



## St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene

Newsletter 1: Thursday 8th February 2024

### BOARD UPDATE

Welcome back to the 2025 school year. Thank you to the staff for their efforts in getting the school ready for the year ahead. Our first board meeting for 2025 will be held on Tuesday February 25th in the school staffroom, we welcome anyone who would like to attend a meeting as a guest. Please let me know via email if you wish to attend, prior to the meeting date. [bot@stmartins.school.nz](mailto:bot@stmartins.school.nz).

2025 will be a triennial election year for our school Board. Elections are to be held in September (date tbc) We will have 3 spaces to fill as current members look to step down due to other commitments or their children leaving Primary School.

As a board we aim to have a cross section of many expertise to help govern the direction of the school.

If you have a background in accountancy, project / property management / education these are the areas we are looking for and you might want to consider submitting a nomination in 2025.

For more information about how school Boards operate, visit the School Board Association website [here](#) or contact me on [bot@stmartins.school.nz](mailto:bot@stmartins.school.nz) if you have any questions.

More details and updates about the election will be coming out via HERO closer to the time We look forward to another great year at St Martins School | Hato Mātene.

Ngā mihi,

Dan Levett

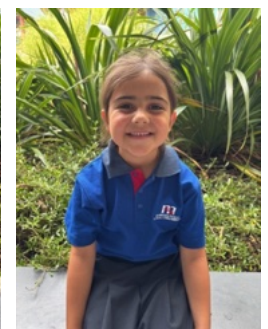
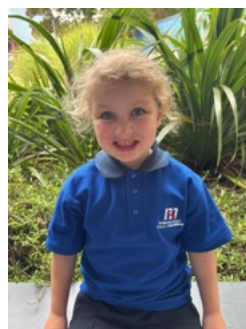
Presiding member

### SCHOOL UPDATE

Welcome to our new students Nico, Maggie, Gemma, Freya, Evelyn, Bodhi, Beau, Archie, Wilfred, Wilbur, Scarlett, Lillian, Iris, Evie, Birdy, Bianca, Asher, Cam, Penny, Olivia, Izzie, Artie, Scott, Asees, Kaia, Archie, Alex, Mia, Liam, Janaya, Larico, Jaedah, Mia and Luca. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to school.

It sounds like everyone has had a lovely summer either at home, locally or abroad. Lots of things to do with families and extra people. It seems like the settled weather has come now that we are back at school, which is great for us, getting outside and enjoying games and times with our friends.

Our recent Whānau Connect sessions were a wonderful opportunity for families, students, and teachers to reconnect and start the new school year on a positive note. It was fantastic to see familiar faces and welcome new ones, as everyone got to know each other a little better. These meetings provided a relaxed environment for parents to meet with teachers,



students to familiarise themselves with their learning spaces, and for everyone to feel connected to our school community.

We enjoyed our mihi whakatau last week to welcome new families. Lovely to have so many families joining us for this occasion. Thank you to Matua Willie and Whaea Tania for supporting the kapahaka and guiding us through this event.

The Back to School BBQ was a fantastic event to kick off the year. It was wonderful to see so many families connecting and enjoying the delicious sausage sizzle, fry bread, and ice creams. The bouncy castles were a huge hit, providing great fun for the children.

Congratulations to Hudson making the closest winning guess for the lolly jar. A big thank you to our amazing PTA for organising such a successful and enjoyable evening. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated. We look forward to more community events throughout the year.

Our Y5-8 swimming sports were a splashing success. It was fantastic to see so many of our students dive into the competition, with swimmers taking part in both the competitive two-length races and the one-length events. The energy and enthusiasm was incredible, and it was wonderful to see the majority of our students participating and giving it a go. A huge thanks to all the parents who came out to support our swimmers and to Hunstbury for their well-deserved win in the house relay. The last race of the session was a close call, it was my great pleasure to swim off against the fastest Y8s, Tyronne and Clara. Congratulations to Tyronne on the win by the smallest of margins.

We are excited to share that we will be holding a schoolwide showcase in term three. We have a theme for the show and are looking forward to getting all of our tamariki across the stage. As we develop the showcase we will let you know further details. Super stoked to have the performing arts collaboration back for 2025.

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 ra - have a great day.  
Andrew

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS & 2025 SCHOOL DATES

The school calendar of events can now be found at our school website at this [link](#). Or via your HERO app. Please check this regularly to stay up to date with any changes to our events dates / times.

