

PANORAMA

PROUD OF WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE KNOW, AND WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE

**SUMMER ISSUE
2025**



GRADUATION PARADE

Read about our 2025 Graduation Celebrations on **PAGE 36**



Panorama is the official bi-annual magazine of Pinehurst School.

Although Pinehurst School has taken every care and precaution to ensure accuracy of editorial matter contained in this publication, no responsibility or liability is accepted by Pinehurst for inaccuracies or views expressed.

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| Executive Principal Message..... | 4 |
| Head Prefect Reflections..... | 6 |
| Security Around School..... | 8 |
| Exploring AI in Our Classrooms | 9 |
| Message from Primary | 10 |
| Highlights from Primary..... | 12 |
| Music at Pinehurst Primary | 16 |
| Extension Maths Classes in Primary: | |
| Thinking and Working Mathematically..... | 17 |
| From the Theatre | 18 |
| Message from College | 24 |
| Highlights from College..... | 26 |
| Design Technology Where Ideas Take Shape..... | 30 |
| Staff Profile Yvonne Berger | 31 |
| Year 7-8 Formal | 32 |
| School Ball | 34 |
| Graduation Parade | 36 |
| Graduation Dinner..... | 38 |
| Highlights in Sport | 40 |
| Growing Wellbeing Through Health & PE | 42 |
| College Sport Prizegivings..... | 43 |
| 2025 Charities..... | 44 |
| In Loving Memory of Terry Shepherd | 45 |
| 2025 Christmas Concert Highlights | 46 |
| 2026 Events Calendar | 48 |
| Staff Update..... | 50 |



EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

As we reflect on 2025 and look forward to 2026 and beyond, it is important that we remain grounded in what makes outstanding education, and that is relationships. In this issue of Panorama, you will gain valuable insights about our direction as a school, and how we are preparing our learners for a rapidly evolving world. But, all of this is built on trusting relationships, where our students know they have teachers who care about their development, both in and out of the classroom.

This issue is full of articles that celebrate the creativity, innovation, and ambition that make our school community so special. They are a window into the experience of our students, and we are excited to share them with you.

From concept to creation, the skills developed in Design Technology are as important in life as they are in the classroom. The ability to problem-solve and then take a design thinking approach to improvement is becoming ever more important in an era where quick solutions found in AI can lead to inherent flaws in thinking. We need students to be able to challenge assumptions and think creatively, outside the box.

Health education is an important part of holistic development at Pinehurst, as our young people learn how to lead a balanced life that nurtures their wellbeing.

Our College PE Department continues to review the most effective approaches for supporting healthy lives, and ensuring the messages are bespoke for our community.

Leadership, the willingness to make the right choice when confronted by a difficult situation, is a trait that needs to be nurtured amongst all of our students, knowing that being a true leader is more than just having a title. In Year 8, our students are engaged in a range of activities that encourage leadership development, and these experiences build confidence and character as they grow into the College.

AI continues to offer great opportunities in education, along with a range of challenges that seem to arise as quickly as they can be solved. Mrs Georgia Green has done a great deal of work in developing a school-wide approach to the use of AI tools, and they will have a significant impact on our students as they progress through the school.

The performing arts are an opportunity to let our students' creativity shine. With the Wizard of Oz and Aladdin as our headline shows in College and Primary respectively, the level of performance has risen and even more importantly the number of performers has continued to grow. Our Primary show is the first chance that many students have to perform in that type of setting, and the stories that are shared by them highlight the joy the personal expression can bring.

TEACHING THAT BUILDS CONFIDENCE

The work of our teachers in the classroom is what drives our academic standard in the pursuit of excellence in all that we do. As we continue to discover more about how our brain works, we need to respond to this in our practice, ensuring we are offering the best chance of making the learning stick. The science of learning is the umbrella concept that supports this approach, leading to evidence-based approaches that positively impact outcomes.

You'll read many of the small but significant changes across the school that support the safety and wellbeing of our community. Our ongoing security upgrades, which some families will have seen in action this term, are part of our continued commitment to providing a safe and welcoming environment where learners can thrive. These practical improvements may not always be visible in the classroom, but they are an essential foundation for learning.

Our Primary leaders continue to refine teaching practice. Their focus on the Rosenshine Principles and structured teaching approaches has supported a period of real growth, particularly in the early years. These approaches, grounded in research, give our younger learners a strong start and ensure they build confidence step by step.

You will also see the breadth of student life represented through the many events and initiatives that have taken place over the past two terms. Whether it is the energy of Book Week, the excitement of the College production, the achievements of our athletes and musicians, or the hands-on learning taking place in Design Technology, each moment tells its own story about life at Pinehurst.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the contribution our students make beyond themselves. Across the year, through student-led fundraising and service initiatives, our community has supported a wide range of charities. These acts of generosity, often driven by our councils and student groups, reflect the values we seek to instil empathy, responsibility, and the desire to make a positive difference.

This edition of Panorama shares a story of growth, achievement, and aspiration. Whether you're a parent, a student, or a friend of Pinehurst, we hope this edition leaves you feeling inspired and proud to be part of our community.

MIKE WALLER
EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL





HEAD PREFECT REFLECTIONS



**DANIEL
ALSAMMAK**
HEAD PREFECT

It feels strange to realise that this long chapter of our lives has come to an end. For so long, the idea of “the end” felt distant, something we’d think about one day, but not anytime soon. And yet, suddenly, that ‘one day’ has arrived.

As I sit down to write this, I find that the last few years have been filled with experiences that shaped us: the friends who stood by us, the moments that surprised us, and the lessons that pushed us to grow. Change didn’t happen all at once, and often we didn’t notice it. But looking back, it’s impossible not to see how much we’ve learned, grown and how profoundly these years have influenced who we are.

In truth, these years have stretched us in ways we couldn’t have expected. Our abilities were tested in a way which encouraged growth and perseverance, and we learnt what it means to keep going even when everything feels overwhelming.

We discovered how to show up for each other, even when we were exhausted, and realised that resilience isn’t always loud; sometimes it’s simply quietly deciding to try again tomorrow.

However, it wasn’t all about challenges. Along the way, some moments reminded us that life isn’t just about pushing forward; it’s about treasuring the present. The people who turned our ordinary days into lasting memories, the conversations that somehow made everything feel lighter, and the friendships that appeared unexpectedly but became some of the most important we’ll ever have. These are the moments I’ll carry with me the most. They are what made the late nights, the pressure and the long days worthwhile. So, while it may not be the structure of school that I will miss, it’s the feeling of belonging to a community, a second home and something bigger than ourselves that I will truly cherish and look back on with fondness.

As all good things must come to an end, we now step into the unknown. A future lies before us, filled with new beginnings and discoveries waiting to be made. For many of us, there’s a mix of excitement and uncertainty, wondering what comes next and whether we really are ready. Yet, through everything we have experienced on this journey, I firmly believe we are more prepared than we realise.

The future is now a blank canvas, waiting for each of us to leave our mark. We have the chance to pursue our passions, explore paths we've only dreamed of, and continue growing into the people we hope to become. Even as we leave the comfort of our Pinehurst Community, the friendships, memories, and experiences will continue to guide us and remind us of who we once were and who we can all become.

So let us step forward with courage, curiosity, and hope. Let's all embrace challenges as opportunities, and let's believe in the impact we can make. The path ahead may be unknown, but it's ours to create, and I know it will be extraordinary.

It's strange how a whole year can feel both impossibly long and impossibly fast. Some weeks, especially during exams, felt like they lasted forever. But then somehow, in the blink of an eye, it's the end of the year. Now, as Year 13s we stand on the edge of goodbye, and it hits harder than we expected. Because even though we're stepping into new beginnings, part of us isn't ready to leave behind the place that has quietly shaped almost everything about who we are.

When I first stepped into the role of Head Girl, I thought leadership was about having all the answers. But it didn't take long to realise it was actually about learning, learning to listen, to adapt, to own my mistakes, and to trust the people around me. Pinehurst has a way of shaping you like that. It puts you in situations that challenge you, stretch you, and sometimes overwhelm you... but somehow, you come out stronger, kinder, and a little more certain of who you are.

