

The S'Mart Community is the St Martins School parent community (replacing the PTA and fundraising committees) that helps the school by fundraising, giving practical support and by helping develop a stronger parent community. Check out our website for more details: <https://www.smartcommunity.org.nz/>

Congratulations and welcome... to the new S'Mart Community Managing Committee

Chair - Jo Bethell

Secretary - Kate Hodgins

Staff representative - Jenny Woods

Community co-leaders - Sarah Stewart, Ange Tiller

Fundraising co-leaders - Deb Purdue, Aimee Bloy

Practical jobs co-leader - Rochelle Kingi

Committee members - Jamie Billings, Di McCoy, Kate Dasler, Karina Pettigrew

A huge thanks to our outgoing committee members for their sterling efforts last year - Jane Catley (treasurer), Leslie Cowie (Practical jobs co-leader), Julie Young (Community co-leader), Alison Low (committee member).

What you said....

The top three community events you would like to see...

- School picnic/BBQ, school disco, movie cinema nights.

The top three practical activities and events...

- Second-hand uniform sales, grounds improvements, working bees.

The top three fundraising events you'd support...

- Calendars and cards, raffles, fun run.

The top three areas you wanted to see funds spent on...

- School hall, technology, library.

The top three activities you want to be involved in...

- School disco, baking database, practical support and back to school BBQ (equal third!)

Your favourite recipes and what you said about the Cookbook...

Love it!! Roasted Beetroot and Kumara with Feta Basic Moroccan Spice Mix... hard to choose just one... Brown rice salad... was loved by everyone... plonk cake-I love trying the new recipes and talking to other members of the community about the ones we liked... Molly slice... - too many to choose from, cheese puffs and bacon and pea risotto - was so fast and yummy... The raspberry choc brownies! Firm favourite in our household... A beautifully presented book. I applaud the team that put this together...

Congratulations to Mel Opie for winning the \$25 Fava voucher!

Has your child's Pod got Parent Representatives?

Did your family have a good time at the Family Picnic earlier in the Term? Then keep that going with being involved in the group making these things happen around the school! In the S'Mart Community, there are a few key groups. The Community Group is just one, but an important one for continuing to build our school Community.

Join the Community Group and be part of making the following things happen:

- Friendship Lists
- Mum's Nights - chance to get together with other St Martins School mums
- Dad's Nights - chance for the Dads to connect
- School Disco - in Term 2 or 3 (date being worked on at the moment). In two parts: early for Juniors (Year 0-4) then followed by Seniors (Year 5-8)
- End of Year S'Mart Celebration - evening get-together late in the school year
- Back to School Picnic - early in the year
- Listening out for Families in crisis who may be helped by the school Meals- or Baking-database - on-going.

Some key members of the Community Group are the Class/Pod Parent Reps.

Nominate yourself/pair up with another parent (or two) from your Pod. It is OK to be both/all from same Class. Most Classes/Pods are in need of Parent Reps.

The focus is on enabling what can be done, rather than any pressure or major expectation. The intention is that as Parent Reps, you organise Class/Pod get-togethers to happen about once per Term, if that's do-able, e.g. family-friendly events so that people from your child's class can get together to meet and chat. This could be something as simple as 'Class Playdate: bring afternoon tea for you and your family down to the Adventure Playground after school, on day X. Meet under the Big Oak Tree'. Other ideas that have worked well in the past are family takeaway nights, playdates at the Adventure Playground/Hansen's Park, Parent/Caregiver catch-ups at Fava - any children who are not yet at school are always welcome at the parent catch-ups.

The Co-Leaders of the Group are Sarah Stewart and Ange Tiller. So, please email community@smartcommunity.org.nz to let Sarah and Ange know or catch one of us at school - Sarah is usually outside Room 4/5 at the end of the school day, often in green coat. You will likely find Ange outside Room 22/23.

<https://www.smartcommunity.org.nz/community-team/>

Pod Friendship Lists

We're nearly there!

Over the last 4 weeks, we've made good progress and the lists are being distributed as they're finished off. All classes should have their lists by the end of this week.

If you missed getting your child's info in this time, see Diane at the Office and we will try to incorporate for another edition.

TOMORROW! Fortnightly Friday morning catch-up

From 8:30am and after you've dropped the kids off, grab a free hot drink from the Hall kitchen and have a chat and laughs with other school parents and caregivers - a great way to get to know more people!

TONIGHT! Mum's Night

(Thursday April 6th)

7:30pm onwards.

Come along to "*Protocol*" (Colombo St/Dyers Pass Rd) for a low-key chance to get together with other St Martins mums. Drinks/coffee/hot chocolate/dessert.

If you're not comfortable coming along by yourself, grab a fellow St Martins mum and travel there together. We've booked a table, so let them know you're with St Martins and they'll point you in the right direction.

(A similar Dad's night will happen in Term 2)

Soccer Field Working Bee

This Sunday at 10am – 1 hour only.

Please, we need volunteers to help move soil to fill holes and bare patches, then sow grass seed!

Bring a wheelbarrow, if you have one, and shovel to help make the soccer field safer for our soccer season.

Let Rochelle know by Friday if you can make it: rochellejkingi@gmail.com

(Weather is looking fine for Sunday. Email early Sunday morning if it is too wet!)

