St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 9 : Thursday 25 June 2026

Friday 3rd July - last day of Term 3 school closes at 1.00pm



BOARD UPDATE

Thank you to the families who responded to our consultation on our Te Tiriti o Waitangi policy. 12% of our community responded to this survey. Of the responses;
90% YES – Keep the policy as is. I support maintaining our current policy.
10% NO – I would like changes to the policy to be considered.
We will continue to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi by undertaking the following programmes for our ākonga:

- Schoolwide te reo Māori classroom programmes and te reo Māori enrichment programme.
- Professional learning focusing on Te Reo for staff at fortnightly staff meetings.
- Engagement in:
    - Kapa haka
    - Mihi whakatau
    - Manu kōrero
    - Matariki celebrations
- Celebrating cultural identity through teaching New Zealand histories and embedding tikanga Māori within our units of learning. In 2026, this has included topics such as:
    - Treaty of Waitangi, Sovereignty and Governance,
    - Turangawaewae
    - He Taonhga
    - Low Wai Tatou
    - Ōtautahi you taone
    - Te Ao Māori - story gatherers
    - Whakapapa me te whanaungatanga

Making meaningful connections with our local iwi, including marae visits and acknowledging significant aspects of our local environment.



Tomorrow we have our Matariki celebration for the term. All classes have been involved in Matariki learning as well as kite making. If the weather is fine, we will be off to Hansens Park to get some kites flying with our buddy classes. If the weather is wet, we will remain at school and share our kites and some activities with our buddy classes in the classroom.



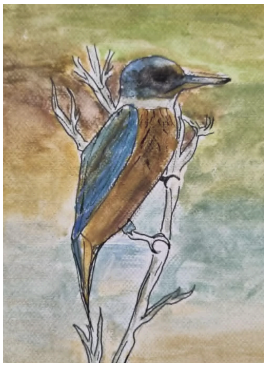
A casual vacancy has occurred on the school board for an elected parent representative. The board has decided to fill the vacancy through a selection process. If 10% or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

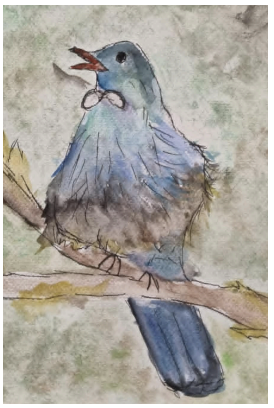


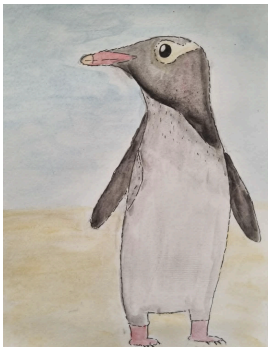
Requests for a by-election should be sent by Thursday, 2nd July 2026, to Presiding Member Joseph Hampton via email on bot@stmartins.school.nz

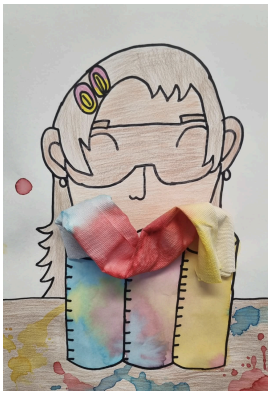
Many thanks
Joseph Hampton
Presiding Member St Martins School Board

SCHOOL UPDATE









Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

Our ākonga have been enjoying learning about Matariki over the last few weeks. The classes have been busy completing some amazing kites to share with their buddy classes tomorrow, Friday. Due to the wet weather, we have had to cancel our planned trip to Hansen Park. Instead, we will be staying warm and dry at school, where buddy classes will gather together inside the classrooms to share their beautiful kites and participate in special Matariki activities and celebrations.

In 2026, the Government has allocated two teacher-only days to each school to focus on the curriculum. We have not used our remaining days yet and have locked in these dates for the second half of the year:

- **Term 3**: Monday 31st August
- **Term 4**: Thursday 12th November

We have made the decision to change our uniform supplier to a local business, Mainland Uniforms. While our uniform style remains completely unchanged, the prices for some of our pieces will be reduced. We will continue selling our current stock at school until the end of Week 2, Term 3. From the beginning of Week 4 next term, our school uniform will be available to purchase directly from the Mainland Uniforms store in South City, which is open Monday to Friday and on Saturday mornings.

