



“INSPIRING A PASSION FOR LEARNING”

Kia ora Whānau - Greetings everyone.

During the early part of this week I attended a principals' seminar with about 60 other Canterbury Principals in Hanmer. (Quite convenient as it allowed me to spend a few hours with our Year 5 & 6 children who were on camp).

Much of the focus was on the transformation in education that is happening around New Zealand, but particularly and more immediately in Christchurch in relation to Collaborative Teaching. The earthquakes have forced a huge amount of building need to be generated in Christchurch and the move is strongly towards creating 'Innovative Learning Environments'. As we move towards our rebuild we have been preparing for these changes. In fact St Martins School began its journey prior to the earthquakes. Our school leadership team, teachers and Board of Trustees visited schools around New Zealand and in Australia in 2010 and 2011 to investigate teaching practices that lead to improved student outcomes. It was clear that it was what teachers did that made the biggest difference, however, innovative and flexible design enabled that to happen better. Prior to the earthquakes we managed to create two 'collaborative teaching spaces' (Rooms 18 & 19 and 20 & 21) but just days before the tender for significant work in the Junior area was to be let the earthquakes struck and plans were put on hold. Not so our teacher development.

Over the past few years our key focus has remained firmly on our teacher practice, and that will not change. Our teachers have embraced the opportunity to trial more flexible teaching environments this year. While most of the simple work was carried out during the Christmas holidays, the more complex work in Rooms 4, 5, 6 & 7 was managed by the Ministry of Education during the last holidays.

During 2014 and throughout 2015 staff have continued to be given professional development support to ensure that what we do makes a positive difference to children's learning at St Martins School. On top of the usual classroom monitoring, each term the Principal and Curriculum Leadership Deputy Principal, Bernadette May, carry out intensive visits of every classroom teaching environment to observe the quality of teaching in Reading, Writing and Mathematics as well as other aspects of teaching and learning. This is a time consuming, but extremely useful measure of what is actually happening inside our learning environments. What we can say, without reservation, is that the extra time and effort that the teachers have invested in this development is making a significant difference. So what are we seeing across the school? The first noticeable change is a significant drop in behavioural issues both inside and outside of the classroom. Coupled with this, and possibly a contributing factor, are the increased levels of meaningful engagement that we see in every learning environment. Of late we have had a large number of visitors from other schools visiting St Martins. Every new parent looking at St Martins is given a tour through the whole school. The feedback often includes comment about the 'engaged learners', the 'calm atmosphere', the 'cooperative and collaborative nature of the learning situation' and about the industry and connection our children have to their learning.

We have achieved well this year because we have been preparing for this as a school for some time. Our staff have a strong sense of professional pride and what has been developing has happened by design. We are aware that there are always some things that can be done better and while we have rigorous internal evaluation systems in place your feedback is always welcomed. If you are interested in seeing what is happening across the school Bernadette May and I would love the opportunity to take some 'parent tours' through the school at key learning times so that you can see first hand what it looks like in action. If you are interested please email Michele Stephens on micheles@stmartins.school.nz If you have any questions please never hesitate in speaking with us directly. Our teachers are always happy to give time to explore their programmes. Here is a link to Core with lots of information that you might find interesting. <http://www.core-ed.org/professional-learning/modern-learning-resources>

Kind regards
Rob Callaghan

Term Dates to Remember

September 22

Year 0 - 3 Reporting

Conferences starting at

3.30pm

September 24

School Skipathon for Jump

Rope for heart

September 25

Last day of Term 3 - have

a great holiday break

October 12

Term 4 begins - remember

to wear your hats!

October 12 to 22

Athletics training begins at school.

October 23

1000m and 1200m Race

at Hansen Park 2pm

Year 5 - 8

October 26

Labour Day - School closed

October 28

School Athletics

October 29

Christchurch School Music

Festival rehearsal and performance.

School News

Year 7-8 CantaMath - Teams Event

On 19th August our Year 7 and 8 CantaMath teams competed at the Canterbury CantaMath competition. They had been training hard on a weekly basis for many months. Our Year 7 team finished in the top 20% of teams and the Year 8 team placed 9th equal out of about 97 teams.

