



Newsletter 5 - Wednesday 13th May 2020



Kia Ora, Kia Orana, Talofa lava, Malo e lelei, Bula vanaka, Namaste, Marhabaan, Ni Hao

Like me, I am sure you have followed with interest the announcements made by the Prime Minister. It is reassuring to hear how well our country has done at minimising the impacts of COVID-19. Alert Levels 4 and 3 have not been easy and I thank you for your ongoing support for the work we are doing. Today, the Prime Minister advised that we are moving to Alert Level 2 on Monday 18th May 2020. Schools are safe environments for children, young people and staff and additional public health control measures are in place to prevent the spread of disease and to support contact tracing. The good news is that on Monday 18th May, we are ready to welcome all students and staff back to our school site.

The key Public Health approach is to minimise the risk that someone gets infected in the first place, and second to ensure we can identify and contact anyone who has been in close contact with a person, if someone in a school is infected.

You can be assured that in Alert Level 2 we will know who is at school, who our staff and students have been in close contact with and take appropriate measures to keep everyone safe. Physical distancing is a good precaution to prevent the spread of disease. We do however know it is challenging in schools, so good hygiene practices and regular cleaning are even more important here. This includes staff and students coughing into their elbows, handwashing and drying and regular cleaning of commonly touched surfaces.

Under Alert Level 2, we advise any students and staff to stay at home if they are sick, and we will send anyone home immediately if they show any symptoms.

Our school has safe and sensible practices to maintain the health and safety of everyone on the school site. As described by Dr Payinda in his NZ Herald article, "Covid's not measles or chickenpox, it doesn't hang in the air for hours waiting to infect passers-by. It travels on invisible drops of spit. You don't have to cross the street to avoid anyone. Just avoid getting in their 'moist breath' zone". We all just need to remember to have some breathing space during Alert Level 2!

It's important however that not just at school but at home, safe hygiene habits are practised by everyone, as this is essential to minimise the risk that someone gets infected with COVID-19. For more information about the public health measures at Alert Level 2, you can visit the covid19.govt.nz website: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

If you have any questions about our plan that was emailed out yesterday around Alert Level 2, or you have a child who might be vulnerable to serious illness and would like to discuss a plan for them, please contact me.

Thank you again for everything all of our wonderful families are doing to support our Distance Learning Programmes.

We are really looking forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday.

Ngā mihi nui - Melissa Ward



CARING RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY AIMING HIGH

School Notices

JUNIOR LEARNING TEAM UPDATE

The Junior Learning Team has had a busy couple of weeks full of learning and creativity! It has been great to see the level of engagement from students and we both appreciate their hard work. We especially thank all the parents who are doing an amazing job at supporting their children's learning from home. We are both enjoying being able to set fun and creative tasks for students on Seesaw and we love being able to comment and give feedback. Last week, we had a Pyjama themed Zoom party! This was such a great opportunity for us to catch up and allow the students the opportunity to interact with one another. It was especially entertaining seeing Miss Ward and ourselves in our pyjamas! We really enjoy catching up with everyone each week and love hearing about all the things students have been doing in their bubbles. We are looking forward to seeing everyone next Monday when school is back and we encourage our students to keep up the hard work with their distance learning! **Miss Riley and Miss Hodges**

SENIOR LEARNING TEAM UPDATE

It's hard to believe we are now in week five of our Distance Learning Programme. I have been thoroughly impressed by the amount of Senior Learning Team students engaging in this learning in some form over the past five weeks. Although learning from home is quite different for everyone, it has been wonderful to see students working hard from home and producing some amazing work on Seesaw. Keep up the excellent work SLT, I can't wait to see how you respond to this week's distance learning activities! Once again, it was great to see so many students attending our class Zoom meeting this week. We had an alphabet theme with lots of laughs and it was wonderful to see children being polite, and taking turns to share. I am looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday when school opens! Until then keep up the great work! Kia kaha and take care. **Miss Parson**

FRIENDS OF PINE HILL SCHOOL DUNEDIN

Easter Raffle cards and any outstanding money are to be returned to school by **Wednesday 20th May**. We will be drawing the prizes from the sold tickets and it will be drawn during the week of **25th May**. The fundraising BBQ at Mitre 10 Mega that was scheduled for this weekend has been **cancelled** and will hopefully be rescheduled for a date later in the year.

ENROLMENTS

If you know of or have any children that will be attending Pine Hill School in the future, please let Melissa know at school. We have a number of students pre-enrolled already for this year which is fantastic! Enrolment information is very helpful with planning for the immediate and distant future. Enrolment packs can be picked up from the office.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE - KIRSTYN STANAWAY

Kia ora koutou. We had our second meeting for the year on the 6th May 2020, via Zoom, a digital meeting platform. During this meeting we discussed the current situation of COVID-19. Knowing that much of the decision making, which is happening, has been driven by the Government. We acknowledged the wonderful job that the staff are doing, via online learning for the students. Melissa has been a great leader for the school during this pandemic, supporting staff, students and families where needed, also realising the different needs of families in the area. The roll growth of the school is looking great and we would love families to continue to support this by getting the school name out in the community, promoting the awesome teaching and learning that is happening. We are looking forward to school opening on Monday and thank all the families for their support with the Distance Learning Programmes. **Thank you. Kirstyn Stanaway**

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