St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 15 : Thursday 9 October 2025

Board Update



We welcome Kurt, Celia, Gareth and Oscar to the St Martins | Hato Mātene Board. We look forward to the contribution you make and the support you will be able to offer the school over the next three years.
Thank you to Tracy, Aaron and Helen for their positive contributions to the Board, Tracy for 6 years, Aaron and Helen for 3. Personally I am looking forward to staying on the Board for the remainder of the year as Presiding member.
This term we are looking forward to showcasing our school to the Education Review Office (ERO). We will have three ERO members on site during week five to observe the fabulous teaching and learning at our school.
As you may be aware the Teacher union, NZEI, and the Government are in negotiations for the next contract. The contracts are based on working conditions and pay scale. The negotiations are still underway, however, we have been informally informed of potential strike action on Thursday 23 October. This could be finalised three days from the proposed date. This would mean the school would need to close on this day. Please note that this has not been confirmed and this is a heads up in case it does happen.
Dan Levett
Presiding Member

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,
This week we welcome Eilidh, Mila, Gavin, Theo, Layla, Loretta, Isobel, Mavis, Kyzer, Audie, Clemmie, Declan, Huck, Annabelle and Stanley. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to St Martins | Hato Mātene.

We have all settled back in for the week and upcoming term. Great to see the Y5 - 8s out on the field prepping for the upcoming Athletics event next Thursday. Please feel free to come along to support your child and their mates. The timetable for the year 5-8 Athletics day can be found **here**.

Speeches in Y5 / 6 are going well, lots of relatable topics being shared, the High Fliers are starting debating - interesting topics across the pods. The Y3 / 4 team are creating lovely holiday themed poems while the Y0 - 2 team are looking forward to their farm trip next week.

We are able to share our staffing for 2026. Firstly we would like to acknowledge and thank Ms Chris Sumer for her amazing 32 years of expert teaching and leadership in our school. Chris will be retiring from her position at the end of 2025. We wish her all the very best for the many adventures, opportunities and experiences that lay ahead. We will celebrate Chris'

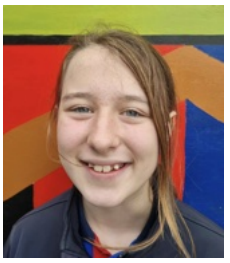
tenure at St Martins near the end of the year. Mrs Susie Keenan has been appointed to the Y3 / 4 team leader position starting 2026.

The teaching staff in 2026 will be:

Explorers	Discoverers	Navigators	High Fliers
Charlotte Bates Emily Smith Paige Hampton Michelle Parsons (TL) Shauna Kelly	Bethan Lewis Briana Weaver Helen Norcliffe Lauren Robb Susie Keenan (TL)	Chantal Ward (TL) Kate Keenan Oscar Adams Tamara Saxon	Alice Barakat Jarad Pateman Jessica Thomsen NIcky Pateman (TL)

We look forward to our new staff members making positive contributions to the school. The class make up will be:

- **Explorers:** two Y0 / 1 classes, four Y1 / 2 classes
- **Discoverers**: five Y3 /4 classes
- **Navigators**: four 5 / 6 classes
- **High Fliers**: two Y7 classes, two Y8 classes



Congratulations to Kiran Ferguson (year 8) who won the year 8 cross country race today for Canterbury at the end of term 3. His Canterbury team was also successful in coming second in the team race. Last term it was our privilege to also announce that Lachie Haig had been awarded an academic scholarship to Cashmere High School. Congratulations Lachie.



We have noticed that the number of cell phones being handed in has lessened. This may be due to less children having phones - which would be amazing, there is a real push at the moment that young children have phones that can text and call while children aged 16 and up have smart phones. However, when we walk through the classes we are collecting more phones that have stayed in bags. Please be aware that the Government has a phone away for the day policy, at St Martins | Hato Mātene, this means keeping them in a secure box in the office. If your child has a phone please remind them to drop it into the office.



Our class placement survey for parents closes on **Thursday 9 October**. We extend an invitation to you, 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 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**.

