



NEWSLETTER 6

7 May 2015

“INSPIRING A PASSION FOR LEARNING”

Kia ora Whānau - Greetings everyone.

It is amazing to think that we are already into the fifth month of the year and we are still experiencing such settled weather. Long may it last.

The second term has started with a very positive feel school-wide. In the past two weeks we have taken visitors, including ‘leadership teams’ from other schools, through St Martins to share what we are doing. The feedback has been quite rewarding.

So what is being noticed? The first thing that is seen is the high level of engagement across the school. Last term when the teachers looked at what and how programmes were to be delivered their focus was on student engagement to ensure that students achieved well and enjoyed their learning. This certainly appears to be working.

The second thing that is noticed is the general sense of calm and productivity in each of the rooms and learning spaces. In some ways this is not surprising. Some of the simple modifications made to create more collaborative learning opportunities have meant some of the areas where problems sometimes happened have been removed.

The evidence for this is more than anecdotal. At St Martins we constantly track behaviour issues and patterns so that we can modify whatever needs attention. What we are seeing is a noticeable decrease in events in number, and also in seriousness. It’s actually quite remarkable, and we are sure it’s more than just the good weather causing this!

The other comment is that of surprise that the collaboration across the school, where there have been modifications, is only one term new. It looks and feels like it has been going for much longer. Credit for this goes to our teaching teams and support staff who have worked very hard to make it be this way. Our children have adapted well and conversations with them reveal that they are enjoying this development.

The reality is that this is quite new for us and our teachers know this. We will continue to constantly review what we are doing to ensure that it does what it is meant to do - improve teaching and learning and grow independent self regulated life long learners.

Kind regards

Rob Callaghan

Term Dates to Remember

May 7

Year 5/6 and 7/8 Winter

Sports starts

May 20

Zone Cross Country

Year 5 - 8 qualifiers

June 1

Queens Birthday

School closed.

June 10

Canterbury Cross Country

Year 5 - 8 qualifiers

June 18

Year 0 -3 Reporting

Conferences

June 23

Year 0 - 3 Reporting

Conferences

July 3

Last day of Term 2

July 20

Term Three begins

July 28

Year 4-8 Reporting

Conferences

July 29

Zones sports tournament

Student Achievements

Eliza Dwyer, Lauren Scott and Ruby Young from St Martins School were in the Opawa Tennis Club Girls 12's team who won Division 1 competition. They started the season in Division 2 and were promoted to Division 1 which they won in an exciting final against the Elmwood Tennis Club team. The other two members of the team are Brenna McInnes and Ellis Adams from St Marks School.

Well done to you all for an amazing effort!



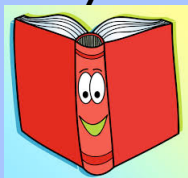
From left to right: Eliza, Lauren, Ruby, Brenna and Ellis.

Recently St Martins School entered into the Year 7/8 primary schools water polo competition. This is held on Friday nights at Jellie Park Pool. While all of the students are very strong swimmers, this was the first time any of them had played water polo, and what an exciting game it was. The students lost 4-2 which was an amazing effort for their first game. We have our second game this Friday night and are hoping to build upon our first round effort.



From left to right: Lily Shields, Amy Clough, Molly Simpson, Lauren Scott, Amelia Clausen, Rosie Howard, Holly Reid, Louie Howell. Absent: Holly Cartwright.

Library News



We're often asked by children and parents alike what to read next - I like this author but don't know what to read now, or similar questions, hopefully we're able to help with some suggestions. In the library we have some reading flowcharts on the walls making suggestions of titles - thematically for the older students and by amount of reading for the younger ones which are proving popular and useful. The library website has links to book blogs and reviewing sites including Christchurch City Libraries blog which is a great source of suggestions and also a recently found site called Literature Map (<http://www.literature-map.com/roald+dahl.html>) which I'm sure will be popular with the children - type in the name of the author you like and watch other names jostle for position - the nearer they are to the original name the more like them they are! Again, on the website, I'm beginning to put together some "if you liked this read that" lists which will be added to as the weeks go by. Apologies if you are having trouble accessing the library sites from home, we are waiting for the problem to be solved, please keep trying!

