



**Pillans
Point**
School



NEW STAFF INFORMATION



Ako Hōpara

A photograph of a schoolyard with a large circular climbing structure in the foreground. Two children are climbing on it. The background shows a grassy field, other children, and school buildings under a bright sky. The text "Growing Adventurous Learners for Life" is overlaid in a cursive font.

Growing
Adventurous
Learners for Life

Kia Ora! Welcome!

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa Nga mihi nui ki a koutou katoa Warm greetings to everyone

At Pillans Point School we believe that learning at school should be seen as an 'Adventure' that is ongoing and never ending. Our role as a school is to build on the learning from home to give your children the skills and competencies to go on a great adventure in life.

'Adventurous Learning' is a motto that guides our schools strategic direction as well as our school curriculum. We believe it is a motto that is aspirational, inspirational and achievable.

Our vision statement is simple - Growing Adventurous Learners for Life and we do this through our Pillans Point Learner Competencies.

The 'Pillans Point Learner Competencies' have been designed and shaped to meet the needs of our school and the students from our community. They are the competencies that we want children to learn, know, develop and master as they move through our school from the age of five through to year six. Research highlights a dual focus on academics and developing life skills is critical for children's success. Mastery of such traits predicts children's academic and future success throughout life as well, if not better, than academic success alone.

We believe that when learning and working through our five Pillans Point Competencies we will be applying the 5 Key Competencies outlined in the New Zealand Curriculum document in 'meaningful contexts' NZC p38.

We see the Pillans Point School Learner Competencies as social competencies that will be learned alongside and through the traditional curriculum (Mathematics, Sciences, The Arts, Technology, Social Science, Health & Physical Education and English) both of which have equal importance within our classrooms.

We have a talented team of teaching and support staff who work together to create the best possible teaching and learning opportunities for your children.

Our strong school culture is built around many of the exciting things that happen within our school. The school is made up of four teaching teams based around children's ages, as well as a School House system that encourages children of all ages to mix with each other. (Don't worry, all families are in the same house too, this stops the morning arguments on which house is the best on X Country day!)

As a school we welcome parents to take a full and active part in their child's learning. We encourage you to have open communication with your child's teacher and the school leadership team.

Should at any stage you wish to discuss your child in relation to their schooling please do not hesitate to make contact with us.

Ngā manaakitanga



Matt Simeon
Principal



School Leadership



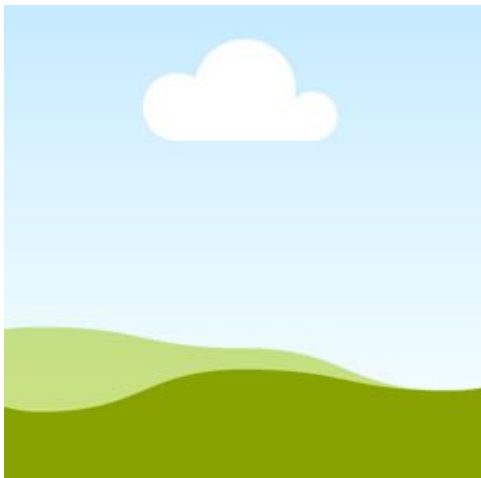
**MATT
SIMEON**

Principal

Matt has been Principal at Pillans Point School since October 2011. He held various middle and senior leadership positions at various schools in Tauranga, Auckland and London before becoming Principal at PPS. Matt is also an Executive Member of the Western Bay of Plenty Principals Association, Chairman of Education Tauranga (International Students Peak Body) and is also a SIEBA (Schools International Education Business Association) board member. Matt is married to Lee and has 3 children Zac, Ella and Olivia.

Deputy Principal -

Pastoral Care and Learning Support



**KEVIN
PIERMARINI**

Deputy Principal -

Curriculum, Assessment & School Organisation

Kevin started working at Pillans Point in 2021. Prior to joining the PPS team, he was Deputy Principal at Te Puke Primary School and has held various teaching and leaderships roles over the past 13 years. Kevin has a passion for e-Learning and has Post Graduate qualifications in Digital and Collaborative Learning. Originally from New York State, Kevin has lived in Aotearoa New Zealand for the past 15 years with his Kiwi wife Deeanna and three children Cam, Shaw and Gemma.



