St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 11 : Thursday 6 August 2026

SCHOOL UPDATE

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,















Welcome to our new student Zoe Turnbull. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene.
What an interesting week of weather it has been. There was plenty of excitement on Tuesday when students arrived at school with a blanket of snow. While it was a special day for many of our students, it has also been lovely to see everyone making the most of the winter sunshine during break times, despite the chilly starts to our mornings.
We wish our PTA all the very best for their annual Quiz Night on Saturday evening. Thank you to everyone involved for the incredible amount of time, effort, and enthusiasm that goes into organising these fantastic fundraising events. Your commitment not only helps raise valuable funds for our school but also brings our community together in such a fun and meaningful way. We hope it's a fantastic evening and a great success. Good luck to everyone taking part.
Our senior students have enjoyed a busy and active week, beginning with our Duathlon on Monday. Students in Years 5–8 competed in either the individual or team events, and it was fantastic to see so many whānau down at Hansen Park supporting and cheering them on. Our students have also represented the school with pride at the EPro8 Challenge and in volleyball on Wednesday.
Our Year 0–2 students have also had a wonderful couple of weeks, enjoying visits to the Christchurch Art Gallery. The trips provided an opportunity to explore different artworks and learn new printing techniques. Students returned to school full of enthusiasm, creativity and wonderful arty ideas, which they have been eager to put into practice back in their classrooms. It has been fantastic to see their imagination and confidence grow through these rich learning experiences.
Next week is Maths Week, and we have lots of fun activities planned for students across the school. Keep an eye on HERO for updates and details of all the maths-themed learning and challenges happening throughout the week. One of the highlights will be our Cantamaths Challenge on Friday, where students will test their mathematical thinking against members of our staff, Board of Trustees and PTA. The Board of Trustees are the reigning champions, but the PTA are determined to claim the title this year. It promises to be a fun and competitive event.
Attendance Matters - As we move through the winter months, we know that coughs, colds and other bugs become more common. Regular attendance at school is important, as every day provides valuable learning opportunities and helps children maintain routines, friendships and confidence.
Children should attend school if they have a mild cold, a runny nose or a slight cough and are otherwise well enough to take part in normal classroom activities. However, if your child has a fever, is vomiting, has diarrhoea, is unusually tired or unwell, or has a contagious illness, they should remain at home until they have recovered. As a general guide, children should stay home for at least 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea.
Thank you for continuing to support us by helping your children attend school whenever they are well enough to do so, while also keeping them at home when they are genuinely unwell. Together, we can help keep our school community healthy while ensuring every child has the best opportunity to learn.

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







SCHOOL NOTICES

TEACHER ONLY DAYS REMINDER
Just a reminder that we have two Teacher Only Days remaining between now and the end of the year. These days provide valuable opportunities for our staff to engage in professional learning, planning, and curriculum development, ensuring we continue to strengthen learning experiences for our students.
The dates are:
📅 Term 3: Monday 31st August
📅 Term 4: Thursday 12th November
Please mark these dates in your calendars. School will be closed for students on these days. Thank you for your support as we continue to invest in the growth and learning of our staff and tamariki.

Upcoming Events - August	
What	**When**
PTA Quiz night	Saturday 8th August
School Disco	Friday 14th August
Yr 5/6 Canterbury Basketball/Volleyball	Wednesday 19th August
Yr 5-8 winter sports	Thursdays 12.30pm - 3pm (approx)
Yr 7-8 Technology	Thursdays 8.30am - 11am
Yr 0-4 Junior Assembly	Mondays Fortnightly from 27th July
Yr 5-8 Senior Assembly	Fridays Fortnightly from 31st July
For specific details on these events, see your HERO app feed or the **School Calendar**	

PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning

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

We continue to focus on the value of **Responsibility**. Responsibility is more than just managing tasks. It is about the daily choices we make to positively impact ourselves and those around us.



Here is how we are putting Responsibility into action across three key areas:

- **Solutions-Based Behaviour:** Responsible students look for answers instead of focusing on problems. When challenges arise in the classroom or playground, we encourage students to use positive language, collaborate, and contribute actively to solutions.
- **Good Sportsmanship:** True responsibility shines on the sporting field and during school games. It means playing by the rules, respecting the referee's decisions, lifting up teammates, and treating opponents with genuine respect, win or lose.
- **Ready for Learning:** Being responsible means showing up fully. Students demonstrate this by arriving on time, bringing the correct gear, and bringing a focused, curious mindset to every single lesson.

PB4L Focus: Taking Charge with Responsibility!

This term, **Room 16** has been diving deep into our school value of **Responsibility**. We've been talking about what positive behaviour looks like in our classroom and, most importantly, how we can be **solutions-focused** when things happen that are out of our control.

