



Newsletter 7 - Wednesday 17th May 2023



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

It feels like the term is flying by and we are into week four already! There has been lots of great learning happening across the school and we have lots to pack in before the end of the term.

Every day at school counts. Attendance and engagement is a big focus for our Minister of Education, and the Ministry of Education (MOE). The MOE has set attendance goals for 2024 and 2026. By the end of 2024, schools are expected to have 70% of tamariki attending school regularly (i.e. more than 90% of the term - no more than one day absent a fortnight). They have targeted no more than 6% with moderate absence (attending between 70-89% of the term - 2-3 days absent each fortnight), and no more than 5% with chronic absence (attending less than 70% of the term - three or more days away each fortnight). Our term one attendance data was the following: 64% of tamariki attending regularly (90-100%), 31% of tamariki attending moderately (70-80%) and 5% of tamariki attending below 70% - chronic absence. There is quite a bit of ground for us to make up over the next 18 months to meet the national targets. It is really important that when tamariki are well, they are coming to school. Even though we have 5% of tamariki with chronic absenteeism which is the national target, as a school, we want to improve this number.

We all recognise that education is the pathway to the future. The key to educational success relies on being present at school. Consistent routines and mileage is a big component of learning, where the neurological pathways in our brains require repetitive exposure to strengthen and cement learning and develop mastery. We also develop these neural pathways for resilience, perseverance, and discipline. Everyone knows that a good sports team or musician requires regular practice, so we need to apply the same principles to our educational pathway at school. Please help to ensure that your tamariki has the best opportunity for success by making sure he/she is in school every day.

Why is it so important to attend school every day?

- *Learning is a progressive activity; each day's lessons build upon those of the previous day(s).*
- *Reading the material and completing work independently does not compensate for the loss of insight gained during class discussions or the loss of competency acquired through explanation or supervised activities/tasks.*
- *Teachers use discussions, demonstrations, experiments and participation, as part of the daily learning activities, and these cannot be made up by those who are absent.*
- *Regular participation of tamariki in daily classroom activities plays a significant role in their school success.*

I appreciate your support and understanding around the importance of tamariki being at school every day they possibly can be. I have included an attendance table with this newsletter that shows how much time missing days of school, and being late to school adds up to over the length of time tamariki are at school in their lifetime. Every day at school counts!

Ngā mihi nui - Melissa Ward

CARING RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY AIMING HIGH

School Notices

JUNIOR LEARNING TEAM (JLT) UPDATE - MRS ALVAREZ FARIAS

The JLT are keeping themselves very busy by doing lots of work during Term 2! They are enjoying themselves each day and improving their oral language, creativity and developing some amazing friendships. During our reading programme we continue to work with our Better Start Literacy programme and it is working fantastic with our junior tamariki. We have seen incredible improvement with their confidence and how they have been applying new knowledge they have learnt, not only in their reading but also in their writing/spelling. Stations have been working really well in the JLT at reading time, where our tamariki are becoming more independent with their tasks. We are excited to start our new writing programme with exciting stations for our tamariki such as writing grocery lists, publishing, describing pictures, writing postcards, etc. They will be applying new knowledge they learn about writing, at these stations. JLT tamariki have been doing some brainstorming about the weather and we have been learning about how weather works such as understanding the terms revolution and the rotation of the sun. We have been playing some games to identify the difference of these two definitions. We will continue studying about different types of weather and what causes these. The JLT have also been learning some basketball skills and the basic rules around this sport. We are so lucky to have Otago Polytech students teaching us exciting new skills each Tuesday. Please come to our Assembly on Friday where we will share some work we have been doing!

SENIOR LEARNING TEAM (SLT) UPDATE - MISS HODGES

The Senior Learning Team has had a fantastic start back to Term 2. Miss Hodges is so excited to be back and is enjoying getting to know some of the new tamariki in our class. She has loved hearing about all the exciting learning they did last term with Mr Cook. During our reading programme we are working on completing our tasks to a high standard to ensure we are showing our best work. We are also starting our new Structured Literacy programme through the iDeaL platform, which is proven to support and enhance literacy skills for all tamariki. At maths time we have been working on improving our basic facts accuracy and trying out some new interactive maths games as part of our independent maths tasks. We have started our new topic learning about the weather. So far we have been brainstorming all of our prior knowledge and thinking about what questions and wonderings we would like to learn more about over the next few weeks. This week we are heading off to the Otago Museum to hopefully answer some of these questions and learn more about the weather. Miss Hodges has been teaching us about perseverance and why this is an important part of the learning process. We have been focusing on always trying our best and not giving up even when our learning gets challenging. To practice our perseverance skills, we created some stunning artwork of ourselves. We are so proud of our artwork and cannot wait to share these with you at assembly on Friday. Please come along if you can to check these out!

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS WITH A CONCERN

Each term we send out our Guidelines for Parents/Guardians with a Concern document. Please find a copy of this included with this week's newsletter. If you have any concerns, the classroom teacher of your tamariki is the first port of call.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

After school care is up and running at Pine Hill School through Te Kaha Kids. Tamariki can use this service full time, part time and on a casual basis. This service is available to whānau from our school and Liberton Christian School. Please go to www.tekahakids.com to register your tamariki.

