St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 16 : Friday 30 October 2026

SCHOOL UPDATE

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

We're excited to welcome two new student teachers to our St Martins | Hato Mātene whānau!

Mira and Jana are German students currently studying primary teaching in Denmark. In primary schools in Denmark, teachers focus on teaching particular curriculum areas - Jana's focus areas are English and Science, while Mira's are English and PE. Both Mira and Jana are in their second year of teaching study and will be placed in Rooms 16 and 21 with us for six weeks. We are very excited to have them here and know they'll make a wonderful contribution to our kura.

We hope everyone enjoyed the summery long weekend, soaking up the sunshine and making the most of the extra day off with family and friends.

Last Friday we had our Athletics Day. A big thank you to Jarad for organising such a well-run event, and to all our kaiako for managing a great day for the tamariki. Well done to the Bowenvale ākonga who took out the Relay. We also had a parent team join in, and we love seeing our whānau get involved in these events.



Our Discoverers enjoyed opening their classrooms to whānau last Wednesday to share their Simple Machines learning. It has been a wonderfully productive start to the term right across the kura:

- **Years 0–2:** Enjoyed engaging visits from the Canterbury Museum.
- **Years 3–4:** Have been proudly sharing their learning about their Simple Machine projects.
- **Years 5–6:** Have been sharing their speeches with their pods.
- **Years 7–8:** Have been busy preparing for their upcoming debates.

Touch rugby has got off to a great start. Thank you to the Touch Committee and teacher Lauren Robb for supporting this, and we hugely appreciate our volunteers who are helping out each Thursday..

Book Week has also got off to a fantastic start across our kura. From daily literacy questions on HERO, librarian-led activities, and class door display competitions, to buddy reading and our "Guess the Masked Reader" challenge, there is so much for our ākonga to enjoy. We are especially looking forward to our whole-school dress-up parade on Friday.

We have Market Day this Sunday at 11:00 AM in the school hall. Pop along and support our PTA fundraiser to purchase a range of new and used items.

Just a reminder to pop a note in your calendar that we have a Teacher Only day on **Thursday 12th November**, so school will be closed on this day.

As always, if you would like to catch up with Alice, Leanne, or myself, we can often be found at the waharoa before school for an informal chat.

Kia pai te rā - have a great day.

Ngā mihi nui,
Alice Denley | Acting Principal

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT / ACTIVITIES

Congratulations to Peter Hickman who recently travelled to Hamilton to represent the Canterbury U12s Waterpolo Team at the 12U Future Stars Tournament. He is part of a 9-player team with tamariki from all around Canterbury and they have been training all year for this event. What an awesome opportunity and achievement! Ka rawe, Peter!



SCHOOL NOTICES

Key Dates 2027

To help with your planning, here are some key dates for the start of the 2027 school year:

- Whānau Connect: Monday 1 February / Tuesday 2 February
- Term 1: Wednesday 3 February – Friday 9 April
- Term 2: Tuesday 27 April – Friday 2 July
- Term 3: Monday 19 July – Friday 24 September
- Term 4: Monday 11 October – Thursday 17th December

🌱 LSC Kōrero: Let Them Have a Go

One of the best ways we can support children is by giving them opportunities to do things for themselves.

When your child is stuck, try asking:

"What have you tried?"
"What could you try next?"
"Do you want a little help or would you like another minute to have a go?"

It's okay if they don't get it right straight away. Making mistakes, trying again and solving problems are all important parts of learning.