Congratulations to:

Year 7: Louie Howell, Jake van Keulen, Evie Boyd and Findlay Royds

Year 8: Lauren Scott, Max Croucher, Amy Clough and Zoe Onslow

A very special thanks must go to Mr Tony Roberts who dedicates a considerable amount of extra time and effort working with our CantaMath teams and students who attend morning Maths Club each week.

Year 7-8 CantaMath - Display Category

Congratulations also to **Jake van Keulen** and **Evie Boyd** who received excellence awards in the photographic section, and **Room 22** who received a highly commended award for their 28 contributions in the class section.

Year 7-8 Speech Competition

This term, students prepared and presented a 2-3 minute informative or persuasive speech on a topic of their choice. All of the Year 7-8 teachers were highly impressed by the calibre of the presentations. The standard across the syndicate keeps getting stronger and stronger each year!

On Wednesday 2nd September we held our Syndicate Speech Competition. Each class had the challenging task of selecting only one Year 7 and one Year 8 representative. The representatives were:

Year 7: Lily Shields - Rm18, Molly Simpson - Rm 19, Jake van Keulen - Rm 22, Louie Howell - Room 23.

Year 8: Paris Tod - Rm 18, Rosie Howard - Rm 19, Eliza Dwyer - Rm 22, Hamish Parlane - Rm 23.

Mr Callaghan and Mrs May were guest judges on the day. They were impressed by the level of maturity, composure and confidence that the students displayed. They spoke on complex issues such as racism, gay marriage and prison reform. In the end, the judges selected **Louie Howell** and **Paris Tod** to represent our school at the Rotary Zone Speech Competition.

The zone competition hosted by Beckenham School on Tuesday 8th September saw a number of strong speakers from Cashmere, Hillview Christian, St Peters, Beckenham and St Martins. **Louie Howell was awarded 1st place** in the Year 7 category and **Paris Tod placed 3rd** in the Year 8 category. This means St Martins has placed in both categories since the inaugural event 3 years ago. Well done Year 7-8, we are so proud of your efforts!

Year 7-8 Canterbury Current Events Quiz (Otago Times Extra!)

On Wednesday 2nd September, we had four teams compete in the Canterbury Current Events Quiz held at Avonhead School. Our teams were made up of the students who placed highest in our syndicate current events quiz that was held at school. The teams were:

Team 1: Sam Coughlan, Lily Shields, Molly Simpson

Team 2: Lachlan Stewart, Rosa Opie, Paris Tod

Team 3: Finn McFarlane, Amy Clough, Rosie Howard

Team 4: Ben Tuffnell, Evie Boyd, Eilish Dalley

Well done to all the students who participated. Our highest placing team was **Team 1** on 88 points out of 100 - making them 7th equal out of 75 teams.

Year 7-8 Waterpolo

Congratulations to the Year 7/8 water polo Waterbreakers who won their division on Friday night.



Off the Shelf

Using the Library Catalogue #5

Here's the last in this mini-series of using the Library catalogue from home. To enhance the catalogue we're encouraging the children to review titles they've enjoyed so helping others in their selection.

Firstly you need to retrieve the cataloguing record for the book you want to review, open the record by clicking on the title then select the review tab and write review. You'll be prompted for your borrower ID. This will open the box for writing the review. There are now 12 minutes to write the review, if you don't think this is long enough you may choose to type into a word processing package and then cut and paste your review in.

Fill in the first two boxes but you can leave out category section. Remember to click submit to finish. A great review will tell us a little about the story but not so much that we don't need to read it - "I like this book" or similar is just not enough!!

Take a look at the library home page for competitions & reading challenges your child can try over the holidays.

<http://accessit.smartins.school.nz/ais/AccessItLibrary>

Student Poems

Our final two poems about Winter from the Yr 7/8 Syndicate.
We also have two poems from students in the Year 3 to 6 syndicates.

Death

Winter, a graceful being, ice and snow.
Concealing her inner malice.
Winter dances through cities
Leaving behind her trail of slain mortals.

Winter,
The immortal killer walks confidently,
Banishing all life around her,
Winter relishes the feeble cry of deceasing humans.

Winter yields doom and destruction,
Taking with her hope and happiness,
Unforgiving, scornful and lacking kindness
Is winter.