Our mid-year reports are ready to share with whānau. These will be published on Monday afternoon next week via the HERO app. This is ahead of our learning conferences starting on Tuesday, and we hope you will have time to view your child or children's reports before your learning conversations. A reminder that we have an early closing next week, with school finishing on Friday at 1:00 pm due to the learning conferences.

Next week, we will also hold our end-of-term assemblies. On Monday at 2:15 pm, we will have our Year 0–4 assembly. On Friday at 9:00 am, we will hold our Year 5–8 assembly, which will feature a performance from our senior Kapa Haka group as well as our school band. Additionally, on Tuesday next week at 2:30 pm, the Year 5 and 6 Culture Club will be performing to whānau, and we warmly welcome anyone who would like to attend.

Following the successful completion of the junior playground, the Board is currently turning its focus to our other playground areas. We are currently investigating installing AstroTurf on the lower court, looking into irrigation, reseeding and drainage for the main field, and reviewing the fort area to consider equipment that offers greater play opportunities for our tamariki. We are likely to complete one of these projects during the upcoming Christmas break.

Good luck to our youngest runners in the Year 0–4 area who are competing at the zone cross country event next Tuesday. Hopefully, we have clear, crisp, and dry conditions for our youngest competitors to run in. Thank you to the teachers who are going with the children, and to the whānau who will be there to support them.

This is my last newsletter for the year. Next term, Leanne Parnham will be writing the updates as Acting Principal, and in Term 4, Alice Denley will be taking over the newsletters. Have the best time ever in your learning, and be the best person you can be each day. We have some amazing learning and activities lined up for the **tamariki** of St Martins School and our community to engage in for the rest of the year. I hope everyone has a fabulous Term 3 and 4 ahead.



As always, if you want 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.

Andrew

Key Dates Coming Up - June		
When	**What**	**Where**
Monday 29th June	Yr 7-8 Korfball tournament	
	Junior end-of-term assembly	2.15pm, hall
Tuesday 30th June	Yr 0-4 Cross Country	
	Year 5 and 6 Culture Club performance	1-2pm, hall
Wednesday 1st July	Vision & Hearing testing (selected students)	During school hours
Friday 3rd July	Senior end-of-term assembly	9am, hall
	Last day of term 2 - school closes at 1pm for Learning Conferences	
For specific details on these events, see your HERO app feed or the **School Calendar**		

PB4L - Positive Behaviour for Learning

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

Our Term 2 overarching school focus is **Responsibility**.



For the last two weeks of the term, teachers and students have teamed up to identify and address the specific, everyday needs unique to each classroom.

Here are a some of the ways our classrooms are continuing to put responsibility into action:

- Managing personal belongings: Organisation of tote trays, bag storage, track water bottles, and uniform.
- Ownership of learning: Setting personal academic goals, tracking individual progress, and making seating choices.
- Transition and time management: Mastering quick, quiet transitions between subjects to maximise our valuable learning time.
- Digital citizenship: Demonstrating care and respect while using devices and digital learning platforms.

PB4L - Responsibility: Identify and Focus on Class Need





Recently, our Year 8 students took part in an important discussion about behaviour and wellbeing at St Martins School. Using school behaviour data, they analysed trends across different areas of the school and explored how this information helps teachers create a safe, welcoming environment where everyone can learn and thrive.

The students identified that the playground and field appear to be the greatest lunchtime hot spots. Through thoughtful discussion, they brainstormed possible reasons for this and considered practical ways to support positive behaviour. Ideas included ensuring each class has access to sports equipment, creating more opportunities for active play, and promoting clear rules and expectations during games.

A key theme that emerged was the importance of sportsmanship and resilience. Students recognised that disagreements can arise when expectations are unclear and discussed how learning to respond positively to challenges is an important life skill. They also highlighted the value of having strong friendships within their own age groups and the role these relationships play in creating a positive school culture.

