



## St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene

Newsletter 10 : Thursday 17 July 2025

### 2025 SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

#### Timeline & Important Information

Every three years all public schools in Aotearoa hold elections for their School Boards, 2025 is an election year.

The School Board is made up of parent elected individuals and is a key part of St Martins School, they govern a lot of important things behind the scenes that are really important in keeping our school running.

While no specific experience is required it is appreciated that SMS is a high performing school and board members should show a willingness to contribute, collaborate, and uphold the values of our school. We especially encourage nominations from individuals with experience in:

- Governance
- Finance
- Risk & compliance
- Health & Safety
- Strategic planning
- Law

#### What Does a Board Member Do?

At St Martins School the Board governs the school. Working together to ensure our students thrive within a supportive, high-quality learning environment. This involves:

- Supporting the Principal
- Consults with the community on important issues
- Setting the strategic direction
- Ensuring alignment with Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Oversees finances and property
- Monitoring policy and compliance

#### Time Commitment

Board members attend around 8 board meetings per year and should allow time for reading board papers and staying informed. On average, members can expect to commit approximately 6-8 hours per month. Attendance at key school events is also encouraged.

#### How to Apply

To stand as a candidate, you must complete a nomination form. **Nominations open this Friday 18th July. A link to the online nomination form will be emailed to all school caregivers on this date.**

For more information or to speak with a current board member at another time, please contact Board Presiding member, Dan Levett via email [bot@stmartins.school.nz](mailto:bot@stmartins.school.nz)



## Join us!

St Martins | Hāto Mātene  
School Board Midterm elections  
2025

**Nominations open 18th July**

For more information contact  
Dan Levett [bot@stmartins.school.nz](mailto:bot@stmartins.school.nz)



St Martins School  
Te Kura o Hato Mātene



Parent & Staff Election Timetable		
Election Stage	10 September Election Date	For other election dates
Appoint Returning Officer By	Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	At least 63 days before election day
Close Main Roll	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	56 days before election day
Call for Nominations	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	At least 54 days before election day
Close Supplementary Roll	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> August	37 days before election day
Nominations Close	12 noon on Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> August	At noon on 35 days before election day
Voting Papers Issued	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> August	At least 28 days before election day
Election Day	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	Election day
Close Poll	4pm on Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	4pm on Election day
Count Votes & Declare Results	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	6 <sup>th</sup> day after election day
Board Takes Office	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	7 <sup>th</sup> day after election day

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS & 2025 SCHOOL DATES

For live updates to the school calendar visit this [link](#) or view via your HERO app. Please check this regularly to stay up to date with any changes to our events dates / times.

**2025 TERM THREE DATES** Monday 14 July - Friday 19 September

**School is closed:** Friday 12th September - Staff only day

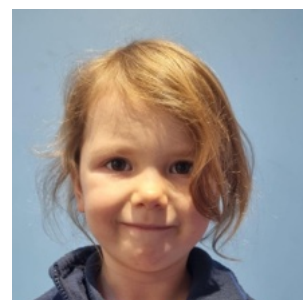
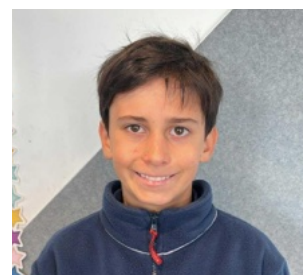
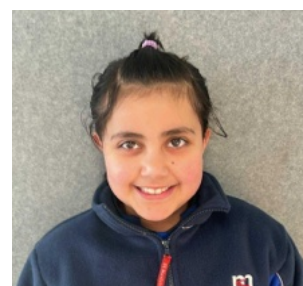
## SCHOOL UPDATE

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

We hope everyone had a lovely break. Visiting the classrooms throughout the week and having conversations with our tamariki there were a lot of happenings throughout the two weeks. Although the weather was a bit wet and cold, it was great to hear there were events outside, board games inside and a sprinkling of baking and movies.

This week we welcome Annabelle, Benji, Ida, Caleb, Annelise, Hadlee, Otis, Lyra, Zara, Karmen, Mattia, Ishmeen. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to St Martins | Hato Mātene.

The junior playground construction continued through the break. Most of the foundation work in stages one and two are complete. For these areas we are waiting for plants to arrive in the next few weeks. Look out for regular hero posts about upcoming community working bees to support this work, the time you volunteer to help with this project is greatly appreciated. Stage three, which includes the play equipment underneath the oak tree, is being finalised. Hopefully these will be signed off soon so the excavation work, boxing and structures can be started. We continue to aim for the playground to be open this year. Thanks to the playground committee for offering your time and expertise as well as organising and liaising with the contractors.



Our first extravaganza in a while with all children being involved in a class or pod item will be held this term. Our theme is based around well known musicals, with a cast of talented senior students weaving the scenes together. The three evening shows are comprised of two acts, Act 1 involving years 0-4 and Act 2 years 5-8. Classes are underway using aspects of the Arts curriculum to develop their show items.

**When:** Tuesday 26th, Wednesday 27th, Thursday 28th August



**Where:** Hillview Christian School Gym

**Ticketing:** Tickets will be released in week 2. This year we are using an online booking system which will be sent out to you via a HERO post in week 2.

**Cost:** tickets are \$15, with a cap of three tickets per family due to available seating. Any extra available tickets will be pooled and offered in week 3.

**Parent help:** A sign up sheet will also be sent out in week 2 out for parent help. Classroom teachers may reach out also for some extra help in the coming weeks for help with prop and costume creation.

