

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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PRINCIPAL'S PEN - A NOTE FROM KAYLENE.....

Kia ora!

This has been an incredibly long, challenging, yet rewarding term. Covid 19 certainly has some silver linings for us and we are proud of what we have achieved and what our children have achieved. We are looking forward to sending out the reports tomorrow, and meeting with you early next term to talk about your child's learning. Booking information for learning conversations accompanies this newsletter, please go in and book as soon as possible.

Patterns of Behaviour in Schools

You may have seen media reports about the NZ Council for Educational Research's publication of the longitudinal study of education. The report includes noticeable rises in the concerns of teachers and principals around behaviour of students in schools, with 25% of teachers reporting having to deal with student behaviour that causes serious disruption to class. I share these concerns. Recently at Pinehaven and particularly since our return to school, we have seen a significant rise in students using physical violence as a 'go to' for dealing with situations where they are upset or angry. We are constantly dealing with children who have hit out at other children. It appears that some children see this as an acceptable way to behave, but there is no place for this here at school, or in our society. This pattern of behaviour is across the school - it is not just a few individuals involved. If adults hit someone in the home, or in public, this is considered a crime. It is simply not ok and we cannot allow our children to move through primary school thinking it is. As well as the hitting out when angry, we are experiencing situations where children are hitting back if anyone hits them (sometimes told to do so by their parents). This also is not ok in the school setting and is not the right way to deal with problems. We need to be teaching our children that violence is never the answer. While I appreciate it is sometimes difficult, we need to be teaching them to breathe, walk away and seek help.

We are going to review our systems for dealing with physical behaviour. Over the break, we will be planning a series of lessons that all classes will undertake around there being no place for violence in school and other strategies to use. We will also be reviewing the consequences we have been using and look at firmer consequences for any physical behaviour. This includes anything where a child has claimed to retaliate or feels they have hit out in self defense. In the school setting, they are expected to walk away and seek help. Every instance is worked through taking the individual circumstances into account, but in my experience, there are very few instances where children don't have an opportunity to walk away. When children retaliate, it escalates a situation and makes it more complex in terms of determining consequences for individuals. In the new term, I will be in touch about decisions we have made in reviewing our procedures and consequences. While we do our best, there may be some instances we haven't been aware of, or where parents may feel that we haven't followed up thoroughly. I am taking this opportunity to signal to you all that going forward, we will be taking a harder line with any instances of physical violence towards others at school. While I know many of our children are not involved in this type of behaviour, it is important that all children understand that hitting is never ok. I would appreciate it if all families can reinforce this message with children over the holidays. It is our job to ensure a safe environment for our students to come to and learn. The behaviour of an increasing number of children is getting in the way of this and will not be tolerated as we move forward.

This message is not intended for, or directed at any individual families and it is not my intention to offend anyone. There is a pattern of behaviour we have identified that needs to be addressed and this communication to parents is the first step in this process. Ultimately, we want all staff and students to have a positive work place and learning environment. I wish you all a great few weeks ahead and look forward to a new term.

Kaylene

KEY DATES

3 July: Last day of Term 2

Reports will also be emailed on this day via the Parent Portal

20 July: Term 3 starts

22nd July: Planting Trip for some seniors

26 July: Interscholar Cross Country (Harcourt Park)

27 July: Year 6 Hands On Visit to Fergusson Intermediate

28-30 July: Book Fair!

This will be running alongside Learning Conversations in the Library.

28 & 30 July: 3 Way Learning Conversations (2pm finish 30th)

31 July: Pinehaven Pacers' Night Run

NEW STUDENT

Welcome to Blake D who has started school in since our last newsletter.

Make sure you've joined our school facebook group where we are sharing lots of information! Email facebook@pinehaven.school.nz with your child's year, your email address linked to the your facebook account.

THE BIG BUILD!

At our next site meeting that is taking place in the holidays, we should get a confirmed date for when Rooms 1-5 can move back into the Kereru Block. The work has been progressing really well and we are now at the point of installation of carpets, wall linings, etc. Heaters are still on a boat in the ocean and we are awaiting confirmation of the date of their arrival, so it's these sorts of things that impact on knowing an exact date. Here's a few photos showing the progress. It's getting pretty exciting!



Mrs Saunders Returns!

We are really pleased to be welcoming Marion Saunders back to Pinehaven next term. Marion's year at the Botanical Gardens has come to an end and we are looking forward to having her skills back here with our team. Marion will be doing some release in classes next term, as well as running some remedial and extension groups across the school. If your child is working in any of her groups, you will be informed in the new term.

Road Safety

Please have a talk to your children about road safety. We have had reports from parents about near misses where children have walked in front of, or behind cars. It is really important that our children are reminded to take great care when walking to and from school, or around roads, driveways and carparks. Please ask them to check, check and check again! They can never be too cautious.

Entertainment Books

Don't forget to purchase your entertainment books - great value for money and an opportunity for us to raise some funds!

Go to <https://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/104196s>

ERO

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we shared our Covid experience with ERO as part of their national review. Mike Salmon (BOT Chair) and Kaylene Macnee had conversations with a member of the ERO team this week, discussing our processes and practices throughout the Covid period. Our experiences will feed into the national report, however we won't get individual feedback about the conversation.

Family Fun Day - White Elephant Goods

Do you have saleable second hand goods that can be donated for our White Elephant stall? We can now store your items on site thanks to Friday Homes providing us with a storage solution. There will be Family Fun Day Planning Team members at the containers on the following dates to take items off your hands:

Sunday 12th July 3.00-4.30pm and Sunday 19th July 3.00-4.30pm

Also, please see our last newsletter for other ways you can help us with this event - contact pinehavengala@gmail.com

Skipping Ropes

Thanks to Jo Finlay for her work around the skipping rope fundraiser. It was great that so many people supported this fundraiser - we really appreciate this!

Fergusson Intermediate

Information for Year 6 parents about Fergusson Intermediate's open day and information evening is attached to the newsletter. Please return forms for the Year 6 Hands On visit before the end of the term.

ADVANCE NOTICE FOR YOUR DIARY

We have 3 key events we really need our community support with coming up:

14 September - Community Future Planning event to support the BOT with strategic planning

18-20 September - Arts & Crafts Exhibition - 50th Year Celebration!

31 October - Family Fun Day