



St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 17 : Thursday 6 Nov 2025

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

This week we welcome Fergus & Mila and Rylan. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to St Martins | Hato Mātene.

We thoroughly enjoyed the Lachie Memorial Student vs Teacher Football Game two weeks ago. It was great to have former students supporting the staff team. A fitting ending with a penalty shoot out.

The house tug of war was hotly contested on the top courts last week. Congratulations to Rāpaki, Glenelg and Huntsbury each winning a year level competition. With a stacked team of 20 Y8s the 14 staff members lining up to take part in the challenge had no real chance - we were hoping for a stronger showing however within a quick timeframe the Y8s had proved themselves champions.

We hosted Julie and Jacqueline from the Education Review Office through week. We were able to showcase the wonderful teaching and learning that happens on a daily basis as well as the work we have been doing with the curriculum refresh. The Board met this morning to hear the initial sharings. The draft report will be prepared and sent to the Board in the next four to six weeks to be confirmed before becoming a public document.

Thank you to Jermaine from Lokicreative for the new pickleball / padder tennis courts on the top playing space. With four courts we now have another game for children to get themselves involved in. The courts in school colours add a great visual play area. Feel free to come down and have a go. Perhaps the children in Y3 / 4 learning padder tennis and the Y5 / 6 children in their tennis rotation might be interested in having a go during break times.

Good luck to the summer sports competitors today and the zone athletes competing tomorrow. We wish everyone competing all the best and know that you will represent our school positively.

In the week of 17 - 21 November we will be carrying out a community survey. This will be based on collecting information on:

- Health topics
- School values
- Curriculum refresh

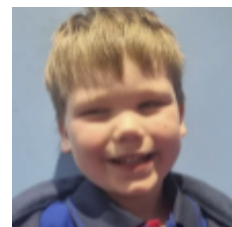
We will have both an online and paper based survey option. We hope you will have time to complete this survey.

All classroom teachers are putting together end of year reports. These will be based on core curriculum learning, values, student voice and a general comment. While we put together these reports we are also putting classes together for 2026. Both reports and classes will be sent home via HERO on Wednesday 10 December.

We have a new English and Maths curriculum. These have changed slightly from the ones we originally thought we would be working with. Our English and Maths curriculum leaders will be looking at these, making recommendations and finalising any adaptations for the new year. We continue to wait for direction from the Government around proposed changes for assessment and reporting, this year we will continue with our usual cycle, if we are updated again we will look at what needs to be developed for 2026.

We really enjoy our interactions at the waharoa. Feel free to stop by and have a chat. Kia pai te mutunga wiki.

Andrew



SCHOOL NOTICES

2026 TERM DATES

Term 1 = 4 February - 2 April 2 & 3 February - TOD 4 & 5 February - Whānau connect 6 February - Waitangi Day 3 April - Easter Friday	Term 3 = 20 July - 25 September No public holiday during the term (Matariki is 10 July)
Term 2 = 20 April - 3 July 27 April - ANZAC	Term 4 = 12 October - 17 December (Thursday, 12.30pm finish) 26 October - Labour Day 13 November - Canterbury Anniversary Day

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

On Friday 24th October, our school community came together for the annual Lachie Memorial Student vs Teacher Football Game — a spirited and heartfelt event honouring the memory of Lachie. Among the teachers' team were some familiar faces — Jordan, Ryan, Liam, and Caleb — who were part of an exceptional football squad five years ago, representing our school with pride at both Koru Games and Canterbury level.

This year's student team, fresh from winning the Koru Games and placing second at Canterburies, promised strong competition — and they didn't disappoint! In a thrilling display of skill, determination, and sportsmanship, the match ended in a 5-5 draw, sending the game into an exciting penalty shootout. The students ultimately took the win, but the real victory was in seeing Lachie's legacy continue through the passion and connection shared on the field.

It's a fitting tribute that, five years on — this year Lachie would have been graduating high school — our school once again celebrates a team of equally talented and spirited players. Lachie's memory will always live on in our school. ❤️

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.

Term 4 Hui: Friday November 7th

End of year hui: TBC

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

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

PB4L - Positive Behavior for Learning

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

As the end of the year approaches it is even more important to think about personal responsibility.

The skills being focused on are:

- Be present (there are still several weeks of school left)
- Be prepared - Have the equipment and stationary you need (this includes a hat)
- Meet deadlines



- Have a positive growth mindset

Rooms 7 and 8 have been diving into PB4L with a focus on developing a growth mindset. They are exploring what it truly means to have a growth mindset by embracing challenges and learning from mistakes. By being open-minded, students are encouraging each other to consider new ideas and perspectives. This has helped students build resilience and an understanding that setbacks are opportunities for growth and improvement. Our students are learning to persevere and bounce back from difficulties, knowing that effort and attitude are key to success.

PTA UPDATE

Family Portrait Session: There are just a few slots left for a photo session with Green Melon Photography on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd November. A session is \$25 for one family photo (value \$60) with the option to purchase additional photos at a later date to be delivered before Christmas. Book here: [St Martins School PTA: Family Portrait Session](#)

Tea Towels: A small number of our “Community” design Strawberry Hill tea towels are still available. Order here: [Tea Towel Order Form](#)

Entertainment Book: Summer is coming, time to buy your Entertainment App membership and support our fundraising at the same time: [St Martins School](#)

Second-Hand Uniform: We will be holding the second-hand uniform on one of the Whanau Connect days next year. Please continue to donate second-hand uniforms so we can boost our supplies for a sale. Drop donations into the school office, thank you.

SteamPunk Fair: This Sunday we are running a sausage sizzle as a fundraiser with the support of William Pike students so come along to support this fun looking event in the school hall from 10am - 4pm.

Karma Keg: Our annual Karma Keg at Moon Under Water is on Saturday 6th Dec, 3-5pm.

Next Meeting: Monday 1st December, 7.30pm, Staff Room. New members are always welcome and it was great to welcome Shana to the committee at our last meeting.

Contact Us: info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz

Facebook: St Martins School PTA

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

SCHOOL POLICY TERM 4 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 read and review the following policies;

Username: stmartins

Password: huntsbury

- Bullying and Harassment
- Behaviour Management
- Searches, Surrender, and Retention of Property
- Minimising Physical Restraint
- Stand-down, Suspension, and Exclusion
- Staff Wellbeing and Safety