Now as we stand on the edge of what's to come, I realise just how prepared we are, not because we know exactly what the future holds, but because Pinehurst has taught us how to face it. We didn't just learn subjects; we learned how to begin again after disappointment, how to speak up when it mattered, how to hold ourselves together when things felt overwhelming, and how to trust that growth often looks like struggle before it looks like progress.

And what I've come to realise is that growth here isn't loud or dramatic. Most of it happens quietly, in the small choices we make, the tiny risks we take, the way we slowly become braver, kinder, more certain of who we are. Every year, each of us changes in ways we barely notice: a little more confidence in the classroom, a little more courage to try something new, a little more strength to keep going when things get hard.



For us Year 13s, all those small shifts have built up to the people we are now... but the truth is, the same thing is happening in every part of this school.

Whether you're in Year 7, 12, or anywhere in between, you all have been growing quietly. Through the way you handle challenges now, the confidence you didn't used to have and the friendships that have shaped you. You may not have noticed your growth day by day, but one day you'll look back and see how far you've come.

And that's what makes Pinehurst so special. Every small step, every quiet moment of growth, is seen and valued here. Friendships, support, and shared laughter have built something unshakable, something that feels like home. And none of this happened alone. To the teachers who believed in us, the friends who became family, and the parents whose steady, quiet support carried us further than they know. Thank you. This community and this sense of belonging is a gift I'll carry with me forever.

So, if I could offer anything worth passing on, it would be this:

"Let yourself be surprised by who you can become.

Take the opportunities that feel slightly too big.

And on the days that you feel small, remember that every leader, every senior, every role model once felt exactly the same. None of us were naturally "ready" we just tried, and trying was enough to change us.

Because in the end, who you become won't be defined by the moments you felt certain, but by the courage you found in the moments you didn't."



SISSI YANG
HEAD PREFECT

SECURITY AT PINEHURST SCHOOL

You've probably heard the saying, 'Security never sleeps.' Well, that's certainly true here at Pinehurst.

We're always on the lookout, eyes wide open, for ways to make our school an even safer place to learn, play, and work. From CCTV cameras and access control systems to fire, lockdown, and alarm systems, we're constantly improving how we keep our community protected. Security gives us peace of mind. It's a bit like insurance — something you hope you'll never need, but you're very glad it's there just in case.

What's New in Security?

New Fire and Lockdown Horn Speakers

If you've taken part in one of our recent drills, you've probably heard something new! The loud, clear voice calling out "Fire evacuation" or "Lockdown" is coming from our brand-new horn speakers. These are gradually replacing the old siren tones with clear, recorded voice instructions that everyone can easily understand. In the future, these speakers will also be able to send out weather alerts or other important safety messages. A real step forward in keeping everyone informed and safe.

Ultra-High Definition (UHD) CCTV Cameras

You may have spotted a few new white poles around the netball and tennis courts, those are home to our new ultra-high-definition CCTV cameras. These cameras give us a full 180-degree view of the area, helping us keep a watchful eye on players, spectators, and all the activity around the courts. The clarity is amazing, and they're already proving to be a great addition to our security system.

**KEEPING OUR
COMMUNITY SAFE,
ONE UPGRADE AT A TIME**

Perimeter Gate Access Control

We've also stepped-up security around the Primary School area by adding new access-controlled gate locks. These prevent anyone who isn't meant to be on site from entering during school hours. It's made a big difference already, and we plan to roll out the same technology to all school gates over time.

Junior College Access Control Upgrade

Big improvements are happening in the Junior College too! We've started wiring the building with new security cabling that will support electronic locks and card readers on doors. This major upgrade will be finished over the December holidays, ready for when staff and students return in 2026. The goal: peace of mind and a safer learning environment for everyone in the Junior College.

At Pinehurst, we take security seriously, but it's not just about locks and cameras. It's about making sure every student, teacher, and visitor feels safe and cared for every day. Because when we know we're protected, we can all focus on what really matters – learning, growing, and enjoying life at Pinehurst.



Keep Safe!

BOB DOBSON

SECURITY WIZARD

EXPLORING AI IN OUR CLASSROOMS



Artificial intelligence (AI) has become a buzzword across the world in all fields, and education is no exception.

I still remember the first time I experimented with ChatGPT back in 2022. It wasn't anywhere near as advanced as what we see today; the answers were clunky, sometimes even nonsensical, but I was completely amazed that a lesson plan could be produced in seconds. Since then, both technology and our understanding of it have evolved enormously, and I've come to see that the real magic of AI appears when you know how to prompt it and use it purposefully.

Over the past year, here at Pinehurst we have dived into the excitement and possibilities of AI in the classroom, working as a team to explore how we can develop children's AI literacy. As a Microsoft school, we've been experimenting with Copilot, discovering how students of different ages can interact with it safely and creatively.

Year 6 were the first to experience structured lessons working with AI, when they wrote their persuasive speeches in Term 3. They explored how AI could be used for specific purposes, from planning and editing to receiving feedback. Using Copilot helped students

overcome the "blank page" feeling, gave them ideas to improve their writing, and offered instant feedback when they were ready to move forward.

They also prioritised making sure there were times when AI wasn't used at all. It was wonderful to see the combination of technology sparking ideas, and students using their own critical thinking and writing skills to produce fantastic speeches.

Since then, this approach has spread throughout the school. Year 4 have used AI to help with planning their writing, and Year 2 have learnt how you can't always believe everything you see or read online. Even our youngest learners in Junior and Senior Year 1 have begun exploring how AI can help create simple stories.

The past year has shown us that AI isn't replacing creativity; it's helping our pupils understand it in new ways. With curiosity, structure, and a little digital courage, we're discovering that the future of learning is already here, and it's incredibly exciting.



GEORGIA GREEN
PRIMARY TEACHER



A MESSAGE FROM PRIMARY

We often talk about the trifecta in terms of what we offer at Pinehurst. A rigorous curriculum, wide variety of national and international resources, and expert teachers who bring a wealth of knowledge and skill to deliver outstanding programmes. The skill of the teacher is the most important aspect, and we are constantly seeking to upskill ourselves using evidence-based research on what works in classrooms. Our teaching and learning focus has been on Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction, a framework that supports effective classroom practice. These principles are grounded in the Science of Learning, which explores how students acquire, store, and apply knowledge.

In 2025, we began by prioritising structured reviews starting with daily review and then adding weekly and monthly. Daily review is a short, structured recap of previously learned material at the start of a lesson. It might include quick questions, retrieval quizzes, or asking students to explain yesterday's concept in their own words.

It typically takes 5–10 minutes at the beginning of the lesson. It's not about reteaching the entire topic, just refreshing key ideas so students can build on them. Daily review is powerful because it strengthens retrieval practice, a core principle of the Science of Learning. When students recall information from memory, they reinforce neural pathways, making knowledge more lasting and easier to access later. By revisiting prior learning, students free up working memory for new content instead of struggling to remember old material.

Teachers report that daily review creates a smooth transition into new learning and boosts confidence. Students say it helps them feel prepared and less anxious because they start lessons with success.

Daily review boosts memory because it uses retrieval practice, one of the most effective strategies identified by cognitive science. Not only does daily review strengthen neural pathways, but it also combats forgetting, as we lose information quickly if we don't revisit it. Daily review builds long term retention, moving knowledge from short term memory to long term and reduces cognitive load by freeing up working memory for new content. In short, daily review isn't just a recap, it's a scientifically proven way to make learning stick.

EMBEDDING ROSENSHINE'S PRINCIPLES IN OUR CLASSROOMS: A YEAR OF GROWTH

We like to make learning fun, and we have been using a variety of ways to make daily reviews engaging. You might have heard your child talk about mini whiteboards, and if I had to pick one teaching tool, I wouldn't give up, it would be whiteboards. A child writes their response to a question on the whiteboard and holds it up. Teachers can see every child's response at once, making it easy to spot misconceptions and adjust teaching in real time. Whiteboards require active participation which means that every student writes an answer, not just the confident few. This ensures 100% engagement and prevents passive learning. They create a low-stakes environment where mistakes can be quickly erased, so students feel safe to take risks. This encourages retrieval practice without fear of failure. Mini whiteboards are perfect for quick-fire questions during daily review. They allow fast responses and keep the pace lively.

Using a brain dump is a popular method of review in our classes. A brain dump is where we give students 2 minutes to write down everything they remember about a topic, then share and discuss as a class.

