



Newsletter 7 - Wednesday 20th May 2026



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

This week we definitely begin to feel the chill of those frosty, icy mornings. However, the weather has been extremely settled, and it is awesome to see these lovely sunny days arriving after a crisp start to the day! Welcome to Hana Khalil (year 6) who has joined Room 4 this week, we hope you enjoy your time with us!

With the colder weather settling in, and the fact we are moving closer to winter, I would like to remind our community of our late start and school closure procedures. If an icy/snowy morning requires us to delay opening or close the school for the day, I will immediately text, email, and post updates on our school Facebook page and Skool Loop app to inform you. At times, the Otago Primary Principal's Association will call a blanket late start/closure across Dunedin schools. This information will be available from myself through our channels, and also on local radio stations, and their social media.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our recent Numicon (Maths) Open Afternoon. It was wonderful to share how this program is actively benefiting our tamariki, particularly through the use of tactile manipulatives that help them visualise and master mathematical concepts. We received fantastic feedback from those who attended, with parents and caregivers sharing how much they enjoyed seeing the program in action and gaining a clearer understanding of how their tamariki are learning maths. We are also thrilled to have our Numicon Facilitator Trish Bunting back with us for two days of targeted professional development for teachers. Her guidance and support has been absolutely instrumental in growing our teachers' knowledge and competence in implementing this program effectively, ensuring our teachers are fully equipped to deliver high-quality math sessions to all our tamariki.

It has been absolutely fabulous to have our student teachers Razwa Saleh (Room 1) and Sally Matunga (Room 3) as part of our school community recently. Both Razwa and Sally have had full control periods of the classes they are in, meaning they have taken over the daily teaching role from Mrs Alvarez Farias and Miss Duncan. We are incredibly proud to share our knowledge with the next tier of educators, and we know that the hands-on experience they gain alongside our team will be invaluable for their future teaching careers.

In our wider school community, it is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the recent passing of Nicola Hargreaves, Max's mum. Our heartfelt thoughts, love, and support are with Max, Andrew, and their extended whānau during this incredibly difficult time.

Kā mihi, 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 22nd 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.

CLASSROOM UPDATE: MISS DUNCAN AND MISS ALLY WARD

It has been a busy and productive start to the term! Our tamariki have come back energised and excited despite the colder weather, which is great to see. We are thrilled to welcome Hana to Pine Hill School, who is in Room 4 with Miss McGoff. We also want to extend a warm welcome to our student teacher Miss Sally Matunga, who is working alongside Miss Duncan in Room 3 for three weeks. Our Numicon open afternoon was a hit, and we would like to say a big thank you to those that came! Alongside our open afternoon, we enjoyed having our Numicon facilitator, Trish Bunting, back working with the teachers. Trish modelled and observed each teacher taking a lesson, which was of great value to us. Thank you Trish for an awesome afternoon of learning. Additionally, we have Katie who is currently working in Room 1 focusing on friendship skills, while Anna has been in Rooms 3 and 4 teaching "Zones of Regulation." We recently had a visit from Jacqui at St Johns who taught our tamariki the basic skills needed to perform first aid. Our Year 0 - 2's learnt how to call 111, and how to put someone in the recovery position. Our Year 3 & 4's also learnt how to call 111, put someone in the recovery position, identify emergencies and basic injury treatment. The Year 5 & 6's learnt about common first aid scenarios and how to help. Thank you Jacqui for coming to visit us! As a school, we recently observed Anzac Day, taking the time to reflect on and honor the service and sacrifice of those who came before us. Our classes also produced some amazing art work around Anzac Day that is now up in the office. Our fitness rotations are officially underway, and we have seven different stations that tamariki are visiting. They stay at a station for one week and learn different activities around specific areas such as movement, teamwork and sports skills. It's wonderful to see the energy and enthusiasm across all year levels. It is also a great way for the classes to interact with older and younger tamariki, making connections across the school. We also had a visit from Lucy from ASB recently, who introduced fun and interactive ways to understand the basics of money to year 3-6 tamariki. They learnt about needs versus wants, along with how to save and spend money wisely. Thank you for coming to visit us Lucy! Kapa Haka has also started up this term, and tamariki are eager to get practices underway for Polyfest later in the year. Kapa Haka is for our Year 2 - 6 tamariki, and we practice every Friday at 12:00pm. Thank you to Miss Duncan and Miss Ward for leading Kapa Haka this year! We are excited for what the term has in store for us, and we can't wait to keep up all the amazing learning we have been doing!

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 2** is: **Wednesday 3rd 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 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.

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE

We have Before School Care available every Monday to Friday morning from 7.30-8.30am. Please text the school phone or email the office to tell us if you require this service. Bookings can be taken up until the day before and the cost is \$6 per child, before 8am and \$3 per child after 8am. The earlier the notice, the better.

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.

ATTENDANCE

Every school day counts, and regular attendance is crucial for the learning, social development, and academic progress of tamariki. If your tamariki are going to be absent due to illness or an unavoidable appointment, please notify the school office via phone, text email, or the Skool Loop app by 9.15am on the day they will be absent.

MID YEAR SCHOOL REPORTS

Teachers are busy assessing and writing mid year school reports for all tamariki. These will be sent home on **Wednesday 1st July** via email to all email addresses we currently have for parents/caregivers. If your email has changed, please notify Nikola at the school office ASAP.

WAYS TO CONTACT/FIND US!

School phone number: 03 473 9148	School cell phone number: 027 528 7198
Website: www.pinehilldunedin.school.nz	Search Pine Hill School on Facebook and give us a like!
Download the Skool Loop app from the Google Play or Apple Store on your phone and search for Pine Hill School	

EMAIL ADDRESSES

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

REMINDERS

Friday 22nd May	Assembly - 2.20pm in Room 4
Monday 1st June	School CLOSED to observe King's Birthday
Wednesday 3rd June	Transition to School - all four year olds in the area
Friday 12th June	Assembly - 2.20pm in Room 4
Friday 26th June	Assembly - 2.20pm in Room 4
Friday 3rd July	Term two school holidays begin
Monday 20th July	Term Three 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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