Nice to see so many children wearing their school hats, if you need to purchase a new hat you can do this from the office. Hats are to be worn in Term 4 and 1.

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

2026 TERM DATES

Term 1 = 4 February - 2 April • 2 & 3 February = TOD • 6 February - Waitangi Day • 3 April - Easter Friday	**Term 3 = 20 July - 25 September** • No public holiday during the term (Matariki is 10 July)
Term 2 = 20 April - 3 July • 27 April - ANZAC	**Term 4 = 12 October - 17 December** (Thursday, 12.30pm finish) • 26 October - Labour Day • 13 November - Canterbury Anniversary Day

Reminder of processing timeframes for school account payments

Thank you for all fee and school event payments received so far this year. We appreciate all your contributions as it all helps us to provide a wide range of opportunities to students. A few reminders regarding paying fees:

- We aim to add the majority of term costs to your Hero account by the end of week two each term, sometimes it can take longer than expected and some event costs will be added closer to the start date of the event. We encourage you to regularly check your hero account for updates.
- If you receive a classroom notice that states a cost, you are welcome to pay it in advance, but please allow a minimum of 1 week from payment for it to be added to your Hero account.
- Our preferred payment for fees / donations is online via our school account number: 12-3240-0111723-00 (ref child's name/event) or by EFTPOS at the school office.
- School donations are tax deductible for a 33% refund, please see Megan in the school office if you need information on how to do this.
- Occasionally a charge is applied in error. If your child did not attend an event we have billed you for, please email our office on accounts@stmartins.school.nz to have it reversed.

PB4L - Positive Behavior for Learning

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

Introducing Albert - St Martins School mascot!!

During term 3 our PB4L team worked with a very talented costume designer to create our new school mascot! Created in the likeness of our PB4L character Albert, with our school values in mind he will be modelling our PB4L initiatives at various school events. Albert was introduced to the 0-4's at their assembly at the end of term 3 and the students loved him. Keep a look out for him and be sure to give him a high five if you spot him around school!

PB4L classroom focus

The Navigators attended camp during Week 9 of Term 3 and this was a perfect time to put into practice their PB4L learning. Our recent focus at school has been caring for others and this was on full display at Hanmer Springs. Ākonga were incredibly encouraging of their peers, especially towards those who were pushed well beyond their comfort levels during tree climbing and mountain biking. Their shouts of encouragement were heard far and wide around Hanmer as they supported their classmates! It was wonderful to see these values in action, in the outdoors. Congratulations team!





SCHOOL POLICY TERM 2 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 read and review the following policies;

Username: stmartins

Password: huntsbury

- Bullying and Harassment
- Behaviour Management
- Searches, Surrender, and Retention of Property
- Minimising Physical Restraint
- Stand-down, Suspension, and Exclusion
- Staff Wellbeing and Safety

PTA UPDATE

Family Portrait Session: Green Melon Photography will be on site for a family photo session over the weekend of Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd November. A session is $25 for one family photo (value $60) with the option to purchase additional photos at a later date to be delivered before Christmas. Book your session with Megan here: St Martins School PTA: Family Portrait Session



Touch Team Finder: Last chance to get involved with the team finder form, closing tomorrow Friday 10 Oct @ 4pm. The remaining teams will be advised over the weekend. We are specifically looking for Yr 7/8 girls and Yr 2 players but welcome all students keen to get involved to sign up for this fun seven-week competition in Term 4. Sign up here: Touch Team Finder Form

Touch Team Registration: Register your **team** by Monday 13th October: St Martins Junior Touch - Registration

Touch Helpers Required: As always we need your support to run the touch season, please sign up here if you are able to help with a job: Touch: St Martins Touch Rugby 2025

Parent Helpers: We would appreciate a couple of parent helpers to supervise a fundraiser sausage sizzle as part of the SteamPunk Fair being held in the hall on 9th November: St Martins School PTA: Sausage Sizzle Helpers

Term 4: This term we will look to bring you a Movie Night, a Karma Keg at Moon Under Water and an Ice Block Friday. Save the date, the EOY Thank You evening is Wednesday 26th November.

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