



St Martins School | Te Kura o Hato Mātene Newsletter 19 : Thursday 4 December 2025

Upcoming Events for the remainder of Term 4 2025

Please also keep an eye on the School Calendar on your HERO app or via the [School Website](#), for any changes.

	Week 10 (8 - 12 December)	Week 11 (15 - 17 December)
Monday	Y0 - 6 Swimming Y7 - 8 Korfbal Tournament	Christmas shows: Explorers - 10.15am - 11.10am Discoverers - 11.30am - 12.30pm Navigators - 1:30pm - 3:00pm Y7 Surf Day Y8 Amazing Race
Tuesday	Y0 - 6 Swimming	Y8 Surf Day
Wednesday	Y0 - 6 Swimming Y7 / 8 Pool day 9.30am Reports are open via HERO 4.00pm Class placements are open via HERO	<u>Final Assemblies</u> Y0 - 4 = 9.00am Y5 - 8 = 11.00am School finishes 12.30pm
Thursday	Y0 - 6 Swimming Y7 / 8 Iron Competition	
Friday	Y0 - 6 Swimming 2.00pm Meet 2026 Class and Teacher 6.30pm Y8 Graduation (at Hillview)	

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Kia ora koutou e te whānau,

Congratulations to our Year 8 group for 2025. We wish you all the very best in your next year of schooling. This week I was very fortunate to listen to Zack Fastier, a former student speak. As a (nearly) 18 year old he reminded us that as students at this time, some of you will take separate paths, attend different schools, find new friends, new interests and focus. Although your time will be shared amongst these things, when you reconnect with your St Martins mates it will be like just yesterday, you will pick up the conversations just where you left off, the familiarity, the fun, the shared memories will come back in an instant. Value the friendships you've built here, knowing you'll always have a place to come back to.

This year you were the first group since covid to go back to the stage and share in an Extravaganza Performance. Just like the stage you performed on, there are so many scenes, acts, musicals, comedies and dramas to be involved in. You could be front and centre, the main act, all eyes on you, sometimes part of the ensemble, a gang of friends having the best time of your life. You might be in the chorus, moving as one, or perhaps a quiet observer, a tree or wallflower, watching as the show happens around you. Each role is valuable, each experience a part of your unique performance. At times the stage will be crowded, jam packed, shoulder to shoulder, bright lights, loud music. These are the times you are surrounded by people, exciting events and experiences. Soak in all the sights, the sounds, the experiences. Get involved, jump into it all as you swirl across the stage.



Other times though the stage might feel empty, quiet, a solo spotlight. Embrace these moments, learn more about yourself, have the courage to stand alone and be independent. Figure things out, look to the wings for support if you need it. You've got this though, the resilience to find your way. Take a breath, step to the front of the stage, be proud to be yourself.

2025 has been a fabulous year of learning, for our teaching staff, the new English and Maths curriculums to engage with, thank you for positively responding to new challenges as we worked out what adaptations we needed to make as a school and how these would best support our ākonga. Lots of trips and experiences to provide the rich learning opportunities that will be talked about in future moments.

I couldn't be more proud of our wonderful tamariki. Lots of educational gains being made, looking after each other, positively promoting our kura on EOTC events and the sports field. It's nice to be known amongst other schools as being good people. We promote this through our values and PB4L programme, I hope these continue to show at home during the summer break. We had 128 community surveys returned. This makes up approximately 36% of our community. The two values to focus on in 2026 include:

- Respect | Manaaki (30%)
- Caring | Aroha (27%)

Some common threads from the comments included focussing on:

- Interpersonal Relationships and Empathy
 - How students treat each other. Kindness, caring, manners, acceptance and inclusion.
- Personal Character and Resilience
 - Relating to a student's inner strength, self-worth, and moral compass.
- Cultural and Community Focus
 - Looking beyond ourselves to the wider group and world.

Thanks to our whānau for making yourselves available, being involved and positively supporting the school and the programmes we run and participate in. It's always a pleasure to see parents inside the school. We have amazing support from the PTA and Whānau Group, thank you Emma and Alexis for the opportunities you provide for our community and tamariki.

Have a fabulous holiday break. I hope everyone has the opportunity to share the gift of time. The time to engage in whatever makes your family unique, baking a Christmas cake together, riding your bikes, attending church as a whānau, sunday drives with ice creams, playing board games, fish and chips at the beach building a fort in the living room, having a family picnic at a local reserve, or sharing stories while stargazing in the backyard.

This is our last newsletter for the year

Meri Kirihimete,

Andrew



YOUNGER SELVES



2026 TERM DATES

Term 1 = 4 February - 2 April <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No public holiday during the term (Matariki is 10 July)
Term 2 = 20 April - 3 July <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27 April - ANZAC 	Term 4 = 12 October - 17 December (Thursday, 12.30pm finish) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 October - Labour Day 13 November - Canterbury Anniversary Day

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Itinerant Music year 8 student leavers

We would like to acknowledge our Year 8 Itinerant Music students who are leaving for Highschool at the end of this year. Alice Nix (flute), Luiza Wander Marques (flute), Lorianne Weaver (Clarinet), Fletcher Hill (trumpet), Sophia Hickman (cornet) and Maya Hill (Piano - orchestra) have showed so much hard work and perseverance over the years learning and performing in the itinerant music programme at St Martins School and have made us proud. We wish them all the best for their music journey at High School.



Tom Burnett, WORD Christchurch, Writing Award

St Martins' most esteemed author, Tom Burnett in year 8, recently submitted an entry to the WORD Christchurch, Blue Sky Dreaming writing competition.