School News

World Vision Famine - May 22-24: There are a number of students taking part in this year's Famine which is raising money for Bangladesh. Once the Famine weekend is over please return your booklet and money to the School Office. Sponsors can donate online which makes it easier and saves having to collect the money.



Electrical Testing we need some expert help this year. In the past we have checked all electrical goods with a team of helpers saving the school lots of money. This year with the change of Health and Safety regulations, we need the person using the testing machine to have an electrical background. If you would be able to help, send an email to - jennyw@stmartins.school.nz

SCHOOL PHOTO ORDERS

You will have received your school photo order envelope by now. If you would like to order a school photo (various options available) then you must have your order into the school office by **Friday 15th May** at the latest. Payments need to be by cash or cheque made payable to Heritage Productions Ltd. One cheque is fine - just staple multiple orders together. You need to keep the ID photo of your child attached to the envelope for the order to be processed.



Help support Sam Coughlan - Room 19

I have entered a competition to be an onfield mascot for one of the games at the FIFA U-20 world cup that is taking place here in June. If you could please vote for me to ensure that I am inside the top 52 that would be greatly appreciated. I am currently about 30th and would like to stay there.

To vote for me please search the link <http://www.kia.co.nz/fifau20/leaderboard> search on there for Sam Coughlan. Click on my profile and then click on vote. You can do it once a day until the 15th of May and can vote each day on different devices such as computers iPhones Smartphones etc.

Year 0-3 Reporting Conferences Term 2 2015

Thursday, 18th June - from 3.30pm and Tuesday, 23rd June - from 3.30pm

Creche available in the library for children not attending conferences

Booking Online

Website: www.schoolinterviews.co.nz

Event code: **5FB25**

Bookings Open Tuesday 28th April

Online bookings close 2.00pm Friday, 12th June. If you are unable to book online please phone the school and we will book an appointment for you.

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.

SCIRT Update notice - Huntsbury Hill, wastewater repair.

Many of you will have received notices in your letterbox about the CCTV works that will be taking place from Monday 11th May and the Pipe lining from late June 2015. Parking on the street will not be available next to the work area. Streets affected near the school as Albert Terrace, Centaurus Road and Ramahana Road. Please remind your children to be careful around these areas and remember that you may need to leave a little earlier to get to school on time due to the possibility of limited parking.



Cashmere High School Open Day

On Tuesday 26th May from 4pm until 6.30pm Cashmere High School will be open for all prospective students and parents.

The principal, Mark Wilson, will address visitors at 4pm and again at 5pm. Guided school tours will be available at 4.40pm and 5.30pm.

Prospectus and info available on www.cashmere.school.nz - closing date for Year 9 enrolments for 2016 is 31st July 2015. It is vital that all out of zone applications are received prior to this date as there will be limited spaces available. For further info phone 332 9129.

Avonside Girls' High School Open Evening

The Open Evening is to be held on Tuesday 26 May from 5pm to 7pm.

The evening will commence with the Principal's address in the Gymnasium at 5pm followed by a tour of the school. For more information phone 389 7199.



St Martins - Opawa Toy Library Annual Fundraiser

The St Martins - Opawa Toy Library is holding a Pre-loved Clothing sale on Saturday 9th May from 9am to 1pm at the St Nicholas Church, 231 Barrington Street. Entry \$2 - all clothing items are \$2 each, plus local stall holders showcasing their products.

The Christchurch Needlework Guild will be holding needlework classes for children 8 years and over at Risingholme Community Centre, 99 Hawford Road on Tuesday afternoons from approximately 3pm to 5pm. The cost is \$7.00 per session. All materials will be supplied. The class runs for 8 weeks each school term. Contact Barbara ph 02102718941 or Pat ph 0221504863.



Long term rental wanted for a St Martins School family

Small family need a 2 bedroom home with garage and heatpump up to \$370 or 3 bedroom up to \$450. Great references, quiet, clean, caring tenants. If you can help please call 027 2100 676 or 944 5986 (evenings).