St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 1 : Thursday 12 February 2026

BOARD WELCOME

Welcome back to the 2026 school year!
Whāia te mātauranga hei oranga mō koutou.
It's wonderful to see our community returning full of energy, and I hope the holiday break offered time for rest and connection.

Thank you to the staff for their efforts in getting the school ready for the year ahead. Our first board meeting for 2026 will be held on Tuesday February 24th in the school staffroom, we welcome anyone who would like to attend a meeting as a guest. Please let me know via email if you wish to attend, prior to the meeting date. bot@stmartins.school.nz

As I step into the role of Presiding Member, I'd like to acknowledge and sincerely thank Dan Levett for his leadership, and commitment to St Martins School. His contribution over recent years has been invaluable, and we are grateful for the time and care he has invested in our kura.

As we start the new year it has been fantastic to see our junior school students embracing and enjoying the new playground. A huge thank you to our amazing PTA and to all the whānau who donated time, expertise, and energy to bring this project to life. It's already making a difference to our tamariki every day.



I'm looking forward to meeting many of you at our Back-to-School BBQ next Friday 13th February. Please feel free to come over and introduce yourself, I'd love the chance to connect as we begin the year together.

Here's to another positive and successful year at St Martins School | Hato Mātene.

Ngā mihi,
Joseph Hampton
Presiding Member





PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Welcome back to the 2026 school year. It has been wonderful to hear about the holiday adventures the children have undertaken. Whether you spent time at home, locally or abroad, it sounds like a refreshing break was had by all with lots of time spent connecting with friends and whānau. It seems the settled weather has finally arrived now that we are back at school, which is great for getting outside and enjoying our breaks.
We started the year with fantastic connections during our Whānau Connect sessions. These meetings continue to provide a relaxed environment for parents to meet with teachers early in the term, allowing ākonga to familiarise themselves with their new learning spaces before the full school year gets underway.
We welcome a number of new ākonga joining St Martins | Hato Mātene this term. Amelia, Avleen, Callan, Caue`, Charlie, Callum, Evie, Harmehar, Lucas, Oliver, Richie, Weylyn, Sylvie, Richie, Amos, Bodhi, Chelsea, Ezra, Felix, Hugo, Jackson, Kingston, Lily, Leilani, and Teddy, we hope you all enjoy your time with us and we look forward to seeing the contributions you will make to our school.

As Joseph mentioned above, the Junior Playground is a great hit amongst the Y0 - 2 children. It is wonderful to see the excitement around this new space.



This year we farewell Megan from the Office. Megan has taken up a position at the Ministry of Education in the finance team. We thank Megan for her wonderful work with the Admin team and wish her all the very best at the MoE.
We also celebrate the wonderful news that teacher Paige Porter and her husband Billy will be expecting their first child at the end of term two. We know that Paige and Billy will be fabulous parents. Paige will be on maternity leave from week seven, term two. In the coming weeks we will be advertising a maternity leave position, we are hoping to have this filled by the end of the term / beginning of term two.

Next week we will be holding our Mihi Whakatau to welcome new students and staff to our school. We are working with Matua Willie and Whaea Tanya to support us with this event. We look forward to Tanya and Willie reconnecting with our Kapahaka group on Monday before the Mihi Whakatau on Wednesday morning at 10am.

To begin the year we are continuing to strengthen our work with Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L), specifically focusing on the value of Respect, creating a positive climate and culture of belonging and engagement for all. This week we have been involved in relationship building with activities and games in and out of the classroom as well as developing some wonderful art pieces in different areas of the school.



We hope that we get some lovely weather for the Back to School BBQ this afternoon, and hope you are able to join us 4.30 - 7.30pm at school.
It's great to have everyone back. As always if you want to stop by to have a chat, either myself, Alice or Leanne are usually at the waharoa each morning.

Kia pai te ra - have a great day.
Andrew



PB4L - Positive Behavior for Learning

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

The Values focus for Term 1 is **RESPECT**. There are many areas where we can show respect but the first area to focus on is our bathrooms.

- We will use the bathroom for its intended purpose
- We will ensure the bathroom is left clean
- We will respect each others privacy
- We will practise good hygiene habits to keep ourselves and others healthy

SCHOOL NOTICES

New St Martins School website

This week our fantastic new school website went live. If you are interested in checking it out, click here or access via your HERO app.

2026 TERM DATES

Term 1 = 4 February - 2 April • 3 April - Easter Friday	**Term 3 = 20 July - 25 September**
Term 2 = 20 April - 3 July • 27 April - ANZAC • 10 July Matariki - in the holiday break	**Term 4 = 12 October - 17 December** (Thursday, 12.30pm finish) • 26 October - Labour Day • 13 November - Canterbury Anniversary Day

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 new junior playground.

Term 1 Meetings:
3.30pm Monday 23rd February
3.30pm Monday 16th March

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

Please contact us if you would like to know more.

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

PTA UPDATE

Back To School BBQ: We look forward to welcoming you to this popular event, today! Friday, 13th Feb from 4.30 - 7.30pm on the lower courts and field. If you are new to school, please look out for the **New Kids On The Block Zone**, providing an opportunity to meet other new families. A free sausage sizzle will be provided by the PTA, limited gluten free and vegan options available. We will be selling soft drinks via cash or bank transfer. The curly potato truck will be on site (EFTPOS available) and we are very pleased to be supporting our ex PTA member, Clare with her brand new gelato making venture, Harlow Gold, cash sales ($5).



As always, we need your support to host this event so please sign up if you are able to help with a short job:

Back To School BBQ Helpers

With space limited to one bouncy castle this year, juniors (Yr4 and younger) will have access from 4.30 - 5.45pm and the seniors (Yr 5 - Yr 8) from 5.45 - 7.15pm. There will be entertainment for the children provided by the wonderful Yr 8 students.

Entertainment Book: Summer is finally here, time to buy the Entertainment App and support our fundraising at the same time: St Martins School

Second-Hand Uniform Sale: Thank you for your support, particularly those who donated uniforms. We were all but sold out in the first 45 minutes. Many thanks to the parent and student helpers on the day and to Sarah for co-ordinating,

Next Meeting: Monday 16th February, 7.30pm, Staff Room. New members are always welcome. You are welcome to just turn up or email us with any questions or to let us know you are coming along.

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

Cashmere
NETBALL CLUB
Winner of the Christchurch Netball Centre
Club of the Year 2024

Registrations for 2026 are now open.

Check our facebook page or website for more details.

Come and join a family friendly, local community club.

Register here via our website **www.sporty.co.nz/cashmerenc**
cashmerenetball@hotmail.com