St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 14 : Thursday 17 September 2026

SCHOOL UPDATE

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,







It's hard to believe this is our last newsletter for Term 3. Where has the term gone? We are now only 100 days until Christmas, although I'm sure it will feel like it's coming around much sooner than that.

The Navigators couldn't have asked for better weather this week for their three-day camp at Living Springs. It sounded like they had a fantastic time, with the water slide, monorail and of course, the nachos were a particular highlight. A huge thank you to the Navigators team for taking our students on such a wonderful experience and creating so many great memories. A special thank you also to our wonderful parent helpers. These camps simply couldn't happen without the time, energy and support of our whānau, and we really appreciate you giving your time to make this experience possible for our tamariki.

We are looking forward to celebrating our students at our Awards Assemblies next Friday. The Years 0–4 assembly will begin at 9.00am, followed by the Years 5–8 assembly at 2.00pm. Our Year 3/4 students will be sharing a Kapa Haka performance, and we will also hear from our Year 7 and 8 storytelling winners. It will be a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our students.

It has also been great to see our Year 6 students out learning their bike skills and road safety. Our Cycle Safety team is a fantastic group who work hard to help keep our tamariki safe on the roads. They were out there rain or shine, supporting, encouraging and guiding our students. We really appreciate the time and care they put into this programme.

It has been wonderful to see and hear students, teachers and whānau celebrating Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori throughout the school. Thank you to Susie for putting on our daily challenges. Our classrooms are starting to come alive with te reo stories, artwork and learning. Pop in and have a look — there is some fantastic mahi happening.

The Westland Sports Exchange was also a great success, with everyone getting into the spirit of the games, having fun and representing St Martins so well. I hear the bouncy pillow at the campground was also a huge hit. It is always so lovely to hear that our students are a pleasure to take away on trips. Thank you to all the adults who supported this trip and helped make it such a success.

Finally, our Kapa Haka group is performing at Pō Whakangahau at Cashmere High School today from 4.00pm in the PAC. It is a gold coin donation, so if you are free, head along and support our tamariki. It is sure to be a fantastic afternoon.

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, 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.

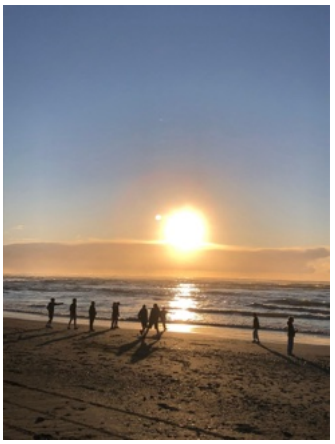


Kia pai te rā – have a great day.
Ngā mihi nui,
Leanne
leannep@stmartins.school.nz

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT / ACTIVITIES

Navigators School Camp

What an incredible few days we had at Living Springs! The Navigators had an absolute blast enjoying plenty of delicious food (with nachos, chicken curry and chocolate mousse ice cream being some definite highlights!), as well as making the most of all the activities on offer. From finding crabs on the beach and zooming down the monorail and zip line, to rope swings, archery, rifle shooting and conquering the low ropes course, there was never a dull moment! A huge thank you to all of our wonderful parent helpers who joined us at camp. Your time, energy and support helped make the experience so special for our tamariki. We have come home tired, happy and with plenty of great memories!



High Fliers Storytelling Competition

We were treated to a fantastic display of creative storytelling talent at our High Fliers Storytelling Competition! Each class selected two representatives to take part, and we were entertained by a wonderful range of stories, including a missing bellybutton, twisted fairy tales, The Tortoise and the Hare, a modern twist on The Three Little Pigs and the tales of a Kiwi Christmas.



Our Year 7 representatives were Matthias, Jonti, Reese and Kobe, while our Year 8 representatives were Ramona, Kitty, Isla DR and Zach. It was fantastic to see everyone step up and share their stories with such confidence.

A big thank you to our judges, Ms Parnham and Ms Denley, for the difficult job of choosing our winners. Congratulations to Matthias, our Year 7 winner, and Ramona, our Year 8 winner!

Well done to all of our storytellers—you should be incredibly proud of your efforts!

Westland Sports Exchange

On 10–11 September, 33 of our High Fliers students travelled to Hokitika with Mr Pateman, Mrs Pateman and Miss Thomsen for our annual Westland Sports Exchange with Westland High School.



The students enjoyed two days of competition across a wide range of sports. Thursday saw our teams take on netball and football, while Friday included volleyball, basketball, touch, Rippa and dodgeball. On several occasions, Westland High School students joined in with their teams, adding to the competitive spirit of the exchange. Our students played hard, played fair, and represented our school with great enthusiasm. The exchange was also excellent preparation for our Koru Games tournament next week, where we look forward to seeing the Westland teams again.



It wasn't all sports, though! On our first evening, we enjoyed fish and chips by the beach, followed by a walk and a visit to the glow worm dell. For many of our students, it was their first time seeing glow worms. We also enjoyed Subway platters for lunch on Friday—always a welcome sight after a busy morning of sport!



A huge thank you to our parent helpers Jocelyn, Matt and Nick, and to our sideline supporters Belinda, Bronny and Abbie. Your support made a real difference! And, of course, a special thank you to Mr Pateman for organising this event each year for us.



