



Newsletter 4 - Wednesday 25th March 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 we are already at the end of Term 1! The weeks have absolutely flown by, and while it has been a whirlwind of awesome learning and activity, we know our tamariki (and our staff!) are ready for a well-deserved break before we dive into a busy 11-week Term 2.

A warm welcome to Deepasha Priyajoti from Otago Polytechnic who is studying a Bachelor of Applied Science and is completing a placement with us three days a week until the end of Term 3 as part of her studies. She will be leading PE lessons across the school and supporting our learners in class. We also welcome four University of Otago College of Education first-year training students who are with us until the end of this term: Miss Natasha Tamepo (Room 1), Miss Harriet Hill and Miss Evie Eddington (Room 3) and Miss Grace Milliken (Room 4). We hope they all enjoy their time in our school and gain valuable insights into the rewarding world of teaching.

Our tamariki have been busy representing us with pride on the sports field recently. On Tuesday Miss McGoff, Deepasha, and Miss Milliken took our Year 6 tamariki to the Hooked on Cricket tournament. Our tamariki had a fabulous time and were outstanding representatives of our school. Today, our Year 3 and 4 girls team is off to the Spirit Sisters Rippa Rugby tournament with Miss Duncan, Miss Ward, Deepasha, and Miss Hill. There is a lot of excitement for this event and it is great to have the opportunities to take our tamariki to sporting events.

A massive thank you to everyone who supported our Easter Raffle by selling and buying tickets, or donating chocolate items. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to create 13 amazing prizes and raised \$720! Every cent of this will go directly back into resources and opportunities for our tamariki. All winners have been notified.

Thank you to everyone for their attendance at our recent Goal Setting Interviews. We had 100% attendance by whānau at these, which was fantastic. Our home-school partnership is extremely important and our tamariki enjoyed sharing things that are going well for them along with some things to work on at school, with whānau.

We are incredibly proud of our attendance rates this term. An impressive 90% of our tamariki have been attending school regularly (90% of the term or more). This is a fantastic achievement and a true reason to celebrate. Consistency is key, as regular attendance is imperative to learning and progress. Every day at school helps build the foundations for success. A quick reminder: as part of our new Attendance Management Plan, we are required to contact whānau if their tamariki misses more than 5 days of school per term for any reason. Our Attendance Management Plan was emailed out at the end of 2025, and the beginning of this school year. It can also be found on our school website under the Information tab. Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring our tamariki are at school and ready to learn whenever possible.

Thank you all for your incredible support throughout this term. We wish you all a very Happy Easter and a relaxing holiday break. The last Day of Term is **Thursday 2nd April** at 3:00 pm and Term 2 starts on **Monday 20th April**. Tamariki are welcome from 8.30am. Enjoy the time with your whānau, and we look forward to seeing everyone refreshed for the new term!

Kā mihi,
Melissa Ward - Tumuaiki/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: MISS DUNCAN AND MRS ALVAREZ FARIAS

It's hard to believe we are already coming to the end of Term 1. It has been a very busy and enjoyable term across all of our classes, with lots of new learning, exciting opportunities, and tamariki settling well into the school year. A highlight in the term was our Goal Setting Interviews. These went really well, and it was wonderful to meet with whānau to talk about the learning goals for the year ahead and what is going well. Thank you to all of the parents/caregivers who came along. It was also lovely to meet some new faces in our school community. Two weeks ago, our Year 5 and 6 tamariki were lucky enough to head down to the Logan Park Turf with Miss McGoff for a Game On Day. They had the opportunity to try a range of different sports, and Miss McGoff said everyone had a fantastic day. Throughout March, Pine Hill School has been taking part in the Move It March Challenge, which encourages tamariki to walk, scooter, or bike to school with being more active on their way to and from school. Each morning in classes we have been counting how many tamariki walked or wheeled to school, recording this on class charts. At the end of the month, we send our results back and our classes/school go into the draw to win prizes. It has been awesome to see so many more tamariki choosing to walk or wheel to school when they are able to. A few weeks ago, Scout from Move It March visited our school and got all of the tamariki involved in a fun walk around the block, followed by drawing pictures on the driveway with chalk. The tamariki had a great time and enjoyed getting active together! Today, our Year 3 and 4 girls are excited to be attending the Spirit Sisters Rippa Rugby Carnival/Tournament. Miss Duncan and Miss Ward are taking them along, and we know they will have a great time participating and representing our school. Last Monday, Room 1 and Room 2 tamariki were lucky to have a visitor from the Dunedin City Council, who ran a Dog Safety Education Session. Tamariki learned about how to keep themselves safe around dogs. They were very engaged, listened carefully, and really enjoyed having a dog visit their classrooms. Across the school, we have also continued learning about our term theme, The Winter Olympics. It has been fantastic to see the different ways each class has explored this topic. The tamariki have been very engaged and excited to learn about the sports, athletes, and countries involved. Our hour a day of reading, writing and maths has also continued and everyone is so focused at learning time! Welcome to our Otago University College of Education training teachers and Deepasha from Otago Polytechnic, it is great to have you here! Thank you again to everyone for their support of our school throughout Term 1. We hope everyone has a safe and relaxing break, and we look forward to another great term ahead!

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 date for **Term 1** is: **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.

ASSEMBLY

Our last Assembly of Term One will be on **Thursday 2nd April** at 12pm in the hall. Tamariki are welcome to go home after this for the holidays. If you plan on doing this, please let us know via text/email or informing a staff member at school. We look forward to seeing lots of you at Assembly.

ENROLMENTS

We welcome new enrolments at Pine Hill School. We are not zoned, which means we are able to take enrolments from all areas. If you know of or have any tamariki that will be attending Pine Hill School in the future, please let Melissa know at school. Enrolment information is very helpful with planning for the immediate and distant future. Enrolment packs can be picked up from the school office.

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	Rātā Houghton	Ishaan Prayag	Stanley Tione	Charleen Nath
Principal Awards	Year 1-3: <i>Hudsyn Atkinson Respect</i>		Year 4-6: <i>Zarih Nolia! Respect</i>	
Attendance Shield	<i>Room 1 with a total of 99% attendance for the three weeks between Assemblies!</i>			



REMINDERS

Monday 30th March	Board meeting, 6pm on Zoom
Wednesday 1st April	Transition to School - all 4 year olds in the area
Thursday 2nd April	Assembly, 12pm in the Hall (Thursday due to Good Friday)
Thursday 2nd April	Term one school holidays begin at 3pm
Monday 20th April	Term two begins, tamariki welcome at school from 8.30am



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@pinehilldunedin.school.nz

11 Hislop St, Liberton, Dunedin

 Find us on
Facebook

www.pinehilldunedin.school.nz

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