



St Martins School

Kia Maiangi awe ake te mātauranga
Inspiring a passion for learning



NEWSLETTER 20

10 December 2015

“INSPIRING A PASSION FOR LEARNING”

Kia ora Whānau - Greetings everyone.

The year is almost over and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your support during this year. Education works best as a partnership between home and school and we feel that this is what we have at St Martins School.

2015 has been an exciting year with collaborative practice across the school being implemented following some minor modifications. Last week most of you will have received a copy of the Ministry of Education's Case Study which told our story in detail. We felt quite privileged to have been chosen to share our achievements.

As the year ends we farewell Tony and Gretel Roberts who will be travelling in Europe next year. We wish them all the very best and offer our thanks and appreciation for their work with our children and their dedication to St Martins School.

Our caretaker Mr Rea will finish early next year and we will farewell him in the New Year. Michael Hutchinson has been appointed as Paul's replacement and we are excited to have him as a member of our staff.

School reopens next year on Monday 1st February 2016 with a special welcome and you will receive specific details about this under separate cover. The term dates for 2016 are listed on page 3 of this newsletter and can also be found on the school website.

On behalf of the staff I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year and trust that you will have a safe and happy summer break.

Kind regards,
Rob Callaghan



Smart Governance - News from the BoT

Congratulations and thanks to the Smart Community for organising a successful end of year celebration.

Thanks to the parents involved in organising the soccer goals and the Smart Community for funding them. These are an asset for our school and wider community and it's great to see them being used so much.

Work is ongoing in planning the school rebuild. We hope to have plans to share in Term 1.

In the new year there will be a special farewell for our caretaker, Paul Rea, who is retiring after 9 years service to our school. Keep an eye out for more information via newsletter and email.

The next Board elections are in May 2016. We have two parent representatives standing down. We welcome anyone who is interested to come along to our meetings next year. The first meeting of the year is Tuesday 16th February at 6.30pm in the staff room. For more info go to smartins.school.nz > about > board of trustees.

Term Dates to Remember

December 10

End of year reports go home - Year 3 to 8. Class

Placements advised.

December 11

Students meet their new teachers.

December 11

Rehearsal Assembly starts at 9.30am in the school hall

December 14

Final Assembly for 2015

Prizegiving and Year 8 farewell. Assembly starts at 9.30am - all welcome.

The assembly will be held in the school hall.

December 14

School ends for the year.

School finishes at 12.30pm

February 1

School starts for 2016

February 5

Back to School Family

Picnic/BBQ 4.30pm - 7pm

Postponement date

Friday 12th February

Student Achievement



Huge congratulations to Rosa Opie, Lily Shields and Ruairi Boyd who passed their piano exams with distinction.. Also to Clara Miles and Madeline Bailey who passed with merit. This is a wonderful result. I am now taking enrolments for next year for piano/keyboard lessons. For more details or to enrol please contact Yvonne on 027 3566 462 or 388 3360. yvonne.tikao@xtra.co.nz

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 you 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.

J-Rock Dance Performance Group



Do you want to be involved in the first year that St Martins are in J-Rock? We are looking for students who will be in Year 7 or 8 in 2016. J-Rock is a non competitive dance performance where you can win awards for your school. We are looking for people that are not over committed next year and are willing to give up your Wednesday lunch time. Our theme is war and refugees. Remember that you need to be in Year 7 or 8 next year. Look out for sign up details in the first week of Term One in 2016!

Something to add to your social calendar for 2016!

Come along to the annual Back to School Family Picnic/BBQ on Friday 5th February 2016. It will be held in the school grounds from 4.30pm to 7pm. Bring along some cash for the sausage sizzle, potato twirly man, coffee, drinks and popcorn! There will be lots of fun races for the kids and adults to join in, a lolly scramble, entertainment, music, bouncy castle and to top it all off a slippery slide! Lots of super exciting fun to be had! We hope to see you there.

If the weather is not good the postponement day will be Friday 12th February - we will send out a School Links on the day if this is the case. So maybe a good reminder to ensure your email and other contact details are up to date - if not please let Diane in the office know!



We have a new classroom - the old library will be the new class for Miss Ellis and Miss Toye - but we won't be calling it 'The Old Library' their room number is Room 45.