Paper, scissors, rock is a fun take on the well-known game and can be used for daily review too. A set of questions on the previous lesson is prepared by the teacher and games between students begin. The winner, or the loser, has to answer the question.

Agree, disagree, and true or false boards also help to quickly review what has been retained and whether as teachers we are ready to move on to the next lesson. This allows us to facilitate a greater degree of individualised learning and more accurately meets the needs of each learner.

As teachers we are excited to continue this journey of best practice into 2026 and look forward to measuring the impact we are having on our learners.

SIAN COXON

PRINCIPAL OF PRIMARY





PRIMARY MUSIC CONCERT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PRIMARY

Exciting moments shaping our primary this year.

Years 0–2 took the stage for the Primary Music Concert. Tiny hands and big hearts created songs, rhythms, and joyful performances, filling the hall with laughter and applause. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and families loved seeing the children shine in a supportive, magical musical moment.



STEM PERFORM EDUCATION

Years 5–6 were treated to an energetic visit from Perform! Education, who brought science to life through a lively STEM show filled with experiments, humour, and big “wow” moments. Students were drawn into hands-on demonstrations that sparked questions and genuine curiosity, while teachers loved seeing concepts they teach every day unfold on stage. It was an hour of discovery that stayed with the children even after the performance ended.



REFUSE CENTRE VISIT

September saw Year 5 exploring the Refuse Centre, learning about recycling, waste, and sustainability. Students observed machinery, sorted materials, and reflected on ways to care for the environment. Excited questions and thoughtful observations turned the trip into a hands-on lesson in responsibility and community care.



KEEPING OURSELVES SAFE

Primary students took part in the Keeping Ourselves Safe programme in our school theatre, with Constable Murray Fenton leading sessions over several days to reach all year levels. Using stories, role-play, and practical scenarios, he helped students learn how to recognise unsafe situations, trust their instincts, and identify the adults they can turn to for help. The children were engaged and curious, asking thoughtful questions and practising real strategies they can use in everyday life.



LEGO DAY

Lego Day arrived in Term 3, with classrooms buzzing as builders big and small brought their Lego from home and used it across every subject for the day. Maths lessons turned into measuring and pattern challenges, English classes built story worlds, and Science explored structure and design — all through hands-on play. Students worked both individually and in teams, creating imaginative models and problem-solving together. This much-loved tradition, introduced to Pinehurst by a student seven years ago, continues to spark curiosity and collaboration.



KELLY TARLTON'S TRIP

October brought a sense of wonder for our Year 2 students as they explored Kelly Tarlton's. Sharks, rays, and underwater tunnels created excitement, while students learned about marine life and the importance of conservation. A highlight was the Antarctic experience, where an imaginative journey to the South Pole helped them apply their science learning in a real-world context. Through exploring different environments and habitats, the children came away with a deeper understanding of how animals survive in some of the world's most extreme places.



AUSTRALIAN CHOIR VISIT

The Australian Girls Choir visited Pinehurst in Term 4 as part of their New Zealand tour, filling our theatre with harmony, energy, and an impressive display of talent. Our Year 5 and 6 students were captivated as the choir performed, shared their passion for singing, and invited the audience to join in moments of rhythm and response. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience live vocal excellence up close — and maybe spark interest in growing a Pinehurst choir of our own. A special thank you to Eliette's Music Academy for helping bring this memorable performance to our school.



MARIMBA SHOWCASE

In October, our Years 4–5 students took to the theatre stage for their Marimba Showcase. This group had been practising together at lunchtimes to perfect their performance. Led by Mrs Eugenie Middleton, they played with great focus and a lovely sense of teamwork, filling the theatre with rhythm and a lot of smiles. Parents came along to support, and you could feel how proud everyone was. It was one of those simple, happy moments where the joy of making music together really stood out.



PRIMARY ATHLETICS DAY

Athletics Day was brimming with energy, teamwork and fun! Our Year 3–4 students kicked off the morning with great spirit and determination, followed by our Year 1–2 athletes bringing plenty of enthusiasm and fun in the afternoon.



UKULELE FESTIVAL

Our Year 6 students had a fantastic time hosting the North Shore Ukulele Jam right here at Pinehurst. Around 250 students from Kristin, Mairangi Bay, Scott Point, and Riverhead joined us for a morning of music, laughter, and plenty of enthusiastic strumming. Together, the schools jammed through ten songs, filling the theatre with a huge, joyful sound. It was a proud moment for our Music teacher, watching Pinehurst students play with confidence, sing their hearts out, and show such a positive attitude throughout the event. A wonderful celebration of music and community.



YEAR 4 ART GALLERY TRIP

Our Year 4 students spent an inspiring day at the Auckland Art Gallery in November, exploring how artists use printmaking and storytelling to share ideas and experiences. They viewed a range of print-based artworks and learned how these techniques could influence their own creative projects back at school. A favourite moment was the Artland exhibition, where students made their own clay pieces and contributed to a collaborative artwork. It was a joyful, hands-on visit that encouraged students to see art not only as something to admire, but something they can confidently create together.



MOTAT TRIP

Our New Entrants had a fantastic day at MOTAT in October, exploring science and technology through hands-on activities that linked directly to their learning. In the Kia Atamai Get Smart exhibit, they discovered how computing and communication have changed over time, while the Toys Workshop let them compare old and new toys and investigate how simple machines create movement. The trip brought their Computer Science and Global Perspectives units to life, with plenty of excitement and connections made along the way.



AUCKLAND ZOO TRIP

Our NE students enjoyed a wonderful day at Auckland Zoo in October as part of our EOTC programme. Their education session, Zoo Care, introduced them to the Five Domains of Animal Welfare and gave them an inside look at how zookeepers care for animals and design habitats that meet their needs. This hands-on learning connected perfectly to their Term 4 Science unit, Staying Alive, helping students understand what animals need to survive and how people use science to protect living things. It was a day full of curiosity and discovery.



BRICK BAY SCULPTURE TRAIL

After a couple of weather cancellations, our Year 5s finally made it to the Brick Bay Sculpture Trail in November — and it was worth the wait. Set among native bush and wetlands, the two-kilometre trail features more than 50 contemporary sculptures by New Zealand artists.

The trip linked beautifully to our Design Technology and Art learning, giving students the chance to see sculpture and design in a real-world setting. They explored how artists use form, materials, and the environment, and returned to school full of ideas and inspiration.



PREP MARKET DAY

Prep Market Day is always a highlight in Primary, and our students embrace the challenge of creating products from recyclable materials as part of the Primary Young Enterprise programme. Working in teams with roles like CEO, CFO, and resource managers, students planned, designed, and produced items to sell at their stalls. Year 1 students joined the fun as enthusiastic shoppers.

Market Day itself was full of colour and energy, with the gym buzzing as students promoted their creations, counted 'Pinehurst Pines' as the monetary system, and celebrated their teamwork. It's a favourite annual event.

MUSIC AT PINEHURST PRIMARY A YEAR OF GROWTH AND EXCELLENCE

At Pinehurst, our music department is thriving!

Alongside their weekly 45-minute specialist lessons, students have the opportunity to join a variety of ensembles that perform throughout the year. Here's a snapshot of what's been happening:

Marimba Group

Open to Year 4 and 5 students, this group has grown to over 35 enthusiastic members. They've mastered more than 10 pieces in three parts on instruments such as marimbas, xylophones (alto, soprano, bass), and metallophones. Remarkably, these students learn entirely by ear—without sheet music—boosting memory and cognitive skills.

HIGHLIGHT: A stunning performance at the Marimba Showcase concert in the theatre, where their talent was teamwork shone.

LOOKING AHEAD: Next year we have been chosen to be the only Primary ensemble playing at the International Primary Principal's Conference.

Primary Orchestra

Our Primary Orchestra now boasts over 40 members, including Year 4 students and some exceptional Year 3 musicians. This year, they tackled iconic works like *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Nutcracker Suite*, and Vivaldi's *Spring*—a repertoire usually reserved for advanced players. Many members are already Grade 5 and above, with some at Diploma level—an extraordinary achievement for their age!

SPECIAL MENTORSHIP: Members of the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra have workshopped with our students throughout the year.

PERFORMANCES: Assemblies, showcase concerts, and festival appearances.

