



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



Newsletter 7 - Wednesday 21st May 2025



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

Well done to the Junior Learning Team who won the pizza party prize for the parents/guardians who on average downloaded the Edge App the most, to check the attendance of their tamariki! They enjoyed this pizza party on Friday in the sun! We have had 82% of whānau download this app so far. Thank you to everyone who has supported our attendance focus by downloading it. If you haven't got it yet, I encourage you to do so, so that you can track the attendance of your tamariki at school. Congratulations to Nikita Rewha who won the parent/guardian draw for the \$50 grocery voucher!

This week is the first Assembly we have given out the new Attendance Shield for the class with the best attendance rate for the first three weeks of term. A big congratulations to the Junior and Middle Learning Teams who were tied after three weeks of school, with having a 92% attendance rate across their classes for three weeks. Our whole school daily attendance rate is currently 91% and our aim is to have 95% attendance daily across the school. Thank you to all whānau who are making sure their tamariki are at school when they are fit and able. It is really great to hear tamariki talking about attendance in relation to why they need to come to school when they are fit and able with wanting to win the Attendance Shield as well as keeping their own attendance rate as high as they can! The Senior Learning Team has made attendance posters that have gone up around school. They did some learning about slogans and came up with some slogan options. After this, the class had a vote for the top slogan and two were chosen, and they are: *'Just Come to School!'* and *'Attend Today, Achieve Today!'*. These are excellent slogans and are straight to the point. I will continue to report about our attendance rates in our fortnightly newsletters and other communication platforms when needed.

Last Monday Nembeka Ganaii, Kahli Little and myself attended the National Young Leaders Day at the Town Hall. This was a very inspiring day and we got to listen to a number of speakers who spoke about their journey to leadership. Nembeka and Kahli have written an excellent report about the day that you can read further on in the newsletter.

This week we began two weeks of school swimming lessons. These lessons are important for our tamariki as they help build on their current water skills and they also learn new skills. They are always a positive experience for tamariki and we are very lucky to have instructors from JC Swim School teaching them over the two weeks.

With the weather getting colder, tamariki are welcome to bring slippers to wear in the classroom. Slippers **must** be a second pair of footwear that come to school, and are not to be worn to or from school, or outside during break times.

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 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.

JUNIOR LEARNING TEAM (JLT) UPDATE: MISS WARD & MRS ALVAREZ FARIAS

The Junior Learning Team has had an awesome and productive start to the term! We are lucky to welcome Rama, Joud, Matt, CJ and Emre into our class. It is great to see the JLT growing! For the past few weeks during maths our tamariki have been learning all about chance and probabilities. They have been building their understanding of key vocabulary, and exploring probability through engaging, real-life scenarios, all while collaborating effectively as a team. Literacy time continues to be a strong focus, with the JLT tamariki working on their spelling and learning new reading concepts. They are also showing great responsibility towards their reading rotations. The JLT has also been exploring the fascinating world of Natural Weather Phenomena and Natural Disasters. They've specifically been learning about the water cycle and have even put their creativity to work by creating their own water cycle plates! Over the next couple of weeks we will be learning all about tornadoes and hurricanes! The JLT tamariki have shown that they are very excited to start their swimming lessons, and learn new skills. We can't wait to share what we learn with you!

MIDDLE LEARNING TEAM (MLT) UPDATE: MISS DUNCAN

The tamariki in the Middle Learning Team have had a great start to term two! Keeping up with our usual routines and changing and adapting them where needed. This term we have started our new topic/theme which is Natural Weather Phenomena and Natural Disasters. We have started to explore the water cycle, and have learned about what evaporation, condensation and precipitation is. We also had fun crafting a little science experiment last week by making the water cycle in a bag. These have been hung on the windows and we are checking everyday for evaporation, condensation and precipitation to appear! In maths, we are learning about place value. The tamariki have really enjoyed this side of maths and have found it very useful when trying to work out equations with 3-4 digit numbers! During writing time, we are starting to learn about instructional writing and how much detail you need to put into instructions for someone to be able to follow them successfully. The MLT is very excited for our swimming lessons these next two weeks, and have a very positive attitude to them. We are looking forward to more exciting learning this term, and can't wait to share some of it with you!

