St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 13 : Thursday 3 September 2026

SCHOOL UPDATE

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,



Welcome to our new student Sophie Zegerman. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene.

Thank you to our school families for your support with our Teacher Only Day this week. We were able to take some valuable time to unpack the new Science and Social Science curriculum, and we look forward to adapting our planning and programmes to incorporate the new learning opportunities in 2027.

Year 9 Scholarships
A huge congratulations to three of our Year 8 students who have been awarded scholarships for 2027.
Penny Brooks – All-round Academic Scholarship to Rangi Ruru Girls' School
Millie Trewavas – Sports Scholarship and Deputy Head of Year 9 at Cashmere High School
Keisuke Nakatsuka – Leadership Scholarship and Head of Year 9 at Cashmere High School
It is so wonderful to see these amazing young leaders from St Martins being recognised for their strengths and achievements beyond our school. We are incredibly proud of them and wish them all the very best for 2027.

Manu Kōrero
Congratulations to all of our students who stepped up and presented at our Manu Kōrero competition. It was wonderful to see students from a range of year levels confidently speaking te reo Māori in front of an audience and judges.
It takes courage to stand up and share your language in this way, and we are very proud of everyone who participated.

Strum, Strike, Blow
Congratulations to all of the students who were involved in Strum, Strike, Blow on Wednesday evening. It was a fabulous opportunity for our students to perform as part of massed groups and is always such a fun event to participate in.
A big thank you to Bethan Lewis and Jenny Oldridge for the time and effort they have put into organising and supporting our recorder and ukulele players.

Cycle Safe
We are looking forward to our Cycle Safe programme next week for our Year 6 students. This is a really worthwhile programme where students learn about the benefits of cycling, how to ride with confidence and how to be safe and road-wise when riding. We look forward to seeing this confidence develop as they head out on the roads around school

Westland Sports Exchange
We also wish our senior students a safe and enjoyable trip to the Westland Sports Exchange. We know you will represent St Martins with pride, enthusiasm and sportsmanship across the variety of sports on offer.
Have a fantastic time.

Winter Illnesses
Spring is definitely in the air, and we are really looking forward to warmer weather. However, if your family is still battling some winter illnesses, you may sometimes wonder when to keep your child at home and when to send them to school.
The Ministry of Education, together with Health New Zealand, has provided some helpful advice for whānau. Please click on the link if you would like more information about when your child should stay home when they are unwell.

Class Organisation 2027
Next term we will begin completing our 2027 class organisation. Class placements involve a number of discussions to ensure we make the best decisions for each student. We take a range of factors into consideration and meet together on numerous occasions to discuss the make-up of groupings.

At St Martins School | Hato Mātene, we have mixed-ability classes. We use the following definition when considering class placements: groups of children working at similar levels, with consideration given to age, social, behavioural and emotional aspects.

As with previous years, we invite parents and whānau to make us aware of any information that may be relevant to the placement of your child/children. This is an opportunity to provide information that will help us with our process, rather than an invitation to select your child's 2027 teacher.



Please be aware that there is a closing date for this information: Friday 25th September. Please use the survey link to share your information with us.

If you have children to enrol or are transitioning to another school, could you please let the office know.



As always, if you would like to stop by for a chat, either myself, Alice, or Chantal are usually at the waharoa each morning. We love seeing our whānau and are always happy to connect.

We would like to wish all of our St Martins dads and father figures a very happy Father's Day this Sunday. We hope you have a wonderful day being spoiled by your family and enjoying some special time together.



Kia pai te rā – have a great day.
Ngā mihi nui,
Leanne

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Canterbury Cantamath Competition
Recently St Martins School hosted the annual Zone Schools Cantamath Competition. Our Year 8 students placed first while our Year 7 team placed 3rd. They then went on to compete in the Canterbury Wide Cantamath Competition. We are so proud of the students who participated in this competition. Our Year 7 Team members were - Mahe, Peter, Ollie and Halvin and our Year 8 Team was Izzie, Erik, Gus and Loic.



SMS Office Angels
Shout out to our wonderful student volunteers who help out the office staff every week during break times. These 'Office Angels' complete many little jobs for us, sorting lost property, answering phone calls and tending to minor playground injuries. It's a great way for these students to build confidence in leadership and your support is greatly appreciated by the office staff, thank you.

Manu Kōrero

Well done to those who participated in our Manu Kōrero speaking event on Wednesday 2 September. Congratulations to those who placed. It was lovely to see tamariki speak with confidence in front of their peers and representatives from across our kura. We think every single one of our competitors were incredibly brave and wonderful role models. Ka pai ōu mahi!

Junior (Y3/4) Results:

1st = Freya Richardson
2nd = Kailey Roome
3rd = Ruby Milne

Senior (Y5-8) Results:

1st = Billie Heke
2nd = Kees Heke
3rd = Annie Ruawai







Ezra Hammond

National Indoor Bouldering Series 2026

Congratulations to Ezra Hammond from year 6 who recently competed in the National Indoor Bouldering Series 2026 and gained a 4th place in the under 13 category and a 2nd place overall! Amazing achievement Ezra, well done.



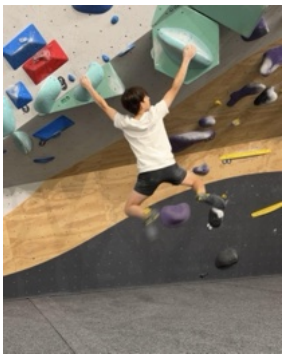
SCHOOL NOTICES

TEACHER ONLY DAYS REMINDER

Just a reminder that we have one Teacher Only Days remaining between now and the end of the year, 📅 Term 4: Thursday 12th November

These days provide valuable opportunities for our staff to engage in professional learning, planning, and curriculum development, ensuring we continue to strengthen learning experiences for our students.

