St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 2 : Thursday 12 February 2026

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE





Kia ora koutou e te whānau,
Welcome to our new students, Kiana and Bowie. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene.
It has been a busy and productive start to the term. Our Year 0-2 tamariki are thoroughly enjoying their Friday music sessions with Kathleen, our specialist music teacher. It is wonderful to hear the rhythmic energy coming from the junior spaces as they explore new sounds.
Further up the school, our Year 5-8 ākonga displayed great grit and sportsmanship during our swimming sports this week. A huge thank you to Jarad Pateman for his meticulous organisation of this event. It was fantastic to see our senior students diving into the competition and giving it their best effort. We also truly appreciate the many parents who came along to cheer from the sidelines; your support makes these events special for the children.
We welcome Jacqui to the Office team. Jacqui moves from the Learning Assistant team to join Kate in the office. Jacqui will be focusing on attendance and enrolments, while Kate moves into the finance area for the school. We also welcome Jay to our staff as a learning assistant. Jay will be starting with us as soon as possible to support our learners. Additionally, please keep an eye out for an upcoming advertisement on SEEK for a new Garden to Table position as we look to continue this valued program.
Last Friday's Back to School BBQ was a highlight, despite the weather being a bit "touch and go". Thank you to Emma and her team on the PTA for organising the event. It was heartening to see our community connect over a sausage sizzle and ice cream. A special thank you to the tamariki and parents who braved the hail at the end of the evening to help with the pack-down.
Our Te Reo morning sessions are now well underway. We are very grateful to Alexis and Jodie for facilitating these opportunities for our families.
The junior playground continues to be a hub of excitement for our Year 0-2 ākonga. We are making some minor adjustments, including the addition of a balustrade at the entrance of the slide and repositioning the seesaw to better suit the flow of play.



Finally, we look forward to our first school assemblies of the term this Friday. Our Year 0-4 assembly will begin at 9:00 am, followed by the Year 5-8 assembly at 2:15 pm. We hope to see you there to celebrate our students' achievements.
As always, if you would like to stop by to have a chat, either I, Alice, or Leanne are usually at the waharoa each morning.
Kia pai te ra - have a great day.
Ngā mihi,
Andrew

Student Leadership Team 2026

We are excited to introduce our 2026 Student Leadership Team. This group of positive, capable students is ready to lead with integrity, enthusiasm and a strong commitment to our school values.
Throughout the year, they will support events, lead assemblies, and serve as role models within our school community. We look forward to seeing them grow in confidence and make a meaningful impact in 2026.



PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning

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

To begin the year we have been focusing on the value of Respect. The specific skills being taught and reinforced during weeks 3-4 are the way we move around the school. All adults are encouraged to lead by example.

Walking

- Feet
- Bikes
- Scooters
- Skateboards

Quiet voices
Awareness of others
Classroom visitor etiquette

- Enter quietly
- Wait to speak



SCHOOL NOTICES

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

PTA UPDATE

Giving Back: At our first meeting for the year, it was a pleasure to approve funding of $4000 for the Garden To Table Programme and $6000 for Structured Literacy. Every year we ask the teaching staff to provide ideas for additional items to be funded by the PTA. We were pleased to approve spending across a wide variety of requests to include picnic tables, art drying rack, art shirts, brain model, STEM resources, and building and construction resources.

Working Bee: This Sunday 1st March, 1 – 3pm. A wide variety of jobs, big and small, we would appreciate your support. Please come to the hall entrance to be assigned a job. Check the Hero notice tomorrow (Friday) for further details.



Back To School BBQ: Thank you to everyone who came along to enjoy a lovely afternoon in mostly sunshine. We are very grateful to Nick Anderson, owner of Event Hire, for again providing the bouncy castle, always a favourite with the children, thank you Nick! Our sincere thanks to Kitty and her Yr 8 friends for organising the games and treasure hunt for the children and helping to make it a fun and memorable afternoon. Congratulations to Zoey D for winning the lolly jar! We hope you enjoyed former PTA member Clare's handcrafted gelato before she sold out. Her brand Harlow Gold can be found at the New Brighton Village Green, Hut 4, Friday afternoons and at weekends.

Fundraiser Launch: Next week we will launch our Term 1 fundraiser through our fundraising website. After the success of the Give-A-Little style fundraiser a few years ago, we will be looking for your support again to help raise funds to support the Head Librarians to put dyslexia and regulation resources in the library, add to the school music equipment and top up the sports gear.

Next Meeting: Monday 23rd March, 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.

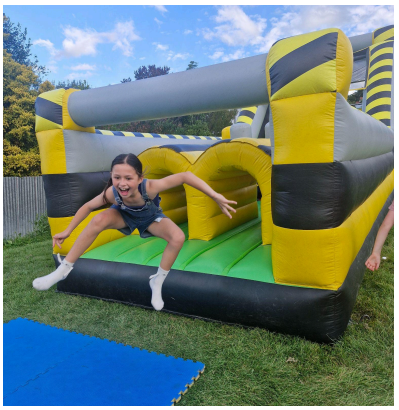
Contact Us: info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz
Facebook: St Martins School PTA
Website: https://www.stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz/











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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

ORIENTEERING COMPETITIONS

Inter school Summer sprint orienteering begins next Tuesday - enter by Sunday or turn-up on the day.
In July Christchurch hosts the NZ Secondary School Orienteering champs and a rogaine event (Yr 7-8 included in secondary division)
We have a focus this year on introducing many to orienteering and helping them participate in the events in July - they are not just for champs - they are for everyone!
If you are interested head to our Club info page > Join us
https://papo.org.nz/club-info/join-us/

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE INFORMATION

My name is Holly and I am the Public Health Nurse for your school.
The Public Health Nursing Service (PHNS) work with tamariki and their whānau where health and wellbeing concerns impact on their
home and school lives.
Please contact me if you have any health concerns for your tamariki.
waea pūkoro: 03 383 6877 ext: 99628, 0272843397
īmēra: holly.cummings@tewhatuora.govt.nz

TABLE TENNIS NZ WOMENS DAY 2026

Table Tennis New Zealand and Table Tennis Canterbury are celebrating International Women's Day 2026 in the best way possible! With exciting FREE Have-A-Go sessions across the country designed for women and girls of all ages and abilities!
These events are all about fun, movement, confidence and connection in a welcoming, supportive space.
All equipment is provided - just bring your positive vibes and get ready to enjoy yourself
Sunday 8th March
Table Tennis Canterbury, 294 Blenheim Road
Register via Table Tennis NZ Womens Day









