SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2012

Contextual Information
St Mark’s Lutheran School is a Reception to Year 7 systemic Lutheran school located in the Adelaide Hills. In harmony with its Lutheran ethos, the School is centred on the gospel of Jesus Christ as described in our Mission and Values, which are lived daily within the school community.

Our Mission
‘Led by God, St Mark’s provides a quality education, developing individuals’ potential and encouraging all to reflect Christ’s love in care and service to others.’

Our Values
God’s Word, as revealed in the Bible, is the authority of what we do and teach. Therefore, we foster and support the following biblical values.

Love
We daily reflect God’s love for us in our interactions with others.

Forgiveness
We forgive others as God forgives us and in doing so, we recognise the wrong, seek reconciliation and begin anew.

Integrity
We display a moral character based on honesty, truthfulness and faithfulness.

Patience
We display patience through perseverance and self-control.

Respect
We are considerate of others, honour their role and recognise their worth as individuals.

Justice
We interact with others in a fair and equitable manner.

Cooperation
We work together harmoniously, and in doing so, acknowledge differences but remain focused on achieving common goals.

Service
We give selflessly of our time and talents for others.

Hope
We face the future with confidence, in anticipation of the possibilities God holds for us.

Compassion
We care for, and have empathy with, the situations of others as we walk alongside them.

Excellence
We encourage all to aim for excellence through realising their potential.
The School adopts a holistic approach to learning where individual student needs are developed through quality educational and pastoral programs.

Educationally, ongoing curriculum development and quality teaching results in a strong emphasis placed upon Literacy, Numeracy, Integrated Studies and Christian Studies. Areas of subject specialisation include Music, German, Chinese, ICT and Library.

In addition, students at St Mark’s undertake a wide learning experience through many events, activities and learning opportunities as evidenced by the following examples:

Social Justice: Supporting local development projects in Cambodia, support of national charities, student involvement at local aged care facility
Leadership: Student Representative Council, House Captains
Outdoor Education: Camping program across R-7 including Canberra Trip, Warrawong Sanctuary, Narnu Farm, various day excursions
Music/Drama Program: Choir, Music Bands, individual music tutors and the annual School Concert
Community Events: Parents and Friends events, Pedal Prix, Sports Day, Grandparents Day
Sport: SAPSASA, Inter-Lutheran Athletics, Cross Country, House Sports
Related Curricula: Tournament of Minds, Inter-School Chess, Dorothea McKellar Poetry, Maths Olympiad

Pastorally, St Mark’s strives to develop caring and nurturing relationships between all members of the school community including active parent participation.

St Mark’s has excellent facilities including bright and inviting classrooms, multi-purpose hall, upgraded and expanded computer network and the recent completion of a new library under the Australian Government’s ‘Building The Education Revolution’ initiative.

**Our Students**
In 2012 St Mark’s provided enrolment for 356 students comprised of 177 girls and 179 boys. No students identified as indigenous in 2012. 9% of our students have a language background other than English.

**Our Staff**
Teacher Standards and Qualifications
All teachers have satisfied the requirements of teacher registration, including child protection training and a criminal history check.
As lifelong learners dedicated to providing excellent learning environments for our students our teachers continue to be involved in a range of professional learning activities. In 2012 the school continued to actively support the professional learning of staff, particularly with the development and implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

In 2012 the school was served by 23 teaching staff and 9 administration and support staff. No staff identified as Indigenous. Together they form the cornerstone of the quality environment that St Mark’s is known for.
**Student Attendance**
The student attendance in 2012 across the school was 95% for all students. This is comprised of the following attendance rate in each Year level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>% attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>No report required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>95.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>96.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>93.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>93.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>93.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>96.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Total</td>
<td>95.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When a student is absent without explanation, a phone call is made to the parents or guardians after the morning roll has been marked.

**Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy testing.**

Percentage of Students at or above the National Minimum Benchmark

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Spelling</th>
<th>Grammar and Punctuation</th>
<th>Numeracy</th>
<th>% of students absent or withdrawn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students at St Mark’s continue to achieve at high levels with the percentage of students achieving at or above the National Minimum Benchmark above national percentages.

**Parent, Student and Teacher Satisfaction with the School**
Although no formal surveys were undertaken in 2012 feedback and participation in the life of the school indicate St Mark’s continues to have a positive culture.

Indicators that highlight the positive environment of our community include

- Our Parents and Friends committee. An enthusiastic and active team of parents supported the school throughout the year organising community events and fundraising initiatives.

- Student Leadership. Our student leaders set a fine example through their roles in our SRC and House Teams. They modelled a positive approach and service to others through a range of projects.

- Engaged learning environments. Our excellent staff created environments that allowed students to feel safe and respected and strive for excellence in their learning.

- Affirming feedback. The school regularly receives many affirming comments from visitors to St Mark’s impressed with the settled, caring and warm community they experienced and observed.
- Community participation. Students, parents and friends of the school whole heartedly support a range of event days such as Sports day, Grandparents and Special Friends day, Family Fun Night, Concerts and Musical recitals. A strength of the school, which is valued by our community, is our gathering to celebrate the talents of our students.

- A caring community. Our Community Carer oversees our ‘Carenet’ which provides valuable support and care for many families in need. She also provides programs of support for students to assist them feel safe and respected in our school.

- Graduation of students. Families with students graduating from St Mark’s continued to express their deep gratitude and thanks to our staff for the care, nurture and education provided to their children.

- A committed and dedicated staff team. St Mark’s staff are valued and appreciated for their outstanding engagement. They consistently and willingly commit and volunteer many hours of their time to provide opportunities for our students and families.

An improvement to the school in 2012 was the implementation of the School’s Behaviour Education Policy. This enabled us to restate and focus the clear expectations we have of each other and the restorative framework we implement to manage behaviour.

During 2012 research was also undertaken and a framework developed to allow us to implement a Peer Mentoring program for students in our school. The focus of these developments strengthened the quality of relationships and student leadership in our school.

**School Income broken down by Funding Source**
Below is listed the income received by the school in 2012. We acknowledge not only the funding provided by the Commonwealth and State Governments but also the significant and substantial level of tuition fees paid by families.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Government Funding</td>
<td>$1,989,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government Funding</td>
<td>$441,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Fees</td>
<td>$930,106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$98,038</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Income**  $3,459,616

Thank you for taking the time read our 2012 School Performance report. I would welcome any questions you may have or the opportunity to share more of our St Mark’s story with you.

Respectfully Submitted

James Heyne
Principal
St Mark’s Lutheran School.