St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 16 : Friday 24 October 2025

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE







Kia ora koutou e te whānau,
This week we welcome Mareta-Lei, Genevieve and Leonie. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to St Martins | Hato Mātene.

We hope everyone remained safe during the red weather watch yesterday. It seemed that the strong winds affected different areas throughout Canterbury. Thanks for keeping your children home yesterday to allow the teachers in the NZEI union to take strike action based on their conditions and pay negotiations.

We welcome Annabelle Cloudesley to the Explorers team in 2026. Annabelle is currently teaching at Addington School.
We have started class placement discussions, placing children into the following classes / learning pods.
We are trialling single year level classes in the High Fliers team. This is in response to the core curriculum changes being based on Year level learning. We envisage the Y7 and Y8 children will be in single year groups for the morning before combining for topic and other curriculum teaching.

Explorers	Discoverers	Navigators	High Fliers
Y0 / 1 Charlotte Bates and Michelle Parsons	**Y3 / 4** Lauren Robb and Brianna Weaver	**Y5 / 6** Oscar Adams and Chantal Ward	**Y7** Alice Barakat and Jess Thomsen
Y1 / 2 Annabelle Cloudesley and Emily Smith	**Y3 / 4** Bethan Lewis and Susie Keenan	**Y5 / 6** Tamara Saxon and Kate Keenan	**Y8** Nicky Pateman and Jarad Pateman
Y1 / 2 Shauna Kelly and Paige Porter	**Y3 / 4** Helen Norcliffe		



We would like to thank Marie Cliff for her wonderful organisation and leadership of the Y3 / 4 Garden to Table programme. Marie has been a mainstay in the hall for the past 6 years cooking up a storm with the local produce freshly picked from our gardens. Marie will be stepping away from GTT in 2026, however, will continue in the Library space. If you or you know someone interested in this position (one day a week leading the cooking component of GTT) please apply by sending a letter of interest outlining the skills and experience you would bring to this position to andrew@stmartins.school.nz by 3pm, 31 October 2025.

Congratulations to all of the Y5 / 6 speech finalists. I thoroughly enjoyed your speeches and was highly impressed by your poise, mana, confidence in delivery and connections you made with your audience. From deeply personal topics to imaginative musings, the speeches showcased a diverse range of ideas.

Although the weather turned during our athletics we were able to complete all of the events last week. A new highlight was the house, staff, parents relay race. Great to have whānau involved. Personally I'm going back to the drawing board to practise some baton changes. Good luck to all of the SMS | HM athletes moving on to the zone athletics on Friday 7 November.



Awesome to have 18 SMS | HM ākonga participating in the Huxster Mountain Bike Endurance Race at McLeans Island on Wednesday. Congratulations to the following students who placed highly:



- Annie and Ellena - 2nd girls team
- Millie and Lara - 3rd girls team
- Harry and Tor - 5th boys team

This week Alice, Leanne and myself attended a curriculum roadshow based on changes to the Literacy and Maths curriculum as well as the proposed refreshing of all other curriculum areas. The Government's direction is based on putting in place a knowledge based curriculum that emphasises direct teaching focussed on the science of learning. We believe that we have been working hard to implement the changes required and can see the benefits of these. As always there will be trade offs when we change, we will continue to discuss these and adapt as we go.



Last term the Y3 - 8 children completed their wellbeing survey. Highlights from the survey include the following positive results:

- 97% Teachers care about their students
- 97% Teachers help students when they are stuck on their work
- 96% The Principal and Deputy Principals handle misbehaviour in a fair way
- 95% Students feel safe at school
- 95% Teachers listen to what students have to say
- 93% Teachers let students know how they can improve their work
- 92% Teachers tell students when they are doing a good job



We finish the week with the Lachie Sutherland Memorial football game, students vs staff and ex pupils. Lachie would have been graduating high school this year. We'll hold a moment of reflection before kick-off, remembering Lachie and others we've lost.

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.

I'm hoping to reclaim top spot in Y5 - 8 mini golf this morning, we'll see what happens with Thomas and his friends.

Have a lovely weekend, please remember that Monday is Labour Day, school will be closed for this public holiday.

Andrew



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Crater Rim Ultra Race

Congratulations to the St Martins Students who competed in the 6km Crater Rim Ultra Race last weekend with some great results. Well done everyone!

Lara Condron - 2nd in girls age group
Ellena Pratt - 5th in girls age group
Ethan Edensor - 2nd in boys age group
Josh Head - 4th in boys age group



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.

Term 4 Hui: Friday November 7th

End of year hui: TBC
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

SCHOOL NOTICES

2026 TERM DATES

Term 1 = 4 February - 2 April • 2 & 3 February - TOD • 4 & 5 February - Whānau connect • 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

PB4L - Positive Behavior for Learning

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

As the end of the year approaches it is even more important to think about personal responsibility.
The skills being focused on are:

- Be present (there are still several weeks of school left)
- Be prepared - Have the equipment and stationary you need (this includes a hat)
- Meet deadlines
- Have a positive growth mindset

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 BBQ Helpers Required: Touch: St Martins Touch Rugby 2025

Save The Date: Saturday 6th December, 3 – 5pm for our annual Karma Keg at Moon Under Water.

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

Second-Hand Uniform: Please continue to donate second-hand uniforms so we can boost our supplies for a sale at the start of next year. Please drop into the school office, thank you.

SteamPunk Fair: We are running a sausage sizzle as a fundraiser with the support of William Pike students so come out on Sunday 9th November to support this fun looking event in the hall.

Next Meeting: Monday 1st December, 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/

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Come and support St Martins School student Jack Thomson (year 8) performing country music tunes at **The Church Pub this Sunday 26th October from 5.30pm.**





Tweens & Screens: Raising Screen-Smart Kids in a Digital World

Are you finding it tricky to manage your tween's screen time? Maybe your 10–12 year old is begging for a phone, hooked on gaming, or facing online issues that feel overwhelming. You're not alone, and there are practical ways forward.

In this honest and research-informed evening, parenting and play advocate Celia Hogan will unpack what's really going on for tweens in the digital age, and how parents can navigate this stage with more confidence and connection.

You'll take away:

- What's really going on online (social media, gaming, cyberbullying)
- Why tweens can't just switch off (brain, emotions, peers)
- What's at stake: sleep, play, friendships, mental health
- Setting boundaries: filters, phone delays, social media rules
- The bigger picture: why connection matters more than control

Aimed at parents of 10-12-year-olds.

Presented by:
Celia Hogan, Play and child development expert and speaker

Little Kiwis Nature Play

TICKETS: www.events.humanitix.com
FACEBOOK: Little Kiwis Nature Play
info@littlekiwisnatureplay.com



