



NEWSLETTER 19

26 November 2015

“INSPIRING A PASSION FOR LEARNING”

Kia ora Whānau - Greetings everyone.

Just in time for the warmer days the old sunshade sail has now been re-erected over the amphitheatre in the main playground area. The engineering required to get it up has been challenging, but its arrival coincides with some much sunnier days. Please remember the sunscreen in the mornings, and please make sure that your children have a supply they can use, especially if they are attending a sporting event or a trip out of school.

Changes to classrooms:

There will be some repositioning of classes for next year to allow all teachers and children to work in collaborative spaces. To make this work there will be a little reshuffling! The library will be repositioned to Rooms 22 and 23, and in 2016 the current library will be the teaching space for the classes currently in Rooms 16 and 17. Rooms 16 and 17 will become Year 7 and 8 classrooms and this will also bring our seniors much closer together. The packing has started and we hope to shift most resources and furniture this year in readiness for 2016. We expect that there will be no disruption to class programmes this year.

New furniture:

The third element that needs to be considered along with ‘teacher practice’ and ‘flexible learning spaces’ is ‘functional and appropriate classroom furniture’. Some of our classrooms have been fortunate to have a more modern furniture set, and the Board of Trustees has now provided a sizeable advance grant to allow all classes to have an upgrade in their furniture allocation. This furniture will be purchased over the break and will be in rooms for the start of 2016. Our teachers are very excited!

Since the earthquakes, St Martins School has been fortunate to have access to a range of supports that it can use to support children, and families when there are emotional or financial hardships. Where we can help we will and where we are unable to help we can usually find someone who can. Confidentiality is assured. Contact Rob Callaghan, Principal or Bernadette May, Deputy Principal.

Kind regards,

Rob Callaghan

Smart Governance - News from the BoT

Key outcomes from this month's BoT meeting:

- Funding was approved at this month's meeting to ensure that in 2016 all classes will have the benefit of new modern furniture to support our collaborative teaching environment.
- Congratulations to Rob Callaghan and Bernadette May for being selected to present at the Trans Tasman Principals' Conference next year about Leading Schools through Natural Disasters.
- Congratulations also to Carole Clark for winning a Christchurch Schools Teacher's Earthquake Study Award. Her prize is some Ministry of Education-funded study; Carole has chosen Te Reo Māori.
- Planning is underway for our end of year celebrations, The BoT confirmed it will provide financial support for the S'Mart Community and Staff end of year functions.

Term Dates to Remember

November 27

S'Mart Community

Celebration

December 1

Students v Teachers

Football Game

December 2

Canterbury Athletics

December 3

Year 0-3 Reporting

Conferences

December 4

Year 8 Graduation

December 8

Year 0-3 Reporting

Conferences

December 10

End of year reports go

home - Year 3 to 8. Class

Placements advised.

December 14

Final Assembly for 2016

Prizegiving and Year 8

farewell. Assembly starts

at 9.30am - all welcome.

December 14

School ends for the year.

School finishes at 12.30pm

Student Achievement



Ruby, a Year 5 student in Room 13 recently won the Canterbury Primary and Intermediate School championship, Year 6 and under singles and doubles. Ruby then attended the Primary-Intermediate School finals in Timaru this week and won the Year 6 and

under South Island Singles Championships. What a fantastic result Ruby - well done!



Flynn, who is a Year 7 student in Room 22 was a competitor in the 'Top of the South' taekwondo championships. He won two silver medals. Flynn has been doing taekwondo since he was five,

and is currently training for his black belt, well done Flynn for showing pride and determination.



St Martins School entered a team in the Christ's College Year 7 science competition. We came away with a 3rd placing. Our Year 7 team of Jake, Louie, Evie, and Adam finished only 2 points behind the winners, Heaton Intermediate. The competition involved practical tasks in physics, chemistry and biology, with 20 marks possible for each activity. A well deserved result!

A big congratulations to all of the piano-keyboard students who have worked so hard and achieved so well this year. And all the best to those sitting their exams. We all enjoyed the beautiful music you performed at our break-up. Here is a photo of some of our awesome budding musicians. Yvonne.



A group of talented Year 7 and 8 Young Writers wrote and recorded a radio play. The play is titled "Missing in Action" and Plains FM have added sound effects and it is now ready for broadcast. Tune in on Thursday 3rd December at 12 noon and again on Friday 4th December at 7.30pm to hear this awesome play. It was a lot of fun to write and record and we know you will love listening to it.

