

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4: Issue 15: 19th October 2023

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## Message from the Principal

Kia ora e te whānau,

Term 4 is off to a great start. It is an action packed term so I hope by sharing key dates with you on the back of each newsletter you will be well informed for the term ahead. Please mark these dates in your diary. In regards to our upcoming teacher only days this term, thank you for making alternative arrangements. We appreciate these can be disruptive to your schedules however they are a necessary day of learning for staff particularly as we come to grips with the New Zealand Curriculum Refresh changes.

### Strategic Planning—Voice

Thank you to those who completed the recent Strategic Planning Survey. Your input is valued as we map out the next steps for our kura. Our consultation process includes staff, students, various whānau groups and our Board of Trustees, ensuring we gather a variety of voices. It is an exciting time as we look to the future and the ever changing needs of our tamariki. I will share the new strategic plan with our school community at the start of 2024.

### Class Placements

We are currently determining class structures for next year. This is never an easy job as each year group differs in size, ranging from 20-37 children! We are considering different options and will settle on the one that best meets the needs of all learners. We are not sure yet about the exact class make up (e.g. mixed/straight year level) and this may vary as we are still confirming year levels of teachers. We will soon begin thinking about class placements. When placing students in classes, we make every effort to ensure classes are well balanced (gender, ability, social/emotional and academic needs), as well as ensuring students are placed with others who they work well with. It is worth noting they do not always work to their full potential alongside their friends. We aim to place students in classes where they can be catered for effectively, where they will be happy and well matched to teacher strengths. I acknowledge that parents can have information about their child we may not be aware of, that can support us in making effective class placements. There is an opportunity between now and **Tuesday 7 November** to advise me in writing of anything that might be helpful in compiling class lists. As situations change, I do not hold this information from year to year, so you will need to use this process to inform me of anything historical that still applies. I ask that you email me directly [principal@pinehaven.school.nz](mailto:principal@pinehaven.school.nz) as opposed to talking to teachers or other staff. Please include the educational reasoning behind the information you are sharing with me. The reason I ask you to email or write to me directly is to ensure I receive all the information, and nothing gets 'lost in translation'. As a staff, we will then use this information to assist us in making placements. Please note that there are a range of factors to consider in this process and I cannot guarantee to accommodate all requests, rather we consider them alongside other factors. What one parent might suggest could be cancelled out by the needs of other children/classes or teacher objective knowledge. Our timeframe for class placements is tight, therefore I ask that you meet the deadline above. It is likely to be too late to consider any information coming in after this date. Towards the end of the year, it is also a time when families make changes and we sometimes have people moving out of the area. If this is the case for your family, the sooner we know this, the easier it is for us to plan class numbers for 2024. I would appreciate it if you could let us know.

### Teacher Only Day – 20 October – School Closed

The Upper Hutt Education Cluster will be running it's cluster wide professional development day tomorrow, Friday 20th October. This will be a Teacher Only Day and Upper Hutt Schools' will be closed for instruction. These days are very valuable and a means to ensure consistency of practice across the valley. Please make sure that you have made alternative arrangements for your child on this day.

Have a great weekend.

*Phillipa and the Pinehaven Staff*

# Key Dates

Thursday 19th October	Interschool Danish Rounders NZ Shake Out Drill - 9.30am	Friday 27th October	School Assembly – Kererū Hub lead
Friday 20th October	Teacher only Day—school closed	Friday 17th November	Teacher only Day—school closed
Monday 23rd October	Labour Day Holiday—school closed	Monday 4th December	Year 6 Celebration Reports out today
Thursday 26th October	Disco—6-7.30pm	Friday 15th December	End of term 4

A special welcome to...

**Layla, Issy, Greyson, Oliver and Milayla**

who started in Te Wai recently.

*Welcome to Pinehaven School!*

**Other dates for your diary:**

**Cluster wide Teacher only Day** – Friday 20th October 2023. Schools across Upper Hutt are closed for an education conference.

