



St Martins School

Kia Maiangi awe ake te mātauranga Inspiring a passion for learning



NEWSLETTER 2

23 February 2017

“INSPIRING A PASSION FOR LEARNING”

Kia ora Whānau - Greetings everyone.

It was wonderful to see so many parents at our Parent-Teacher Liaison meeting last night. As a school we value the opportunity to communicate with our parent community and we thank you for taking the time to be there as we unpacked what is ahead in 2017.

Please be aware that we are also keen to have parents experience the ‘School Machine’ and to that end we are offering you the opportunity to be part of a tour through the school during school hours. This is something that we do with all new parents who enrol during the school year. If you are interested please contact Michele in the office as we are hoping to ‘take a tour’ in the near future.

Student Health

To ensure that we can deal with any medical or health issues relating to your children it is most important that we hold up to date information about your children. We need to know if your child has any illnesses, allergies or conditions that we might need to manage if your child becomes unwell at school. Administering of medication, including giving paracetamol, can only happen with parental permission. Parents are required to complete a medication form before our staff can administer any medication. For this reason, it is very important for us to have this on record so that we can act promptly if needed. If your child has had any health changes it is important to communicate with the office as soon as possible. If you are in doubt about what information the school holds please contact the office and check.

Scooters and Bikes

Please be aware that bikes and scooters are at risk if they are left at school overnight. We have bikes and scooters left at school and despite being locked they have been tampered with. While on the topic of scooters and bikes, I would just like to clarify that the area outside the school by the Albert Terrace crossing is a ‘No biking - no scooting’ zone after school. The area is just too congested for scooting and biking to be safe. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Kind regards
Rob Callaghan
Principal

Family Picnic - Friday 24th February 4.30pm

By Adventure Playground

Thanks to the Board of Trustees for supplying 300 free sausages. Twirly Potato Man, Mr Whippy and a coffee van will also be there for you to buy yummy treats!



Bring a picnic, picnic blanket and a warm jacket. There will also be a slippery slide so wear your togs and bring a towel if you want to have a go! We would love to see you and your family there. Slippery slide: While there will be a parent letting children know when they can start, parents need to take responsibility for their own children on this activity. Parents please take a turn helping out at the slippery slide, bouncy castles, or BBQ.

Term Dates to Remember

24th February

Family Picnic 4.30pm

27th Feb to 1st March

Year 7-8 Camp at

Glentui Meadows

6th March

School swimming sports

Year 5 to 8

9th March

SCHOOL CLOSSES AT

12.30PM FOR ALL

STUDENTS DUE TO

GOAL SETTING

CONFERENCES

9th March

Year 4 to 8 Goal Setting

Conferences. See more

information in this

newsletter

14th March

Zone swimming

15th to 17th March

Book Fair in library

16th March

Year 4 to 8 Goal Setting

Conferences. School

closes at normal time - 3pm

School News

S'Mart Governance - News from the Board

It's at this time of year that we review the school's budget. One of the things we pride ourselves on at St Martins School is the wide range of extra programmes and support we offer our students. The funding we receive from the Ministry of Education does not cover all these costs ... so we want you to know how important your financial contributions are to the school.

Please pay your school term costs on time and, if you can afford it, please pay the "school donation". Payment by instalment is easy to setup by talking to Michele in the office. Without these funds, we may not be able to continue providing the programmes that we do.

School donations are tax deductible. You can get up to one third back and claim tax rebates for the previous 4 years. Go to ird.govt.nz or schoolrebates.co.nz for more info.

Goal Setting Conferences - Year 4-8

The 2017 school year has started with a positive, vibrant feel to it. As you know, part of the 'St Martins Way' is to encourage students to set learning goals, share their learning and to celebrate progress and achievement.

We begin this process with the Goal Setting Conferences for the Year 4 to 8 syndicates, where students, with the support from their teachers, set relevant learning goals. As part of this process we would like to invite you as parents and caregivers, in preparation for the conferences, to think about what your child's strengths are and areas they could focus on for their learning.

Information of how you will be able to make a contribution to your child's Goal Setting Conference will be sent to you shortly from your child's teacher.

We believe the path to success can only be travelled when learners, parents and teachers work together. The conferences are an important vehicle to support your child's ability to discuss and talk about their learning and goal setting also enables them to understand and articulate their individual learning needs. Please be positive when talking about your child's goals and to support their goals both at home and during the conferences. As you know, it is important for children to feel good about their goals, progress and achievement.

Goal Setting Conferences - Important Information

Dates; Thursday 9th March - 1.30pm to 8.00pm

Thursday 16th March - 3.30pm to 8.00pm

Bookings: Go to www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and enter the booking code **2t2hz** to start the booking process. The bookings are open now and close 6th March. If you do not have internet access please contact Michele in the office to book an appointment. Creche will be open in the library for siblings of students involved in the conferences.

PLEASE NOTE SCHOOL WILL CLOSE AT LUNCHTIME 12.30PM ON THURSDAY 9TH MARCH FOR ALL STUDENTS TO ENABLE AFTERNOON CONFERENCES TO BE HELD.

