



“INSPIRING A PASSION FOR LEARNING”

Kia ora Whānau - Greetings everyone.

We have had an amazing summer, though it certainly feels like Autumn has arrived with a vengeance. With it we are noticing a few more bugs around and this is being seen in the increase in unwell children and staff. We are encouraging everyone to limit the spread of germs by ensuring hands are washed well and that hand sanitisers are used as necessary. We do ask that if children are unwell that you do keep them at home please.

As the term has progressed, and it may be related to the local roadwork, we have noticed the increasing number of children arriving late for school. While we understand that on occasion there may be holdups, it is really important that children are on time to begin the day. Arriving at the gate as the bell rings or coming in after class has begun can be upsetting for children, can lead to anxiety and if regular can have serious impact on a child's learning. Please make the effort to plan to be on time.

We are hoping that by the end of this week the blue fencing in the Junior area will be completed and the new asphalt where the swimming pool used to be can be used as playground. The delays have been unfortunate but entirely out of our hands,

Already several children have raised the idea that we do something as a School to support those who have lost so much because of the devastation in Vanuatu caused by Cyclone Pam. Expect that we will be doing something as a school and that this will be led by our children, who know that we can make a difference through our actions and generosity. Any activities will be shared via the school email system or other notices.

Kind regards

Rob Callaghan

CYBER SAFETY REVIEW

In Term 4 of 2014 our school community took part in a cluster-wide programme about Cyber Safety Awareness. This was made available to students, staff and parents.

We wish to review the impact of this programme on our community. We have provided a link for a quick online survey that requires only “agree/disagree” responses.

It is an anonymous survey. Only the school name is requested.

Your responses will help shape our next steps as a school. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please complete by Friday 27th March.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FF6LD8G>



Term Dates to Remember

TERM ONE

March 18

Zone Swimming

Year 5-8

March 24

School Duathlon

March 26

Year 0-3 Reporting

Conferences

March 30

Canterbury Swimming

March 31

Year 0-3 Reporting

Conferences

April 2

Last day of term

TERM TWO

April 20

School starts back for

Term Two.

April 27

Anzac Day celebration day

School closed.

April 30

Canterbury Duathlon

May 6

School Cross Country

Year 5 - 8

School News



A huge thanks to Nikki and Jeremy Bligh who organised the St Martins School group for the Weetbix TRYathlon that was held on Sunday 15th March at Jellie Park. The kids and parents all had a great time at this well run event. We look forward to more St Martins School kids joining up next time!



Year 7/8 Success - PCT

On Friday 13th March, 8 of our best Year 7/8 athletics competed at the Christchurch Physical Competency Test. They spent the day participating in a variety of activities: Zumba, martial arts, soccer skills, rugby skills with former All Black Nathan Mauger, and the much anticipated timed Physical Competency Test (the same test that the police do as part of their entrance test).

From a total of 78 teams, St Martins Team 1, consisting of Lauren Scott, Holly Reid, Torian Barnes and Jake Waldron came in 6th place. St Martins Team 2, consisting of Amelia Clausen, Alice Wilson, Louie Howell and Louis Hobbs qualified 5th fastest and made it through to place-offs. They improved their heat team by a whopping 16 seconds, resulting in a final standing of 4th place - 2 seconds off qualifying for nationals at Police College. To top off a fantastic day of achievement, Torian was clocked at 26km/hr by the police laser - 1km/hr off the record on the day. Go St Martins!

Library News

This year there are changes to the way the New Zealand Book Awards (formerly New Zealand Post Book Awards) are being judged. Previously the Children's Choice Award has gone to one book, from all categories from a short-list selected by the judges. 2014 Children's Choice went to the fabulous *Three Bears ... sort of* by Yvonne Morrison, a great choice.

This year we are involved as a Judge School to create the short-list from which children will then vote - exciting! We'll be working with some groups and classes looking at the books, identifying which we like and putting them forward for the shortlist, so if your children start to talk about voting that's what it's all about at this stage! We'll be getting the children to think about what makes a good book, does it remind them of anything else and is that good/bad, do they like the illustrations, do they add anything to the text and many more thoughts I'm sure! There's an interesting blog piece from one of the judges about what makes a good book at : <https://booksellersnz.wordpress.com/2015/03/05/mindfood-choosing-childrens-books-to-suit-both-occasions-and-tastes-by-annemarie-florian/>

School News

Last year a school parent, Tracy Clough, arranged for a collection of our older style school uniform to be sent to Vanuatu. These were received by Pacific Pathways who collect and distribute resources to villages in the South Pacific. Our uniforms were sent to Mataiperu School in South Santo, a village in Vanuatu that is a 3 hour walk inland from the main road!