Dominic Muller Age 11 Room 18



Jack Segar-Farqharson from Room 14 Year 4 wrote an amazing cinquain poem.

War
Deadly, killing
Flying, shooting, slaying
War is for peace
Battle



Winter Days

Three whole winter months of coldness.
The cold seeping in from under doors.
Nasty winds whip trees and bushes.
People fleeing from the cold.

Wind whispers to yield,
I won't give in!
As a chill runs up my spine, I shiver.

The new day arrives,
With a frosty feeling.
Dew and frost settling on the grass,
As the sun hides behind the clouds.

The first day of Spring.
Winter's nowhere to be seen.
Flowers open, ready to see the sun.
Baby animals walk for the first time.

Rejoicing everything!
Claudia Clark Age 11 Room 19

A Winter Poem

He gazes through the frosty window pane
As a cold wind caresses against my cheek.
Incessant snowflakes eddy to the ground
As I trudge through the depths of winter.

Scooping, sculpting a snowman
The magic touch of life
The snowman smiles
Dancing, chatting and laughing
A special friend for a solitary boy.

Emily Simpson Room 9 Year 6

Thank you!

Electrical Testing - a big "thank you " to the team who have completed the testing of approximately 800 electrical items over 5 weekends - James, Linda, Anita and Lesley. We really appreciate the time you took to do this testing for us.



Year 5&6 teachers and students would like to thank very much **Raewyn Limmer, Cathy Clinton, Robyn Young and Craig Johnston** who gave up their time to coach Hagley Sport teams and the Pioneer Basketball teams. We would not be able to enter teams in these competitions without your help. Your valuable guidance meant many students were able to play competitive sport and develop their game sense skills. Thank you to the parents who helped out with Hansen Park sport too.

Community News

Dental Care over the School Holidays.

The Community Dental Service will operate an emergency service over the school holidays. This service is to provide relief of pain only and will not undertake 'routine' treatment. The service will be available each working day from 8.30am until 12.30pm from the Hillmorton Community Clinic, Sylvan Street, Christchurch for the following times:

Monday 28th September to Friday 2nd October and Monday 5th October to Thursday 8th October

This service will operate by appointment only and if we are unable to see your child, alternative options will be given. If your child has dental pain as a result of an accident please contact your dentist in the first instance.

You can phone and make an appointment for the emergency clinic by ringing 0800 846 983.

Christchurch City Libraries holiday programmes

Here is a list of programmes that will be run at the South Library:

- **3D Tinker Workshop** (10 -13 years), \$30 each - Tuesday 29 September, 9.30am - 3.00pm
- **Chillout Tunes** (7 - 9 years), \$7 each - Wednesday 30 September, 9.30am - 12.00pm
- **Family Game Time** (all ages), free - Thursday 1 October, 10.30am - 12.30pm
- **Minecraft Game Zone** (8 - 12 years), \$7 each - Thursday 1 October **or** Friday 2 October, 10.30am - 12.30pm
- **Stylish Stickers** (5 - 7 years), \$7 each - Monday 5 October, 9.30am - 12.00pm.
- **Stop Motion Animation** (8 - 12 years), \$22 each - Tuesday 6 October, 1.00pm - 3.30pm and Wednesday 7 October, 9.30am - 3.00pm (this programme runs for 1.5 days)

To make a booking, please either phone 941 5140 or email learningcentre@ccc.govt.nz

Air Force Museum School Holiday programme

Book now for the holiday programme 'Battle for Wigram' starting 28th September and running until 9th October. Our OSCAR endorsed holiday programme is all about 're-capturing' the Wigram base through a series of unique daily challenges and missions. We also have plenty of games, craft and unique activities on offer for a fun-filled holiday break. You can choose half days, full days or a full week. Check the website for full information: www.airforcemuseum.co.nz or phone 343 9504.

Grey Goose Wing Archery Society

Stuck for something to do during the School holidays??? Try your hand at Archery!
Age 10 years and upwards, adults included! Bookings are essential as numbers are limited. Held at Catholic Cathedral College off Ferry Road. Sessions at 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Tuesday 29th September, Wednesday 30th September, Tuesday 6th October, Thursday 8th October. \$20 per session. Contact Maria on 383 8387 or ggwas@outlook.co.nz www.ggw-archery.weebly.com