LOOKING AHEAD: Next year, we'll join forces with the College Orchestra for a combined concert—a unique benefit of our school.



Primary Choirs

We have two choirs: Year 2–3 and Year 4–6. Both rehearse weekly and perform regularly. This year, the senior choir enjoyed mentorship from a professional singer, and many students are taking private lessons. Our goal? To represent Pinehurst at Auckland singing events in the near future.

Woodwind & String Chamber Ensembles

These small ensembles, featuring students from Year 3–6, provide advanced musicians with opportunities to collaborate and perform. Many members also play in the orchestra, showcasing their versatility.

Primary Rock Band

For those who love contemporary music, our rock band offers the chance to sing and play in a dynamic group setting. This year's band delivered outstanding performances at our showcase concert and assemblies.

Music at Pinehurst is more than notes and rhythms—it's about confidence, creativity, and community. We can't wait to see what next year brings!

EXTENSION MATHS CLASSES IN PRIMARY THINKING AND WORKING MATHEMATICALLY



Extension maths classes in Primary are designed to challenge students with advanced mathematical knowledge and strong problem-solving abilities. These learners need more than accelerated content they require opportunities to think deeply, reason logically, and apply mathematics creatively. The Cambridge Primary Curriculum Thinking and Working Mathematically approach provides an excellent framework for this.

- Specialising encourages students to explore specific examples, helping them identify patterns and test ideas.
- Generalising builds on this by extending patterns to broader principles, promoting abstract thinking.
- Conjecturing invites students to make predictions and hypotheses, developing curiosity and critical reasoning.
- Convincing strengthens communication skills as students justify solutions and explain their reasoning to peers.
- Characterising and Classifying deepen understanding by organising concepts and recognising defining properties.
- Critiquing has students comparing and evaluating mathematical ideas.
- Improving is where mathematical ideas are refined to develop a more effective approach or solution.

Thinking and Working Mathematically focuses on eight key strategies: Specialising, Generalising, Conjecturing, Convincing, Characterising, Classifying, Critiquing, and Improving. All students use this framework, but our extension classes rely heavily on the strategies below to move beyond knowledge-based learning and to foster genuine mathematical thinking.

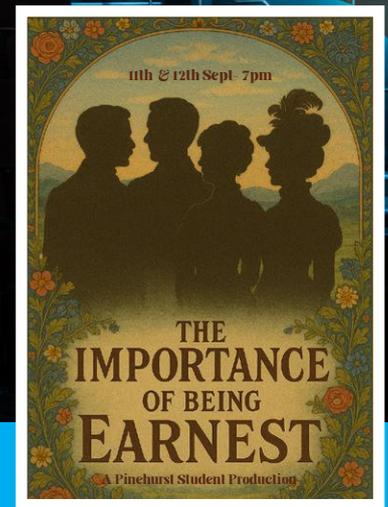
Our extension program has also provided opportunities for students to highlight their skills in competitions. Maths competitions build confidence, resilience, and teamwork. They encourage students to apply strategies in high-pressure, real-world scenarios, sharpening their problem-solving and reasoning skills. Competitions also foster a love of maths, motivate learners to aim higher, and provide recognition for their hard work and talent.

At the North Shore Mathex competition this year, our teams achieved silver and bronze medals with second and third places out of 66 schools, a testament to their collaborative problem-solving under pressure. In the Otago Maths National Competition, an amazing five of our Y6 students and one Y7 reached the grand finals, with Lingchu placing third overall in New Zealand and Kasey earning a Distinction.

Extension maths is not about racing ahead; it is about cultivating learners who can think logically and work mathematically with confidence and creativity. Something which our students do exceptionally well!



FROM THE THEATRE



STUDENT PRODUCTION

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST

The senior student production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* delighted audiences with its quick wit, sharp humour, and polished performances, was directed by Year 13 student Zoe Atkinson. This fast-paced and brilliantly comedic play brought Oscar Wilde's timeless satire to life with flair and energy. The talented cast showcased their dedication and creativity on stage, offering a fresh and engaging interpretation of one of theatre's most beloved comedies.

A standout feature of the production was the impeccable comedic timing displayed throughout. From clever wordplay to unexpected twists, every scene was delivered with precision, charm, and delightful enthusiasm.

The students' strong ensemble work and confident character portrayals kept the audience thoroughly entertained from start to finish.

Performances were held on Thursday 11 and Friday 12 September in the Pinehurst Theatre, running from 7-9pm with a short intermission. Entry was by gold

coin donation, allowing the community to contribute to school initiatives while enjoying an evening of outstanding live theatre.

Across both nights, the audience was treated to a world of laughter, identity mix-ups, and sparkling dialogue. The cast's commitment to bringing Wilde's humour to the stage was evident, and their professionalism shone throughout the entire performance.

Each moment was met with warm applause, reflecting the appreciation and enjoyment felt by everyone in attendance.

A huge congratulations goes to the cast, crew, and all who contributed to this student-led production. Their hard work, collaboration, and passion for the arts resulted in a memorable and thoroughly entertaining show. This year's performance of *The Importance of Being Earnest* stands as a wonderful celebration of the talent within our school community and a highlight of our cultural calendar.



YEAR 0-2 SHOWCASE

ALL ABOARD PINEHURST AIRWAYS

This year's Year 0-2 Showcase Concert whisked audiences away on a musical adventure aboard Pinehurst Airways, with our youngest learners leading the journey. From the warm beaches of Fiji to the snowy wonder of Lapland, each class brought a different destination to life through lively songs, colourful costumes, and joyful performances inspired by cultures around the globe.

Families packed the Theatre for the two afternoon showtimes, and the energy was infectious from the moment the first notes began. Students sang loudly, danced confidently, and beamed with pride—just as their teachers had encouraged them to do in the days leading up to the concert. Their enthusiasm filled the room and made each performance a delight to watch.

Behind the scenes, teachers and staff worked tirelessly to organise rehearsals, guide students, and ensure everything ran smoothly. At the end of the day, the principal summed it up perfectly: the concert was “gorgeous, entertaining, creative, and a lot of fun.” Parents were equally impressed, with many sharing how memorable the experience had been.

A huge thank you goes to everyone involved in bringing this special event to life. Most importantly, our young performers had a wonderful time—and created moments their families will treasure.



Disney Aladdin KIDS







COLLEGE ORCHESTRA SHINES AT THE KBB FESTIVAL

The Pinehurst College Orchestra achieved a remarkable Bronze Award at this year's KBB Music Festival, competing in the highly competitive Symphony Orchestra category alongside 30 other ensembles. Under the skilled direction of Eugenie Middleton, the students demonstrated exceptional poise, technical skill, and expressive musicality, impressing the adjudicators and audience alike.

This achievement marks an exciting step up from last year's Highly Commended and highlights the orchestra's growth, dedication, and teamwork. Their commitment to rehearsals, attention to detail, and love for music were evident in every note played. Congratulations to all the musicians for representing Pinehurst with excellence and showcasing the vibrant spirit of our performing arts program.





YEAR 0-2 SOLO AND ENSEMBLE PRIMARY PERFORMANCE

Our youngest musicians shone on stage at the Year 0-2 Solo and Ensemble Performance Showcase.

The concert opened with three delightful pieces from the Pinehurst Primary Orchestra, conducted by Ms Middleton, followed by seventeen solo performances featuring piano, cello, ukulele, drums, and voice. Two confident Year 6 MCs guided the programme smoothly, introducing each item with warmth and enthusiasm. Congratulations to all our talented performers for their hard work, preparation, and courage — a wonderful celebration of music in the early years.





A MESSAGE FROM COLLEGE

During the last few weeks of the school term, attention turns to the appointment of student leadership positions for the year ahead. Schools could, of course, run without student leaders, but the benefits of providing students with genuine opportunities to lead are invaluable, and Pinehurst School has a strong focus on student growth through opportunities to lead.

Whilst the traditional roles of student council leaders and other prefect roles are important, at Pinehurst we expect all students to take on the civic engagement and citizenship aspect of leadership. Students are expected to actively participate in community life. These activities enable students to develop empathy and good listening skills; attributes which are valuable in any workplace.