Off the Shelf

With many children in the School studying heroes and NZ heroes in particular our books can be fairly scarce! For that reason we've kept a number of the accumulated biographies at the counter where children can find the information they need and copy the relevant pages. Additionally there are many useful links on the Library website which can be accessed directly at <http://smartlib.weebly.com/> or via the Library dashboard <http://accessit.stmartins.school.nz/#!dashboard> and look for the big question mark! These are useful sites to bookmark as there is lots to be found on them! If you're still wanting to help in School but haven't found a slot for yourself don't fear - we'd love to hear from you!! Even if you're not available during the day we do have some jobs which can be taken home, so if interested please call in or drop us an email

School News

SPORTS UNIFORMS

You'll notice over the next few months that we have new sports uniforms for some sports. We are very grateful to the Smart Community and two local funding bodies for funding these, and to Katrina Greenslade for her design expertise. We look forward to seeing these uniforms worn with pride on the sports field and will get uniforms for all sports made as soon as funds allow.



WHAT IS ECO ACTION?

This year, as part of our exciting Year 5&6 initiative, Eco Action, Ms Saxon will be leading a group called S'Mart Tank. This will be based on the Shark Tank / Dragon's Den type programme where children will come up with original ideas and designs for new products or services. Children will learn that enterprise is a bold undertaking. This will link strongly with our values of learning, personal best and responsibility as well as all of the Key Competencies - Relating to Others, Thinking, Using Language, Symbols and Texts, Managing Self and Participating and Contributing. There will be cross-curricula links defined by the projects themselves.

We are calling for expressions of interest from parents or community members who may be interested in becoming mentors for this group. You would be asked to select the best designs for the children to then go through the design process as part of a group to create their designs.

If you have areas of expertise which may be valuable to this programme, please contact Ms Saxon tamaras@stmartins.school.nz and include details of how you may be able to assist.

Thank you in advance,
Tamara Saxon.

ST MARTINS SCHOOL ROCK BAND

St Martins School is continuing with the School Rock Band this year. We are looking to start from afresh as most of the band members from last year have moved onto High School. We are now looking for ALL new members for the rock band. So if you can sing, play electric guitar, bass guitar or the drums and are keen on being in a Rock Band then auditions will be held on Monday 27th February in the school music room at lunchtime. Just bring an MP3 for the song that you want to play your instrument and do your stuff!! Good luck!



For more info please contact Diane in the school office or text Danial Neale on 027 821 1544 or email Danial at lessons@rockitchch.com

School News

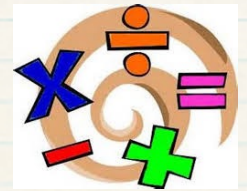
CHRISTCHURCH SCHOOLS MUSIC FESTIVAL AUDITIONS

Applications are open for students wishing to audition for the Special Choirs and Orchestra for the Christchurch Schools Music Festival in October. Students will need to be in Year 5 to 8 and be proficient in playing of musical instruments for the orchestra and be a confident singer for the Special Choir. The website link is http://musicfestival.school.nz/?page_id=907 and contains detailed information regarding the auditions. Our school code this year is 1234 for this application. St Martins has always had students involved in these auditions and have had many students achieve these sought after positions. If you need any clarification about these auditions please contact Miss Rowe by email - trudyr@st.martins.school.nz

MATHS CLUB - YEAR 7 and 8

Maths Club is held at 8am each Wednesday morning. Today's problem was - "My calculator has malfunctioned and the only three buttons that work are +5, +7 and Square Root. How do I get 2 to display, and what are the fewest buttons I need to push to get this to display?"

Any Year 7 and 8 students are welcome to attend our Maths Club. See Mr Roberts in Room 12 if you have any questions.



IT'S COOL TO BE SUN SMART



Get straight A passes for wearing dark glasses. Too much sunlight can damage both the eyes themselves and the skin around them, A close-fitting, preferably wrap around style is best.

When swimming make sure you reapply sunscreen afterwards and cover up.

(Ex) Student Achievement

Lilly van Keulen is a past student of St Martins School and currently in Year 11 at Cashmere High School. We have been advised that while in Year 10 Lilly, along with 3 other students, finished with 100 per cent in the Cambridge International Examination with the International General Certificate of Secondary subjects of English and Global Perspectives. Their research assessments and end-of-year Cambridge exam is marked against all the students around the world who also sit the exam. As a result of their top marks the students have received the title of being "Top in the world" The students will travel to Auckland for an award ceremony to highlight their achievement. What an amazing achievement for Lilly and her fellow award winners.

Community Notices

Cashmere Netball trials 2017 Year 6 to 13. Held Sunday 12th and Sunday 19th March. No trial for Year 5 and below. All trials held at Hagley Netball courts. See website for full information - www.sporty.co.nz/cashmerenc or email cashmerenetball@hotmail.com

Children's Day Sunday 5th March 11am to 3pm

Come along to the free community event at the green space on the corner of New Brighton Road and Locksley Ave. Over 40 fun filled activities that are all free. Bring a picnic and join in the fun. For more details go to <http://bethere.co.nz/event/24257>