### 2025 TERM DATES

T1 = Friday 31 Jan - 11 April

- Friday 31 and Monday 3 Feb = Whānau connect
- Please note there will be two staff only days in term one, dates TBC

T2 = 28 April - 27 June

T3 = 14 July - 19 Sept

T4 = 6 Oct - 18 Dec (Last day of year we will finish at 12.30pm)



## PB4L UPDATE

'To create a positive climate and culture of belonging and engagement for **all**'

To begin the year we have been focusing on the value of Respect. The specific skills being taught and reinforced during weeks 2-4 are the way we move around the school. All adults are encouraged to lead by example.

Walking

- Feet
- Bikes
- Scooters
- Skateboards



## SCHOOL NOTICES

Thank you to those who have made payments towards their child's school account. Most costs for Term 1 have now been added to your school account, however some may not yet show just yet. We will send a HERO notification when accounts have been updated and are ready to pay. When you make payments, please allow a week for this to show up reconciled on your Hero account. Our preferred payment is online (Account number: 12-3240-0111723-00) or by EFTPOS.

### School Donations and extracurricular activities

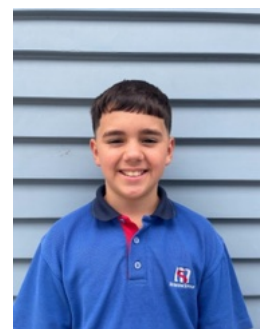
St Martins School runs some extracurricular activities and payment is required for these before your child can attend. Some examples of extracurricular activities are William Pike Challenge, swimming sports, Korfbal tournament, miniball or basketball teams. All other activities are a donation, and will be noted as a donation on your HERO account statement. While payment is not compulsory, all payments made go towards St Martins School providing activities that support our curriculum programme and providing learning opportunities for all students. This includes the school donation of \$100 per student (\$200 for two or more children). These donations provide additional staffing, resources and equipment for our school. Donations are tax deductible (you can easily upload all receipts to the myIR website and receive a 33% refund). Please pop in and see Megan if you have any questions or need information on how to get a tax rebate. Or you have queries about what is showing on your account.



### Year 8 School Based Immunisation Programme 2025

Gardasil (HPV) and Boostrix (Tetanus, Diphtheria & Whooping Cough) immunisations are offered free to year 8 students at school.

**What is HPV?** Human papillomavirus is a very common virus, most of us will have at least one type of HPV during our lives. Often you can't tell if you have HPV as it is not noticeable. Many HPV infections will be cleared by the body without you even knowing you have had it. Some types of HPV infection cause changes in the body that result in certain types of cancer developing. Immunisation protects against developing many of the HPV cancers. Currently there is a Whooping Cough epidemic in New Zealand. Ensuring everyone is up to date with their immunisations remains very important to protect your child, family,



and community. Boostrix immunisation will help provide protection and prevent the spread of Whooping Cough as well as Diphtheria & Tetanus.

Keep an eye out for an information and consent form pack that will be sent home with students who have not completed their vaccinations in General Practice.

Parents/caregivers please complete the form whether you CONSENT or DO NOT consent and return the form to school.

If you change your mind your consent can be withdrawn by contacting the school-based immunisation team via email [HPV@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:HPV@cdhb.health.nz)

If you say no to having these immunisations at school, you can still get them at your GP/Family Doctor.

### Lunchonline - Pure Sushi Ltd

Lunchonline will not be taking orders from 07/04/2025 to 11/04/2025 for Pure Sushi as they are unable to deliver lunches on these dates. Lunchonline apologises for any inconvenience.

## SCHOOL POLICY TERM 1 REVIEW

### SchoolDocs - what is it?

NZ schools are governed by a school board and a range of policies and procedures. Our policies are hosted by SchoolDocs Ltd, an online policy and procedure service for New Zealand primary and intermediate schools.

If you would like to know more about how SchoolDocs works and your involvement as a caregiver please visit the Parents and Whānau section of the SchoolDocs website.

Login here and go to the 'Current review' tab to review the following policies;

**Username:** stmartins

**Password:** huntsbury

- Health, Safety, and Welfare Policy (board)
- Safety Management System (board)
- Risk Management (board)
- Worker Engagement, Participation, and Representation
- Healthcare (board)
- Recording and Reporting Accidents, Injuries, and Illness

## PTA UPDATE

**New Families:** The PTA provides opportunities to bring the school community together through a wide range of events along with supporting families with meals and baking and running second-hand uniform sales every term. Keep an eye on the noticeboard at the main gate for announcements, HERO notices or join us on FB. Please get in touch if you have any questions or can support the PTA in some way. Meetings are held twice a term, all welcome.

