St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 14 : Thursday 11 September 2025











Staff Only Day Friday 12 September - SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STUDENTS

PRINCIPAL UPDATE

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,
We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dan Levett, Tracy Taylor and Aaron Prince for their time on the Board of Trustees. Dan has led the Board as the Presiding Member, Tracy has been involved in finance and Aaron has been involved in property. Thank you for the time you have put into our school, the positive support you have offered us all to continue to develop the school and programmes.

This week we welcome Reid, Aubrey, Miller, Rees and Sylvie. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to St Martins | Hato Mātene.

Next week will be Te Wiki o Te Reo. We will be celebrating te reo with daily aspects in our programme as well as shared whānau interactions each morning. Family friendly questions each morning will be inside the waharoa. Feel free to come and enter and hopefully win one of the daily prizes.

Congratulations to all the students involved in Strum, Strike, Blow last Wednesday evening. A fabulous opportunity to get involved in massed groups. Always a fun event to participate in. Thank you to Paige Hampton and Jenny Oldridge for the time they have put into organising our recorder and ukulele players.

Do you have a child who will soon be joining us at St Martin's School in the coming term or year? If the answer is yes, please click here to fill in an online enrolment. This will help us anticipate class sizes and staffing for 2026.

We have had the opportunity to engage in a number of outdoor experiences during the last few weeks and to finish off the term. We hope the group of children that travelled across to the coast enjoyed their time competing against Westland as well as taking in some of the aspects of the wonderful West Coast. Our students competed in a variety of sports against the Westland Year 7/8 team, including basketball, korfball, netball, dodgeball, volleyball and futsal. We were hosted overnight at the Hokitika Kiwi Holiday Park, where students enjoyed time together off the court and field. Throughout the exchange, our students showed fantastic sportsmanship, teamwork, and school values, making us proud both in their efforts and their conduct. Next week, we look forward to welcoming Westland to Christchurch as they join us and many other schools in the Koru Games tournament. Thanks to Jarad, Alice B and the whānau who joined the children on the trip.



The Y5 / 6 team have enjoyed their camp trip for 2025. Lots of great activities to be involved in, we know that the highlights of school can be camps, extravaganzas and trips. The lasting memories made by having a go with your friends is something to always look back on fondly. Thanks to all of the Navigators teachers and parents who have made these events possible for our tamariki to take part in.



Board elections closed at 4pm on Wednesday 10th September. We look forward to the published results next Tuesday 16 September. This year we had over 30% of our community voting. This is an increase from the last voting round. Thank you to everyone being involved.



Next term we will be completing our 2026 class organisation. Class placements involve a number of discussions to enable us to make the best decisions for each student. We take into consideration a number of factors, meeting 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 for placing children: groups of children working at similar levels - with consideration of ages, social, behavioural and emotional aspects. As with previous years we extend an invitation to you, as parents, to make us aware of any information that might be relevant to the placement of your child / children.
This is an opportunity to give us information that will help us with our process, rather than an invitation to select your child's 2026 teacher. Please be aware that there is a close off for this information – **Monday 6 October, 2025**. Please use the link to the survey to share your information. If you have children to enrol or are transitioning to another school could you please let the office know.



Last year when we set the school dates we did not have confirmed information regarding the curriculum days that the Government has allocated all Primary Schools in 2025. Having these now means that we will be finishing a day earlier than advertised on **Wednesday 17th December**.
We anticipate the 2026 school year to start in the week of 2 - 5 Feb and finish in the week of 14 - 18 December. We have received information regarding curriculum days in 2026, we are updating our draft calendar to include these.





Next year will see the end of funded Kahui Ako's. Our group of schools has decided to continue to work together on a variety of aspects. Some of these are connected to transition to High School, professional learning opportunities, shared curriculum support and Kapa Haka performance. We look forward to



As the term comes to end we would like to thank everyone for their support, particularly around the whole school showcase. It was an amazing event that had a wonderful feel to it. We look forward to returning to our wearable arts in 2027 before coming back to a production / showcase.



We will be having some building work on the three rooms at the top of the school being completed in the

holidays. This includes the removal of three sheets of asbestos. The MoE have employed asbestos removal experts who will be complying with all guidelines in the removal. If you are onsite please ensure you follow any guidelines that are posted on the top court area.



Remember to have a hunt for your hats during the break (also the hat bin in the office) back into the sunshine to finish the year.

Leanne, Alice or I are out at the waharoa most mornings, if you would like to have a chat about anything feel free to stop by.
Have a lovely weekend.
Andrew



SCHOOL NOTICES

Friday lunch ordering

A reminder that St Martins School offers the option to order Subway or Sushi for your child's Friday lunch. Lunch orders are delivered to classrooms, ready for students at eating time.