Leadership opportunities within schools play an essential role in shaping the character of young people. Beyond the badges and titles, these roles cultivate a sense of personal accountability and purpose. Confidence is not something that can be taught in a traditional classroom setting, it grows when students are placed in situations that challenge them to speak up, make decisions, and represent others. Responsibility, likewise, becomes more meaningful when it is connected to real outcomes, when

a student realises that others rely on them, on their effort, and on their integrity. These qualities form the foundation of character, preparing young people to navigate the complexities of life beyond school. They also reinforce Pinehurst's central values, the importance of respect for others, respect for self and aiming for their own personal excellence.

At Pinehurst, leadership is viewed as a shared endeavour rather than a solitary pursuit. Leadership within a school is rarely individual, it is collaborative by nature. Students are encouraged to work alongside their peers, teachers, and younger learners to achieve common goals. In doing so, they experience the challenges and rewards of teamwork. Collective problem-solving, effective communication, and the need to balance differing opinions all provide intrinsic rewards. Through projects, assemblies, and community events, students learn to delegate tasks, mediate disagreements, and support one another through setbacks. These experiences teach them that effective leadership is not about having all the answers, but about listening, facilitating, and empowering others. Collaboration fosters mutual respect and understanding across diverse backgrounds, helping students to appreciate the unique contributions that each person brings to a team.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Perhaps most importantly, student leadership nurtures a lifelong habit of engagement. Students who are encouraged to lead develop a deeper connection to their school community and a stronger sense of belonging. They begin to see themselves not just as participants, but as contributors, people capable of shaping the world around them. The confidence gained through these experiences often extends well beyond the school gates. Whether students go on to lead in their workplaces, families, or communities, the lessons learned in school leadership stay with them. Students learn how to listen, how to empathise, and how to act with courage and integrity even when it is difficult.

When younger students observe their peers leading assemblies, organising charity events, or supporting younger learners, they see leadership modelled in tangible ways. This culture of peer inspiration reinforces the idea that everyone has the capacity to lead in some form, and that leadership can be demonstrated through kindness, initiative, and responsibility as much as through public recognition.

In essence, student leadership at Pinehurst School is not simply an extracurricular programme, more it is a vital part of our educational philosophy. It reflects our belief that education should prepare students not only for academic success but for life in its fullest sense. Through leadership, students learn to connect knowledge with action, and to align their personal growth with the well-being of their community.

Student leadership is far more than a stepping stone toward future roles or careers. It is a transformative experience that builds resilience, empathy, and a sense of purpose. It helps young people recognise that leadership is about service, collaboration, and the courage to make a difference, all qualities that will continue to guide them well beyond their school years.

DAWN SULLIVAN
PRINCIPAL OF COLLEGE





ARTS WEEK

HIGHLIGHTS FROM COLLEGE

Exciting moments shaping our college this year.

August brought creativity alive with Arts Week. Students showcased paintings, sculptures, performances, and more, celebrating imagination, expression, and artistic talent across the College. Lively displays and interactive sessions inspired curiosity and collaboration.



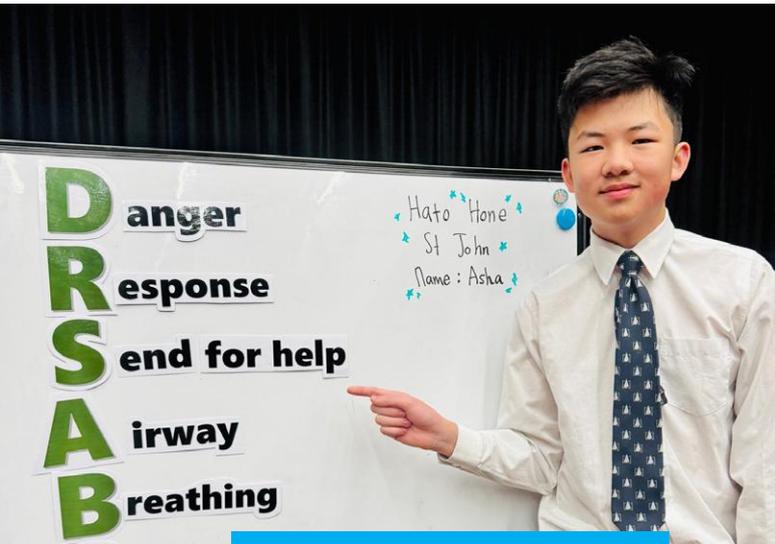
SPANISH LANGUAGE WEEK

Spanish Language Week brought a lively buzz to Pinehurst as students and staff looked for ways to use more Spanish each day. A “Phrase of the Day” set the tone, and daily quiz questions kept PODs, Homerooms, and staff competing for prizes. In the library, Year 10 students selected Spanish books to explore, while Year 7–9 students learned traditional Spanish games, including a hand-clapping rhythm game that quickly became a favourite. It was a fun, community-focused week that encouraged everyone to try new words, join in, and enjoy connecting with the language in different ways.



YEAR 9 MARKET DAY

Year 9 students created sustainable business ventures as part of their Commerce programme, designing products with minimal environmental impact and raising funds for KidsCan. Their “Market for Good” brought together handmade crafts, creative ideas, and plenty of teamwork as they sold their products to students and staff from Years 7–13. One group, La Mer Collection, shared how they developed shell candles and mirrors, from planning and sourcing sustainable materials to spending weekends crafting before the big day. For many, the highlight was seeing their hard work purchased and appreciated — a rewarding finish to a meaningful project.



ST JOHN FIRST AID TRAINING

Year 8 students took part in hands-on St John first aid training, learning the fundamentals of CPR and gaining essential life-saving skills and medical knowledge. We're grateful to St John for running these valuable sessions and equipping our students with the confidence to respond in an emergency.



COFFEE CONNECT

Coffee Connect has been a much-loved way for parents and staff to catch up. Held on the last Friday of each month during term time, the black combi van pulls up outside reception, serving complimentary coffees from 8.15am-9.15am. You'll find members of our leadership team there, ready to say hello. A big thank you to our Coffee Connect helpers — Zachary Boss, Katelyn Campbell, and Anaheta Entezary — who keep everything running smoothly on the morning. We look forward to welcoming everyone back again next year.



CHINESE WEEK DRAGON'S BEARD CANDY STALL

Chinese Language Week brought plenty of energy to Pinehurst as students took part in daily POD and homeroom quizzes, racing to earn the top spot each day. A highlight of the week was a visit from dragon beard candy makers — a traditional Chinese sweet and recognised part of China's Intangible Cultural Heritage. Students lined up at the Amphitheatre to watch the delicate technique in action and enjoyed the chance to purchase and taste the sweets.



HOUSE WAIATA COMPETITION

In September, our Year 9–13 students swapped their usual assembly for the annual Waitāta competition, filling the gym with house colours, music, and plenty of spirit. Led by their House Captains, the four houses took turns performing and had clearly been putting in the practice — some even rehearsing for 15 minutes before POD each week. The final results were: 1st – Kauri, 2nd – Tōtara, 3rd – Mataī, 4th – Rimu. A fun, lively event that brought students together and highlighted the creativity and teamwork within each house.



ARGENTINA EXCHANGE

In Term 3, Pinehurst had the privilege of hosting ten students from our partner school in Córdoba, Argentina, as part of our growing intercultural exchange programme. For two vibrant and memorable weeks, the visiting students were welcomed into homes across our community, where they experienced daily life in Aotearoa New Zealand and formed friendships that will last well beyond their stay.



'HURST-ORY IN THE MAKING' QUIZ NIGHT

This year's Student Council Quiz Night took everyone on a trip 'Through the Decades,' with teams from across the College stepping back through time — from the 2000s all the way to the 1950s. Students tested their knowledge in everything from music and sport to history and pop culture. Our enthusiastic MCs kept the energy high, and spot prizes added excitement. It was a fun, relaxed evening that brought students, parents and staff together for a bit of friendly competition and a lot of nostalgia.



ROAD PATROL RAINBOWS END TRIP

Our Road Patrol team enjoyed a well-earned treat at Rainbow's End. With over 20 rides and attractions, from thrilling coasters and drop towers to fun rides and m adventures, the day was packed with laughter, teamwork and shared excitement. The outing has become a cherished tradition over many years and not only a reward for students and teachers' morning and afternoon dedication, but a celebration of community and fun.



