

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

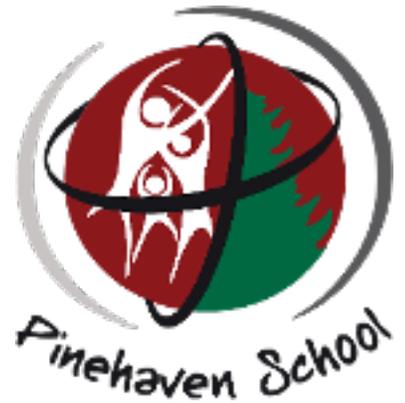
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## PRINCIPAL'S PEN - A NOTE FROM KAYLENE.....

Kia ora!

I hope the transition to alert level 3 has been smooth for your bubble. It has been lovely to welcome a small number of students and staff back this week, and to talk briefly through a car window and from a distance to a small number of parents. I have very much missed the connection with others outside of my home bubble. The staffroom is odd - everyone has their own 'space' and we are keeping strictly to physical distancing, which has resulted in the creation of new signals like clapping loudly when you are moving down the admin hallway to tell others to stay away!!

I am still enjoying reading to the children facebook live every couple of days. I continue to monitor daily press conferences to ensure we are keeping up to date with all level 3 information. Like you all, I am not sure when the transition to Level 2 will happen, or how much notice we will get. At our end, there will need to be some reshuffling of furniture in the classrooms we are currently using as we have taken a lot out (which won't take long), as well as ensuring we have all Ministry of Health guidelines in place to adhere with any physical distancing and hygiene procedures.

I know for those of you who have needed to return to work and send your child to school, it's been a bit of a nervous time for you and your children as school is very different from what they are used to. For those of you who are at home managing your child's distance learning, I know that isn't easy either, particularly if you are also working from home. Our community is amazing - you are all doing such a great job, so THANK YOU! If you need support, don't hesitate to let us know - teachers are able to give you tips, and I'm here if you need. Have a great weekend!

Kaylene

## KEY DATES

### 5 May: PJ /Onsie Day!

Our onsite staff and students are having a PJ/Onsie day just to add a bit of fun to our week. Many of you have probably been having lots of these, but if you want to join us, send us your photos!

### 11 May: Expected government announcement about alert levels

This will provide us with more information about the impact it will have on learning and school

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

# REWARDS SHOP

A number of our families identified our school as a points receiver that are linked to the *Rewards Shop*. We have just redeemed 121,700 points for the following items:

- 3x6m Pop Up Enclosed Gazebo
- 3.3m Pop Up Enclosed Gazebo
- Coleman Chilli Bin
- 2 x first aid kits

These points allow us to get items we need for events and trips, which is incredibly helpful. Many of the items are things we just can't afford to budget for but it's much easier to have our own than borrow them when needed so THANKS!!

Many banks make points or cash donations to schools when you take out a mortgage so if you are in the property market, always be sure to check with them!

**Remember** to hold onto saleable second hand goods for our Family Fun Day White Elephant stall later in the year!

Now is a great time to do a big clean out, but store those items for us if you possibly can!! The white elephant stall at our Family Fun Day is always a great source of profit, so we really appreciate your assistance with this.

## BATTLE OF THE BANDS written by Karla Billington

I remember in my teens going along to Battle of the Bands in the height of the grunge movement. It was an interesting experience. There was always the guitar that was tuned slightly flat, the amp that crackled, the singer droning out Nirvana's "Come as you are," and the drummer who was on his own waka, doing his own thing.

My family can sometimes feel like the Battle of the Bands. We separated off into our own little worlds again as school life kicked in. Juggling tip toeing around google classroom hangouts, printing off 22 pages of fractions and decimals, trying to redirect my son (in the nicest possible way) back from paddling down stream to choosing from the delicious menu of school work offered by our wonderful staff at Pinehaven School.

As a parent and teacher I do see how much work goes into planning the delicious menus for our tamariki. The thought and care put into the planning to try and cater for all different learning needs "From a distance," as Bette Middler sang, is commendable. As parents we so appreciate your hard work and thank you that we can stop singing Robbie Williams "Let me entertain you!"

As we adapt to Level 3 my top sanity tips are:

**1. Reading/Journal Hour:** As I can no longer pick my children up and put them down for an afternoon nap (though some days I'm desperate for one) I've renamed the hour after lunch as the "Reading/Journal Hour." Find a space by yourself, up a tree, by your budgie or turtle and read, journal, day dream and have some time to just be.

**2. Play:** When we get busy, we forget how important play is, how it helps us step outside our own thought bubbles and escape to another world. Play is important for big kids as well as the young. Our teachers have provided some great suggestions in their menus, as well as the old classics like charades, card games and sleeping lions - ask your kids to teach you this, you'll love it!

**3. Pick Your Battles:** For the sake of all your bubble buddies, pick your battles. Is it really important? Do I need to win this battle? Can I deal with this after Reading Hour or even tomorrow?

This is just a season we are in, a very memorable season. May Annie keep inspiring you that "The sun **will** come out tomorrow." One day we **will** be able to sing along again with Celine Dion, "A new day has come!"

Until then, keep up the fantastic work you are doing loving and caring for your bubble buddies. Pick your battles, take time when you need it and don't lose hope.

Ka kite, keep well and stay safe Pinehaven whanau.