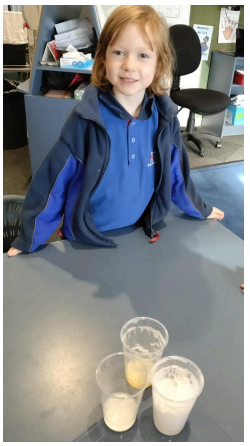
Our Year 8 students were particularly excited about ways they can contribute as leaders. They expressed a strong interest in supporting younger students through Culture Coaching,

modelling positive interactions and encouraging strategies such as using high fives, showing encouragement, and responding to setbacks with phrases like, “All good, next job.”
The discussion also included Area 2 and the opportunities provided by the new junior playground, helping ensure spaces across the school are used in ways that best meet the needs of different age groups.
We were incredibly impressed by the maturity, insight, and leadership shown by our Year 8 students. Their ideas were positive, practical, and forward-focused, reflecting a genuine commitment to making St Martins School a place where everyone feels safe, respected, included, and ready to learn.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Explorers Science Learning with the Canterbury Museum



The Explorers had a fantastic time learning with the Canterbury Museum team this week.
First, we made carbon dioxide by mixing vinegar and baking soda. It was so exciting to watch the reaction and see an irreversible change as the liquid and solid turned into a bubbly gas. There were lots of surprised faces as the mixture fizzed and bubbled!
Next, we made bubble gum-scented bath bombs to take home. We can't wait to use them and watch them fizz in the bath.
Having the experts visit our classroom helped bring our learning about the States of Matter to life. The hands-on activities helped us better understand how solids, liquids, and gases can change and react in different ways.

Pyjama Day Fundraiser

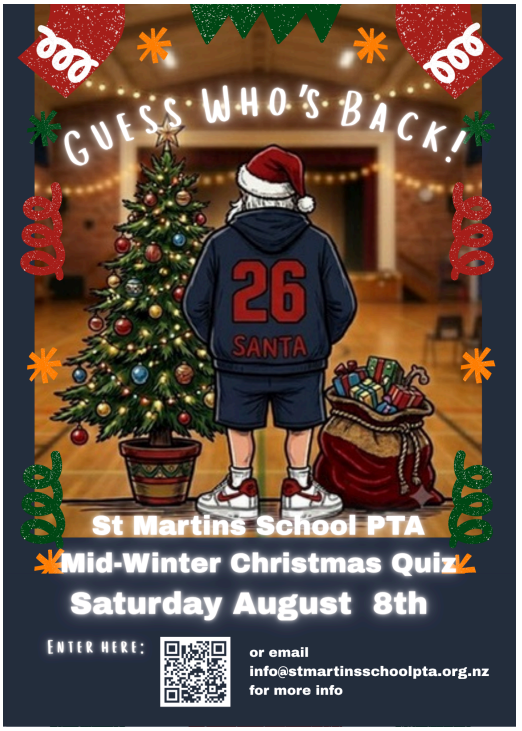


A huge thank you to everyone who supported our recent Pyjama Day fundraiser. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, we raised an incredible $496.10, with a few last-minute donations helping us exceed expectations.
The PTA were able to purchase 58 sets of pyjamas for local children. These pyjamas have been donated to Plunket and will help provide warmth and comfort to families in our community. We know that Plunket will be delighted with this wonderful donation, and we are proud of the kindness and generosity shown by our St Martins School community.

ST MARTINS SCHOOL COMMUNITY

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 Reo Māori 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.

Alice Barakat
Contact: aliceb@stmartins.school.nz
Join our Facebook! | Te rōpū whānau o Hato Matene

PTA UPDATE

Quiz Night: We are excited to bring you the 2026 PTA Mid-Winter Christmas Quiz Night. Saturday 8th August. What to expect? A fun night of quizzing, raffles, silent and live auctions, mulled wine, Christmas fare and tinsel galore.Gather your team and register quickly before this popular event sells out. Email us if you have any questions or offers of donations.

