St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 3 : Thursday 12 March 2026

BOARD UPDATE

Kia ora e te whānau,

I am absolutely delighted to share the highlights of our recent ERO review, which wonderfully validates the hard work happening in our classrooms every day. The report is a fantastic celebration of our kura, and we are incredibly proud to share these results with you.

What we are celebrating:

- Our tamariki benefit from a highly positive, inclusive school culture where they experience a strong sense of belonging.
- Our teachers know our learners exceptionally well and are highly responsive to their individual needs.
- We are already successfully meeting the Government's 2030 achievement targets for the foundational skills of reading, writing and maths.
- Most of our learners are meeting or exceeding curriculum expectations in reading and mathematics.
- Our teachers are using consistent, structured teaching approaches across all year levels to ensure high-quality learning.
- Learners with complex needs are exceptionally well supported by our team to achieve their educational goals.
- We maintain strong, collaborative partnerships with our whānau by providing useful and accurate reporting on your child's learning and progress.
- We have an improvement-focused leadership team that supports staff growth.

Next steps: As a school that embraces continuous growth, ERO also helped us clarify three key areas to focus on:

- We will be consolidating our curriculum and assessment practices to align with the anticipated New Zealand Curriculum guidelines.
- Improving and sustaining our writing results, specifically for our boys and Māori learners, to ensure equitable outcomes.
- Working closely with our community to develop and implement a plan to increase regular school attendance toward the 80% target.

The full report can be accessed from our school website.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE



Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

Welcome to our new student Annabelle. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene.

The learning programmes are in full swing across the kura. We are really enjoying the atmosphere of calm classrooms, with purposeful learning groups across all year levels.

A huge congratulations to our Year 5–8 zone swimmers who displayed a fabulous competitive spirit this week. Good luck to those ākonga who have qualified to represent us at the Canterburys.

We also want to extend a big thank you to Constable Meg, Alice and the road patrol team for completing the Road Patrol refresher to ensure our tamariki remain safe while using the crossing.

In a week's time, our Year 7 and 8 students will be heading away to Wainui for camp. There are so many great activities planned, and we know this will be a memorable event for everyone involved. Thank you very much to

Nicky Pateman for her hard work in organising this, and to the parents who are joining us to make this trip possible.
Our Year 8 leaders had a fantastic time at the GRIP Leadership Day last week, gaining valuable skills for their roles within the school. Looking ahead, our Year 5 and 6 tamariki are looking forward to their travel workshop next week.
Last Friday, our Year 3 and 4 ākonga had their first Kaitiaki experience. The beautiful weather certainly made their time connecting with the environment even more enjoyable.
For those looking to get active, we have our first William Pike Challenge event this Friday—a bike ride at Bottle Lake Forest. This is closely followed by the City 2 Surf run on Sunday. It is great to see so many of our community involved in these physical challenges.
We continue to welcome new families to our kura and look forward to our 'Smart Start' meeting next week. Charlotte, our transition to school teacher, will be sharing insights into a 'day in the life of a five-year-old' and leading a tour of the school. We hope you can join us.



While last year saw the conclusion of the Kāhui Ako, we are pleased to continue working closely as a cluster of eight local schools. This provides a wonderful opportunity for our staff to collaborate on literacy, maths, assessment, and reporting, alongside our specific Beginning Teacher and Principal discussion groups.
As always, if you would like 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.
Ngā mihi,
Andrew

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 Respect. The specific skills being taught and reinforced during weeks 5-7 are using manners. All adults are encouraged to lead by example while they are in our school.

- Greeting appropriately
- Follow instructions
- Consider others
- Be patient
- Open doors for others
- Walk on the left
- Check in on others
- Wait to join conversations

SCHOOL NOTICES

Key Dates Coming Up		
What	**When**	**Where**
William Pike - bike trip	Friday 13th March	Bottle Lake Forrest
City 2 Surf - WP Challenge	Sunday 15th March	
Whānau Group hui	Monday 16th March	3.15pm, Room 9
Yr 6 Cricket skills session	Wednesday 18th March	At school
Yr 7-8 immunisations	Friday 20th March	At school
Yr 7-8 Camp	Monday 23rd - Friday 27th March	Wainui
For specific details on these events see your HERO app feed or the **School Calendar**		

SCHOOL POLICY TERM 1 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 review the following policies;
Username: stmartins
Password: huntsbury



CALL FOR ENROLMENTS

Are you living in the zone or have St Martins School siblings due to start school in 2026 or 2027 that haven't enrolled yet? If the answer is yes, please click **here** to complete an online enrolment. This will help us anticipate class sizes and staffing over the next school year.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

We had a great time at PALs (Physical Activity Leaders), training last Wednesday at Parakiore. Our PALs are Year 7 students who are now able to help create an active, inclusive, and positive playground environment. Their primary role is to lead, organise, and facilitate fun physical activities and games for younger students during lunchtimes.
Key Roles and Responsibilities
Leading Activities: Organising and running lunchtime games, and sports.
Inclusion: Ensuring that games are inclusive, encouraging less confident or less active students to participate, often using the mantra "there's always room for one more".
Mentoring/Buddy System: Acting as role models and, in some cases, "buddies" for younger students.
Equipment Management: Taking responsibility for preparing, setting up, and packing away sports equipment.
Promoting Fair Play: Encouraging good sportspersonship, teamwork, and resolving minor disputes during play.





Quick Write by Coen Webb, Year 7

The desolate tree looms over those who come near beckoning lone travelers to come closer, closer, closer...luringthem into their demise because you do not see the dark secret of this desolate tree.



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.

Next meeting:
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



Fundraiser: Thank you for your amazing support so far for these four very worthy causes:
Ways To Donate
PTA Fundraising Website: www.stmartinsptafundraiser.com
Bank transfer directly to the PTA: St Martins School PTA 12 3147 0420521 00 (Reference: Name / Donation)
Scan the PTA Fundraiser QR Code (above)

Anastasia The Musical Youth Edition: April school holiday entertainment at Papa Hou / Black Box Theatre, use **Access Code: SMSPTA** and $5 from every ticket comes back to the PTA. Book tickets here: Anastasia The Musical: Youth Edition

Working Bee: Thank you to those that come out on a very dubious weather day to support the working bee. 16 wonderful Year 7 & 8 William Pike Award students, supported by a few of their parents and siblings made light work of the working bee tasks, all the hard work you did is appreciated.

Move X: Save the date! Back again this year, this very popular sellout event will be held on Saturday 13th June, 6-8pm.

AGM and New Members: Our AGM will be held on Monday 11th May. We warmly welcome new members and are looking for a keen parent to become Treasurer as Joce will be finishing up this year. We are hoping for a long handover to ease someone into the role. If you are interested, please email Joce if you have any questions: treasurer@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz

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/

PTA Fundraiser QR Code