SENIOR LEARNING TEAM (SLT) UPDATE: MISS CULBERT

Term 2 is flying by, and even though it's a shorter term, we've packed in plenty of exciting learning in the Senior Learning Team! In maths, we kicked off with a unit on probability and have now moved into measurement. Everyone is taking part in targeted maths workshops, where we focus on areas we want to grow in. After giving each workshop a go, we complete a follow-up activity and then independently mark our work using the checking station. This is helping us build confidence, independence, and a clear understanding of our progress. In writing, we've been working on our pepeha, learning about our whakapapa and the places we come from. It's been a great way to connect with our identity and share it with each other. Our new topic theme is all about Natural Weather Phenomena and Disasters. We've explored the water cycle and even created experiments (now hanging around our classroom!) that show the water cycle in action. We're diving into hurricanes and cyclones this week! We are looking forward to swimming for the next 2 weeks and continuing to dive deeper into our learning as we head toward the second part of term two!

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 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.

NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS DAY REPORT: NEMBEKA GANAI & KAHLI LITTLE

On Monday 12th May, we went to National Young Leaders Day at the Town Hall. We felt excited, nervous, and privileged to be there. When we arrived, we got cool wristbands and pins, and sat right in the front row! The hilarious host kicked things off with a big welcome and introduced us to Jay who taught us some great dance moves. Then our first speaker, **Amy Scott**, talked about people's "colours" — how we all think and communicate differently. She reminded us that understanding each other helps us work better as a team. To understand other people's colours, we have to listen to what they say and learn how to be different colours ourselves. The hilarious hosts came back out and said a warm goodbye to Amy Scott. After morning tea, they welcomed **Cam Calkoen**! He inspired us with his story. Even though he has a medical disability, he didn't care what people thought he kept moving forward and his message was to never give up! Next, we met **Jase Te Patu**. He taught us that moving our bodies and breathing can help us feel strong, happy, and calm. Jase said that stress is normal, but when we look after our wellbeing, we can thrive! After Jase, we met **Elisa Harley**, who is the CEO of Enviro Pots. She started a business making biodegradable plant pots using forestry waste. She also shared four helpful steps for starting a small business which was helpful. Finally, our last speaker was **Georgia Lines**, a famous NZ singer. She talked about her journey in music and then performed two amazing songs — her own song *Loving You*, and another artist's song, *Unwritten*, which had everyone singing along. We left feeling inspired to be brave, kind, and confident leaders. Thank you to Miss Ward for taking us and Pine Hill School for the opportunity to go! *Nembeka and Kahli*

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 AWARDS

Congratulations to the following tamariki for receiving awards at our most recent Assembly:



	Junior Learning Team	Middle Learning Team	Senior Learning Team
Principal Award - Participating and Contributing	Jasper Saunders	Ian Abraham	Priya Rewha
Classroom Certificate	Eli Douglas-Martin	Aurora Fishlock-Sawers	Muhamad Al Husein
Attendance Shield	Junior and Middle Learning Teams were joint winners with a 92% attendance rate!		

REMINDERS

Monday 2nd June	King's Birthday Public Holiday - school CLOSED
Friday 6th June	Whole school trip to Otago Museum
Friday 6th June	Assembly, 2.30pm in the hall
Monday 9th June	Teacher Only Day - school CLOSED
Wednesday 11th June	Transition to School, all four year olds
18th-19th June	Senior Learning Team overnight camp at Otago Museum
Friday 20th June	Matariki Public Holiday - school CLOSED
Wednesday 25th June	Transition to School, all four year olds
Friday 27th June	Assembly, 2.30pm in the hall
Friday 27th June	Term two school holidays begin at 3pm



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!

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Find us on
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