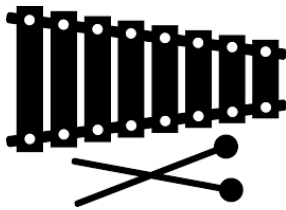
Off the Shelf

It's all quiet in the Library this week after a busy one last week packing ready to move - we could have done without that glorious heat! In these quieter times we're spending some time enhancing our cataloguing records by adding websites to print title entries - so when you look up many books there will be websites attached. While doing this I've found some great sites which might prove useful to fill some time over the long holidays; <http://thekidshouldseethis.com/about> is a website of fantastic videos organised under the themes of science, animals, technology etc - lots of random interest to be found. Similarly Crash Course Kids <https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids> would provide some educational entertainment, the site has a subtitle of Science with a side of awesome. Great sites to have up your sleeve when you need a little down time! We hope you enjoy these and the holidays - look forward to seeing you in our new home in 2016.

School News

School Stationery lists are now on the Office Max website. Go to www.myschool.co.nz/stmartins to start ordering your 2016 school stationery requirements.

Lists are located under the class your child is in for Year 1 to 6 and under syndicate for Year 7 and 8. For students who will be in Miss Toye and Miss Ellis's classes in 2016, your classroom will be in the old library and your classroom number is Room 45! An OfficeMax Back to School flyer is being sent home which has all the details of this easy ordering system. You can also pop into their retail store on the corner of Durham and Tuam Sts (they have off street parking) and they can bring up the list you require.



St Martins Percussion Ensemble is playing at the 'Repercussion Concert' on Sunday 13th December at McCombs Performing Arts Centre, Cashmere High School. Door sales - Adults \$15.00, Seniors \$10.00 and Students \$5.00.

Sky On Friday Production DVD's are being handed out for those who have already ordered them. We do have a few spares so if you forgot to order one then come and see Diane in the office. Please note it is a first come, first served basis at the office rather than via phone or email. DVD's are \$6.00 and need to be paid at the time of collection.

Support available for families

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.

2016 Term Dates

- Term 1:** Monday 1st February to Friday 15th April
- Term 2:** Monday 2nd May to Friday 8th July
- Term 3:** Monday 25th July to Friday 23rd September
- Term 4:** Monday 10th October to Friday 16th December

There is also a Teacher Only Day on Friday 27th May - school is closed to students on this day.

Other Holidays - 2016

- Monday 8th February:** Waitangi Day observed
- Friday 25th March:** Good Friday
- Monday 28th March:** Easter Monday
- Tuesday 29th March:** Easter Tuesday
- Monday 6th June:** Queen's Birthday
- Monday 24th October:** Labour Day
- Friday 11th November:** Show Day



School News

Itinerant Music Lessons 2016 - Most spaces have been filled but there are still a few available spaces for trumpet. If you would like your child to learn trumpet or to go on the waiting list for other instruments please see Diane in the office.

Get straight A passes for wearing dark glasses

Too much sunlight can damage both the eyes themselves and the skin around them. A close-fitting, preferably wrap-around style is best.



It's all a cover up

When swimming make sure you reapply sunscreen afterwards and cover up.

Community News

The Mind Lab Summer School holiday programme

Our Summer School Holiday programme is now available to book online. Places are limited and that they will fill very quickly so book now to avoid disappointment. <http://themindlab.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/SHP-DEC-JAN-CHCH-7.pdf>

The holiday programme commences with two days prior to the Christmas break, namely 21 and 22 December and then from Tuesday 12 January through till Friday 29 January.

Bookings are made on our website with payment securing a place. Payment is by paypal or by calling into the lab. You can book here: <http://themindlab.com/booking-christchurch/>



Dental Care over the School Holidays

At any time phone our 0800 number (0800 846 983) for information on how to access dental care, including emergency care.

In addition, the Community Dental Service will operate an emergency service in January 2016. 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, 18th January to Friday, 29th January 2016 (excluding weekends)

This service will operate by appointment only and if we are unable to see your child, alternative options will be given. You can phone and make an appointment for the emergency clinic by ringing the number above.

Summer Holidays at Imagination Station

Come along to Imagination Station in Cathedral Junction where parents can bring their children to play with Lego for free from 10am to 6pm - seven days a week. We also run a wide range of reasonably priced programmes such as Wacky Wheels, Lego Jewel making, Robotics Intro and more. Go to www.imagination-station.org.nz for full details.



Preschool Music Classes for 2016 - aged 6 months to 5 years.

Thursday afternoons, age appropriate classes with dancing, singing and playing instruments. Phone Helen 027 278 0232 for details.