SCHOOL NOTICES

Garden-to-Table Ministry visit

We have had such a wonderful term 3 so far at GTT. Phillipa, our garden specialist has been growing and harvesting some wonderful winter vegetables with our year 3's and 4's. Stacey, our kitchen specialist, has been very creative in the kitchen teaching the students how to make delicious recipes such as sunset rice, pumpkin and orange bliss balls, herbed scones and crackers. In the near future we hope to be able to add Garden to Table recipes to our school website for everyone to enjoy, look out for notification of this coming soon.



In week 9, Wednesday September 10th we welcomed Ani Brunet the CEO of Garden to Table Charitable Trust and local Minister Laura McClure to showcase our GTT programme. They were very impressed with our programme saying, "The quality and variety of what you offer your students is so high. Stacey, I could see their keen engagement in learning. Philippa, it did not matter that the weather got in the way, as what you shared as well as those examples of the science and maths learning in the garden, it was easy to imagine it all. That's just the academic learning we hope tamariki would be able to get from using the natural world – and your garden is heaven. Most of all, the culture of caring, teamwork, ingenuity and love of kai was tangible

Our GTT programme would not be possible for us to run without the support of our wonderful school community. We really appreciate and value all of the parent and family volunteers. We are always looking for more caregiver support with our sessions, if you are interested in attending please contact our Garden-to-Table coordinator Stacey via email staceyw@stmartins.school.nz.

Meet Our Learning Support Coordinator – Tanya

Kia ora whānau,

My name is Tanya and I am the Learning Support Coordinator (LSC) at St Martins Kura.

My role is to work alongside ākonga, whānau and kaiako to help identify what might be getting in the way of a child's learning, wellbeing or participation at school, and to find ways to support them.

Every child learns differently, and learning support can look different for each ākonga. I may work with kaiako to understand a child's strengths and needs, observe them in the classroom, help find strategies that work for them, or coordinate additional support when needed. I am passionate about helping every ākonga feel included, valued and able to succeed.
If you have concerns about your child, please have a kōrero with their kaiako in the first instance. Together, we can work out what support might be helpful. I look forward to getting to know more of our ākonga and whānau and being part of the St Martins Kura community.

Ngā mihi nui,
Tanya
tanyak@stmartins.school.nz





LSC Kōrero: Every Child Learns Differently

Every ākonga learns in their own way.

Some children need to move while they learn, some need extra time to process information, and others may need instructions broken into smaller steps.

As adults, we can help by noticing what helps each child to feel confident, participate and learn.

A simple question to ask your child is:
"What helps you learn best?" Sometimes their answers can tell us a lot!

Upcoming Events - August/September	
What	**When**
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 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**'

As we head into the final weeks of the term, our community focus is on the value of **CARING**, with a specific spotlight on helping others. Caring is an action, and until the end of the term, we are actively practicing skills to support one another and strengthen our community.



Here are the key skills we are practicing daily:

- **Showing Empathy & Inclusion:** Putting ourselves in others' shoes, checking in on friends, and celebrating everyone's unique differences.
- **Taking Initiative:** Stepping up to help before being asked and actively looking for ways to support those around us.
- **Positive Energy**: Giving positive feedback, celebrating what's going well, and lifting each other up.

We encourage families to keep the conversation going at home by asking your children how they helped someone today. Let's finish the term strong, rooted in kindness and mutual support!

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: We are very pleased to be able to bring you the popular rogaine event again this year thanks to the amazing support of our rogaining school families, the Mt Vernon Trust, NZ Rogaine Association and Peninsula and Plains Orienteers (PAPO). This event wouldn't be possible without all this support. We also appreciate the support of Further Faster who are generously providing prizes again this year. **Save The Date:** Friday 27th November. Registration will be available soon through Humanitix.

Colour Run Postponed: With the success of our events so far this year and the events still to come, we have decided to postpone the Colour Run until Term 1, 2027 - something to look forward to when we return to school in some warmer weather.

PTA Finances: We are incredibly grateful for the support we receive from our school community. Our current bank balance is $41,000 following recent events with a uniform sale profit of $1,500, disco profit of $4,100 and an epic Quiz Night profit of $13,500. With the exception of a few admin expenses, this money goes directly to school to fund items on the Teacher Wish List, Structured Literacy, Garden To Table, Year 8 Yearbooks and other items and projects as requested.

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: We invite team managers of established teams to register their team on Sporty using the following link: [St Martins Junior Touch Team Registration]







The coaching session will be held on Wednesday 23rd September at 6.15.

Register here: **Touch New Zealand-Touch New Zealand**

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**

Market Day: Sunday 1st November, we will be looking for your support of baking closer to the time. If you are having a clear out of books, magazines, games and puzzles we would love to take these off your hands to sell, please email us. If you are able to grow any seedlings for us, please get in contact: info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz

Coming Up: Karma Keg Saturday 17th October, Touch starts Thursday 22nd October, Market Day Sunday 1st November, Community Sausage Sizzle 7th November, Rogaine Friday 27th November.

Next Meeting: Monday 19th October, 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







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

Busy Bees Swimming Lessons
Help your little one build important water-safety and basic swimming skills in a warm, welcoming environment. For children from 6 months.
Only one class runs at a time. Lessons are limited to five children in the water, accompanied by a parent or caregiver. The fully enclosed, air-conditioned pool is heated to 32.3°C, keeping you and your child comfortable before, during, and after the lesson. Each 30-minute group lesson combines plenty of learning with fun. Our trained, dedicated teachers tailor their approach to the individual needs of every child in the class.
Enrol for Term 4 - Get in touch today to enquire about Term 4 lessons.
Phone: 021-547-632
Email: bees.swim@xtra.co.nz
We look forward to hearing from you