As you can see by the photo the children love their 'new' uniforms. We also received a letter from the Head Teacher. The uniforms were given to Year 1 to 4 students who were very proud and happy with the uniforms. They smiled and laughed and jumped and ran around showing their uniforms. Thank you to Tracy for her input into making this happen.



Canterbury Children Athletics 2015

The Canterbury Children Athletics Association 2015 Championships were held last weekend in Timaru. Well done to the following Port Hills Athletics Club members from St Martins School. Jenna Davison, Leila Dunlop, Orla Dunlop, Tristan Dunlop, Louie Howell, Torian Barnes, Holly Waldron and Jake Waldron. (Sorry if we have missed any names)

The following students placed in the top 10 of a track final or field event:

Orla Dunlop - Girls grade 8, 60m - 4th, 100m - 6th, 200m - 3rd, Long jump - 3rd

Jenna Davison - Girls grade 9, 60m - 1st, 100m - 1st, 200m - 2nd, Long jump - 3rd, 4x100m Relay team - 1st.

Holly Waldron - Girls grade 11, Discus - 6th, Shot Put - 7th, 4x100m Relay Team

Torian Barnes - Shot put - 5th, 4x100m Relay team - 2nd.

Leila Dunlop - Girls grade 11, 800m - 6th, 1500m - 2nd.

Jake Waldron - Boys grade 11, High jump - 3rd, Long jump - 9th, 4x100m Relay team - 2nd.

Louie Howell - Boys grade 11, 800m - 4th.

Well done everyone for taking part and for your wonderful efforts!



School Notices



A final reminder that School Photos are being taken on Monday 23rd March. If you are wanting your children to have a family photo then you must let Diane in the office know before Monday. We will not accept a verbal message from your child. You need to either phone Diane, call in and see her or send a signed note to school with your child. Please ensure your children are in full and correct uniform for their photos.

Students have been seen crossing Centaurus Road near the park, rather than walking to the school crossing further down the road. This is a very busy road and although it may take a little longer to walk to the crossing rather than zipping across unattended at the park, it is a much safer option.

Please talk to your children about where they cross, and if you walk with your children, please lead by example and use the school crossings on Centaurus Road and Albert Terrace.



Afternoon Road Patrol help - we are still looking for more help with both the Albert Terrace and the Centaurus Road Patrol any day after school. This would involve being there before 3pm when the students are setting up and it would finish about 3.20pm. If you are interested in helping please send an email to Jenny wood - her email is jennyw@stmartins.school.nz

Year 0 - 3 Reporting Conferences

Notices went home with Year 0 to 3 students regarding booking for these conferences. The website is www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and the booking code is: **9Q4UU**. Appointments are on 26th and 31st March from 3.15pm to 6pm. A creche will be run in the school library for any siblings while you are attending a reporting conference. If you are unable to make a booking online please phone the school and we will make an appointment for you. Please don't leave it until the last day to book!

Community News

Circuit Training with Janelle Waldron on Tuesday and Thursday mornings starting at 8.45am at the School hall. Everyone is welcome. Be fit, lose weight and tone up. All levels of fitness are catered for. \$8.00 per session. Come along and have a go! Janelle is a registered Personal Trainer. Call her on 337-1200 or 027-4642041 for more details.

Peninsula and Plains Orienteers are hosting the South Island Schools Orienteering Festival this year on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th April at Orton Bradley Park and Lincoln University respectively. The entry information and form are now available for downloading on www.papo.org.nz Entries close 2 April.



Easter School Holiday activities in the Botanic Gardens

Autumn Discovery Trail - Te Wao Nui a Tane (The Great Forest of Tane)

Friday 3 April to Sunday 19 April

Collect your free trail booklet from the Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre and explore the Great Forest of Tane. Children under 7 are recommended to have assistance to complete the five tasks on the trail.

Autumn Art School Holiday Programme

10.30am to 2.30pm Tuesday 14 April to Saturday 18 April (Week two of holidays)

Get creative with leaves - create leaf art, leaf printed bandanas and a leaf sun catcher.

25 minute workshops with bookings taken on the day. Sessions start on the half hour.

Venue: Old Information Centre (now DOC Visitor Centre) Cost \$2 per child. Caregivers free but are required during the sessions.