



St Martins School

Kia Maiaangi awe ake te mātauranga
Inspiring a passion for learning



NEWSLETTER 13

20 August 2015

“INSPIRING A PASSION FOR LEARNING”

Kia ora Whānau - Greetings everyone.

A huge vote of thanks to our S'Mart Community Disco organisers. This was a wonderful community event, supported and enjoyed by all. One of the special things about St Martins is that our community does come together when there is an opportunity.

On that note, each Friday the school holds a whole school assembly. The assembly is a great opportunity for us to celebrate some of the amazing things that happen at our school while we are learning at St Martins. Each week our student leaders introduce special items, like our weekly “Heart of the School Award” that acknowledges special or remarkable efforts of our students; or our fun whole-school singing that gets everyone moving! The assembly starts at 1.30pm each Friday (cancelled only due to extreme weather or other special activities). Come along, you are most welcome.

Congratulations and welcome to Ms Timmi Lewis who will lead a New Entrant class starting from the last two weeks of Term 3. Timmi Lewis will be working collaboratively with Ms Peta Berry in Room 10.

The parking and drop off behaviours have been much improved this term, and we thank you for your co-operation with this. It is, after all, in the first instance about the safety of our children and secondly about respectful behaviour towards our neighbours who need to access their properties unhindered. We expect the CCC wardens to return over the next few weeks so please keep up the great effort.

At St Martins we are, generally speaking, fortunate that the behaviour of our children reflects the Values and Beliefs of the school. From time to time however, things will happen. It is a part of growing up and learning and no school is immune. What is important is that each time we are aware of, or suspect something that does not reflect our Values and Beliefs is happening, action is taken. St Martins has strong and rigorous systems for dealing with any issues, and we encourage children to share with us at the earliest possible time. Because of this most of the time it is ‘small stuff’ that we deal with, but we work through the issue to eliminate the root cause rather than just the symptom. Keeping the school informed is the first step. If there is an issue please speak with your child’s teacher at the earliest possible time. Please don’t leave it, as most things can be solved very easily, and no issue is too small. We have a safe learning environment at St Martins and together we can keep it that way.

Ill children? We have been experiencing very high numbers of unwell children. The flu that is doing the circuit is just ‘warming up’ from all accounts and for children and staff who have experienced it, it is a severe strain. Please, if your children are unwell, keep them at home until they are fully recovered.

Kind regards
Rob Callaghan

Term Dates to Remember

August 27

Canterbury Winter

Tournament

September 3

Postponement date for

Canty Winter Tournament

September 9

Christchurch School Music

Festival Rehearsal

September 10

Year 7 and 8 annual

ski trip

September 14 - 16

Room 8 and 9 camp at

Hanmer Springs

September 16 - 18

Room 11, 12 and 13 camp

at Hanmer Springs

September 17

Year 0 - 3 Reporting

Conferences

September 22

Year 0 - 3 Reporting

Conferences

September 25

Last day of Term 3



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School News

SMART Governance - News from the BoT

- Thank you for the commitment shown by our Whānau Group. This group has a permanent seat on our board to ensure that our Māori community is represented in governance, planning and decision making.
- Cashmere High School are keen to develop even stronger ties with St Martins School. In the future there'll be more collaboration over curriculum and the way learning happens in our schools. This will mean an easier transition to high school for our Year 8 students.
- Our move to collaborative teaching is progressing well. We see the results in achievement and the overall functioning of the school. Other schools are interested in what we are doing, so we're getting a lot of visitors to see effective collaborative teaching in practice. The Ministry of Education has written a Case Study about our 'prototyping' (minor modifications to classrooms to create collaborative teaching spaces) we have undertaken. We'll share this when it is available.

Student Achievement

Congratulations to our cross country runners, Leila, Chloe, Cara and Emily for making it into the Canterbury team. They will be competing at the Inter Regional Champs in Blenheim at the end of this term. Leila also won the bronze medal for her age group at the recent NZ cross country champs, well done!



Orla joined the team for a tough training session in the sand dunes at Woodend beach last week.



Over the last few months Molly has been competing in a series of gymnastics competitions around NZ. Her results, including coming second in the Christchurch Primary Schools competition, a win in Auckland and placing third in the Canterbury Championships, have secured her a place in the Canterbury team that competes in Auckland in the September holidays. Good luck, Molly!

'The Menace' at Bandquest.

Our school rock band 'The Menace' are hard at work preparing for the 2015 Bandquest Regional Final, which is being held on Saturday August 29th at Kaiapoi High School. The show starts at 7pm and tickets are available at the door for \$10.00. Please come along, enjoy a great night of musical entertainment, and support The Menace in their quest for rock and roll glory!



Off the Shelf



Using the Library Catalogue #3

There are a few tips and hints for quick searching via the Library catalogue and the fast find search. There is no need to type a whole title, just individual words or strings of letters will work - e.g **piglet** will retrieve Farmer George and the new piglet, without having to type it all, similarly **char choc** will retrieve Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. If spelling is a problem then a best guess may work wonders; **elefant** will launch a prompt for element, elephants, elephant or eleventh, a simple tick will search the correct spelling.