Small steps towards independence build confidence. 💛

Upcoming Events - October/November	
What	**When**
PTA Market Day	11-2pm Sunday 1 November
Walk or Wheel Week	Monday 2nd - Friday 6th November
Year 5-8 Zone Athletics	Monday 2nd November
Year 5-8 Summer tournament	Wednesday 4th November
Teacher only Day - school closed	Thursday 12th November
Canterbury Anniversary Day - school closed	Friday 13th November
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

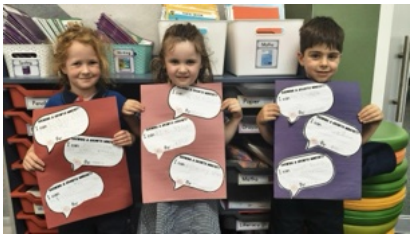
PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning



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

This term, our focus is centred on our value of **Personal Best**.
We are encouraging every student to focus on their own learning journey, celebrate their individual progress, and strive to be the best version of themselves.
An essential ingredient to achieving your **Personal Best** is unlocking a growth mindset.
A growth mindset is the belief that our skills, intelligence, and talents can be developed through dedication, hard work, and persistence.





To help our students understand what this looks like in action, we are exploring the key traits of a growth mindset in our classrooms and playgrounds this term:

- **Open-mindedness:** Being willing to listen to feedback, try new learning methods, and look at things from fresh perspectives.
- **Resilience:** Understanding that setbacks and mistakes are not failures—they are simply proof that we are trying and learning how to bounce back.
- **Flexibility:** Being adaptable when plans change or when a task becomes trickier than we originally expected.
- **Risk-taking:** Stepping out of our comfort zones to try something new, even if we are afraid we won't get it perfect on the first go.
- **Positivity:** Choosing a hopeful attitude and reframing challenges as exciting opportunities to grow.
- **Practising Gratitude:** Taking time to appreciate the support of our peers, teachers, and whānau, which keeps us grounded and motivated.
- **Setting Achievable Goals:** Breaking big dreams down into smaller, actionable steps so we can measure our personal progress along the way.



The Explorers have been learning about Growth Mindset and discussing what we can do when things feel hard or tricky. We have discovered that our brains are like a muscle - the more we practise, the more we learn and grow.
We have also talked about how it is okay to feel disappointed when things don't go as planned. Making mistakes is an important part of learning, as they help us discover new ways to do things. We are learning that one of our greatest superpowers is trying again and never giving up.



ST MARTINS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

PTA UPDATE

This Weekend: Market Day! Along with all our creative stall holders, we have a huge range of puzzles, lego, games, books, toys, plants and clothing along with some great white elephant items like kids sleeping bags, tents, art work, platters and glassware, kitchen appliances and much much more. Clare will be there with her delicious Harlow Gold Gelato as well as Spring Potato and coffee. Come along this Sunday, 11am - 2pm, in the school hall.



Rogaine: Friday 27th November. We look forward to bringing you this very popular and fun event again this year and with more daylight hours available, we have extended the event up to 1.5 hours out on the course. Registration will open next week. $5 per person. Gather your team! We are grateful for the support of PAPO, NZ Rogaine Association, Further Faster and our school rogaining families.

Touch: 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

Sausage Sizzle Helpers Required: We will be hosting a community sausage on Election Day, helpers would be appreciated:

St Martins School PTA: Community Sausage Sizzle

Next Meeting: Monday 30th November, 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

Te Aratai College: Year 7 & 9 Enrolment Scholarships
Is your child joining us for Year 7 or Year 9 next year? We are excited to offer Enrolment Scholarships for incoming students across our Aupaki and Tamai partner kura!

Scholarships are available in five categories: Sport | Arts | Cultural | Service | Academic

The Reward: One full school uniform (jersey, shirt, and bottoms) to get your child ready for high school on day one.

How to Apply: Together with your child, write 1–2 short paragraphs explaining: What they have contributed to their current kura in their chosen category.

Why they deserve this scholarship: Please email your application to Assistant Principal Lukas Davidson: lda@tearatai.school.nz by Friday 6th November 2026. We look forward to reading your stories!

Yet to enroll? Online Enrolment: Submit directly via our Online Enrolment Portal or through the Enrolments tab on our website. For a paper copy or further enrolment inquiries, please call 03 982 0100 or email sy@tearatai.school.nz



