St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 5 : Thursday 30 April 2026

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

Welcome to our new students Athena, Isabel, Naomi, Leon, Esme, Otis, and Mikaila. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene.



This term sees us implementing the new Smart assessment provided by the Government. Our focus for weeks two and three will be on reading, writing, and maths assessments across the Year 3–8 areas of the kura. Using a mix of paper and online assessments, this mahi will provide data to help form our overall teacher judgments using the new Ministry of Education descriptors. We look forward to sharing this information with you during our learning conferences at the end of the term.

Our attendance focus in Term 1 was to reach a target of 81%. We are pleased to share that our final rate was 82%, with an impressive 97% of ākonga arriving on time. Let's keep up this fantastic momentum as we head into Term 2.



Next week, we are excited for our "May the Fourth" dress-up day. Along with some creative costumes, there will be a Te Reo challenge, a "create your own creature" activity, and a colouring competition. We hope all our tamariki enjoy getting involved in the fun.

A huge thank you to Briana and our school leaders for organising the Lip Sync competition. It was a spectacular show, and we congratulate all the children who performed in the heats and the finals. A special thanks to our judges—Joseph, Liam, and Kathleen—for having the difficult task of selecting our 2026 winners. Our EPAC team is also in full rehearsal mode for their upcoming performance in week 5; we wish them the very best for the ShowQuest competition, and thank Nicky for her excellent organisation of this group.



On Tuesday afternoon, we were honoured to have Major Graham Hickman visit to play the Last Post as part of our ANZAC commemorations. This is a special tradition that ensures our tamariki understand the significance of the day. We also thank Keisuke for representing our school and laying a wreath at the Waltham community service.

In the sports domain, our Year 3–8 ākonga are focusing on cross country. They have been making the most of the settled weather to practice distance running and games that encourage continuous movement.

We welcome Stacy Walls as our new Garden to Table specialist, and Sharon Rodgers, who joins the junior team to cover Paige's maternity leave position. Looking ahead to Terms 3 and 4, I will be away on sabbatical. During this time, the Senior Leadership Team will share the Acting Principal role, with Leanne stepping up in Term 3 and Alice in Term 4. Chantal Ward will join the SLT as Acting Deputy Principal for both terms. While Chantal will be released from her classroom to take on this role, she will remain the Year 5/6 Team Leader. We have advertised a fixed-term position to cover her classroom teaching.

Finally, our ākonga have responded very positively to our new Kapa Haka tutor, Matua Rihari. We appreciate the commitment of our Year 5–8 group for their 8:00 am Friday starts. We also want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Matua Willie and Whaea Tania for their wonderful work with our rōpū over the years.



If you are available, the PTA would love to see you at their AGM on Monday, 11th May, at 7:00 pm in the hall. The PTA provides an invaluable service to our kura, enhancing our environment and supporting social connections for both tamariki and whānau.

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**'









Our Term 2 focus is **Responsibility**. One way of being responsible is showing integrity.
This means:

- **Proactive Ownership:** Do what is expected of you without waiting for a prompt. Real impact happens when we see a need and meet it.
- **Radical Honesty:** Commit to honest conversations, even when they're uncomfortable. If you make a mistake, own it immediately and focus your energy on the fix.
- **Self-Respect:** Hold yourself to a high standard. When you respect your own time, your word, and your potential, you naturally elevate everyone around you.

SCHOOL NOTICES

2026 SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

The Heritage Photo team will be at our school on **Monday, 11 May 2026** for your child's school photos.
Class and individual photos will be taken throughout the day.
Sibling photos will be taken before school starts between 8.00am and 8.50am on Monday 11th May..
To make a sibling photo booking, please click here or scan the QR code ➡️
Registrations for sibling photos close on Sunday, 10 May 2026.
(Individual and class photos do not require bookings)

Ordering information will be provided via email a few weeks after Heritage has photographed our school and edited the images. Keep an eye on your HERO and emails for updates.

Key Dates Coming Up - May		
What	**When**	**Where**
May 4th - Star Wars dress up day	Monday May 4th	At school
Winter Sports - Trials	Wednesday 6th May	At school 2pm-3pm
Yr 4-6 Rippa Rugby Tournament	Thursday 7th May	All day Hagley Park
PTA AGM	**Monday 11th May**	**School Hall**
2026 School Photo Day	**Monday 11th May**	**At School - more info to come in week 3**
Yr 3-8 Cross Country	Tuesday 12th May	Hansen Park 9.30am-12.30pm
Pink Shirt Day - dressup pink	Friday 15th May	At school
Yr 7-8 Showquest	Monday 18th May	https://www.rqp.co.nz/showquest/dates-tickets
For specific details on these events see your HERO app feed or the School Calendar		

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 review the term policies;

Username: stmartins / Password: huntsbury

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT



Interclub girls Tennis Competition Winners

Congratulations to Bella (year 7), Addy (year 7) and Neave (year 8) who recently competed in the Beckenham Tennis Club Competition and placed first in their Division. Neave also won Club Champion for Beckenham. Well done on your achievement girls.