**Cluster wide Teacher only Day** – Friday 17th November 2023. All schools across Upper Hutt are closed for teachers to upskill with the NZ curriculum refresh.

## 2024 Term Dates

**2024 TERM DATES**

**TERM ONE**  
THURSDAY 1ST FEB –  
FRIDAY 12TH APRIL

**TERM TWO**  
MONDAY 29TH APRIL  
– FRIDAY 5TH JULY  
TERM TWO TOD – TBC

**TERM THREE**  
MONDAY 22ND JULY –  
FRIDAY 27TH SEPT

**TERM FOUR**  
MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER  
– TUESDAY 17TH DEC  
TERM FOUR TOD – TBC

**PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:**  
WAITANGI DAY: TUESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY  
EASTER: GOOD FRIDAY 29TH MARCH, EASTER  
MONDAY 1ST APRIL + EASTER TUESDAY 2ND APRIL  
KING'S BIRTHDAY: MONDAY 3RD JUNE  
MATARIKI: FRIDAY 28TH JUNE  
LABOUR DAY: MONDAY 28TH OCTOBER

Pinehaven School

Looking forward to seeing many of our tamariki at the disco next week. Students will be able to purchase drinks, pizza, lollies and ice-blocks at the event.

**Please note that if your child is coming to the disco, they are expected to remain in the hall until they are collected.**

**Parents & Caregivers will need to be sighted by a staff member prior to taking their child at the end of the disco.**

## Congratulations!

On Sunday, Stanley competed at Te Rauparaha Arena at the GKR Karate National Championships and won the 8<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Kyu Kumite. Well done Stanley!



*Don't Forget*

**TEACHER ONLY DAY**  
FRIDAY 20TH  
OCTOBER  
**SCHOOL CLOSED**

*THANK YOU!*

**HEROES & VILLAINS**

**DISCO**

OCTOBER 26TH  
6:00PM - 7:30PM

**\$2 ENTRY**

FOOD AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE  
PIZZA, LOLLIES, DRINKS, ICEBLOCKS, CHIPPIS

# Pinehaven Footballers in Action!

Over the last weekend of the school holidays (Friday 6th - Sunday 8th October), the following Pinehaven School students represented the Upper Hutt City Football club in the McCartney Invitational Tournament held in Taupo. They played 11 games against some of the best Grade 9 teams in the North Island, they played amazing and ended up coming 2nd. Well done to our Pinehaven Footballers, Zane, Logan, Mason and Kylo. Fantastic achievement!



## Kapa Haka

### Kapa Haka Group—Trip to Maidstone Intermediate School

We would like to give a huge thank you to Mary Whaanga and Matua Patrick from Maidstone Intermediate who hosted our Kapa Haka group to support us with our Cultural performance at Harcourt Park.

### Upper Hutt Cultural Festival

On Wednesday the 8th of November, a group of our tamariki will be taking part in the Upper Hutt Cultural Festival at Harcourt Park. The morning performance will begin at 9am with a powhiri and finish at 12:25. Pinehaven is scheduled to perform at 10:12am. As with any event of this nature this is an approximate time so if you plan to come and watch please arrive early as you may miss it. Enter for whānau to the festival is by koha (gold coin donation). Food Trucks and coffee carts will be available on-site for refreshments. Thank you to Melanie Wakeham for leading our Kapa Haka group and the day's organisation.



## Author Visit

### Author Visit

Recently senior students were treated to a visit from Karen McMillan, a former student of Pinehaven School. Karen is the author of 20 books published in 10 countries, the *My Elastic Island Adventures* books are popular with children aged 8 to 12.

Karen's aim was to encourage our children's literacy and creativity. Giving our tamariki positive literacy role models like Karen is a great way to inspire them to read and write for pleasure, and see writing as a way to entertain and inform.

Thank you Karen for reaching out to us and for donating a number of books to our library.

