



Newsletter 16 - Wednesday 22nd October 2025



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

What a fantastic day our tamariki had at the recent Sports Day hosted under the incredible roof of the Forsyth Barr Stadium! Being in such an iconic, covered venue was truly amazing and made the whole event comfortable and exciting, regardless of the weather. Our tamariki were not only fantastic participants in all the activities but were also outstanding representatives of our school. We received numerous compliments and positive feedback about their fabulous behaviour throughout the day. They showed great sportsmanship, respect, and enthusiasm - a real credit to our school community. It was also a brilliant opportunity to mix and mingle with tamariki from the portline schools. Our tamariki got the chance to make new friends and build connections, helping them get to know others in the wider local school network. A huge thank you to all the staff and volunteers who made the day run so smoothly, and especially to our awesome tamariki for their efforts throughout the day. Thanks also to everyone who came along to support us. We're already looking forward to the next one!

Get ready for an incredible selection of reading material! Our biennial Scholastic Book Fair is running soon, from **Tuesday October 28th to Friday November 7th**. This is a great opportunity to purchase wonderful new books, perfect for Christmas gifts or simply stocking up your home library. Remember, at the end of the Book Fair, our school receives a percentage of the total sales, which we use to buy new books for our own school library! The fair will be open daily for viewing and purchases from 8.30–9.00am and 3.00–3.30pm. This event will conclude on Friday November 7th with an optional Book Character Dress Up Day. Tamariki can come dressed as their favourite book character. There will be prizes for best dressed across all classes and overall prizes! A huge thank you to Olivia Culbert and Ally Ward for organising this popular event! Payment can be made by cash or online to our school bank account for books.

Our super popular Halloween Disco for our school tamariki only, is just around the corner, happening on **Friday October 31st**, from 6.00–7.30pm in the school hall. This is always a highly anticipated event on our school calendar, and it's guaranteed to be a night of ghoulish fun and great music for our tamariki! Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased from the office. You have the option to pay online or with cash. Please remember to drop off your children at 6:00pm and pick them up promptly at 7:30pm. A polite but important reminder: please do not arrive early. No one can enter the hall until 6:00 pm, and we don't want anyone waiting outside if the weather is wet. Finally, we kindly ask that no adults remain in the hall during the disco - this is a night just for the tamariki. If you need to stay on site during the event, the library will be open as a designated waiting area. We can't wait to see all the creative costumes! Thanks to all those helping organise the disco.

It's great to see our school attendance percentages climbing again after a tough winter full of bugs and sicknesses. Our school-wide focus is maintaining a daily attendance rate of 95% (currently 91%), as it's crucial for the success of our tamariki. When tamariki are fit and well, it's vital that they are at school, as regular attendance has a huge positive impact on both their academic achievement and the development of their social skills. We also want to remind everyone to please ensure tamariki are not arriving late to school. Being late can make tamariki feel flustered and causes them to miss the important organisation and settled start to the learning day. Thank you for your continued cooperation with attendance.

This is a reminder that our school will be **closed on Thursday** due to strike action being undertaken by members of NZEI Te Riu Roa (teachers and principals). Our staff do not take this decision lightly, and we sincerely apologise for the disruption this causes to whānau. We are taking this action to urge the Government to properly address the significant issues facing the education sector. These issues include the need for better investment to attract and retain quality teachers, for more support for tamariki with complex needs in the classroom, and for pay and conditions that reflect the essential and complex work educators do. Our collective agreement claims are ultimately about ensuring the best possible learning conditions for our tamariki. We greatly appreciate your understanding and cooperation as our dedicated staff stand up to advocate for the future of public education. Thank you for supporting us.

Kā mihi, Melissa Ward - Tumuaki/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 the remaining date for this term is: **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).

ASSEMBLY THIS WEEK

Assembly will be at 11.45am in the hall on Friday - please note a change of time for this week. Classes will be sharing two Folk Dances they have been learning. Tamariki can go home with a parent/guardian at the conclusion of the event around 12.30pm. Please let us know via text/email if you will be taking your tamariki home early. Whānau are welcome to bring a picnic lunch and stay and have this with their tamariki. Bring your dancing shoes as there will be an opportunity to join in a folk dance at the end of the presentations.

SCHOOL CLOSED - LABOUR DAY

A reminder that school is closed on **Monday October 27th** to observe Labour Day. We hope you enjoy the long weekend and will see everyone back at school on **Tuesday October 28th** from 8.30am.

REMINDERS

Thursday October 23rd
Friday October 24th
Monday October 27th
Friday October 31st
October 28th-November 7th
Wednesday October 29th
Friday November 7th
Wednesday November 19th
Friday November 21st
Wednesday December 3rd
Friday December 5th
Friday December 12th
Thursday January 29th 2026

*Strike Day - school **CLOSED***
Assembly, 11.45am in the hall
*Labour Day - school **CLOSED***
Halloween Disco for Pine Hill School tamariki only: 6-7.30pm in the hall
Scholastic Book Fair in the library
Board meeting, 6pm on Zoom
Book Character Dress Up Day - optional
Transition to School, all four year olds in the area 10.40am-1pm
Last Friday Assembly of the year, 2.20pm in the hall
Board meeting, 6pm at school
Year 6 Big Day Out to celebrate their time at Pine Hill School coming to an end
Last day of school for 2025, Final Assembly at 11am
First day of school for 2026, tamariki welcome at school from 8.30am

