St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 4 : Thursday 26 March 2026







BOARD UPDATE

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,
As we approach the end of Term 1 we would like to take the opportunity to thank our school community for a positive and settled start to the year. It has been encouraging to see students returning to routines with enthusiasm, engaging in their learning, and making the most of the many opportunities available at St Martins School.
I would like to acknowledge and thank our St Martins staff for their professionalism and commitment during what is always a busy first term. Their dedication to creating a positive, inclusive, and nurturing learning environment makes a real difference for our tamariki every day. Thank you also to our whānau and wider community for your ongoing support and engagement with school life.



As this is the final newsletter for Term 1 we wish all families a safe and restful Easter break and hope students return refreshed and ready for Term 2. On behalf of the Board, thank you for your continued trust and support of St Martin's School.
Joseph Hampton
St Martins School Board Presiding Member

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE



Kia ora koutou e te whānau,
Welcome to our new students Caue, Eira, Margot, Zoe and Art. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene.



We are heading into a very busy final few days of Term 1. Our tamariki have been making the most of a wide range of outside learning opportunities lately. This includes focused sessions on safe scooter skills and active travel workshops, as well as our Year 3 and 4 ākonga continuing their valuable Kaitiaki experiences. Our Year 6 girls also had a fantastic time at their cricket smash tournament. A highlight of last week was the lunchtime performance from our talented students learning music through Monster Music; thank you for sharing your mahi and entertaining us all. To round off the week, we are looking forward to a special performance by the NZ Opera, I'm sure it will be a great show.

Next week, we have more excitement planned to finish the term on a high note. Our Year 5–8 ākonga will be involved in Korfball competitions and the Huxster mountain bike event. We also eagerly start our traditional teacher vs. student games and quiz; these events are always full of high energy and friendly competition.

A massive thank you to the wonderful group of parents who joined our Year 7 and 8 camps this week. Giving up three days of your time to support our tamariki is greatly appreciated and ensures these memorable experiences can happen. From the thrills of the giant swing and tree climbing to archery and kayaking—complete with visiting dolphins—it has been an adventure to remember.

We have advertised the Garden to Table position on SEEK - https://www.seek.co.nz/job/91027075?ref=cm-ui - if you are interested in applying please note we close off on Monday 30 March at 12pm.

Looking back on the term, it has been wonderful to see the learning taking place across the kura. Our focus on school values, inquiry topics, and core curriculum rotations have provided truly engaging opportunities for all of our learners.



Please note that our last day of Term 1 is Thursday, 3rd April, with school finishing at the normal time of 3:00 pm.

We wish you all a fabulous Easter break. We hope you have a wonderful time connecting as a whānau and enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation before we dive into Term 2.



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 8-9 are how we communicate with others. All adults are encouraged to lead by example while they are in our school.

- Speaking politely
- Smile at people
- Actively participate
- Actively listen
- Let others share ideas

SCHOOL NOTICES

Key Dates Coming Up		
What	**When**	**Where**
Year 7&8 Camp	Monday - Friday Week 8	Wainui
Year 7&8 Canterbury Swimming	Thursday 26th March	
Year 5&6 Bridle Path Trip	Thursday 26th March	Bridle Path & Gondola
NZ Opera in Schools Show	Friday 27th March	At school
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

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

William Pike - Spencer Park Bike Trip
The William Pike Challenge group had an awesome trip to Spencer Park and biked all around Bottle Lake Forrest. The tamariki showed determination and support towards one another to complete their 2 hours of biking. Thanks to all the parent helpers for making the day run smoothly.

City 2 Surf!
Thanks to all the whānau who came down to City 2 Surf on the 13th of March! Everyone had a great time running or walking, catching up with friends and grabbing some goodies at the finish line.



Navigators Girls Smash Cricket Day
The year 5/6s had an awesome opportunity to attend a Girls' Cricket Day at Hagley Park. The girls quickly picked up the rules and has so much fun throughout the day!

Year 3 Scooter Skills
On Wednesday our Year 3 students participated in a Scooter Skills programme run by Primary Sport Canterbury.
Tamariki engaged in a discussion about safety (helmets, footpaths and roads), and then learned how to safely stop and slow down on their scooters.
They also practised how to use their scooter at a crossing; slow down, stop, look left and right and walk scooters across the crossing when the road is clear.







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.

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

HALO INTERNET

Protecting children from the digital world requires a balance of technology and guidance.
• Separate Kids WiFi: Filter your kids internet without filtering your own.
• Device Isolation / Pause Access / Set "Sleep Times", ending the secret late-night scrolling.
At Halo, we don't just 'suggest' safety; we enforce it.
It's time to upgrade your home's defences and regain control of your evenings.
Protect your family at halointernet.co.nz

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 OR
Bank transfer directly to the PTA: St Martins School PTA 12 3147 0420521 00
(Reference: Name / Donation)

Frozen Cookie Dough and Croissants Fundraiser: Back by popular demand next term! Details to follow, sales start on 1st May.

New Members: We welcomed new members Rosemary Brooks and Christine Kelly to the PTA at our meeting on Monday. We 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

Clothing Drive: We have been approached by Kā Au Kahuraki and Plunket requesting support for a clothing drive for children living in neighbouring and eastern suburbs, particularly for jackets and winter pyjamas, pre-school through to age 16. If you are having a clear out in the holidays, please hold onto items until Term 2 or email us for collection / drop off: info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz

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

Move X: With the closure of Move X, our fundraiser in June has been cancelled. We are exploring alternative options for this fun night out.

Next Meeting: AGM, Monday 11th May, refreshments from 7pm, meeting 7.30pm, School Hall.

Contact Us: info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz
Facebook: St Martins School PTA
Websites: https://www.stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz/ and www.stmartinsptafundraiser.com