**JOHANNA
BROWN**

Ngātahi Co-ordinator

Home-School Partnerships

Jo has been a Classroom Teacher and Assistant Principal at Pillans Point School since May 2014. She has taught in schools throughout Tauranga, Wellington and overseas prior to coming to PPS. Jo is passionate about building partnerships with children and their whanau to ensure the transition to school is smooth and positive for everyone. Jo is married to Anthony and has two children Kalan and Sophia.

Assistant Principals - Teaching Team Leaders



**KELLY
LONERGAN**



Assistant Principal Kiwi Team

Kelly has been a teacher in the Kiwi Team at Pillans Point School since January 2019 and acting Assistant Principal since the beginning of term three. She has taught in the junior area of schools for many years and has a passion for Play-Based Learning. Kelly is engaged to Colin and she has 2 children Aaliyah and Sam.



**TONI
GOLDING**



Assistant Principal Tui Team

Toni has taught at Pillans Point School for the past 11 years and in that time she has taught a range of year levels from Year 1-6. Tauranga born and bred, Toni has strong ties to the school and thoroughly enjoys teaching at PPS. Toni's husband is also a teacher at Mount Maunganui College and together they have 3 children: Ariana, Georgia, and Joe.



**PAUL
ASKIN**



Assistant Principal Fantail Team

Paul has been a teacher at Pillans Point School since February 2018. He has been the Assistant Principal for the Year 3/4 Fantail team since the beginning of 2019. Prior to teaching at Pillans Point, he taught in Auckland, Japan and most recently, Singapore for 11 years at a large international school. He returned to his hometown in Tauranga in 2017 with his wife Penny, who is a teacher in Moa, and his two children Heidi & Henry.



**TEMIRA
SLATTER**



Assistant Principal Moa Team

Temira has been a teacher at Pillans Point School since February 2018. She has been the Assistant Principal for the Year 5/6 Moa team since the beginning of 2019. Before teaching Temira spent 12 years serving in the Royal New Zealand Navy. Temira has two children Waimana and Manaia.

Our Vision

Growing Adventurous Learners for Life

At Pillans Point School we believe that learning at school should be seen as an 'Adventure' that is ongoing and never-ending.

Our role as a school is to build on the learning from home to give your children the skills and competencies to go on a great adventure in life while developing a love for being a life long learner.



Our Mission

At Pillans Point School relationships are at our core. Teaching and learning is inclusive, interactive, and meets the developmental needs and stages of all children.





Our Values

"When there is a positive teacher-student relationship, students feel safe and there is a strong bond of trust within the classroom. Students are not afraid to take risks and understand that making errors are all part of the learning process. Students are more likely to feel positive about school and have a greater chance of developing a true love for learning."
John Hattie (2009)



Ko Au See Me. Know Me

We see our learners as individuals who bring past experiences, their culture, and diversity into school. We are committed to inclusion for all, so that all children can participate to their full potential.



Whaka-Akoranga Understand Me. Teach Me

We recognise that learning is not linear and that it is different for all learners. Our role as educators is to understand children's developmental needs first before we teach them.



Acknowledgement of our Treaty Partnership

By protecting and honouring cultural worlds, our children and their families are encouraged to participate in an inclusive world view; particularly although but not exclusively to Māori. Increased partnership within our school through a cultural lens, enhances our aim of creating a genuine and living Treaty partnership.



Teaching and Learning

Collaborative Learning

Pillans Point School encourages collaborative learning, meaning that there is a shift from teacher-directed learning environments to learning environments where learners are encouraged to work in groups of two or more to develop new understandings, meanings and creations.

Teaching and Learning through Play

Children are naturally motivated to play. A play-based program builds on this motivation, using play as a context for learning. In this context, children can explore, experiment, discover and solve problems in imaginative and playful ways.

