



Newsletter 9 - Wednesday 18th June 2025



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

This is the final newsletter of Term 2. We are nearly halfway through the 2025 school year, which is incredible. Time flies and we have achieved lots throughout the first six months of school. At our final Assembly of Term 2 next week, we will be sharing our Matariki learning at 12pm in the hall. Whānau and friends are invited to stay for an optional picnic lunch with their tamariki at the conclusion of the Assembly. Tamariki can go home for the holidays with their whānau/guardians after the picnic. We look forward to sharing our learning and celebrating Matariki with everyone.

Attendance continues to be a major focus for us. Well done to the Middle Learning Team who were awarded the Attendance Shield at our most recent Assembly. They had 94% daily attendance over the three weeks leading up to Assembly and the Junior Learning Team had 93% daily attendance with the Senior Learning Team having 92% daily attendance. The race was close! Our whole school daily attendance goal (set by the Board) is 95% and currently we are sitting at 94% which is super close to our goal! At our last Assembly for the term, there will be some awards going out for those with high attendance. Thank you to everyone for their support with our attendance focus, ensuring tamariki are at school when they are fit and able. However, we still have tamariki coming into school late, please ensure they are at school before 8.55am so they can get organised for the day. The first bell of the day rings at 9am. Tamariki are welcome at school from 8.30am and being here well before the first bell rings, allows them time to get organised and spend some time with their friends.

We've become increasingly aware of concerns regarding social media and its impact on our tamariki. It appears that some tamariki are inadvertently exposed to inappropriate content online, which is unfortunately then influencing their behavior and interactions within the school environment. We urge all parents and caregivers to please monitor what your tamariki are viewing on screens at home, as this vigilance is crucial in helping us maintain a safe and positive learning space for everyone. Thank you for your support with this.

This Wednesday and Thursday Miss Culbert and myself are heading off on their biennial overnight camp to the Otago Museum with the Senior Learning Team. We are all looking forward to an exciting and busy couple of days!

As Term 2 wraps up, I want to acknowledge the fantastic effort and learning that has taken place. Our tamariki have worked incredibly hard, showing great dedication to their learning. It's been a busy and productive term, and we're proud of everything our tamariki have achieved. Mid year school reports will be sent home on Wednesday next week.

Thank you everyone for your incredible support throughout the past few months. We wish you all a safe and restful holiday break beginning on **Friday 27th June at 3pm**.

Kā mihi - Melissa Ward: Tumuaki/Principal

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

School Notices

PINE HILL SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

There are board meetings on **Monday 11th August** and **Monday 15th September** 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

We have had a busy, jam packed Term Two with lots of exciting things happening! We had a visit from Ted the DCC dog, to learn about how to keep ourselves safe around dogs we aren't too sure of. The JLT have had a special focus on Natural Weather Phenomena and Natural Disasters this term, and we have really enjoyed diving deeper and unpacking what these are. We've looked at tornadoes, hurricanes, blizzards, tsunamis, and different ways to show what we have learnt. We have made some posters, drawn pictures, and have created our own art collages to go with our learning. Our visit to Tūhura Otago Museum was awesome as we got to watch an interesting movie about the weather, and witness some crazy science experiments. Miss Ward even joined in! Matariki is coming up, so we have started talking about and researching what it is. We created another art collage, with the seven stars of Matariki being our main focus. Our swimming lessons were something we also really enjoyed, and everyone showed great determination and skills when it came to getting in the water. Writing lately has been about how we can be good friends to each other, and what that looks like at school. We are excited about all the awesome learning we have done this term! We hope all our tamariki enjoy the upcoming school holidays!

