St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 17 : Thursday 12 November 2026

SCHOOL UPDATE

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,



Welcome to our new ākonga Sebastian Ridley Green, Bowen Kleynbos Spicer, James Fagan, and August Watson. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to St Martins | Hato Mātene.

It has been another busy and productive couple of weeks right across our kura:

- **Years 0–2:** Have continued their engaging visits from the Canterbury Museum, and our Explorers are now getting stuck into their athletics practice.
- **Years 3–4:** The Discoverers have loved participating in their NZ Ballet workshops this week and will be starting their athletics practice next week.
- **Years 5–8:** Our senior ākonga have had a fantastic time competing in the Summer Tournament and Zone Athletics Competition. Those who didn't attend the Summer Tournament took part in a brilliant Bush Survival day with ARA.
- Our **Kaitiaki group** had a wonderful trip out to Victoria Park last Friday.
- We also recently held our **Book Week**, which was a huge success and lots of fun for all of our tamariki!



A huge thank you to everyone who supported our PTA Market Day. It was a great success, and we once again extend our thanks to our amazing PTA for their ongoing support and mahi in organising these wonderful fundraising events for our school community.



ROAD SAFETY REMINDER - Please ensure you follow parking rules around the school. We are noticing parents using the 3-minute drop-off zone for longer periods, parking on yellow lines, and making U-turns near the Albert Terrace road patrol. Keeping our ākonga safe is our priority, and we appreciate your support.

Today we are holding a Teacher Only Day, with school closed for student instruction. Our kaiako are spending the day continuing their journey of unpacking the new Social Sciences and Sciences curriculum and looking at what this looks like for our ākonga over the next two years.



We hope everyone enjoys the upcoming long weekend. Whether you are heading away, checking out the Show, or relaxing locally, we hope you all have a lovely time with your tamariki and whānau.

As always, if you would like to catch up with Leanne, Chantal, 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



Christchurch Music Festival

Congratulations to Peter Hickman and Henry Lewis-Maddick, who successfully auditioned for the Christchurch Music Festival which was held at the Town Hall over four nights last week. Peter gained a place as a trombonist in the concert band, while Henry performed with the junior representative choir. The quality of the performances was incredibly high - the months of rehearsals really paid off! Ka rawe!



Student Minecraft Competition

A massive congratulations to Jonti Sheehy, Mary Fraser Milne, and Sophia Axelrad, who won the Intermediate Category of the 2026 Student Minecraft Competition! You can check out the full results online. Ka rawe—we are so proud of your creative problem-solving and teamwork!

SCHOOL NOTICES

Canterbury District Health Board
Te Poari Hauora ō Waitaha
COMMUNITY dental service

Free Dental Care for Children -
including special information regarding Year 8 students

One of our Community Dental Service vans will be making a visit to your school soon.

- **Only the children who currently require a check-up will be seen at this visit.** Please do not be concerned if your child is not called for a check-up this time.
- The dental therapist will provide a regular check-up and preventative care which may include:
  - Cleaning/Scaling (to remove plaque from teeth)
  - Dental x-rays (to check for decay in teeth, or presence and position of teeth)
  - Fluoride Varnish (painted on teeth to help prevent decay)
  - Fissure Sealants (coating put on teeth to prevent decay) if required.
- If your child requires any other dental care, they will bring home a 'Care Plan' which will explain what dental care and appointment times are required.
- When you receive the 'Care Plan' please contact our **Call Centre as soon as possible** as you will need to arrange a time to bring your child to one of our Community Clinics for this dental care.
- Please contact our Call Centre if you want further information on the Community Dental Service, to enrol your child or if you have any specific questions about your child's dental care (a dental therapist will call you back)
- **Year 8 students:** all year 8 students enrolled with the Community Dental Service are transferred from the Community Dental Service to a FREE private dentist from year 9 until their 18th birthday. To help with this transition please ensure you have informed your child of their family dentist (not orthodontist). This will enable us to transfer your child onto the correct dentist for year 9 onwards. More information will be sent home after their year 8 check-up.

To contact our Call Centre: phone 0800 846 983 / email commdental@cdhb.health.nz









📚 LSC Kōrero: Keep Reading Together



Reading at home doesn't have to mean sitting down with a book every night.

You can read **recipes, signs, instructions, comics, sports results, subtitles or even the back of a cereal box!**

Talk about what you are reading together. Ask questions such as:

"What do you think will happen?"
"What does that word mean?"
"What was the most interesting part?"

Reading, talking and sharing ideas together helps build vocabulary, understanding and confidence.

Keep it enjoyable — every little bit counts. 📖

Upcoming Events - October/November	
What	**When**
Yr 7-8 William Pike Event Groynes Kayaking	Friday 20th November
Senior Korfball tournament	Monday 23 November
Canterbury Athletics	Wednesday 25th November
PTA Rogaine event 3pm-8pm	Friday 27 November
For specific details on these events, see your HERO app feed or the **School Calendar**	

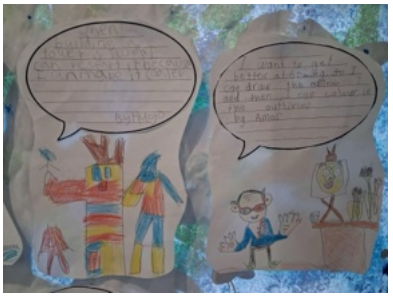
SCHOOL POLICY TERM REVIEW





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.

In the Explorers, we have been learning about having a growth mindset. We are encouraging tamariki to give things a go, keep trying when learning feels tricky and understand that making mistakes is all part of learning. We have been celebrating the effort, persistence and courage it takes to try something new. We are learning that our brains grow when we challenge ourselves, practise and never give up!



ST MARTINS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

PTA UPDATE

Rogaine: Locked in for 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. $5 per person. Gather your team! We are grateful for the support of PAPO, NZ Rogaine Association, Further Faster and our school rogaining families.



Register: Rogaine Registration Form **Helpers:** St Martins School PTA: Rogaine! 2026

Electric Avenue 2027 Volunteering: We have been given the opportunity by Event Goals to volunteer at Electric Avenue as a fundraiser. If you are keen to be involved, please register here: **Electric Avenue Volunteers**

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, next game 19th November: **Touch: St Martins Touch Rugby 2026**



Thank You: Our thanks to everyone who helped out at the recent Market Day and Community Sausage Sizzle, we appreciate your support.

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







