



St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 17 : Thursday 20 November 2025

BOARD UPDATE

This week we welcomed Kurt, Celia, Gareth and Oscar to their first St Martins | Hato Mātene Board meeting. They were joined by returning members Alexis, Joseph and Andrew.

This was the first time we have met since the announcement from the Government about the proposed removal of school boards that are delegated a legal duty to “give effect” to the Treaty of Waitangi. This week we have been provided further information from the Government to clarify this proposal.

Email update:

We have moved to remove the legal duty for this responsibility and replaced it with clear actions that school boards do have a legal responsibility for executing.

These include that the board:

- 1. Seek to achieve equitable outcomes for Māori students*
- 2. Take all reasonable steps to provide for students to be taught, and to learn, in te reo Māori on request of their parents or immediate caregivers*
- 3. Take reasonable steps to ensure that the policies and practices for the school reflect New Zealand's cultural diversity.*

School boards, made up of your parents and community reps, play a vital role in reflecting the unique social and cultural values of their communities. These changes allow for you to continue to make decisions appropriate to your school.

The email we received can be read in full on our school website -

<https://www.stmartins.school.nz/about/board-of-trustees/>

As a Board we will continue to uphold and honour the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, promoting, implementing and developing our programmes and interactions. Our role as a Board is to focus on what is best for the wellbeing and learning of every child at SMS | HM. We want to ensure every child has the best chance to learn in a safe, welcoming environment that respects their strengths, learning needs, personality and cultural identity.

In practical terms, this means our school will continue the schoolwide te reo programme and extension te reo sessions. Engage in kapa haka, mihi whakatau, manu korero and Matariki celebrations. Continue to celebrate cultural identity through NZ histories, tikanga Māori within units of learning as well as making connections with local iwi through marae visits and significant aspects in our environment. This will be coupled with celebrating and supporting the cultural identity of ākonga across our kura.

We congratulate Andrew on being awarded a sabbatical in 2026. After 18 years of Principalship Andrew will be undertaking his first sabbatical. His focus will be on creating a pathway for children needing support or extension within the refreshed curriculum model. The school will be in the very capable hands of Alice Denley and Leanne Parnham in terms 3 and 4 of 2026.

Presiding Member
Dan Levett

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

This week we welcome Cai, Jules, Anahera and Emily. We hope you enjoy your time with us and look forward to your contributions to St Martins | Hato Mātene.

We are well and truly into the final push for the year. Wandering through the school this week it was delightful to hear some Christmas singing as the Junior school prepares for their Christmas show on Monday 15 Dec.

Thank you to parents Josh and Thomas for taking up the opportunity to kaikōrero our tamariki onto Rāpaki Marae last week. It is fabulous to have whānau supporting our learners to connect with our local iwi, finding out what is special about the environment we live in now and in the past.

Next week we have a number of new Principals leading the school, Chloe B, Fergus and Zac Newman, Ruairí G, Jake M and Forrest and Arlo M. They have requested that we leave our uniforms at home on Friday and come in the clothes we enjoy wearing. They will lead the assembly, adjust the timetable for the day to include a greater emphasis on break times, their classes will focus on strand curriculum, as always a lunch out for the Principals and ice blocks for everybody.

End of year reports are being completed, these will include:

- Values
- Literacy and Maths goals that have been achieved and are being worked on (Year 0-6)
- Literacy and Maths comments (Year 7/8)
- Literacy and Maths progress descriptor (an overall teacher judgement)
- Student Voice
- 2025 Whakanuia te Ākonga - Celebrate the Student (General Comment)

More information about the reporting format will be released to the community in the next 2 weeks. Your child's report will be available on HERO on Wednesday 10 December from 9am. If you need support accessing reports please make contact with Alice Denley (aliced@stmartins.school.nz).

Teachers have been involved in many conversations around class placements. As usual these will be released after the reports via HERO on the afternoon of Wednesday 10 December.

Yesterday we sent home the 2025 Health survey. We have shared with whānau our health programmes during the last few years, a focus on our values as well as thinking a little bit around the curriculum refresh. If you would like to participate in the survey please return this to the office by Friday next week. As a small incentive each completed form returned gets 2 house points for your family.

With 18 days until the end of the term we are going to be finishing with a range of activities. Have a look at the [school calendar](#) for swimming lessons, junior athletics, itinerant music concert, PTA thank you evening, sailing, dance classes, korfbal, pool days, ironperson comp, Y8 graduation, surf days, Y8 amazing race and of course a final assembly on Wednesday 17 Dec. We hope you will be able to join in with some of the experiences as we round off the year.