At Pillans Point School we believe that our learners learn best through a combination of play and well developed concrete experiential learning experiences. Play provides authentic opportunities to explore the world, encourages creativity, communication, and innovation. Concrete experiential learning experiences provide tactile, well-sequenced, and integrated curriculum that is highly engaging and develops our Pillans Point School Learner Competencies.

Digital Technology

Pillans Point School committed to using ICT and digital technology as a tool to support learning. We want our learners to know when to use technology, how to use different tools, how to critique the wealth of information out there and most importantly, we want them to learn how to use it responsibly.





Learning Environments

Our classrooms are made up of a mixture of traditional classrooms and modern learning environments.

In our traditional classrooms there is one teacher and in our modern learning environments there is one big classroom with up to four teachers.

Classroom numbers are determined by year levels. Year 1 classes have one teacher with up to 15 learners, Year 2 and 3 classes have one teacher with up to 23 learners and Year 4, 5 and 6 classes have one teacher with up to 29 learners.



ERO Report

ERO (Education Review Office) evaluates and reports on the education and care of children and young people in early childhood services and schools in New Zealand.

To view a copy of our latest report please visit the following website;

<http://www.ero.govt.nz/review-reports/pillans-point-school-25-01-2017/>

Our Teams



Year 1/0
5 years old



Year 1
5-6 years old



Year 2
6-7 years old



Year 3/4
7-9 years old



Year 5/6
9-11 years old

Our teams are named after five New Zealand birds and learners are placed into these teams according to their chronological age.



School Houses

Just like in the Harry Potter movies, Pillans Point Learners are placed in a school house (Matakana, Mayor, Maunganui or Motiti) from the day they start school. All children from the same family attending Pillans Point School will be in the same house. All staff at school also belong to one of the school houses.

Thanks to the support of Classic Builders all learners enrolled at Pillans Point School receive their first house t-shirt for free.



Throughout each term our learners will have many opportunities to participate in house events and earn points for their house. At the end of each term and school year, the school house shield will be presented to the winning house.

Through their involvement in these groups, our learners will have fun and learn about how to further develop the school competencies in a variety of different contexts across the New Zealand curriculum.





Sport

Pillans Point places a strong emphasis on physical education and physical activity. Learners participate in daily fitness activities and have regular opportunities to learn the skills needed for different sports both with their classroom teachers and through programmes such as Go4It. There are many opportunities for learners to engage in both curriculum based and extra-curricular activities.

During term time we usually have one main sports event per term. These include Splash n Dash, Triathlon, Swimming Sports, Cross Country and Athletics. Parents are welcome to attend these events with us. We ask that children wear their house tee shirts on any day they are competing in a school or team sports event.

Inter-school sporting opportunities usually occur from Year 4 up and include swimming, cross-country, athletics, gymnastics, rugby, hockey, netball, cricket and miniball.





Education Outside the Classroom

Education outside the classroom is curriculum-based teaching and learning activities that go beyond the walls of the classroom. It includes any curriculum-based activity that takes place outside the school ranging from a museum or marae visit, to a sports trip, field trip, or outdoor education camp.

Experiences outside the classroom reinforce learning by enabling students to make connections between what they have learnt in the classroom and the world beyond the classroom.

Pillans Point School offers many Education outside the classroom opportunities to learners on a regular basis. Learners have the opportunity to do things such as;

- visit the local Estuary
- walk up or around Mount Maunganui
- visit the Tauranga Art Gallery
- go on an overnight camp in Year 5 & 6
- learn to ride a bike safely
- visit the Farmer in the Paddock
- learn about Surf Safety and spend time at the beach
- visit Classic Flyers Museum and Tauranga Airport



Cultural & Performing Arts

All learners at Pillans Point School are encouraged to be involved in the arts and cultural activities, to develop their creativity and to enhance their learning and social development through participation.

The Performing Arts gives everyone a chance to participate and our school-wide Musical Production take place bi-annually. These productions are an opportunity for everyone's musical, dramatic and visual art talents to be show-cased.