MIDDLE LEARNING TEAM (MLT) UPDATE: MISS DUNCAN

The tamariki in the Middle Learning Team have been working very hard these past few weeks! We really enjoyed swimming and learnt a lot of new skills that we can use in the water. The tamariki have been focusing on learning about Natural Weather Phenomena and Natural Disasters. Our focus has been on volcanoes, hurricanes, tsunamis and Earthquakes. First, tamariki looked at what these disasters are, what causes them and what we can do to stay safe during one, then we made some collage pieces of art to go along with them. The MLT have been really interested in learning about these Natural Weather Phenomena and Natural Disasters! For writing, we are learning about instructional writing. Tamariki have learnt that having clear steps, time order words, and imperative verbs are very important when writing a set of instructions. In reading, tamariki have been excited to get back into our rotations after two weeks of swimming and have all been doing reading responses linked in with our theme. It is great to see how each of them are helping one another and working together to answer questions. The Middle Learning Team enjoyed the trip to Otago Museum for our topic study and enjoyed the visit from the DCC around dog safety. It was awesome for tamariki to build on their swimming skills at our recent lessons and they are all ready for a well deserved holiday break after a busy term!

SENIOR LEARNING TEAM (SLT) UPDATE: MISS CULBERT

The Senior Learning Team has had a busy and exciting Term Two, packed with learning and special experiences. Our swimming lessons were a big highlight, with everyone making great progress in the water. We also enjoyed a trip to see a musical at Logan Park High School, took part in a dog safety session, and learned about emergency preparedness from Civil Defence. The biggest buzz right now is our upcoming overnight camp at the Otago Museum this Wednesday! We're thrilled to be sleeping among the exhibits and have a full evening of educational and exciting activities planned. The fun continues the next day with a trip to Moana Pool! We can't wait to share all our adventures with you when we return! In class, we've been diving into our theme of Natural Weather Phenomena and Natural Disasters, which connects across our reading, writing, and topic learning. Our current writing focus is report writing, and we're learning about the Christchurch Earthquakes to build our research skills. We've also started preparing for Matariki in art, creating beautiful work that will be displayed in our classroom and the school office. We're looking forward to an action-packed end to the term and can't wait to share more about our museum adventures! Have a great upcoming holiday break!

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 3** are: **Wednesday 30th July, Wednesday 13th August** and **Wednesday 10th September**. 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 Alvarez Farias at school (valentina@pinehilldunedin.school.nz).

WATER BOTTLES

Tamariki need to bring their water bottle to school every day as we do not have water fountains. They can refill their bottles at classroom sinks.

BOARD TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS

As our triennial school board elections approach, we encourage eligible parents/caregivers to consider putting their names forward. Being a part of the school board is an incredibly rewarding experience, offering a unique opportunity to contribute directly to the strategic direction and success of Pine Hill School. Board members gain invaluable insights into the governance of a school, learning about everything from finance and property to curriculum and personnel, all while working to ensure the best possible educational outcomes for our tamariki. If you have any questions about what being on the board is all about, please get in contact with Melissa Ward (Tumuaki/Principal) or Amie Hawkins (Presiding Member). Information about elections will be coming home early Term 3 and elections are on **Wednesday 10th September**.

KIDSCAN

We are lucky to be a member of KidsCan New Zealand. When tamariki start at school they get a free jacket. Some of the other things we have available for free include: shoes for tamariki, food for morning tea and head lice treatment. Please contact school if you require any of these items.



ENROLMENTS

We have a growing roll at Pine Hill School which is amazing and we welcome new enrolments. 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. Enrolment information is very helpful with planning for the immediate and distant future. Enrolment packs can be picked up from the school office and appointments can be booked for school visits/tours for whānau through our school website, ringing the office or emailing Melissa principal@pinehilldunedin.school.nz

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	Harper Renton	Stanley Tione	Autumn Storer
Classroom Certificate	Ella Lees	Ava Gardiner	Hana Khalil
Attendance Shield	<i>The Middle Learning Team was the winner with a 94% attendance rate over the last three weeks!</i>		

REMINDERS

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
Monday 14th 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!

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Find us on
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www.pinehilldunedin.school.nz

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