WERO WHITEWATER PARK

Our Year 9 students spent a full day of challenge and adventure at WERO White Water Park, bringing together a term of learning focused on teamwork, communication, and resilience in PE and Health. Students tackled a high-ropes course in the morning, supporting one another through a series of obstacles that required trust and problem-solving. In the afternoon, they moved to the water, working in teams to navigate the rapids — with some even braving the waterfall. It was a memorable experience that pushed comfort zones and strengthened the skills they've been building all term.



LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

Year 7 students took part in a leadership challenge this term, working in groups to solve a range of team-building activities. It was impressive to see the different strategies students used and how confidently many stepped into leadership roles. Our Year 8 leaders, who helped run the day, did an excellent job guiding and supporting the teams. Activities like this, along with camp, team sports, and other collaborative events, play an important part in identifying and nurturing future leaders as students move through the College.



GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO OREWA

Year 10 explored Orewa's landscapes late in term four, connecting classroom geography with hands-on observations. They put their classroom learning into action, exploring the coastal environment, collecting data, and experiencing geography in the real world. Students investigated, discussed, and enjoyed learning outside the school grounds.



BIOLOGY ZOO TRIP

Our Year 10 IGCSE Biology students visited Auckland Zoo in October to deepen their understanding of sustainability, conservation, and human impact — key themes in the Cambridge curriculum. Students took part in two specialist lessons led by zoo educators, linking their Term 3 theory to real-world examples ahead of their examinations. They also had time to explore the zoo and see conservation work in action. It was a valuable trip that helped bring classroom learning to life.



GREAT BARRIER CAMP

In November, our Year 12 students set sail with the NZ Sailing Trust aboard Lion NZ and Steinlager 2 for an unforgettable leadership and collaboration camp at Great Barrier Island. Throughout the trip, our students showed resilience, teamwork, and impressive leadership in testing conditions. They embraced every challenge and made the most of every opportunity. Students embraced nature, challenges, and each other's company, creating lasting memories.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

WHERE IDEAS TAKE SHAPE

At Pinehurst, Design Technology is where curiosity meets creativity, a place where ideas are challenged, refined, and brought to life through hands-on learning. The workshop is alive with movement and conversation as students explore, experiment, and problem-solve, using imagination and logic in equal measure.

This is learning that feels different. Design Technology takes knowledge from Science, Mathematics, Art, and English and turns it into something real. Before they even pick up a tool, students complete a full Health & Safety introduction, pull on their aprons, and prepare to stand, build, and think on their feet.

Through the design model ACCESS FM (Aesthetics, Cost, Customer, Ergonomics, Environment, Safety, Size, Function, Materials, and Manufacturing), students learn to analyse real-world needs and design with purpose. They think about ergonomics - how people interact with products and discover that good design isn't just about how something looks but how well it works and how safely it's made.

In Year 9, students start with small, skill-building projects that spark creative risk-taking. One early challenge is to design and make a paper speaker that amplifies sound. From sketching ideas to testing and improving their designs, students reach those "Eureka!" moments when their prototypes finally work. As their teacher, Yvonne Berger says, "That moment is why I teach. The pride they feel is second to none, especially when they realise, they can take it home and show their parents."

As they move through the years, students take greater ownership of the process, researching, modelling, and developing functional prototypes. They use tools such as CAD software, laser cutters, and 3D printers, yet still find satisfaction in picking up a hand tool for the first time.

Many arrive never having used one before, and that first hands-on experience often builds instant confidence.

The workshop also fosters a strong sense of teamwork. Students naturally help each other out, share ideas, and take pride in keeping the space running smoothly. Perseverance becomes part of the culture. "Students quickly realise I can't be everywhere at once," their teacher explains, "so they learn to follow instructions, work independently, and support one another. Pinehurst students are amazing like that."

"It's not about making things; it's about building thinkers."

Every project, whether a laser-cut acrylic speaker cover, a wooden bridge, or a working prototype, teaches design thinking, empathy, and resilience. Those skills go far beyond the classroom: curiosity, persistence, and creativity shape how students approach challenges in every area of life.

Design Technology also builds strong foundations for the future. The Cambridge syllabus gives students a broad understanding of design and product development, while practical experience helps them create impressive portfolios. Former student

Harry Dando, for example, is now training as an aeroplane engineer with the NZRAF: proof that the skills gained here can lead anywhere.

Ultimately, Design Technology isn't just about building things, it's about building thinkers. It grows confident young people who trust themselves, each other, and the process of learning by doing.

"Design Technology turns theory into something real."



STAFF PROFILE

YVONNE BERGER

If you've ever stepped into the Design Technology workshop, you'll know there's something special about the way Yvonne Berger teaches. Calm, patient, and endlessly encouraging, she has a way of understanding how each student learns best and quietly brings out the best in them.

Yvonne's career started far from the classroom. After completing an apprenticeship as a Pattern and Tool Maker, she went on to study Industrial Design, funding her studies through three part-time jobs and plenty of determination. Her design career took her through Europe, working with a variety of creative and manufacturing companies before she and her husband made the big decision to move to the UK. There, Yvonne completed a master's degree in design management, graduating with distinction for her research into improving brand systems.

It wasn't until she began working in a school that she discovered her true passion – teaching. Since 2010, Yvonne has taught in the UK, Guernsey, and now New Zealand, taking on leadership roles in Design Technology and mentoring students through programmes like the Duke of Edinburgh Award. She's qualified to teach both Graphic Design and Resistant Materials and has a reputation for

“That moment when their idea finally works - that's why I teach.”

going the extra mile, often giving up her lunchtimes to help students perfect their projects or solve a design challenge.

Her lessons are hands-on, practical, and full of those 'lightbulb' moments she loves most. “That's why I teach,” she says. “Seeing a student's idea come to life and watching their pride in it never gets old.”

Outside of school, Yvonne enjoys reading, crafts, textiles, cooking, and travelling. She's also a qualified motorcyclist, has driven forklifts and cherry pickers, and once played roller derby – proof that she's not afraid of a challenge.

Right now, Yvonne is studying for a Graduate Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety Management, supported by Pinehurst. Her drive to keep learning is something she passes on to her students every day, inspiring them to think creatively, work safely, and design with confidence.



SOLJANS ESTATE

YEARS 7-8 SCHOOL FORMAL







LA BELLE NUIT

2025 PINEHURST SCHOOL BALL







A CELEBRATION OF JOURNEY AND BELONGING

GRADUATION PARADE 2025

This year's Graduation Parade was a truly spirit-filled occasion, as the entire Pinehurst community came together to celebrate the incredible achievements of our Year 13 cohort. On the final day of Term 3, the school was alive with cheers, applause, and emotion as we honoured our graduating students on their final walk through the school grounds.

For many of our Year 13s, this was a full-circle moment. Having begun their journey in the Primary School, it was only fitting that their parade began in the College, weaving through the gymnasium and arena before making its way down to the Primary classrooms—where, for many, their Pinehurst story first began. Along the way, younger students lined the pathways, waving handmade signs, offering high-fives, and shouting words of encouragement as the graduates passed by in their caps and gowns.

The parade concluded at the front of the school, where proud parents and families waited with open arms. Smiles, tears, flowers, and balloons filled the air as families embraced their graduates, celebrating this major milestone with love and pride. It was a beautiful reflection of the close-knit spirit that defines Pinehurst—where every achievement is shared and every success celebrated together.

It was a morning filled with pride, laughter, and a few happy tears - a beautiful reminder of what it means to belong to the Pinehurst community.

Following the parade, the celebrations continued with the formal Graduation Ceremony, where each student was presented with their certificate in front of family, friends, and teachers. The ceremony was both a recognition of academic success and a heartfelt farewell to the place that has nurtured them through their formative years.

As our Year 13 students now prepare to embark on new adventures—some continuing their studies here in New Zealand, others heading overseas—they do so carrying the support and best wishes of the entire Pinehurst community.

The Graduation Parade has quickly become one of the most cherished events in the school calendar, a joyful reminder of the shared journey from Primary through to College, and a celebration of the enduring connections that make Pinehurst so special.





MARKOVINA ESTATE 2025 GRADUATION DINNER







NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

HIGHLIGHTS IN SPORT

Exciting moments shaping sport this year.

Our Pinehurst Boys Hockey 1st XI team competed in the Olympic Stick Tournament at the National Secondary School Tournament, facing teams from across the North Island in the same grade - and proudly finished 3rd place! After winning all 4 Pool A matches, they advanced to the semifinals. They bounced back in the 3rd place playoff with an impressive 2-0 victory. Congratulations for an amazing effort!



