



St Martins School

*Kia Maiangi awe ake te mātauranga*  
Inspiring a passion for learning



NEWSLETTER 2

25 February 2016

## **“INSPIRING A PASSION FOR LEARNING”**

Kia ora Whānau - Greetings everyone.

It was pleasing to see so many parents at our Meet the Teacher meeting last Thursday. The feedback has been very encouraging and provides us with some very good suggestions for future meetings.

It seems hard to believe it is five years since our world turned upside down! The shakes we had the weekend before last reminded us of how 'raw' the emotions of some still remain. We could see that those wobbles had significant effect on a number of our students and their families. St Martins has set up many support systems for children in need of support, some quite visible and others tailored to meet specific needs as they arise. It is important to know that as a school we do have strong networks for providing support or for knowing where the most appropriate support can be accessed.

Sometimes the support that might be required is only a conversation away. These conversations can create clearer understanding for us, and allow the school to respond in practical or other ways. Feel free to contact either Bernadette May, Deputy Principal, or Rob Callaghan, Principal, if you feel it would be helpful.

**Uniform:** (See school website for full details)

**The school uniform code is as follows:**

**Compulsory Uniform Items:** Polo Shirt, Polarfleece Jacket (Seniors may wear the Senior Jacket), Bucket Hat, either Unisex Short or Girls Skort, Long Socks and Girls Tights – must be navy blue or Ankle Socks or Hideaway Socks – must be white or navy blue, Shoes – must be dark coloured, preferably black but navy and dark brown are acceptable

**Optional items:** Unisex Cargo Pants, Girls Summer Dress – in royal blue gingham, Terms 1 and 4 only, Winter Jacket (Waterproof, Polarfleece-lined), Long Sleeve Thermal Undergarment (navy blue), Beanie.

While most of the uniform is being worn well the exception is footwear. Very bright sports shoes are becoming popular. Children are permitted to wear sports shoes for sporting activities, or to bring them along to change into at break time. Many sport shoe companies are now producing sports lines in black. We ask that you consider this when upgrading sports shoes if your child is intending to wear that style of shoe to and from school also.

**Scooters:**

Please find a way to 'name' your child's scooter if it is to be brought to school. Most weeks there are scooters left behind at school. Our trusty caretaker will generally put these away, but without a name they are often left at school, sometimes for many months until being reclaimed. Your support with this would be appreciated.

Kind regards  
Rob Callaghan

---

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.

## Term Dates to Remember

### February 25

Year 4 - 8 Goal Setting

Conferences. School

closes at the normal time

of 3pm.

### March 7 - 9

Year 7 and 8 camp

### March 14

Zone Swimming

### March 25

Good Friday - School

closed for the Easter break

### March 28

Easter Monday - School

closed

### March 29

Easter Tuesday - School

closed

### April 5

School Duathlon

### April 7

Canterbury Swimming

### April 12

Duathlon postponement

date if required

### April 15

Last day of Term 1 - school

ends at 3pm.

## Smart Governance - News from the BoT

Those of you new to the school might not know what the Board of Trustees (BoT) actually does. First and foremost the BoT is responsible for student progress and achievement. The BoT has overall responsibility for the school. This includes legal obligations covering curriculum, property, personnel, finance and health and safety.

Our BoT is made up of the following representatives: five elected parents, a co-opted Whānau Group member, a staff member, the Principal and Secretary.



We meet each month and report back to the school community about what we're working on. Here are the key outcomes from our meeting on 16 February:

- At the start of each year we elect a new Chair and Deputy. Nikki Tod was elected Chair, Jo Malcolm Deputy.
- We'd like to acknowledge the Smart Community and all the parent helpers that chipped in and made the Start of Year BBQ a huge success.
- Last year we trialled a water safety programme across the school: beach education in the Year 0-2 syndicate; pool based water safety in the Year 3/4 syndicate; beach education in the Year 5/6 syndicate; water safety as part of the adventure programme in Year 7/8. This programme will continue this year. Keep an eye out for a survey that will be sent out this term - we are gathering feedback and ideas to help us plan our aquatic programme for 2017.
- At our next meeting on 15 March we will farewell our current Whānau Group representative Mike Gibbs and welcome Karaitiana Taiuru. There will be an official Maori handover at 6.30pm in the Staffroom. All welcome.

### Board Elections

The BoT mid-term elections are coming up in June. Two parent representative positions are available. Richard Boon and Deirdre Richardson are standing down. Nominations open on 6 May and close on 20 May. More information will come out in due course. All parent representatives are elected by our school community. Voting will take place between 25 May - 3 June.

**Board of Trustees Information continued on next page.**

# Off the Shelf



We're largely settled into our new home on the fields now and enjoying finding ways of utilising a different space. Judging by the noises of appreciation the children are enjoying it too, so that's great. From next week we will open at lunchtimes with a group of new, enthusiastic librarians all of whom know there are many others snapping at their heels if they don't perform! As ever, we were overwhelmed with applications. Summer reading? I enjoyed some adult reading this summer but did get to read *The Book of Hat*, which I'd been looking forward to reading for a while - real life *Fault in Our Stars*, the diary of a young Wellington girl who discovers she has cancer. A read for our senior students. If you're passing and want to see our new home please call in, we'd be happy to show you around!

