

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4: Issue 19: 15th December 2023

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## Message from the Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

This is the final newsletter for 2023. We have had a fantastic year of learning here at Pinehaven School and I want to thank you for your contribution to that. Our teachers and support staff have worked tirelessly to ensure our tamariki have had a wonderful year with lots of different learning experiences and opportunities. Many thanks to our parents for your help throughout the year, our supportive school community is very much appreciated. For some families, today is the end of an era as your child leaves Pinehaven School. I know that comes with a mix of emotions but I am sure there are a lot of wonderful memories from your child's time here that you will take away with you. Our very best wishes to all our leavers.

### Farewells

Today we also farewell a number of staff. Ms Joanna Gould has been teaching in room 8 since the middle of term 3 this year, helping cover the maternity leave position of Alice Gibb. Thank you Jo for your work in room 8. We also say goodbye to Shelley Frith who has been working as a relief teacher over the past 18 months. It has been great to have a familiar face in classes providing release, thank you for your efforts Shelley. Elizabeth McKee will be moving on to a new school in 2024. Elizabeth has worked with a variety of students in room 8 and has also had an integral role around our school over the years with her furry companion Teddy the Therapy Dog. Thank you Elizabeth. Our loss is Fergusson Intermediates gain, with both Kate Beaumont-Yee and Robyn Dean leaving us to join the staff at FIS. Kate Beaumont-Yee has worked at our school for 8 years. Kate has led the Enviro Schools effort here and also completes a lot of art displays. Thank you for your enthusiasm and dedication Kate. We will miss you. Robyn Dean has been part of the Pinehaven Staff for over 15 years as a teacher aide. Robyn has contributed to our staff in numerous ways as well as her work with our tamariki is the sort of person who just randomly places flowers on your desk, sends an encouraging message or turns up with scones for the staff.

A pororoaki was held yesterday afternoon to give students, staff and our school community a chance to say goodbye to the staff, year 6 and other students leaving us at the end of the year.

### Meet the Teacher— Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th February 2024

Save the date! We had great feedback from parents and teachers this year with the start of the year meet the teacher evening, so we are holding it again in the third week of school. You will be invited to come and meet your child's teacher, sharing information about your child. We are really keen to hear about the goals and aspirations you have for them for 2024 and beyond.

### Board of Trustees— 2024 Activity Fees & School Donations

Our Board of Trustees met last week and considered 2024 Activity Fees & School Donations. While these have not increased for a number of years, the Board agreed to keep both activity fees and school donations the same next year. A number of factors contributed to this decision including the impact of the increased cost of living and the Boards desire to keep our fees affordable for our families. There has been one change which we would like to bring to your attention. This is a directive from the Ministry of Education which means that there will no longer be a discount for early payment of donations. Activity Fees & School Donations will be reviewed again at the end of next year.

### Start of term 1 —Thursday 1st February 2024

This first day of term 1 next year is Thursday 1st February 2024 at 8.55am.

Have a great Christmas everyone.

*Phillipa and the Pinehaven Team*