Please mark these dates in your calendars. School will be closed for students on these days. Thank you for your support as we continue to invest in the growth and learning of our staff and tamariki.



Upcoming Events - August/September	
What	**When**
William Pike Adrenaline Forrest trip	Friday 4th September
Canterbury Duathlon year 7-8	Monday 7th September
Navigators Camp parent meeting	Wednesday 9th September (4.30pm)
Westland Sports exchange year 7-8	Thursday 10th - Friday 11th September
Navigators Camp year 5-6	Monday 14 - Wed 16th September
Pō Whakangahau - Kapa Haka	Thursday 17th September 4-6pm
Korfball tournament	Monday 21st September
Koru Games year 7-8	Tuesday 22nd - 24th September
Last day of term 3 (3pm finish)	Friday 25th September
For specific details on these events, see your HERO app feed or the **School Calendar**	

SCHOOL POLICY TERM 2 REVIEW

SchoolDocs – what is it?

NZ schools are governed by a school board and a range of policies and procedures. Our policies are hosted by SchoolDocs Ltd, an online policy and procedure service for New Zealand primary and intermediate schools.
If you would like to know more about how SchoolDocs works and your involvement as a caregiver please visit the Parents and Whānau section of the **SchoolDocs website.**
Login **here** and go to the 'Current review' tab to review the term policies;
Username: stmartins / Password: huntsbury

PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning

'To create a positive climate and culture of belonging and engagement for **all**'



This term our school community is placing a strong focus on the value of **caring,** specifically looking at how we conduct ourselves in and around our school environment. We are encouraging all students to take ownership of their actions by focusing on these key daily habits:

- Walk on paths to care for the plants
- Play in appropriate places designated for active games.
- Use equipment strictly for its intended purpose
- Look after nature by respecting our gardens, trees, and school grounds.

By practicing these small actions every day, our students are learning how to care for our shared environment. Thank you for reinforcing these positive behaviours and discussions at home!

Recently in Room 12, we have been talking about being kind to others and treating people the way we would like to be treated. We have been exploring what kindness looks and sounds like in our everyday interactions with our friends.

We have been learning that being kind can be as simple as using friendly words, including others in our play, sharing, taking turns, helping someone who needs support, listening to others, and showing empathy when someone is feeling sad or upset.

Our Room 12 learners are developing an understanding that everyone deserves to feel safe, valued, included and respected.

ST MARTINS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

PTA UPDATE

Rogaine Families: We are in the process of securing a date for the rogaine next term and are looking for parent volunteers, with some rogaining experience, to help organise the event. Now in its third year, the organising gets easier each year so if you are interested please email: info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz

Sausage Sizzle Helpers Required: We will be running two sausage sizzles next term and we would appreciate your support, William Pike Students welcome, please sign up here:

St Martins School PTA: Market Day Sausage Sizzle

St Martins School PTA: Community Sausage Sizzle



Touch Helpers Required: As always during the touch season, we need your help to run the event, please sign up to help on the BBQ or with the set up / pack down:

Touch: St Martins Touch Rugby 2026

Touch Team Finder: Last chance to register through the team finder process.

If your child is keen to play but NOT in a team already, register them here and we can help organise a team for them to join: Touch Team Finder Form This is a great opportunity for children to join a team sport or try a new sport in a friendly local competition with their friends.

Market Day: Sunday 1st November, last chance to register before this opportunity is offered to the wider community: Market Day

Coming Up: Karma Keg Saturday 17th October, Touch starts Thursday 22nd October, Market Day Sunday 1st November, Community Sausage Sizzle 7th November, Rogaine = November.

Next Meeting: Monday 7th September , 7.30pm, Staff Room. New members are always welcome.

Contact Us: info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz
Facebook: St Martins School PTA
Websites: https://www.stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz/ and www.stmartinsptafundraiser.com

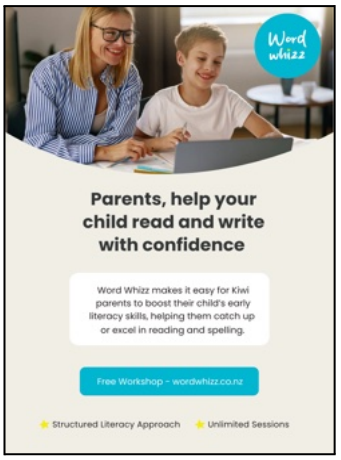


COMMUNITY NOTICES

Hotshots at Beckenham Tennis Club
Starting Saturday September 12th we are running a tennis programme called Hotshots at Beckenham Tennis Club. Jolene Feneon and her fantastic team will be teaching tennis skills with a focus on having fun

Hot Shots starts 12th September 2026. There are 3 sessions for Hotshots held on a Saturday during term time:

- RED BALL: 5 to 7 year-olds, 9.15am to 10am
- ORANGE BALL: 8 to 10 year olds, 10am to 10.45am
- GREEN BALL: 10 years plus. 10.45am to 11.30am



Canterbury Schools Orienteering festival
Happening on 12-13 September. For more information visit the PAPO website https://papo.org.nz/series/view/46/.
Entries close on 7 September.



Storybook Drama - Holiday workshops
Christchurch Art Gallery have joined with Storybox Drama to present two very special school holiday drama workshops:
The Story Feather
Wednesday 30 September | 10.30am–12pm | Ages 5–8 | $15
The Case of the Silent Birds
Thursday 1 October | 10.30am–12pm | Ages 9–12 | $15
For more information and to Book Tickets visit:
Christchurch City Art Gallery



