



Newsletter 3 - Wednesday 4th March 2026



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

We are halfway through term one. Summer has been disappointing and recently the mornings have had that real Autumn feel to them!

Last week, we held two incredibly successful days of Numicon Professional Learning and Development (PLD). We were joined by our facilitator for the year, Trish Bunting, a Numicon Consultant from Edushop, who is guiding us through our implementation of this Government mandated maths program. The sessions were highly practical including observations: kaiako (teachers) observed Trish modeling a Numicon lesson and mentoring: Trish then observed our kaiako in action, providing real-time feedback. Trish was immensely impressed with how our kaiako have embraced the program since we began in mid-2025. Her feedback was overwhelmingly positive, noting the high level of engagement in our classrooms and capabilities our kaiako have in delivering the program, with giving everyone next steps to work on in their teaching. A huge thank you to our school Board, whose commitment of funds ensures this high-quality PLD continues throughout 2026. Trish will return for two days each term and remains available to support our kaiako at any time. We are lucky to have her expertise and fabulous resources as we navigate this journey. Following our intensive focus on Structured Literacy in 2025, moving into this deep dive with Maths is full on, but it is vital work. We are dedicated to mastering these programs so that our tamariki receive the very best evidence-based instruction. I would also like to extend a warm thank you to the parents and caregivers who attended our Numicon Information Session with Trish. Your interest in how your tamariki learn is a huge part of their success.

Next week, we look forward to welcoming you to school for our Goal Setting Interviews. These meetings are a wonderful opportunity to connect and discuss what is going well for your tamaiti (child) along with identifying specific things to work on together. Building this bridge between home and school ensures we are all moving in the same direction for our learners. Times and days have been emailed out to whānau. If you have not received confirmation of your day/time, please contact Nikola at the school office.

Currently we have 83% of our tamariki present at school regularly - which is 90% or more of the time. The Government's aim is that by 2030 more than 80% of tamariki will be attending school regularly (90% or more of the time). It is fabulous to see we are exceeding the Government's goal this term already and it is only 2026, however we want to have our percentage higher! All tamariki need to be attending school when they are fit and able. The board will be approving our Annual Plan later this term which will include a target around attendance.

Ngā mihi nui, Melissa Ward - Tumuaki/Principal

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

School Notices

PINE HILL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

There is a board meeting on **Monday 30th March** 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

It is hard to believe it is week 6! It has been such a joy to see our tamariki return with so much energy and incredible enthusiasm for learning! We have hit the ground running this term, diving into a wide range of engaging research, art, and writing projects centered around sun safety, the significance of Waitangi Day, and the excitement of the Winter Olympics. A major highlight has been bringing Numicon back into our classrooms; we were lucky to have Trish, our facilitator, join us to demonstrate lessons and provide our kaiako with valuable feedback and information to enhance the learning experience for our tamariki. It was also fantastic to see parents and caregivers at the after-school information session, keen to learn more about Numicon. Thank you for your support as we work together to make Numicon the best it can be for our tamariki. Our first Assembly last week was an awesome opportunity to come together as a community and celebrate the amazing work being done across the school, and it was heartening to see our learners sharing their discoveries with such pride. On the sporting front, we've had a busy start with two successful weeks of swimming lessons where everyone did remarkably well, showing great perseverance in the water. Futsal and Touch seasons have officially kicked off with fantastic teamwork! Due to player numbers this term, we have partnered with George Street School to create combined teams, ensuring none of our tamariki miss out on playing. We are incredibly grateful to George Street School for this opportunity. Excitingly, we also managed to form a junior futsal team made up entirely of our very own Pine Hill School tamariki. Good luck to everyone playing sport this term. As we move further into the term, we are gearing up to start 'Move It March' to keep that physical momentum going and encourage everyone to stay active. We are so proud of how settled and motivated everyone is, and we look forward to the rest of term one being fantastic!

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 new tamariki to become familiar with the school environment. These sessions are held over three different dates each term, and the remaining dates for **Term 1** are: **Wednesday 11th March**, and **Wednesday 1st April**. 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.

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.

EASTER RAFFLE

A reminder about the Easter Raffle that is currently happening. We are asking each family to please donate one good sized chocolate item for the raffle. All chocolate items from families are due at school by **Friday 13th March**. After this we will be able to work out exactly how many prize draws we will be having. We are very appreciative to families for their assistance with donating items for the raffle. All raffle cards (sold or unsold) are due back at school by **Wednesday 18th March**. The raffles will be drawn under police supervision on **Wednesday 1st April**. Thanks to those that have sold their raffles and also sent in their chocolate items!

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 | Liyah Rewha | Harper Renton | Eli Douglas-Martin | Max Gale-Hargreaves |
| Principal Awards | Year 1-3: Heaven-Angel Tione Responsibility | | Year 4-6: Mahi Chaudhary Responsibility | |
| Attendance Shield | <i>Room 4 with a total of 97% attendance for the first 4 weeks of school!</i> | | | |

EMAIL ADDRESSES

You can contact Kaimahi (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) Kaiako/Teacher |
| principal@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Miss Melissa Ward: Tumuaki/Principal | office@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Mrs Nikola Ballard |

REMINDERS

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|----------------------|---|
| Monday 9th March | <i>Goal Setting Interviews - 3.15-6pm</i> |
| Tuesday 10th March | <i>Goal Setting Interviews - 1-6pm</i> |
| Wednesday 11th March | <i>Transition to School - all 4 year olds in the area</i> |
| Friday 13th March | <i>Assembly, 2.20pm in the Hall</i> |
| Monday 23rd March | <i>Otago Anniversary Day - school CLOSED</i> |
| Friday 27th March | <i>Assembly, 2.30pm in the Hall</i> |
| Monday 30th March | <i>Board meeting, 6pm on Zoom</i> |
| Wednesday 1st April | <i>Transition to School - all 4 year olds in the area</i> |
| Thursday 2nd April | <i>Assembly, 2.20pm in the Hall (Thursday due to Good Friday)</i> |
| Thursday 2nd April | <i>Term one school holidays begin</i> |
| Monday 20th April | <i>Term two begins, 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!

03 473 9148

office@pinehilledunedin.school.nz

11 Hislop St, Liberton, Dunedin

 Find us on
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www.pinehilledunedin.school.nz

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