



## St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene

Newsletter 1: Thursday 8th February 2024

### BOARD UPDATE

Welcome back to the 2024 school year. Thank you to the staff for their efforts in getting the school ready for the year ahead. Our first board meeting for 2024 will be held on Tuesday February 20th in the school staffroom from 6.30pm.

We look forward to another great year at St Martins School | Hato Mātene.

Ngā mihi,

Dan Levett

Presiding member



### SCHOOL UPDATE

Welcome to 2024 at Hato Mātene. We had a wonderful mihi whakatau on Monday, welcoming new students, whānau and staff to school. Alice, Leanne and myself have had the pleasure of connecting with all of the classes during the first few days. It was great to hear the holiday news and how busy our tamariki have been during the summer break. We had lovely weather for the break and it was wonderful to hear about the adventures outside. An extra question for the Y7/8s - High Fliers was around the amount of time they spent outside. It was great that the majority of children responded that they felt they spent most of their time outside rather than inside.

As a staff we enjoyed reconnecting with families through our whānau connect sessions last week. We think these sessions work well as an opening conversation to the school year and also an opportunity for ākonga to once again see their new learning spaces before starting as a large group. We appreciate the time that parents gave up throughout the day to meet with Kaiako.

Lots of great events and experiences coming up this term with trips to the art gallery, the museum experience visiting us at school, sports events and a camp. So much to get involved in, we hope the tamariki enjoy all of these opportunities. As the children progress through the school there are a number of things they can get involved with, this might be Kapahaka, swimming sports, music groups, clubs, before school maths or coding, Talking with students at High School the more they got involved at St Martins the easier they have found navigating the many new opportunities they have been able to get involved in from Year 9.

We hope you may be able to join us at the Back to School BBQ on Friday Feb 16, 4.30 - 7.30pm. We thank the PTA for organising this event.

This year as a kura we will be focussing on continuing our structured literacy journey, moving from spelling into reading. We saw fabulous results across the school with our deliberate focus on spelling last year and look forward to this continuing. We will continue to develop our Positive Behaviour for Learning focus developing consistent expectations of all staff, students and community members in the way that we interact with each other. This year the curriculum focus will be on developing our understanding and implementing the new maths curriculum.



Phones away all day. One of the developments for the education sector is for students to have their phones away all day. At St Martins | Hato Mātene our expectation is for ākonga with phones to put these in the office for the day. We remind children on a regular basis of this expectation, however, it would be helpful if you could also reiterate this at home.

Welcome to our new students Adie, Aiden, Alin, Bobbie, Bryn, Charlie, Clara, Clementine, Edeline, Eli, Ezra, Fergus, Frank, George, Halvin, Holly, Isla, Jacob, Jake, Junior, Kellan, Lila-Jo, Raff, Riley, Ruby, Ryleigh, Sebastian, Syra and Willow. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to school.

It's great to have everyone back. As always if you want to stop by to have a chat, either myself, Alice or Leanne are usually at the waharoa each morning.

Kia pai te wiki mutunga, have a great weekend.

Andrew



## SCHOOL NOTICES

### Reading Helpers

We have a group of wonderful parents and grandparents who work with children in the junior area of the school, one to one, to improve their reading skills. This involves one hour each week on a day that suits the volunteer. Patience, a sense of humour and a listening ear are the qualifications needed. I will provide the appropriate books and guidelines about what to do. We would love some new helpers.

If this sounds like you and you would like to find out more, please contact Cate van Leuven, Reading Recovery Teacher, St Martins School.

Email: [catevl@stmartins.school.nz](mailto:catevl@stmartins.school.nz)

## PTA UPDATE

**BBQ:** The Back to School BBQ will be held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February from 4.30 – 7.30pm, lower school grounds. There will be a free sausage sizzle plus the opportunity to purchase curly potatoes, ice creams and drinks. Watch out for the Sign-Up Genius to enlist as a helper.

**Second-Hand Uniforms:** The recent sale was extremely popular and has all but cleared out the stock. We would be grateful for donations of good quality uniform items for a sale prior to winter. Please drop into the office. Thank you to those that helped out at the sale.

**New Families:** The PTA provides opportunities to bring the school community together through a wide range of events, provides support for families through our meals and baking group and has a schedule of planned fundraising events for the year. Keep an eye on the noticeboard at the main gate for announcements or join us on FB. Please get in touch if you have any questions or can support the PTA in some way.

**Contact Us:** [info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz](mailto:info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz) **Facebook:** St Martins School PTA

**Website:** [stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz](http://stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz) **Fundraising Website:** [stmartinsptafundraiser.com](http://stmartinsptafundraiser.com)

**Next Meeting:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm, Staff Room

## 2024 SCHOOL DATES

### 2024 Term 1

Wed 31 January to Fri 12 April

- Wed 31 Jan & Thu 1 Feb - Whānau Connect
- Fri 2 Feb - All classes begin
- Waitangi Day – Tuesday 6 February – School Closed
- Easter Weekend – Friday 29 March – Tuesday 2 April – School Closed



## 2024 Term 2

Monday 29 April to Friday 5 July

- King's Birthday - Monday 3 June - School Closed
- Matariki - Friday 28 June - School Closed
- + 1 MoE Curriculum Refresh Staff Only Day - Date to be Confirmed

## 2024 Term 3

Monday 22 July to Friday 27 September

## 2024 Term 4

Monday 14 October to Tuesday 17 December

- Labour Day - Monday 28 October - School Closed
- Canterbury Anniversary - Friday 15 November - School Closed
- + 1 MoE Curriculum Refresh Staff Only Day - Date to be Confirmed

## COMMUNITY NOTICES



**Taoist Tai Chi™**  
*Cultivating stillness*

Take control of your health and build resilience physically, mentally and emotionally with **Taoist Tai Chi™** practice.

