm welcome also goes to Miss Neve Beattie, who is providing teacher release in Room 2 this term; we are delighted to have Neve joining our team and working alongside our tamariki and staff.

A huge thank you to our tamariki and staff for a fantastic day at the West Harbour Sports Day on Tuesday. It was awesome to see everyone trying their very best across all the different sports rotations. I received wonderful feedback about how well-behaved our students were and what exceptional representatives they were for our school. Special thanks to Miss Ally Ward for her organisation of our school for the event, to the West Harbour Schools for having us, and to Gareth, principal at Sawyers Bay School, for running such an outstanding event. Additionally, our Year 4–6 tamariki thoroughly enjoyed a visit to the Town Hall this week to watch the Dunedin Symphony Orchestra. We are so lucky to be able to provide our tamariki with such a rich variety of education outside the classroom opportunities.

Last Friday, we hosted a highly successful Numicon (Maths) Open Day for visiting teachers to observe our maths programme in action. Thanks to our team's exemplary practice, we are proud to announce that we are now an official Numicon Advocate School! This prestigious status recognises us as a hub for best practice, inclusive education, and mentorship for other schools embarking on their Numicon journey. Thank you to Miss Ally Ward for facilitating the Open Morning, our staff and tamariki for their incredible efforts, and our Board of Trustees for funding Numicon professional development this year that has seen our teachers, support staff and tamariki flourish in this curriculum area.

Looking ahead, we have an action-packed term with Scooter Safety (Years 3–4), Snag Golf, a Halloween Disco, Harold and the Life Education Bus, an Orokanui Ecosanctuary visit, and the Year 6 Big Day Out where our year 6 tamariki celebrate their time at Pine Hill School coming to an end. Please note that our final day of school for the year will be **Thursday 10th December** finishing at 12pm after our Final Assembly.

A quick reminder that school will be closed on Monday to observe Labour Day. Enjoy the long weekend, and the sun that is forecast to shine!

Kā mihi,
Melissa Ward
Tumuaki/Principal

School Notices

PINE HILL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

There is a board meeting **Monday 2nd November** at 6pm on Zoom and **Wednesday 2nd December** at 6pm 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: 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 three different dates each term, and the dates for term four are: **Wednesday 28th of October**, **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 Mrs Alvarez Farias at school.

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:*** *Eli Douglas-Martin Aiming High*		***Year 4-6:*** *Max Gale-Hargreaves Aiming High*	
Attendance Shield	*Room 1 with attendance of 95% over the three weeks leading up to Assembly. Well done!*			

REMINDERS

Tuesday 27th October	*Year 3 and 4 Scooter Ready Programme with DCC*
Thursday 29th October	*Assembly, 2.20pm in the hall (Thursday due to disco on Friday 30th)*
Friday 30th October	*Halloween Disco in the hall: 6-7.30pm for Pine Hill tamariki only*
Monday 2nd November	*Board meeting, 6pm on Zoom*
Tuesday 17th November	*Harold and the Life Education Bus visit*
Friday 20th November	*Final Friday Assembly of the year - 2.20pm in the Hall*
Friday 27th November	*Orokanui Ecosanctaury Trip*
Wednesday 2nd December	*Board meeting, 6pm at school*
Friday 4th December	*Year 6 Big Day Out to celebrate their time at Pine Hill School finishing*
Thursday 10th December	*Final Assembly 11am in the hall, school finishes for the year at 12pm*
Monday 2nd February	*School begins for 2027, tamariki welcome at school from 8.30am*

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