## Smart Governance - News from the BoT continued

We have an exciting few years ahead as our school is rebuilt and we continue working toward the goals set out in our strategic plan. We welcome anyone with an interest in the BoT to get in touch.

### Who are we looking for?

- Our BoT members have different skill sets but share a common passion for making this school the best place possible for our children and community.
- Our current parent reps all have children in the Year 5-6 and Year 7-8 syndicate. To ensure our school is well represented across all levels of the school, we particularly welcome nominees with younger children at the school.
- Richard is leaving and we'll miss his financial skills.
- We have a big rebuild project coming up. There are obvious skills here that may be helpful.
- But the most important attribute is a desire to make a positive difference to our school community.

### How can you find out more?

- Visit our website - [www.stmartins.school.nz](http://www.stmartins.school.nz)>about>board of trustees
- School Trustee Elections website - [trustee-election.co.nz](http://trustee-election.co.nz)
- Contact an existing BoT member - our details are on the school website
- Come to a meeting - the next ones are 15 March, 5 April and 10 May
- Pop along for a cuppa, a sweet treat and find out more about the BoT:
  - Morning session - Thursday March 31 at 8.45am in the Staffroom
  - Evening session - Tuesday 5 April at 6pm in the Staffroom. Stay for our BoT meeting if you wish.



On Monday 22nd February, all High Fliers students, plus Room 9 Navigators, had an opportunity to see and participate in the Brazilian martial art/performing arts form of Capoeira. Three talented facilitators worked with our students to demonstrate the art form of Capoeira, which has roots from African movement. Capoeira was performed by the slaves, as a form of communication. We are looking forward to the facilitators returning in May, for the High Fliers to explore further into the art form Capoeira.

### Too much UV is not very groovy

Ultraviolet radiation is what makes our skin burn. It is especially harsh in New Zealand. Remember to cover up, seek shade, and wear sunscreen during the summer months.





# School News

## St Martins School Policy Review

Alcohol, Drugs and Other Harmful Substances

1. Visit the website <http://stmartins.schooldocs.co.nz/1893.htm>
2. Enter the user name (stmartins) and password (huntsbury)
3. Follow the link to the relevant policy as listed
4. Read the policy
5. Click the Policy Review button at the right hand top corner of the page
6. Select the reviewer type 'Parent'
7. Enter your name (optional)
8. Submit your ratings and comments.

If you don't have internet access, school office staff can provide you with printed copies of the policy and review form. Please complete the review by April 4th 2016.

---

**All those interested in auditioning** for the special choir, orchestra, concert band or percussion group for the Christchurch Schools Music Festival please go to the website [musicfestival.school.nz](http://musicfestival.school.nz) and register for your audition. Applications close on 15 April. The school code is 'forte'

---

**The J-Rock Production Team** has had a great start to choreography! We would like all the J-Rock dancers on March 16th in the hall at lunchtime. We look forward to seeing you there.  
J-Rock Production Team

---

**Help needed in the school resource room.** If you have a spare hour to help relabel resources, please come to the Resource Room (between Rooms 20/21 and the Music Room) at 8.45am on any of the following dates: Monday 29th February, Monday 7th March or Monday 14th March.

---

You may have noticed that there are roadworks at the Centaurus Road intersection by St Martins Road. This is going to be continuing for up to 4 weeks and access will be limited or blocked at times. Please factor this into your travel plans if you usually come to school this way as you may find there are significant traffic delays.

# Community News

---

**Tru Talent Christchurch** - Communication, Clarity and Creativity Limited session places are available for Speech and Drama, Singing, Communication and Confidence tuition. Contact Trudy Rowe (Miss Rowe at St Martins School) for more information on [trutalent@xtra.co.nz](mailto:trutalent@xtra.co.nz) or Facebook TruTalent Christchurch

---

**Yvonne Tikao has some spaces available for piano/keyboard lessons.** These lessons can be taken either during school or at lunch time. Lessons are for 30 minutes and include theory as well as practical playing. All styles taught and exams offered. For more information contact Yvonne at [yvonne.tikao@xtra.co.nz](mailto:yvonne.tikao@xtra.co.nz) or 0273566462. Land line is 366 3380.

---

**Piano/Keyboard tuition.** All ages welcome. Linda Blackwood ph 332 4234.

---

**Dog Walking** - is your dog in need of a walk? We are two responsible girls, aged 10 and would love to take the burden off your shoulders of walking your dog. This could be a one off or weekly walk, for \$5.00 per 30 minutes. Call Mya and Jessica at 3317473.

---

**House to rent** - in the St Martins School zone. 3 bedrooms plus study and a double garage. Phone Robyn on 021 043 5311.