To order Subway

Visit https://www.subwayexpress.co.nz/
Select the 'school lunch programme' option.
Select 'St Martins School' as your school
Follow the prompts to sign up.
Choose from the menu options to order.

To order Sushi

Go to http://www.lunchonline.co.nz or click on the QR code to the right →
Select the 'families' option.
Choose to set up an account or view/order. Follow the prompts. Choose from the Pure Sushi menu

You can also order in advance, just select the day you want delivery to be made. Make sure you order by 8.30am at the latest on the day you want lunch delivered.

If you have any questions please ask our friendly office staff. office@stmartins.school.nz or ph. 3326121.

Scan to register an account

New Native Tree Forest

The Kaitiaki Crew have planted our very own native ngāhere (forest) in the grass area at the top of the school. We are trying to encourage native manu (birds) and mū (insects) back to our school grounds and community. Eventually, our native forest will be a space where you can play and enjoy too.
We are so excited to have a native ngāhere at our school. Soon, it will be another space we can all spend time in, learn heaps from and enjoy!
At the moment, the plants are young and need time and space to grow. Please admire the plants from a distance!
Thanks to the community for supporting our bake sale fundraiser and to the PTA for their generous donation - we really appreciate all the support.





Calendar Art
Your child/ren have been hard at work creating art that can be transformed into a variety of products, including calendars, cards, diaries, mouse pads, and sketch pads. Each item features your child's unique artwork, making them the perfect personalised Christmas gifts for family and friends and really easy to post overseas!

Follow these instructions to place your order online:

1/. Go to www.kidsartworks.com

2/. Use the Entrance Code: KZ*..... (add in your entrance code from your welcome letter e.g. "KZ3452")*

3/. Enter your child's room & name when prompted

Orders are open now and close on Friday the 19th of September.

PB4L - Positive Behavior for Learning

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



During Weeks 8-10 we are focusing on Caring by helping others. Here are some of the ways we can help others at St Martins School

- Celebrate what's going well
- Be ready to learn
- Be present & Prepared
- Check in on others
- Be inclusive
- Consider others' differences
- Take initiative
- Show empathy

Each week for the rest of Term 3 a different class will be sharing some of the ways they are implementing our PB4L focus in their classroom:
Room 13 have been working together to create a collaborative art piece showcasing how we can help others. We incorporated our helping hands and ways to help others both at school and in the community.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Inter-regional Cross Country - Kiran Ferguson
Kiran Ferguson has been selected for the Inter-Regional Cross Country team and has been chosen as one of the team captains of the Runners of Canterbury team for this year. The event will be held on Friday 19 September. Congratulations to Kiran on your achievements in cross country running.



High Fliers Speech Competition
Congratulations to all of our talented Year 7 and 8 students who took part in this year's High Fliers Speech Competition. After much preparation and some inspiring deliveries, the results were as follows:

- Year 8: 1st Harry Foote, 2nd Daisy Holten, 3rd Harper Pettigrew
- Year 7: 1st Willow Hill, 2nd Millie Trewavas, 3rd Annie Ruawai

A special congratulations also goes to participants Stella Trewavas, Fletcher Hill, Samuel Copson, Isla Dungan Ritsma, Penny Brooks, Ethan Edensor, Tor Prince and Tyronne Northcott who all showed courage and skill in sharing their ideas. We are very proud of the effort, creativity, and confidence shown by all of our speakers. Certificates will be handed out at our end of term assembly next week.

PTA UPDATE

We would like to thank everyone who supported us with what turned into a very busy Term 3. From the disco to the quiz night, to the rogaine and the Extravaganza supper and drinks sales– all significant events that were very well supported by our school community. While the supper and rogaine weren't intended as fundraising events, more for community spirit, thanks to your overwhelming support they raised $2,300, taking the total raised this term to $14,000 - our sincere thanks for your amazing support and thanks to the PTA committee members who worked hard to bring it all together.

Touch Rugby: Team registrations are open via the Sporty website: St Martins Junior Touch - Home

If your child needs to join a team, please sign them up and we'll join them up with other keen players:

Touch Team Finder Form

We will be hosting a **coaches training session** again this year after the success of last year, student and adult coaches are welcome. This will be run by Touch Canterbury and will be held on Wednesday 8th October from 6.30 - 8.30pm in the hall. More information to follow. There will also be a team manager / coach meeting held the same night at 6pm which we would like a representative from each team to attend please.

Second-Hand Uniform: Please continue to donate second-hand uniforms so we can boost our supplies to hold a sale in Term 4. Please drop into the school office, thank you.

Support Our Supporters: Pushbikes St Martins, Pushbikes St Martins - Now Open!

Next Meeting: Monday 20th October, 7.30pm, Staff Room. New members are welcome.

