



**Pine Hill
School**
'Reaching for the Top!'



Newsletter 6 - Wednesday 7th May 2025



*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 two! It's wonderful to have everyone back at Pine Hill School after the holidays. A very special welcome to Matt Miller, Rama Al Ashour, Joud Alibrahem, CJ Leef and Emre Tekinkaya who have all joined the Junior Learning Team. Matt and Rama's big sisters completed their primary schooling with us at the end of 2024, Joud has two big sisters at school and CJ has three cousins at our school. Welcome to the Tekinkaya whānau and welcome back to the Miller and Al Ashour whānau. We hope Matt, Rama, Joud, CJ and Emre enjoy their time with us! Our school roll now sits at 60 tamariki and will continue to grow as the year progresses which is fabulous!

This term is shaping up to be a busy one, filled with exciting opportunities for our tamariki. We have a two week block of school swimming kicking off soon which is always a fantastic way for everyone to get active and build confidence in the water. Over the next couple of weeks, the Dunedin City Council will be visiting school to do lessons with each class on dog safety and education. Next week classes will begin studying natural weather events and natural disasters and later in the term they are heading to Otago Museum to learn more about this. Following this, we have the much anticipated Senior Learning Team overnight camp at Otago Museum! Staff continue with our structured literacy professional development and implementation of this in our literacy programmes. Later this term, teaching staff will begin professional development on Numicon, the new way we will be teaching maths which will begin in term three. There is a huge undertaking of new information for teaching staff to be learning and implementing this year, including a new maths and literacy curriculum. We are really lucky to have such wonderful and dedicated staff who are working hard to ensure our tamariki are getting the very best education possible.

On Monday I am taking year six tamariki Kahli Little and Nembeka Ganaii to the National Young Leaders Day at the Town Hall. This day aims to develop leadership skills in tamariki through listening to speakers who are leaders in their own fields. Kahli and Nembeka have shown some great leadership skills during their time at Pine Hill School and we are all looking forward to an inspiring day.

This term some of our tamariki have joined up to play mini-ball (basketball) with Scared Heart and St Brigid's School and we have a couple of our older tamariki playing netball for George St School. It is great to be able to join up with other schools so our tamariki have the opportunity to play sports. This year is the first time we have had tamariki play mini-ball which is really exciting. We wish our school sports representatives, and club representatives in rugby and football, all the best for their seasons.

Ngā mihi nui, Melissa Ward - Tumuaiki/Principal

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

School Notices

PINE HILL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

There are board meetings on **Monday 19th May** and **Monday 16th June** 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.

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 three different dates each term, and the dates for **Term 2** are: **Wednesday 14th May, Wednesday 11th June and Wednesday 25th June**. 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 Miss Ally Ward at school.

SCHOOL SWIMMING

From **19-30th May** (weeks 4 and 5), all tamariki will be participating in swimming lessons at Dunedin North Intermediate pool in the afternoons. They need to come with their togs, towel and goggles (if they have them) every day during this period. We will be bussing to and from swimming. There is no cost for these lessons as they come under the Government Donation Scheme that we are in.

ATTENDANCE FOCUS

As you are aware, we're placing a strong focus on attendance, aiming for a fantastic 95% attendance rate across the school each and every day. As of today it is **91%**, so we still have some work to do to increase this. To celebrate and encourage consistent attendance, we'll be awarding the Attendance Shield at our Assembly every three weeks to the class that achieves the highest attendance for the three weeks prior to Assembly. Furthermore, at the final Assembly of each term, we'll recognise those tamariki who have demonstrated excellent attendance with special Attendance Awards. We truly believe that being at school, when fit and able, is crucial for our tamariki to achieve to their full potential and learn to the best of their ability. I will be getting in touch with whānau if I am concerned about the attendance rate for their tamariki. Thank you for your support with ensuring your tamariki are at school when they are fit and able.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

You can contact Kaimahi on the following email addresses:

ally@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Miss Ally Ward: Junior Learning Team (year 0-2) Kaiako/Teacher	valentina@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Mrs Valentina Alvarez Farias: Junior Learning Team (year 0-2) Kaiako/Teacher
tait@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Miss Tait Duncan: Middle Learning Team (year 3 & 4) Kaiako/Teacher	olivia@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Miss Olivia Culbert: Senior Learning Team (year 5 & 6) Teacher/Kaiako
principal@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Miss Melissa Ward: Tumuaki/Principal	office@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Mrs Nikola Ballard: Secretary

REMINDERS

Wednesday 14th May	<i>Transition to School, all four year olds</i>
Friday 16th May	<i>Assembly, 2.30pm in the hall</i>
Monday 19th May	<i>Board meeting, 6pm on Zoom</i>
19th-30th May	<i>School swimming lessons for all tamariki at Dunedin North Intermediate Pool</i>
Monday 2nd June	<i>King's Birthday Public Holiday - school CLOSED</i>
Friday 6th June	<i>Whole school trip to Otago Museum</i>
Friday 6th June	<i>Assembly, 2.30pm in the hall</i>
Monday 9th June	<i>Teacher Only Day - school CLOSED</i>
Wednesday 11th June	<i>Transition to School, all four year olds</i>
18th-19th June	<i>Senior Learning Team overnight camp at Otago Museum</i>
Friday 20th June	<i>Matariki Public Holiday - school CLOSED</i>
Wednesday 25th June	<i>Transition to School, all four year olds</i>
Friday 27th June	<i>Assembly, 2.30pm in the hall</i>
Friday 27th June	<i>Term two school holidays begin at 3pm</i>