As always the popular and hotly contested **Principal For A Day** will be a live auction again and this year it promises to be something extra special for some lucky children. If you can't attend but would like your children and friends to experience this special opportunity, you can email us your top bid: info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz

Register your team here: Quiz Night Form

Uniform Donations: Please continue to drop second-hand uniforms off at the school office so we can offer a sale in Term 3. We are grateful for your donations.

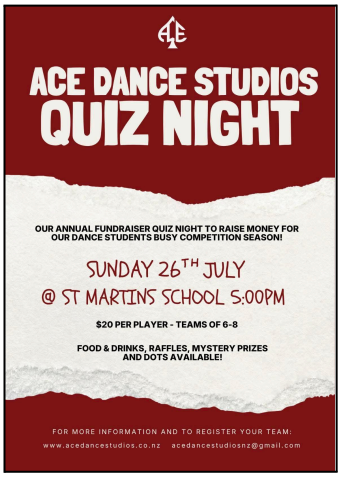
Touch Rugby: We need your help if the 2026 Touch session is to go ahead! To spread the load on the current organisers, please email us if you are keen to be part of this very popular and fun Term 4 activity: info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz

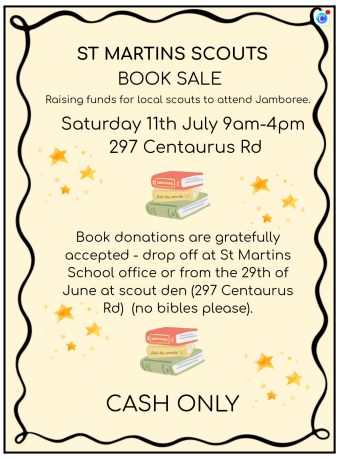
Fudgey June: Generous **Fudge Cottage** owner and PTA member, Alison will be donating 30% of website and in store sales to the PTA in June. Make sure you mention St Martins School when purchasing on-line (comments field) or in store. Order here: Fudge Cottage

Future Dates: Disco Friday 14th August, Colour Run Friday 16th October, Karma Keg Saturday 17th October, Market Day Sunday 1st November, rogaine = Springtime.

Next Meeting: Monday 27th July, 7.30pm, Staff Room. New members welcome.

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





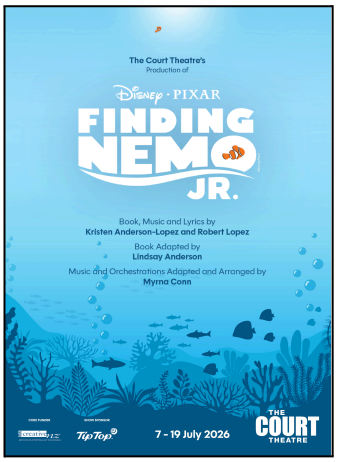


COMMUNITY NOTICES

Ace Dance Studio Quiz Night fundraiser - SMS School hall
Come along for a fun night of quizzing and back our former students as they compete on the world Stage at Hip Hop Unite Worlds in Tauranga. See poster for more details.

St Martins Scouts Book Sale
Raising funds for the scouts to attend Jamboree, Saturday 11th July 9am-4pm from 297 Centaurus Road. Book donations gratefully accepted at the St Martins School Office. See poster for more details.

Southern Ballet Theatre production of Frozen
Looking for a school holiday activity, come along to the Southern Ballet Theatre's production of Frozen, starring ex St Martins Student Maia Kelly. Details below.



Rams Basketball is Back This Sunday

Enjoy an afternoon of professional basketball and family entertainment this weekend as the Canterbury Rams take on the Hawke's Bay Hawks. Catch all the high-flying action, grab a bite to eat, and meet the team after the game!

When: 3:00pm | Sunday, June 28

Where: Parakiore Recreation & Sports Centre

https://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/Show.aspx?sh=RAMSHAW26



Finding Nemo Court Theatre

Lyla Topping (year 6) is playing the role of Pearl in The Court Theatre's production of Finding Nemo Junior, running from 7th - 19th July. Lyla is a part of the GREEN cast performing alternate shows. Check The Court Theatre website for the performance schedule.