Off the Shelf



So BIG moves for the Library this year and we are already half packed and ready to make our way to the departure lounge! Exciting times. As we're on the move we really need to get all books from children back asap, if not sooner! We'd be grateful if you could get them to finish off their reading and return books by Monday 30th November - after this time we'll be sending reminders so you and they know what remains outstanding. Sadly our move does mean that we won't be able to loan any books over the summer this year as we have done in the past couple of years but of course the City Libraries will be there with great collections and activities to keep all entertained over the summer months.

Also - last chance for Book Fair - Friday 8.30-3.30, a percentage of sales donated to Library Funds.

Student Achievement



On Sunday 8th November two St Martins Robotics teams competed in the annual Robofest Competition at Russley School.

On the day they had a series of challenges to complete within specified time limits. The uniqueness of this competition is that the students had to programme their Robots on the day of the competition, according to the challenges set.

This was the third competition that our teams have participated in, the first being the Regional Robocup Competition, and the second being the National Robocup Competition, both held here in Christchurch this year. Team '3.14' consisting of Louie, Adam and Jake (absent, Evie and Findlay) came 1st Place in the competition. This is particularly impressive due to the fact that this is their first year entering competitions. The other team 'Untitled' consisting of Dominic, Max and Lachlan fought hard for a placing. We look forward to training new Year 7 members to join our 2016 Robotics teams. Photo above shows the winning team of Louie, Adam and Jake.



Pete, a Year 5 student in Room 11 did extremely well in the Highland Dancing competition at the Nelson A&P Show on the 21st November.

He was placed in all his classes: Four 1sts, three 2nds and one 3rd. He also won the trophy cup for Most Overall Points Under 12, and he also won the cup for Runner-Up Most Overall Points Under 10 and the cup for Runner Up Most Overall Points Restricted Under 14. Wow, Pete - did you leave any awards for anyone else! Well done!



Noah



Way back in Term 1 Noah, a Year 7 student in Room 22 did a school project where the aim was to raise money to help our school purchase soccer goals. Noah raised \$89.00 which was a fantastic effort. We finally have the goals up so thanks to those that helped get them up and we know they will be very well used by our students.

School News

School Uniform Shop - 2016

The Uniform Shop will be open in the School Office on Friday 29th January from 9am to 3pm. A great opportunity to purchase extra uniform items if your child has had a growth spurt over the summer break! Payment can be made by cash, cheque or Eftpos (excluding credit cards). You can also pay into the school bank account but will not be able to take the items until the money shows in our account. And of course you can still continue to buy any uniform items you may need this year at the school office as usual.

Christmas Hampers

This year, as a substitute for Secret Santa, St Martins School will be collaborating with the Christchurch Methodist Mission to help provide for families this Christmas. We will include things in the hampers like presents for their children, food for a Christmas meal, and Christmas crackers. Some appropriate foods could be: Christmas cake, chocolate, lollies, tinned fruits, fruit juice, and useful items like flour, sugar and washing powder. More information will come to each syndicate about the families they will be providing for, so you can base your presents on this. This project will finish at the end of Week 8, so get collecting!

Thanks, The Student Council.

FINAL REMINDER

Year 0 - 3 Reporting Conferences - Term Four

THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER AND TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER FROM 3.30PM

Booking online - Website: www.schoolinterviews.co.nz Event Code: **TUMUC**

Bookings are open now and close on Friday 27th November at 2pm. Please follow the easy online instructions to make your booking. If you do not have internet access you can phone the school and a booking will be made for you. Phone (03) 332 6121 and ask for Bridget in the Library. Please phone between 8.45am and 9.30am.

A creche will run from the School Library from 3.30pm on both conference days. The creche is for other siblings you do not wish to take to the conferences.

The aim of the conference is to share and celebrate your child's achievement sensitively and help them set future learning goals and develop a sense of personal best. If you require more detailed information or wish to discuss sensitive issues please make another time to meet with your child's teacher outside the conferences dates.



Look who is on the front of the Christchurch City Council Recreation and Sports brochure for Gymnastics - it's Emma from Room 17 - looking great Emma!

MORE GREAT ADVICE FROM SUN SMART FOR THE COMING SUMMER

We encourage shady behaviour

You've got it made if you stay in the shade. Plant trees, put up umbrellas, build shade structures.



Use your head - wear a hat

When you're outside protect your face and neck by always wearing a hat with a wide brim.