AIMS BADMINTON

We're so proud of all our athletes who competed with dedication and sportsmanship, representing our school brilliantly on this national stage. The AIMS Games continue to be an amazing opportunity for Year 7 and 8 athletes to challenge themselves, meet competitors from across the country and celebrate sporting excellence.



ATHLETICS SUPER CLUSTER

In November, our top Primary athletes headed to Onewa Domain to compete in the Athletics Super Cluster. Our students showed incredible heart, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the day, achieving some fantastic results across a range of events.



NZ SECONDARY SCHOOLS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to our Pinehurst Premier Golf Team who brought home Gold at the NZ Secondary Schools Golf Competition! Our wildcard entry was accepted, and the team travelled to Shandon, Wellington where they played in beautiful sunny conditions. After medalling for successive years, the elusive Gold was finally secured. We are so proud of this achievement.



2025 NZSS SWIM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Pinehurst made a splash at the 2025 New Zealand Secondary School Swimming Championships, held at Waterworld Te Rapa in Hamilton, finishing 7th overall out of 125 schools—and proudly ranked among the Top 5 Co-Ed Schools nationwide! This incredible achievement reflects the dedication and passion of our swimmers, who train tirelessly with early 5am starts and a commitment to excellence every day. Their hard work paid off with 13 medals and numerous personal bests.



SUPER CLUSTER NETBALL

Our netball players dazzled at the Super Cluster tournament, demonstrating agility, coordination, and team spirit. Our Year 5A and 6A teams were unbeaten in the tournament and placed 1st in their respective ages. Effort, smiles, and camaraderie marked a day of lively competition.



FENCING CHAMPIONS

We're absolutely thrilled to celebrate our Pinehurst Fencing Team (Ivy L, Xinyi W, Yilia W and Julie X), who have won the Women's Épée Team Championship at the New Zealand National Secondary Schools Championships!

Through round after round of intense competition, these remarkable athletes showed heart, determination, and incredible teamwork—and we couldn't be prouder. A huge congratulations to the entire team, and a big thank you to our school community, parents, and coach Richard for their support every step of the way.

GROWING WELLBEING THROUGH HEALTH & PE



Through movement, reflection, and open conversation, students at Pinehurst are learning that wellbeing is about more than movement, it's about balance, connection, and confidence, both in and out of the classroom.

At Pinehurst, Health and Physical Education are about helping students understand themselves, their wellbeing, and how to care for the people around them. From Year 7 onwards, students have two PE lessons and one Health lesson each week. The two areas work closely together, with the Health curriculum supporting what's taught in PE and adapting to suit each year level.

The Health programme grows alongside the students. In Year 7, lessons focus on Hauora and the four dimensions of wellbeing; students also explore communication, safety, and nutrition. By Year 8, conversations deepen to include mental health, body image, and digital decision-making. In Year 9, students explore health issues affecting young people in New Zealand, along with topics such as sexuality and alcohol/drug education.

Each year builds on the last. Students learn how everyday habits—sleep, screen time, and nutrition—can affect their mood and energy. They reflect on their own routines, set small goals, and begin to understand what balance looks like for them. Lessons are practical and discussion-based, giving students tools to manage emotions, support others, and make positive choices.

Some topics spark curiosity. The “Keeping Ourselves Safe” unit in Year 7 is always a favourite, especially when our community constable visits. Students also learn about sensitive issues like body image and peer pressure, but these discussions only begin once strong relationships and trust are established. Classes create contracts around respect and confidentiality to ensure a safe space for sharing and questions.

Health education today looks different from what many parents may remember. It's no longer limited to nutrition or the body; it's about developing the whole person. Students talk about emotions, relationships, online choices, and mental wellbeing, understanding how these connect to their sense of balance and happiness.

In PE, the focus is participation and teamwork rather than performance. All units link to our school values, helping students learn how to show these in every lesson. They also discover how physical activity supports wellbeing by improving mood, focus, and resilience. In Years 7 and 8, the Sport Education model lets students take on roles like coach or captain, building teamwork, empathy, and leadership. By Year 9 and 10, leadership units challenge students to problem-solve, communicate, and collaborate in real-world situations.

Across both Health and PE, the goal is to give students life skills they can carry beyond the classroom. They take responsibility for their wellbeing, ask questions through “ask-it-baskets,” and learn to seek support from trusted adults. Both Health and PE foster teamwork, communication, and leadership, showing students that wellbeing isn't just about individual success—it's about belonging, empathy, and care for others.

As one Year 7 student shared, “I'm not good at sport, but I know now that I can still be good at PE.” That's exactly the mindset we want to nurture—one where every student feels confident, included, and equipped to lead a healthy, balanced life.



ASHLEIGH CHIBNALL
COLLEGE PE TEACHER

COLLEGE SPORT PRIZEGIVING

Year 7–8 Sports Prizegiving

- Mete Cup for Sportsmanship** Mina Tulloch
- Year 7 Sportswoman of the Year** Cynthia Su
- Year 7 Sportsman of the Year** Devin Bu
- Year 8 Sportswoman of the Year** Anna Lu
- Year 8 Sportsman of the Year** Noah Roodt
- Outstanding Achievement in Sport** Edward Niu
- Team of the Year** AIMS Swimming Team

Year 9–13 Sports Awards

- Sportsperson of the Year** Yeenok Zhang
- All-Round Sportswoman** Lily McCabe
- All-Round Sportsman** Zachary Boss
- Team of the Year** Golf NZSS Tournament Team
- Sporting Excellence** Jack Ji
- Service to Sport** Lucas Garcia Curtis





Business Golf
 Birthday Celebrations
 Christmas Parties
 Private Functions
 Wedding Receptions
 Corporate Events

Celebrate with us at North Shore Golf Club

Stunning golf-course views
 Custom catering & bar packages
 Flexible indoor & outdoor spaces
 Event planning support included

Free on-site parking
 AV & microphone options
 Open-air balcony + deck seating



Scan here to book now!

northshoregolfclub.co.nz
09 415 9924
51 Appleby Road, Albany

STUDENTS LEAD GIVING AT PINEHURST

Throughout the year, our students show an incredible willingness to give back. From non-uniform days and bake sales to craft stalls and council-led initiatives, these student-driven efforts make a real difference to organisations doing important work in our community and beyond.

In 2025, Pinehurst students raised funds for a wide range of charities, including the Heart Foundation, Blind Low Vision NZ, Starship, the Breast Cancer Foundation, SPCA, UNICEF, the Mental Health Foundation, World Vision, Auckland City Mission, Kura Kai, Orange Sky, KidsCan, Cancer Society, and Forest & Bird NZ.

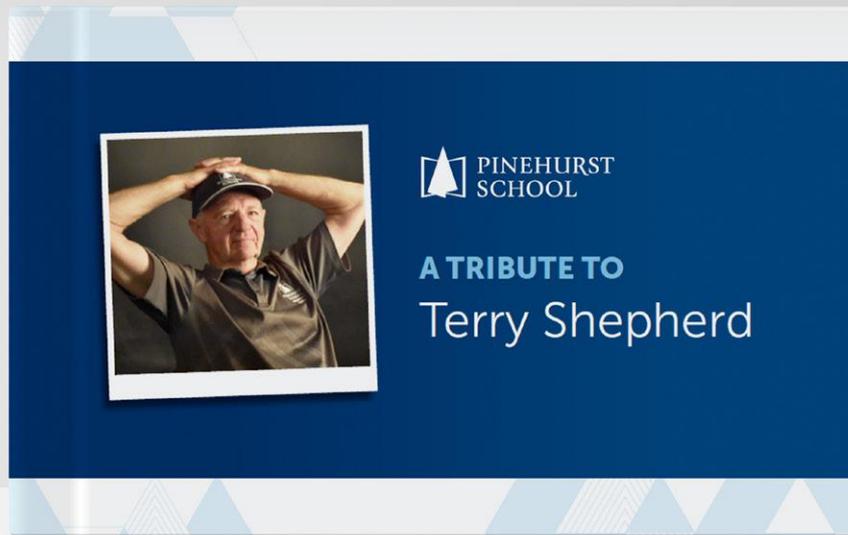
Every dollar reflects a moment of kindness, a student choosing to help, a group organising an activity, a POD class rallying behind a cause. Together, our students raised funds across the year through small, thoughtful actions that added up to something meaningful.