Cultural Opportunities at Pillans Point School include: a Powhiri to welcome each new student and their family an annual whole school hangi, learning Kapahaka and for some, participating in the annual Kapahaka festival, learning bucket drumming, choir, participating in the Tauranga Music Festival, our school musical productions, chess, our annual speech competition, visual arts, and an art exhibition.



**Learning Through our
Passions and Interests**

Adventure Time

Adventure Time is part of our school week, that happens on a Friday for approximately five weeks each term. Adventure Time caters to the abilities and curiosities of our students as well as enriches the curriculum opportunities we can offer our children. The programme allows the school to make full use of the strengths and interests of teachers, other staff, and members of the wider community.

Learning opportunities in other areas such as learning a second language, creating a mural for the school, training for a sports or cultural event, and pursuing personal passions and interests are encouraged during this time.

Adventure Time is naturally apart of our junior classes Teaching and Learning through play.



Academic Opportunities

Alongside our day-to-day classroom learning, Pillans Point School offers many other opportunities to our learners such as:

- Extension Maths Groups
- Young Einsteins competition
- Chess Competitions
- University of New South Wales ICAS Assessments
- E-Pro8 Technology Challenge
- Extension Writing Groups



Leadership Opportunities

Pillans Point School offers many opportunities for all learners to grow as leaders through;

- our buddy class programme
- being a member of our Student Council
- being a House Leader (Year 6)
- being a Road Patroller (Year 5/6)
- being a Librarian
- providing Learning Mentors to support other learners who may need a little extra help in some area of their learning
- Office duty at morning tea and lunch time (Year 5/6)
- Staffroom duty (Year 5/6)

Communication with Families

Communicating Learning

Communicating Learning (traditionally known as reporting) happens informally and formally throughout the school year – it is an ongoing process.

As a parent, you will receive formal school reports twice a year about how well your child is doing at school. You will also have the opportunity to discuss their progress twice a year in 'meet the teacher' sessions. If you have queries regarding your child's learning and progress, your first point of contact should always be your child/ren's teacher.



2021 sees the introduction of 'Hero' at PPS. The Hero app enables communication between parents/caregivers and the school all through one app.

Parents and caregivers can log in to their Hero account and see all our notices, invoices and eventually progress data.

Please download the App 'Hero' by LINC-ED' and use the email address that you provided when you enrolled your child/children at PPS to request a password.



Seesaw is a simple way for teachers and students to record and share what's happening both in their classroom and during English lessons. Seesaw gives students a place to document their learning, be creative and learn how to use technology. Each student gets their own Seesaw journal and will add entries to it, such as photos, videos, drawings, or notes about their learning.

When there are new Seesaw posts, families can be notified via app notification, email or SMS.

Please download the App 'Seesaw' and use the invitation from your child's teacher and also from ESOL to subscribe to your child's Seesaw Journal. Family overseas may also subscribe so they can watch the learning that is happening while your child/ren are at school in NZ.

School Newsletters

School Newsletters are emailed out to families every Friday with information about things that have been happening in the school and informing families about up and coming events.

Facebook

www.facebook.com/PillansPointSchool

Our school uses Facebook for multiple purposes.

- Sharing photos of events children are involved in
- celebrating learning and achievements
- the week ahead – posted on a Sunday
- advertising opportunities for children and families
- reminders about registrations for sports and events

Be sure to keep up to date by liking our school facebook page.

Please note, if you are not a Facebook user, you are still able to follow our facebook updates by typing the above address into any internet browser.



www.pillanspoint.school.nz

Our website is a one stop shop for things about our school.

From links to our public events calendar, forms to complete when your child will be absent from school, registering for sports team and our online shop, our website has it all.

Nearly all of the payments you will need to make for school events and activities can be completed online through our school shop, this is 100% our preferred method of payment.

To make life easy for you as a parent ensure you create an account, click on the Log in button and create an account today.







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Ako Hōpara