Contact Us: info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz
Facebook: St Martins School PTA
Website: https://www.stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz/

WHĀNAU GROUP

Our Whānau group was established in order for our whānau to have a safe place to voice their ideas and suggestions. The Whānau Group works together with our Kura, Board of Trustees and the wider community to set goals that will raise the culture and the achievement of all of our tamariki. Having a Whānau Group in our school helps families become more involved with what is happening within the school community.

Our hui are informal; we share kai and kōrero while our tamariki play together. Meetings are twice a term in Miss Barakat's classroom, located beside the school gardens on the top courts.

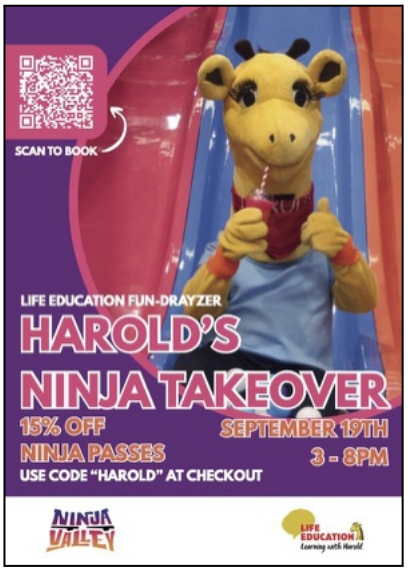
Wednesday Morning Te Reo Māori and Waiata Group Come and hang out with your friends and learn te reo Māori through games, crafts and pūrākau (stories) and waiata. Every week at 8am. We welcome all families to come and join us.

Alexis Barakat | Whānau Group Representative
Contact: alexisbarakat22@gmail.com
Join our Facebook! Te rōpū whānau o Hato Matene









COMMUNITY NOTICES

Canterbury Children's Theatre production of *SNOW WHITE*



Looking for something fun to do during these school holidays? Why not support our local community (including a St Martin's mum!) and come along to the Malthouse for the Canterbury Children's Theatre production of Snow White. The show is fun and silly and will appeal to everyone who is young or young at heart. $10 tickets for a 40 minute show (no interval).

Community Board Elections

Kia ora koutou, my name is Kate Hodgins. I'm standing for the Cashmere Ward in the Waihoro Community Board in the upcoming local elections and would like to introduce myself. Hato Matine St Martins school is very much part of my community. I spent 6 years as board chair until 2024 and my three kids all attended. In my time at the school I helped to lead the redevelopment of the grounds, post rebuild, as well as working with council to improve safety for tamariki on the roads and at the roundabout.

Safer streets, better transit options and Community based energy are all focus areas for me.

Voting opens on 9th September. Local democracy is one area you get to have a real say in how your community functions, so don't miss out!

If you have questions or suggestions for improvements in our community, you can contact me on katehodginscommunity@gmail.com

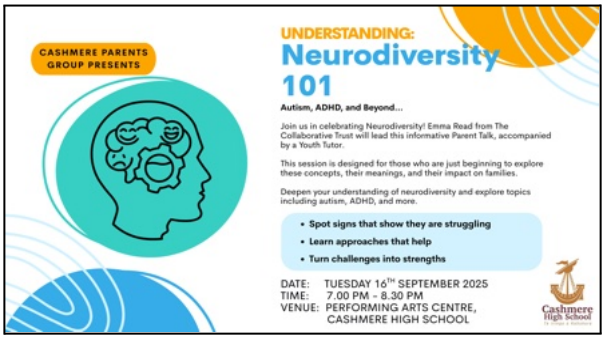


Mainland Pouākai 3x3 Holiday Camp - Year 5 - 8 Girls

We have our upcoming Pouākai 3x3 Holiday Camps for Year 5&6 and Year 7&8 Girls.

The Pouākai 3x3 Holiday Camps are limited to 72 girls. The camp is only $10 per participant!

Register here: Pouākai 3x3 Holiday Camp - Mainland Pouākai



Awatea Athletics Club – Registrations Open!

Based at Te Kahu Park, Wigram, and Ngā Puna Wai, we're one of Christchurch's fastest-growing clubs, offering fun and inclusive athletics for tamariki and rangatahi.

Register now: www.awateaathletics.nz





The Community Dental Service
School holidays hours

Closed from: Friday 19th September,
Reopening on: Monday 6th October.

Six of our community dental clinics will be open during this School Holiday period:

- Aranui (240 Breezes Road)
- Burnside (96a Memorial Avenue)
- Kaiapoi (65 Raven Quay)
- Hornby (2 Hei Hei Road)
- Ashburton (38 Elizabeth Street)
- Timaru (18 Woollcombe Street)

If your child is experiencing any dental pain/discomfort, you can call us on 0800 846 983 and/or email: commdental@cdhb.health.nz and one of our clinicians will contact you.