



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



## Newsletter 8 - Wednesday 4th June 2025



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

The term is buzzing by! It is hard to believe that there are only four weeks of term two remaining. It is also a shorter term with only having nine weeks.

It has been really great to see tamariki developing and building on their swimming skills over the last two weeks. Swimming is a very important part of physical education and health curriculum and certainly is a busy two weeks of the year! A big thank you to JC Swim School for their fabulous instruction with our tamariki over the duration of their lessons.

A Teacher Only Day is scheduled for this coming **Monday, 9th of June**, providing a crucial opportunity for our teaching staff to engage directly with the Ministry of Education regarding the exciting new maths curriculum. This collaborative session will allow us to deepen our understanding of the curriculum's objectives and best practices, ensuring a cohesive approach to maths education across our school. This day will also be dedicated to intensive planning for the implementation of Numicon, a hands-on approach to maths, which we are thrilled to roll out at the beginning of Term 3. A significant shift with this new curriculum and Numicon integration is that our tamariki will receive tailored instruction in maths at their phase stage, rather than where they are at for their learning (which we currently do). This is a new directive by the Government and I will be sending out more information to explain this before the start of term three. You can find out more information regarding the new maths curriculum on the online Parent Portal created by the Ministry of Education. If you google this, information will come up on how to access it. There are some excellent ideas on this portal as to how you can help with learning maths at home.

School Board triennial elections are coming up in September. If you are interested in standing for the board, please get in touch. It would be great to have interested people come along as visitors to a board meeting to see how they work. Being on the board is a rewarding role that gives you great insight into how schools operate.

*Ngā mihi nui,  
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 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 remaining 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 Mrs Valentina 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.

## 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 **92%**, so we still have some work to do to increase this. To celebrate and encourage consistent attendance, we are 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:

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

## REMINDERS

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 <b>CLOSED</b></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 <b>CLOSED</b></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>