Camp Moment In Time Writing by Harper Brocket, Year 7.

As the waves crash around me, I try not to imagine what would happen if we hit the rocks that look as sharp as knives ahead of us. My stomach is tight and my mouth feels dry. All I can taste is super salty sea salt. I can see Jess sitting in front of me paddling furiously, like a windmill whipping in the wind. Our paddles splash in the water beside us as we slowly propel ourselves towards the bobbing black buoy, to raft up with the others in the group. The ocean splashes against our kayak like hot chocolate against the walls of a mug. I am nervous, my tongue sticks hard to the roof of my dry mouth like sherbet to a licked lollipop, my hands tremble as I hold the hard, cold paddle.



The wind laughs to itself as it whacks us harshly again and again. I can hear the other group in the distance yelling at each other to raft up. The water splashes onto me and Jess and I start to realise that although the splash jacket is keeping the cold wind off my torso, it's not doing much to keep me dry. I shiver as I realise how cold and wet I am. It almost feels like I'm in Antarctica but I'm pretty sure Jess is colder than me as she is shivering like a blender and her lips have turned a bluey-purple colour. I can just hear somebody yelling to keep in time with them over the waves crashing. Out of my group I'd guess that it's probably Halvin and Dylan, I think to myself. Fortunately for Jess, I'm not yelling at her like that, and she's not yelling at me either!.



Camp Moment In Time Writing by Theo Simpson, Year 7

I look down below my feet from this monster of a swing, and I see my friends down beneath me. Now only tiny dots on the distant ground under my suspended body. I regret my choice of going this high. I feel the tight harness digging into my stomach like a sharp knife and I can almost smell the fear in the moist air from the very top of this massive swing. The strong winds sting my eyes, as I think about the hundreds of kids that have gone to the top of this swing before me, and how they may have felt the same way that I do right now. I can't hear anything from up here at the very top, because of the extreme height of this swing. I shakily look down in sheer terror at the instructor who gives me a reassuring thumbs up. My dry mouth attempts a smile. I look up at the two tall metal poles like skyscrapers. Their thin wires reach out to the heavens in front of me, suspending me in the cold eerie silence seventeen and a half metres above the hard, rough dirt. Why did I do this? Why did I go to the top? Engulfed by unbearably cold winds, and strangled by a harness tighter than the strongest boa

constrictor, I take a deep breath, and reluctantly pull the fraying white string, which appears to laugh at me over my shoulder. The sound of wind rushes past me, filling my ears. Travelling at a speed of what feels like over millions of kilometers an hour, I feel like I am going to fall out. This is by far the hardest and most challenging thing I had to bring myself to do at Wainui camp.







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

PTA UPDATE

AGM and New Members: The PTA AGM will be held on Monday 11th May, refreshments from 7pm, meeting at 7.30pm in the school hall. 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



Thank You! You answered the call for support of Clothed in Love overwhelmingly. Thank you to everyone who donated clothing and a special thanks for the many donations of new underwear and socks as part of their Dignity Project – to give all children new underwear and socks.



Cookie Dough & Croissants Fundraiser: We launch this popular fundraiser tomorrow! Orders open Friday 1st May until 24th May with delivery on 11th June. 13 frozen cookie dough nuggets for $12.95, 20 frozen unbaked croissants for $20 and a selection of organic tea, coffee and hot chocolate to accompany them. Buy through the PTA fundraising page or set up your own fundraising page to share with family, friends and work colleagues and be in to win a $50 fuel or supermarket voucher if you're a top seller. Look out for the FB and Hero posts tomorrow to order. We will have a sampling of warm cookies after school sometime soon. Like many of us last year, don't regret not buying enough of these tasty treats!

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Girls Rugby "Have a Go" Festival Day - Sunday 3 May

This fun, girls-only morning is all about giving rugby a go, building confidence, and having fun with friends in a supportive environment. No previous rugby experience is required.
🗓️ Event Details
Date: Sunday 3 May
Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm (approximately)
Venue: Burnside Rugby Football Club
To register go to: Sunday Girls Festival Day - "Have a go Event" Rego – Fill out form