STRUCTURED LITERACY

We are busy across the school working on our new Structured Literacy approach. In the Senior Learning Team, we are implementing Structured Literacy through the iDeaL platform. This is provided by a company called Learning Matters, which is headed by Carla McNeill. Structured Literacy teaching is systematic, explicit, direct and cumulative, and we are really looking forward to observing the difference it will make for many of our tamariki. Having the ability to teach our senior tamariki the rules around spelling through the iDeaL approach, will equip them with the ability to apply these rules in any situation, equipping them for life beyond Pine Hill School. The students in this class have all recently completed assessments, and this week have begun a spelling programme which follows a structured approach to teaching the rules and conventions of English. Following on from this in term three, we will begin to introduce a structured approach to reading and writing for students who may require some extra support in this area. The whole Senior Learning Team will also be participating in a Phonological Awareness programme, to make sure they know how to recognise sounds in words, and have the ability to manipulate these sounds and words. Renee Hodges has been doing professional development with Jane Wilden our Learning Support Coordinator around iDeaL. Both Renee and myself (Melissa) will be visiting Holy Family Catholic School in Wanaka next term to look at this approach used in their school. In the Junior Learning Team (JLT), Valentina and myself (Melissa) have been busy completing our micro-credentials for the Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) supported by Sue McMillan, our Resource Teacher of Literacy. We are very excited by both these approaches around Structured Literacy that we have adopted at Pine Hill School and are already seeing some exciting literacy improvements in our JLT tamariki.

TRANSITION TO SCHOOL - FOUR YEAR OLDS

We have Transition to School visits for all four year old tamariki each term at Pine Hill School. The purpose of these visits is to allow tamariki to become familiar with the school environment, getting a taste of school life. The sessions are held over three different dates each term and the remaining dates for term two are: **Wednesday 31st May** and **Wednesday 21st June**. Tamariki are welcome to come for morning tea at 10.40am, with spending the middle block from 11am-12.30pm in the Junior Learning Team, experiencing school. Tamariki are invited to stay for lunch after the class session with being collected at 1pm. 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 your tamariki's hair. 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 headlice 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.

PINE HILL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

There is a board meeting on **Monday 12th June** at 6pm 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 of our meetings.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PB4L) REWARDS

Well done to the following tamariki who have recently cashed in their reward tickets in our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) programme:



Junior Learning Team (JLT)	Senior Learning Team (SLT)
Indi: L1 - 10min class game Eli: L1 - 10min class game Tutanekai: L1 - 10min class game Joseph: L1 - 10min class game Mahi: L2 - 20min free time with a friend Autumn: L2 - prize box Charleen: L4 - Moana Pool double pass	Farah: L1 - 10min free time with a friend Marcel: L1 - 10min free time with a friend Mohammad: L1 - 10min free time with a friend Shahed: L2 - 20min free time with a friend Ivy: L4 - movie and popcorn Stella: L4 - movie and popcorn

AWARDS

Congratulations to the following tamariki for receiving classroom awards at our latest Assembly:

	Junior Learning Team	Senior Learning Team
Principal Award - Respect	Max Gale-Hargreaves	Nembeka Ganaii
Classroom Certificate	Rawia Matar	Privilege TeAmo

EMAIL ADDRESSES

You can contact us on the following email addresses:

valentina@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Mrs Valentina Alvarez Farias: Junior Learning Team Teacher	renee@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Miss Renee Hodges: Senior Learning Team Teacher
principal@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Miss Melissa Ward: Principal	office@pinehilldunedin.school.nz Mrs Nikola Ballard: School Secretary

REMINDERS

Wednesday 17th May	<i>El Gregoe Magician Show - whole school at Liberton School</i>
Wednesday 17th May	<i>Otago Museum trip - whole school for weather topic study this term</i>
Friday 19th May	<i>Assembly, 2.30pm in the hall</i>
Wednesday 31st May	<i>Transition to School - all four year old tamariki</i>
Wednesday 31st May	<i>Whānau Hui (meeting) at school - 3.15-4pm</i>
Friday 2nd June	<i>Assembly, 2.30pm in the hall</i>
Monday 5th June	<i>King's Birthday, school closed</i>
Friday 9th June	<i>Assembly, 2.30pm in the hall</i>
Monday 12th June	<i>Board of Trustees meeting - 6pm at school</i>
Thursday 15th June	<i>Art Gallery trip - whole school</i>
Wednesday 21st June	<i>Transition to School - all four year old tamariki</i>
Friday 23rd June	<i>Assembly, 2.30pm in the hall</i>
Friday 30th June	<i>Term two school holidays begin at 3pm</i>
Monday 17th July	<i>Term three begins, tamariki welcome at school from 8.30am</i>
Tuesday 13th December	<i>Final Assembly @ 11am in the hall, school finishes for the year</i>