Participants needed to submit an original piece of writing inspired by the prompt: 'What would your everyday life look like in Ōtautahi 2125?'

Tom's work was selected by a panel of judges as a winner, meaning he will receive a gift voucher prize, and his writing will be displayed in public areas around Christchurch. Congratulations Tom for getting the recognition you deserve for your amazing writing work. You can read Tom's short story here →

I typed the web address in, my fingers moving with ease. The tab allowed me inside. Everything was so... antique. The buildings were made of stone, and even wooden beams sometimes! People walked past wearing real fabric clothing, and most stunning of all- trees were everywhere, and even grass was growing from cracks in the sidewalk! I walked towards the trunk of a tree, stretching out my hand to touch it. It phased through the bark, and I remembered that this world was a simulation. With that thought slightly dampening my excitement, I closed the tab. In an instant, high-tech buildings, created from solidified light, surrounded me, as did my people. I approached a black robot, his shiny panels glinting.

"Jeff," he said, and I replied.

"2025 Christchurch has plants! But apart from that, it's a little boring..." And I looked downwards at my hands. My black, sleek, robotic hands.

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! Specific skills being developed are - **Being a respectful member of an audience**

- Clapping appropriately
- Whole body listening
- Demonstrating the school values on and off site.
- Audience participation where appropriate

Check out our youngest students from Rooms 3/5/6 in action giving their Personal Best at our Athletics morning! Everyone showed a 'can do' attitude and gave it a go to learn some new skills and have some fun! Albert coming along was a great motivator! Well done team!



SCHOOL NOTICES

LunchOnline is now Ezlunch

From Term 1, 2026 our school will be using Ezlunch for all online lunch orders as they have purchased LunchOnline. All current LunchOnline users will have received information about how to create an Ezlunch account.

Ezlunch offers a simple, mobile-friendly way for families to order fresh, tasty lunches from the same local providers you already know and love. The ordering process is quick, payments are secure, and delivery to school is reliable and easy. Parents can order using the Kindo app (find in the app store) and choose from a range of convenient payment options including card, bank transfer, Google Pay, Apple Pay and more. The system also includes helpful allergen alerts and automated reminders, so no one misses out on lunch day. We're excited to bring this service to our school community and look forward to launching with Ezlunch in Term 1, 2026.



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.

Alexis Barakat | Whānau Group Representative

Contact: alexisbarakat22@gmail.com

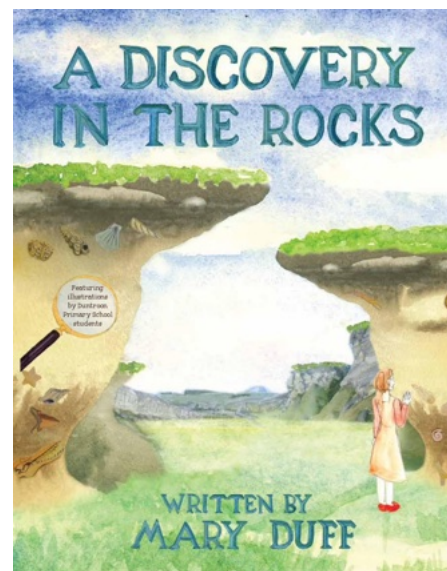
Join our Facebook! Te rōpū whānau o Hato Matene

PTA UPDATE

Thank You: We are incredibly grateful for all the support we have received from the school community this year. You have generously donated, purchased and supported us when we came to you with each event and request. We wouldn't be in a position to donate \$60,000 to the playground this month without the contributions of you all. Thank you to those of you that attended the PTA Thank You Evening last week where we farewelled Clare, Janine and Steve, all hard-working PTA members who will be missed. New members are always welcome.

Book Fundraiser: School parent, Mary Duff has kindly offered to donate some of the proceeds from her book sales to the PTA. Mary has written a children's book called "**A Discovery In The Rocks**". A non-fiction narrative following a child's discovery of something unusual in the rocks, to its display in a local fossil museum. Perfect for ages 5-9, it introduces fossil formation and Aotearoa's Oligocene geology in an engaging and accessible way. A perfect Christmas gift or stocking filler, purchase through her website: [Home - Mary Duff](https://www.maryduff.co.nz)

Karma Keg: This **Saturday 6th December, 3 - 5pm** for our annual Karma Keg at Moon Under Water, family friendly event. Keg generously donated by Three Boys Brewery, all money comes back to the PTA. See you there!



**2026 Enrolments
OPEN NOW**
At St Martins School

Drums

Guitar

Ukulele

Keyboard

Singing

**SCAN ME
TO ENROL**

Get in Quick - Spaces WILL Fill Up!

★ Lessons held during school hours

★ Opt into **confidence-boosting performance opportunities**

MONSTERMUSIC
monstermusic.nz



Second-Hand Uniform: Please leave uniform donations in the school office or email us to organise collection / drop-off for after 17th December: info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz. Sale Thursday 5th Feb, 10am – 12pm.

2026 Back To School BBQ: Friday 13th February from 4.30pm. Save the date!

Precious Labels: Order your uniform and book labels now through Precious Labels and support our fundraising at the same: [Current School Fundraisers | Support Your School | Precious Labels NZ](#)

Entertainment App: Christmas deal time, purchase between 1st to 24th December 2025, and you will receive a \$30 VISA eGift Card with every Single City Membership OR a \$50 Visa eGift Card with every Multi City Membership. Link: [St Martins School](#)

Contact Us: info@stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz **Next Meeting:** Monday 16th Feb, 7.30pm, Staff Room

Facebook: St Martins School PTA **Website:** <https://www.stmartinsschoolpta.org.nz/>