Student Poems

In the next few newsletters we are showcasing poems from the Yr 7/8 Syndicate

The Winter Army

The last few standing deciduous soldiers,
Yield to the dark, unforgiving winter.
Frozen leaves plummet continuously,
Creating unwanted mounds of debris.
Threatening shadows tower over the battlefield.
Clouds whimper uncontrollably; as they watch winter, take the icy throne.

The winter monarch calls his loyal followers;
Ice, Frost and Snow assemble in the frigid chamber.
The last effects of Summer,
Have morphed into a winter war ground.

Winter Warriors carve deep, agonised scars,
Into the heart of the sun;
Claiming it as their own.
Winter is a forever known beast!
But the time is near, Spring is due.

The Winter Lord falls,
His body melts as flowers bloom from his remains
The war is over;
Spring has come.

Lauren Scott and Evelyn Fink
Age 12, Room 19



The Frigid Season

The jail bars being deciduous trees,
Leave my house so lonely.
I feel grief for myself as the frigid winter air freezes me inside.

I step out looking for the resurrection of spring.
I feel pain as my feelings get drained out of me.
Coldness takes over my body.

Maisie Lauder - Age 11, Room 19.

Frozen Frost

What am I walking into?
Frosty daylight within my heart,
Loneliness upon me and no one else,
Frigid, freezes, frost Winter,
Defeating coldness of snow falls upon my face.

Unconditional snow flakes hits the tree and breaks the leaves,
With nowhere to hide, the frost will get to you.
Looking down at cars slipping on streets,
Winter, you fool, stop doing this to all.

Alexander Carston - Age 11, Room 19

Thanks from World Vision

We received a letter from World Vision - here is an excerpt from this letter. "On behalf of World Vision and those we support, I want to congratulate the staff and students at St Martins School for raising a grand total of \$4382.50 for severely malnourished children in Bangladesh. These funds will have a lasting impact on the lives of these children, their families and communities." We received a Silver Certificate which is awarded to schools that are in the top 30% of 40 hour Famine schools across New Zealand.



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.

Albert Terrace Planting Day - Saturday 29th August 9am

We are holding our first planting day on the 3 hectares of land at the end of Albert Terrace which was purchased as an extension to Mt Vernon Park late last year. The land is in pretty rough condition at the moment, mostly covered in gorse and broom. We have cleared broom out of a couple of the side gullies and will concentrate this year's planting in those areas. We have purchased 1000 native tree seedlings from the DOC nursery at Motokarara.

What you need to bring: a spade, a bag for carrying a few trees up the slope, clothing suitable for the weather, food and drink if you need it. Children need to be supervised.

It's a good opportunity to be involved in improving your local area, and we'd love to see you there. If the weather is awful on Saturday we will hold it on Sunday 30th at 9am.

Howard Keene - Chairman Mt Vernon Park Management Committee - howardkeene@clear.net.nz

Free Dental Care for Children

One of our Community Dental Service preventive mobiles will be visiting school soon for a short visit.

- We will be aiming to see children enrolled with the Community Dental Service that are due a dental check-up along with Year 8 children enrolled in our service. We will not be seeing all children at this visit.
- The dental therapist will not only be checking the children's teeth but will also Xray, clean and apply protective treatments (including fluoride) if required.
- If your child requires further dental care such as fillings they will bring home a 'Care Plan' which will explain what dental care and appointment times are required.
- When you receive the 'Care Plan' please contact our **Call Centre as soon as possible** as you will need to arrange a time to bring your child to one of our Community Clinics for this dental care.
- **Please let us know asap if you do not wish your child to have any of this care, you can talk to the staff in the mobile or phone/email our Call Centre**
- If you wish to be present at your child's check up this will need to take place at our community clinic so please phone/email our **Call Centre** to make an appointment.
- If your child is not seen at this visit the mobile is planned to return for a longer visit in Term 4 when the majority of the children are due their annual check-up.
- Please contact our Call Centre if you want further information on the Community Dental Service, to enrol your child or if you have any specific questions about your child's dental care (a dental therapist will call you back).

To contact our Call Centre: phone 0800 846 983/email commdental@cdhb.health.nz

Did you know Little Kickers is run here at the weekends? Little Kickers has 4 different football classes each tailored to a different age group ranging from 18 months to 7 years. We teach football in a fun, pressure-free environment. We want to give children a positive introduction to sport as a whole, not just football. so they're more likely to stay healthy and active throughout their lives. Free trials are available on request, please email Helen at canterburynorth@littlekickers.co.nz or check out the website www.littlekickers.co.nz

Supporting success in your school.

ASB will donate \$500 to participating schools for new home loans over \$150,000 taken out before 31 December 2015.

ASB's lending criteria, terms, conditions and fees may apply. 20% equity is required in the security property. You must be a parent, staff or member of the participating school. Other terms apply, [click here](#).