**Back to School BBQ:** Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Back-to-School BBQ on a mostly warm and bit breezy Friday evening. Thanks to the Student Council, great music as always. Thank you to all those who signed up to a job to help us run this event, especially those cooking the 530 sausages. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Anderson family of **Event Hire** for donating the bouncy castles this year, they were a massive hit with both the big and small children.

**This Term:** Ice block sale at pick up time on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February. Frozen cookie dough and frozen croissants available to order in March, pick up after the holidays. Rogaine! We are hoping to bring you another rogaine later this term or early Term 2. There are a few logistics to sort out, however we are confident it will be warmer than 8 degrees this time!



**Our Supporters:** We receive so much from people who donate to our events, so every newsletter this year we will promote one of those businesses. Please support the people that support your PTA, this week: The Friday Flower Co <https://www.instagram.com/thefridayflower.co>

**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 24th March, 7.30pm, Staff Room

## WHĀNAU GROUP

Nau mai haere mai ki Hato Mātene mō te tau 2025!

Te rōpū whānau o Hato Mātene would like to welcome students and their whānau back for 2025.

Our Whānau group was established in order for our whānau to have a safe place to voice their ideas and suggestions. The Whānau Group works together with our Kura, Board of Trustees and the wider community to set goals that will raise the culture and the achievement of all of our tamariki. Having a Whānau Group in our school helps families become more involved with what is happening within the school community. Our hui are informal; we share kai and kōrero while our tamariki play together. Meetings are twice a term in Miss Barakat's classroom, located beside the school gardens on the top courts. We welcome all families to come and join us.

### Meetings for Term 1:

- 3.20pm Friday 28th February
- 3.20pm Friday 28th March

### Back to school BBQ

A huge thank you to our amazing volunteers, the PTA and school community for your generosity and support. Your efforts in making and purchasing our fry bread helped us to raise \$160, which will be added to our kete to support cultural opportunities and activities for our ākonga. Your support ensures that we can continue providing meaningful experiences and celebrate and strengthen our culture.

Ngā mihi nui to everyone who contributed – we appreciate you.

We are looking forward to another great year!

Ngā mihi  
Alexis Barakat | Whānau Group Representative  
[alexisbarakat22@gmail.com](mailto:alexisbarakat22@gmail.com)

Join our Facebook!

[Te Rōpū Whānau o Hato Matene](#)

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### Free football webinar with Tom Byer

We are excited to invite all students, parents, and football enthusiasts to a special free webinar with renowned football coach, Tom Byer, in association with Christchurch United! This is an incredible opportunity for anyone passionate about improving their football skills and gaining valuable insights from a global expert.

### McDonalds 2025 Duathlon South Hagley Park on Sunday 6th April.

This event, involving run and cycle stages, is for individual entrants aged 7 to 15 years old. Our emphasis is on participation rather than competition and in line with this, all entries go in a lucky draw for two mountain bikes and helmets.



All competitors will on the day receive a competition shirt, which they must wear to compete as well as a medal, certificate and goodie bag.

Online entries are now open with full information available at

[www.mcdonaldsduathlon.co.nz](http://www.mcdonaldsduathlon.co.nz)

### **Peninsula and Plains Orienteers National Orienteering champs & the Summer Sprints**

This event will be run in Christchurch and north Canterbury this year. More details can be found here:

<https://ochamps.nz/>

The Summer Sprints in Christchurch are ideal for first time orienteers. If you are wanting to try it for the first time and are new to orienteering, please let us know at registration so we can find some helpers to give you some tips before you start.

More on the Summer sprints on our website here:

<https://papo.org.nz/series/view/40/summer-sprint-series-2025>

### **Sydenham Rugby Ripa & Footy Fun program**

A fun, non-contact rugby initiative designed to introduce Year 1 & 2 tamariki to the game in a safe, engaging, and supportive environment.

The program is open to all tamariki in the Sydenham, Beckenham, St Martins, Waltham, Spreydon, Barrington, Somerfield, Opawa, Addington, Hoon Hay & Cashmere areas.

Run on Fridays from 3:30 – 4:30 PM, starting February 28th through to April 11th at Sydenham Park.

Learn fundamental movement skills, make new friends, and most importantly—have fun!