This term we have a new Y7 / 8 initiative starting with a six week block getting a group of children ready for the Tournament of the Minds competition. We are very fortunate to have Cristy working with our ākonga. Cristy has successfully worked with a number of schools developing and extending creative thinking for this tournament. Good luck to all of the children involved.

Always fun to see the engineering kits out in term three as the Y5 - 8 children vie for spots to compete in the EPro8 competition. Thanks to Tamara Saxon for leading this group of talented engineers, problem solving their way through a variety of challenges.

The Mid Winter Quiz is fast approaching, there are a few spots left if you are keen to support this PTA fundraiser on Saturday 26th July. Always a great night of entertainment. This year we have VIP tables with extra service, it could be worth getting in early for one of these.

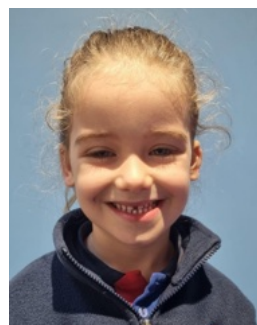
On Friday the 8th of August we will be holding our 2025 school disco, as always there are two time slots, a junior and senior event. The disco is a joint collaboration between the senior leaders and the PTA. Often the theme is as eagerly anticipated as the event itself. This year our theme is: Cartoons. Have a think about your favourite cartoon character or who you may want to be on the night.

After our working bee last term and the removal of the old (falling down) white fencing we made the decision to move the notice boards onto the Whare Kukuwai. This means that they are a little more protected from the weather as well as offering some protection for those wanting to read the notices. We hope you will step through the waharoa and take advantage of the noticeboard and the wealth of information that is shared.

There was an interesting announcement from the Government yesterday in regards to modern learning spaces. We believe at SMS | HM we are able to offer quality learning in both our collaborative and flexible spaces. Offering learning that caters for a variety of experiences. We have adapted and developed teaching with pod partners (two teachers) to create a variety of wonderful learning experiences. While the new directive seems to be ensuring all spaces are flexible there has been no conversation around whether the Government will want to retrospectively look at collaborative spaces again.

This term we'll have our last Ministry of Education staff only day based on Maths. We will be joining with a number of primary schools in our Kahui Ako to listen to Rob Profitt White based on three key themes: basic facts, rich tasks vs word problems and assessment on the go. **School will be closed on Friday 12th September.** Please note this will not affect Navigators 1 Camp.

If you would like to catch up with Alice, Leanne or myself feel free to come and have a chat. We are usually at the waharoa each morning for an informal conversation or we can make time to meet together.  
Ngā mihi, Andrew



## CALL FOR ENROLMENTS

Do you have a child who will be starting School in the coming term or in 2026 that you haven't enrolled yet? If the answer is yes, please click [here](#) to complete an online enrolment. This will help us anticipate class sizes and staffing over the next school year.

## SCHOOL POLICY TERM 3 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**

- Food and Nutrition
- Police Vetting
- Missing Student Procedure

## PB4L - Positive Behavior for Learning

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

From weeks 1-4 of term 3 we will be working through aspects of the **Responsibility** value with a particular focus on **responsible behaviour**. This means ...

- Showing positive / solutions based behaviour
- Practising good sportsmanship
- Being present and ready for learning

## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

We had over 60 year 5-8 students competing in the EPro8 engineering challenge this week. Teams of 4 were challenged to build a working Jack-in-the-Box, a Ball Thrower and a Weighing Machine. It was exciting to see amazing teamwork and thinking skills.

Congratulations to 'The Potatoes', 'The Burnt Marshmallows', 'No Name Needed' and 'Builder Bros' who are moving on to represent St Martins in week 4.

## PTA UPDATE

**Last Raffle Winners:** Congratulations to our raffle winners from 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June: Fiona Platt, Belinda Sleeman, Annie Stone and Dean Calvert. Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle, we were thrilled with the response and the support we received from all the businesses that donated items.

**Disco:** The much-anticipated disco is locked in for Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August.

Juniors 5.30 – 7pm, Seniors, 7.30- 9pm. \$5 per student, cash event. Sausage sizzle available prior to each disco for \$2. Theme: Cartoons. We need your help to ensure this event runs smoothly, please sign up to a job [here](#):

[St Martins School Disco Helpers: DISCO HELPERS 2025](#)

**Rogaine:** Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> August with the support of our amazing school rogaining families and PAPO. Entry will be \$5 per person with the latest start time of 5pm and everyone finishing by 6pm. You can then come back to the hall for some tasty hot food and a warm milo while the results come in. Yr 6 and under will require an accompanying





adult, Yr 7 and older can participate without an adult but with compulsory gear. Look out for the entry form next week.

**Touch Rugby:** We look forward to bringing you the popular touch rugby competition in Term 4 on Thursdays at Waltham Park starting 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Start getting your teams together or look out for the Team Finder form out soon, if your child would like to join a touch team.

**Next Meeting:** Monday 1st September, 7.30pm, Staff Room.

**Contact Us:** [info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz](mailto:info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz)

**Facebook:** St Martins School PTA

**Website:** <https://www.stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz/>

## WHĀNAU GROUP

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.

**Wednesday Morning Te Reo Māori and Waiata Group** Come and hang out with your friends and learn te reo Māori through games, crafts and pūrākau (stories) and waiata. Every week at 8am. We welcome all families to come and join us.

Alexis Barakat | Whānau Group Representative

Contact: [alexisbarakat22@gmail.com](mailto:alexisbarakat22@gmail.com)

Join our Facebook! [Te rōpū whānau o Hato Matene](#)



# Let's do this together!

**St Martins | Hāto Mātene  
School Board election 2025**

Become a school board member

**Register your nomination**

Further information on how to register coming via email/post from  
Friday 18th July



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