When feelings get big or unexpected situations crop up, here are some fantastic strategies to help reset and manage those emotions:

- 🧠 **Think happy thoughts:** Focus on positive memories and things that make us smile.
- 🏃 **Take a brain break:** Go for a quick walk or run to reset.
- 🗣️ **Use clear words:** Saying *"Stop, I feel..."* to share feelings calmly and directly.
- 🪑 **Head to the Buddy Bench:** Find a place to reflect or connect with someone new.
- 🌬️ **Calm breathing:** Practise 'Take 5' or Belly Breathing to slow down.
- 💬 **Reach out:** Talk things through with a trusted teacher or friend.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Kaitiaki Challenge

3 members of the Kaitiaki Crew have been picking up lots of rubbish around our school grounds. They have collected almost a full shopping bag each day!
The girls have made a poster to remind our community about how we can be responsible with rubbish. Well done to Georgie M, Ella M and Hazel M!



Student Writing

A Moment in Time - George Tuu'u (Room 16)

One crisp, frosty morning, I stood high up in the mountains,
feeling surprised at what I could see.
I could feel the melting snow hitting me on the head,
like boulders tumbling on me.
I could hear the tumbling snow rolling down the edge of the pearl white ground as an avalanche rumbled like a roaring, rampaging Rhabdodon. CRUNCH!
I step on the crackling snow as the howling wind plays with my hair.
I could see the porcelain, daisy igloo as well as the soft crumbly snow.
The cool, cyan sky starts to circle around me. The clouds start to smile at me as I stumble across the mountains.
I see the triangular trees pointing at me.
I love this place so much. I did not want to leave.



The Little Mermaid - starring our very own Kitty & Eryn

Dive under the sea with Disney's The Little Mermaid JR., a spectacular musical adventure based on the beloved Disney classic.

Featuring more than 130 talented young performers from across Canterbury, including our very own St Martins School students - Kitty and Eryn.

This vibrant production brings Ariel's magical world to life with unforgettable songs, colourful characters, stunning costumes, energetic choreography and plenty of heart. Filled with adventure, friendship and humour, it's a theatrical experience the whole family will enjoy.



📅 7–9 August

📍 Isaac Theatre Royal, Christchurch

🎟️ Tickets are on sale now through Ticketek – click here to book your seats now

Explorers Art Gallery Visit

Our Year 1 and 2 students had a fantastic day visiting the Art Gallery! It was a wonderful opportunity to explore a range of artworks and learn how artists use colour, shape, pattern, and texture to tell stories and share ideas.

A highlight of the day was taking part in a screen-printing workshop. The children loved creating their own prints and were excited to see how layers of colour and different designs came together to make unique pieces of art. They showed great creativity, enthusiasm, and care throughout the activity.

We also enjoyed an art appreciation session where students looked closely at a variety of artworks, shared their ideas, and discovered that everyone can have a different interpretation of the same piece of art.

The bus ride was another exciting part of the adventure, and the children represented our school beautifully. They listened carefully, showed excellent manners, and demonstrated our school values throughout the day.

A huge thank you to our wonderful parent helpers. Your support made this trip possible, and we are so grateful for your time and assistance. It was a morning filled with creativity, learning, and lots of smiles!







ST MARTINS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

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. We send out a HERO notice to advise of upcoming meetings.

Wednesday Morning Te Reo Māori 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.
Alice Barakat
aliceb@stmartins.school.nz
Join our Facebook! | Te rōpū whānau o Hato Matene



PTA UPDATE



New Treasurer: At our recent PTA meeting, the Treasurer's gold chains were officially handed over from Jocelyn Levett to Christine Kelly. We would like to acknowledge and thank Joce for her passion, energy, and unwavering dedication in the Treasurer role over the past four years. Her contribution has been greatly valued and appreciated.

Quiz Night: We are very much looking forward to the Mid-Winter Christmas Quiz on Saturday, Santa Claus is excited to be joining us, the Christmas cake is iced and the trophy has been polished! We are incredibly grateful for the generous donations of school families and local

businesses who have enabled us to gather around $12,000 worth of items for raffle prizes, live and silent auctions and prizes for teams.

We have two tables available, gather a team, register here and come along to enjoy a fun night: Quiz Night Form

Second-Hand Uniform Sale: Friday 7th August, 2.30 - 3.15pm, school library. Thank you for all the donations, the supply of second-hand uniforms has been restocked.

Disco, Friday 14th August: As always we need your help to run a successful disco, there are a few jobs still available on the night: DISCO HELPERS 2026

Market Day: If you or your children are interested in hosting a stall at the Market Day on Sunday 1st November, please register your interest before this opportunity is offered to the wider community: Market Day

Touch Term 4: In Term 4 we run a fun seven week touch competition through Touch Canterbury on Thursdays at Waltham Park. The registration form for established teams will be shared on HERO as soon as it is available. Email: smart.touch@stmartins.school.nz

If your child is keen to play but NOT in a team already, register them here and we can help organise a team for them to join: Touch Team Finder Form

This is a great opportunity for children to join a team sport or try a new sport in a friendly local competition with their friends. We are very grateful to the amazing Year 7 & 8 students who volunteer to be our referees and also provide coaching if teams need a coach.

Coming Up: Uniform Sale Friday 7th August, Quiz Night Saturday 8th August, Disco Friday 14th August, Colour Run Friday 16th October, Karma Keg Saturday 17th October, Market Day Sunday 1st November, Community Sausage Sizzle 7th November, Rogaine = Springtime.

Next Meeting: Monday 7th September , 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