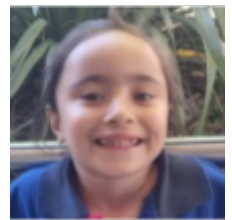
Congratulations to Jacqui O'Neill who has been appointed to the Garden to Table programme from 2026. Jacqui will take over the kitchen aspect of the programme.

As we head into these final few weeks of the school year, let's all keep focused and finish strong. It's wonderful to see the enthusiasm across the kura as we prepare for our last round of events and celebrations. Thank you, for your continued support throughout the year.

We really enjoy our interactions at the waharoa. Feel free to stop by and have a chat.

Kia pai te mutunga wiki.

Andrew



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

On Monday 3rd November Henry Lewis-Maddick and Sophia & Peter Hickman attended the Primary School Music Festival at the town Hall. We are so proud to have such amazing musical talent representing St Martins School. Well done!

PB4L - Positive Behavior for Learning

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

We continue to focus on the value of Personal Best. As the end of the year approaches and our routines start to get interrupted, it's more important than ever that we continue to put our best foot forward. Let's maintain that focus and finish strong!

- 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



SCHOOL NOTICES

2026 TERM DATES

Term 1 = 4 February - 2 April • 2 & 3 February - Teacher Only Days • 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

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.

End of year celebration:

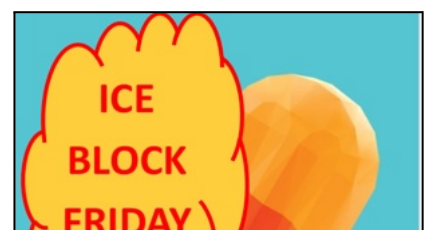
17th November 4.30pm

We will be having kai with our whānau and tamariki to celebrate the year that has passed and those yet to come. If you have been wondering what we are all about, this will be the perfect time to come and have a laugh, full your puku and kōrero. If you would like to know details please email Alexis Barakat at the email address below.

Wednesday Morning Te ReoMāori 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

PTA UPDATE

Ice Block Friday: Tomorrow, Friday 21st November! \$2 - bring coins / cash to pick up and enjoy an ice block on a very warm afternoon. PTA bank transfer accepted. St Martins School PTA: 12-3147-0420521-00 Reference: Name / Ice Block.

PTA End of Year Thank You Evening: We look forward to seeing many of you at our annual thank you evening to recognise the contributions everyone has made to support school and the PTA this year. **Wednesday 26th November, 7 - 9pm at Protocol, 2 Colombo St.** No RSVP required, just come along for an enjoyable evening.

Thank You: Sincere thanks to the crew that helped out with the Steampunk Sausage Sizzle recently: Denise, Liam, Stella, Nick, Tracey, Millie, Daisy, George, Roberta, Mitchell, Oscar, Tony, Theo, Thomas, Josh, Bridget and Flora – we appreciate your help and support.

Touch Referees: We are proud of the students that are selected to be referees for our touch competition, for showing courage to take on this role and for their commitment to the training and participation in weekly games. For two former students, Ruby and Riley, this has led to opportunities with Touch NZ, both recently being selected for further referee development. We hope some of our current students will see this as a pathway they might consider.

Family Portrait Session: There are a handful of sessions available for a family photo session this weekend: [St Martins School PTA: Family Portrait Session](#)

Karma Keg: Saturday 6th December, 3 – 5pm for our annual Karma Keg at Moon Under Water. See you there!

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

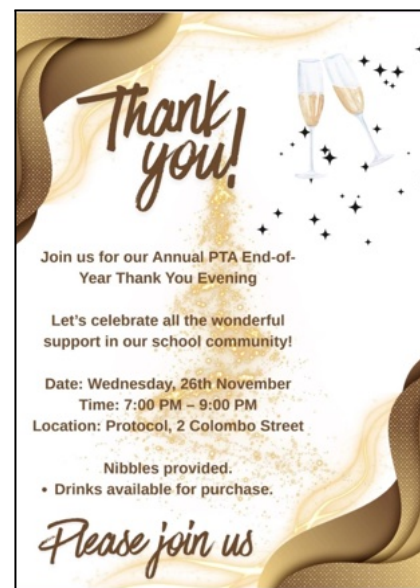
Second-Hand Uniform Sale: Confirmed for Thursday 5th Feb, 10am – 12pm.

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

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