It's a wonderful reminder that leadership at Pinehurst isn't only about roles or badges. Often, it shows up most strongly in the way our young people look outward, notice the needs of others, and choose to make a difference.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Auckland City Mission | \$330 |
| Blind Low Vision | \$1441.20 |
| Breast Cancer Foundation | \$4733 |
| Cancer Society | \$761.44 |
| Forest & Bird NZ | \$233.50 |
| Grandparents Raising Grandchildren | Approx. 40 Hampers |
| Heart Foundation | \$1743.30 |
| KidsCan | \$2716.67 |
| Kura Kai | \$1811 |
| Mental Health Foundation | \$1855 |
| Orange Sky | \$1639.80 |
| SPCA | \$693.80 |
| Starship | \$1952.60 |
| UNICEF | \$1434.40 |
| World Vision | \$2335.70 |



IN LOVING MEMORY



In Loving Memory of Terry Shepherd

Earlier this year, our Pinehurst community came together to honour and remember one of our most treasured staff members, Terry Shepherd. Terry was a much-loved part of our school since 2012 — a constant presence whose warmth, humour, and kindness touched the lives of students, staff, and families every day.

Following his passing, we held a special Memorial Day to celebrate Terry's life and his enormous contribution to Pinehurst. What began as a day of remembrance soon grew into something even more meaningful. The outpouring of love and stories from across the school community inspired the creation of a memorial book — a beautifully bound collection of photos, drawings, and tributes from students, families, and colleagues, capturing the many ways Terry made our school brighter.

This special book was presented to Terry's family, who were deeply touched by the thoughtfulness and care that went into every page. Terry's wife has kindly shared a message of gratitude to everyone who contributed, expressing how much the love and support from our community has meant to her and their family.

Her words are a poignant reminder of how, through kindness and connection, Terry's spirit continues to live on in the heart of Pinehurst.

On behalf of Terry's family, we would like to offer a heartfelt thank you for the love and support we have received from the Pinehurst School Community. From students past and present, their family and caregivers, along with the teaching and support staff, we have been cared for during this sad time. It's fair to say we were all overwhelmed and humbled by the memorial service and donation. Your kindness and generosity has been a ray of sunlight on a very dark time for us.

As a family we have lost a husband, father, grandparent and great grandparent. A man who was much loved and adored. We know he will be missed by his colleagues also, and to some extent, this is comforting for us.

Terry found his time at Pinehurst not just a job, but a vocation. He would share with us his work stories and reflect on his week. He loved his interactions with the students and the connections he developed over the years. His can of Guinness after work with the team on Friday was a highlight.

Terry was a high spirited and effervescent person in all aspects of his life. His cheeky persona and authenticity aligned well with his deeply caring and kind soul. He upheld the spirit and values of Pinehurst School in all he did. The school environment was perfect for him. He was stimulated by, and committed to, his role at Pinehurst School.

We trust our relationship with Pinehurst School will be ongoing, that the chapter remains open and there is no closure. As a family we again say a warm thank you, but not a good bye.

Mary Shepherd





2025 PRIMARY & COLLEGE

CHRISTMAS CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS





PINEHURST SCHOOL

Respect for self Respect for others Excellence



EVENTS CALENDAR

TERM 1

27 JANUARY - 1 APRIL 2026

| | | |
|---------|--|---|
| JANUARY | <p>TUESDAY 27 8.15am - 9.15am Reception</p> | <p>COFFEE CONNECT</p> |
| | <p>THURSDAY 29 9.00am - 11.00am Gymnasium</p> | <p>PŌWHIRI</p> |
| | <p>FRIDAY 30 4.00pm - 7.00pm Front Lawn</p> | <p>WELCOME BACK PICNIC</p> |
| FEB | <p>FRIDAY 27 8.15am - 9.15am Reception</p> | <p>COFFEE CONNECT</p> |
| MARCH | <p>THURSDAY 5 6.00pm - 8.00pm Theatre</p> | <p>NEW PARENTS WINE & CANAPÉ EVENING</p> |
| | <p>FRIDAY 27 8.15am - 9.15am Reception</p> | <p>COFFEE CONNECT</p> |
| | <p>SUNDAY 29 8.00am - 12.00pm Milford Reserve</p> | <p>SHORE TO SHORE</p> |

TERM 2

21 APRIL - 3 JULY 2026

| | | | |
|--------------|--|---|---|
| APRIL | THURSDAY 23 9.00am - 11.00am Arena / Dance Studio |  | PŌWHIRI |
| | FRIDAY 24 8.15am - 9.15am Reception | COFFEE CONNECT |  |
| MAY | WEDNESDAY 6 8.00am - 10.30am Theatre Foyer |  | BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT |
| | FRIDAY 15 6.00pm - 10.00pm Markovina Vineyard Estate | 35TH ANNIVERSARY FORMAL DINNER |  |
| | FRIDAY 29 8.15am - 9.15am Reception | COFFEE CONNECT |  |
| JUNE | FRIDAY 5 12.00pm - 1.00pm Dance Studio | GRANDPARENTS DAY & LUNCH IN PRIMARY |  |
| | FRIDAY 26 8.15am - 9.15am Reception | COFFEE CONNECT |  |
| | SATURDAY 27 7.00pm - Midnight Grand Millennium | SCHOOL BALL (YEARS 11-13) |  |

SPECIAL THANKS

The Marketing & Communications Team would like to extend a special thank-you to Amber Kim and Inyoung Joung (Year 10) for their enthusiastic contribution to capturing school highlights throughout the year. Their superb photography has greatly enriched our communications and has been warmly appreciated across our school community.



AMBER KIM
YEAR 10



INYOUNG JOUNG
YEAR 10

STAFF UPDATE

DEPARTURES

Paige Bayliss

College Mathematics Teacher

Michele Coombridge

Library Manager

Mitchell Fickling

Teacher Aide

Rhianna Jackson

College Science Teacher

Sandy Liu

College Science Teacher

Hillary Mann

Head of Department – Commerce

Abigail Mantaj

College Mathematics Teacher

Cherie Peters

College PE and Health Teacher

April Wang

Laboratory Assistant

Avril Williams

Teacher Aide

Paige Wilson

Syndicate Leader – Primary

ARRIVALS

Elaine Bailey

Examinations Coordinator
& Timetable Administrator

Matthew Campbell

College Science Teacher

Ashleigh Chibnall

College PE and Health Teacher

Michael Cox

Primary Teacher

Sarah Cox

Primary Teacher

Hannah Crisp

Laboratory Assistant

Penny Gerrard

College Science Teacher

Georgia Green

Primary Teacher

Leah Haas

College Social Sciences Teacher

Tony Hill

Head of Department – PE and Health

Tracy Hillier

College English Teacher

Kate Johnson

PA to Primary Senior Leadership Team

Sarah Knox-Coupe

College English Teacher

Nicole Liu

College Mathematics Teacher

Julia Maunder

College English Teacher

Genevieve McClean

College Drama Teacher

Eugenie Middleton

Primary Music Teacher

Clair Phillips

Academic Learning Assistant – Primary

Craig Rhodes

Syndicate Leader – New Entrants

Shayne Rollitt

Facilities Assistant

Claire Tippett

College Science Teacher

Ryan Walker

Primary Teacher

Sara Webb

Digital Communications and Design Lead



Willow & Peony

Floral Design Studio

Founded by Pinehurst mum Ivy, Willow & Peony specialises in modern, romantic, and impactful floral design — from daily bouquets to corporate events and weddings.

Discover more on www.willowandpeony.co.nz

+64 210338545

WeChat: willowandpeony

10% OFF

Exclusively for Pinehurst Community. Use **"PINEHURST 10"** for online orders.



Scent the Season with Serenity

Hand-poured candles and fine incense crafted to fill your home with festive calm and seasonal cheer.

Discover our full range at www.kauribreeze.co.nz

Kauri Breeze



PANORAMA

SUMMER ISSUE 2025



Pinehurst School, 75 Bush Road,
Albany, Auckland 0632

+64 9 414 0960

pinehurst.school.nz