**Community course - \$35 for six weeks beginning Thursday February 15, 7pm-8.30pm**  
St Martins School hall  
Phone Susan 027 916 3844 to register

Visit our website for more information:  
**www.taoisttaichi.org**

Taoist Tai Chi Society of New Zealand  
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**LUMINARES**

**THEATRE WORKSHOPS**

Term One Youth Performance Workshops  
Phillipstown Community Hub  
Ages 7+

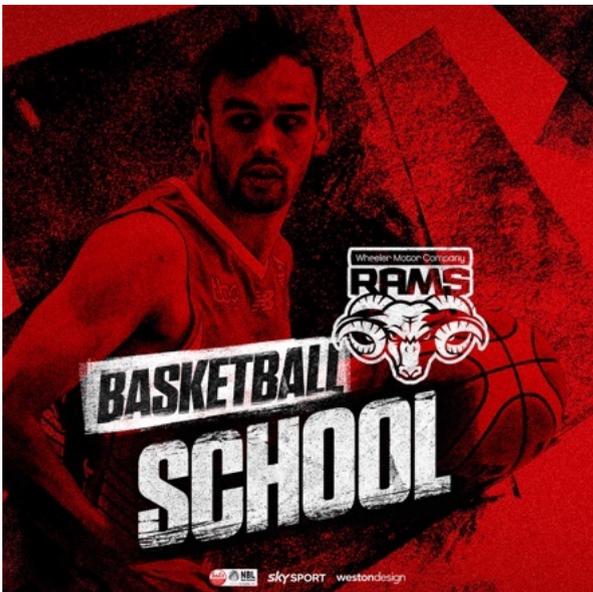
Luminares Charitable Trust are offering two separate weekly workshops

**Weekly workshops (Thursdays from 8th February - 11th April)**  
Plus a combined evening showcase Saturday 13th April

Singing - 4:00pm to 5:00pm  
Acting - 5:15pm to 6:15pm

Pricing  
Ten week workshop \$150  
Community Service Card Holders \$120  
Sign up for both workshops and get 15% off

Register by 5th Feb at <https://forms.gle/MsHYVHTSDQZDzfvR6>  
For more information contact Franc Bol at [luminarescharitabletrust@gmail.com](mailto:luminarescharitabletrust@gmail.com)



**BASKETBALL SCHOOL**

Wheeler-Mobson Company  
**RAMS**

skySPORT westondesign



## TERM 1 2024

2	Mon 5 Feb	Tues 6 Feb	Wed 7 Feb	Thur 8 Feb	Fri 9 Feb
		Waitangi Day School closed	School Photo Day		Year 7&8 tech Explorers Art Gallery Trip Room 1: 9.30 -12 Room 2: 12 - 2.30
3	Mon 12 Feb	Tues 13 Feb	Wed 14 Feb	Thur 15 Feb	Fri 16 Feb
	PTA meeting 7.30 - 8.30pm (Staffroom)		GTT Room 13 & 14	Explorers Art Gallery Trip Room 5&6:12 - 2.30	Explorers Art Gallery Trip Room 7: 9.30 - 12 Room 8: 12 - 2.30  Back to school BBQ 4.30 - 7.30pm
4	Mon 19 Feb	Tues 20 Feb	Wed 21 Feb	Thur 22 Feb	Fri 23 Feb
	Whānau Group Hui 6 - 7.30pm (staffroom)	Year 5 - 8 swimming sports 9.30 - 1.30pm	GTT Room 15 & 16	School Newsletter	
5	Mon 26 Feb	Tues 27 Feb	Wed 28 Feb	Thur 29 Feb	Fri 1 Mar
			PALs Workshop (Pioneer) 9.30 - 3.30  GTT Room 13 & 14	Y3/4 Hangarau Maori Visit 9 - 3pm	
6	Mon 4 Mar	Tues 5 Mar	Wed 6 Mar	Thur 7 Mar	Fri 8 Mar
			GTT Room 15 & 16	School Newsletter	
7	Mon 11 Mar	Tues 12 Mar	Wed 13 Mar	Thur 14 Mar	Fri 15 Mar
	Zone Swimming Whānau Group Hui 6 - 7.30pm (staffroom)		GTT Room 13 & 14		
8	Mon 18 Mar	Tues 19 Mar	Wed 20 Mar	Thur 21 Mar	Fri 22 Mar
	Year 7 & 8 Wainui Camp Year 7 & 8 PCT  PTA meeting 7.30 - 8.30pm (Staffroom)	Year 7 & 8 Wainui Camp  Year 5 - 8 Canterbury Triathlon  Dis. 1 Victoria Square & Margaret Mahy Trip 9 -1pm	Year 7 & 8 Wainui Camp  GTT Room 15 & 16	Year 7 & 8 Wainui Camp School Newsletter  Dis. 2 Victoria Square & Margaret Mahy Trip 2.30 - 3.30pm	Year 7 & 8 Wainui Camp
9	Mon 25 Mar	Tues 26 Mar	Wed 27 Mar	Thur 28 Mar	Fri 29 Mar
	Year 7 & 8 HPV vaccinations		Canterbury Swimming  GTT Room 13 & 14		Good Friday School closed
10	Mon 1 Apr	Tues 2 Apr	Wed 3 Apr	Thur 4 Apr	Fri 5 Apr
	Easter Monday School closed	Easter Tuesday School closed	GTT Room 15 & 16	School Newsletter	
11	Mon 8 Apr	Tues 9 Apr	Wed 10 Apr	Thur 11 Apr	Fri 12 Apr
	Year 5 - 8 Korfball				Last day of Term 1