SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2013

As part of our funding agreement with the Australian Government, we are required to ensure that specific ‘School Performance Information’ is made publically available to the school community. The information has been provided by this report which has been posted on our website at www.stmarks.sa.edu.au and which is also available at the school office.

Contextual Information
In 2013 St Mark’s Lutheran School completed its final year as a Reception to Year 7 School, with the advent of Year 7 as part of Cornerstone College’s middle school beginning in 2014. St Mark’s continues to operate as a 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 and Christian Studies. The integration of technology into the learning programs developed from the Australian Curriculum areas of History, Science, Geography, The Arts, Health and PE underpins quality learning experiences for our students.

Areas of subject specialisation in 2013 included 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, playground peer mentor program

Outdoor Education:  Camping program across all year levels in addition to 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:  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. Our staff, supported by our Community Carer, provide support and care for our students and families in all aspects of their lives.

St Mark’s has excellent facilities including bright and inviting classrooms, multi-purpose hall, upgraded and expanded computer network, a substantial well-resourced library and high quality play spaces.

Our Students
In 2013 St Mark’s provided enrolment for 364 students comprised of 194 girls and 170 boys. One student identified as indigenous. 4% 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 2013 the school continued to actively support the professional learning of staff, particularly with the development and implementation of the Australian Curriculum, the integration of technology into classroom learning, implementing a problem solving base to the teaching of mathematics and the use of inquiry as a platform for student learning. Our focus is at all times to improve our practice to ensure engaging, challenging and relevant learning experiences are provided for our students.

In 2013 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 2013 across the school was 96% 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>96.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>95.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>95.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>96.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>96.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>95.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>96.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>95.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Total</td>
<td>96.0</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. Parents and guardians are required to provide explanations for absences from school.

Student Outcomes in Standardised National Literacy and Numeracy testing.

Percentage of Students at or above the National Minimum Benchmark

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></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>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>0</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

In 2013 many activities continued to demonstrate an engaged and unified community coming together for the benefit of our students.

Indicators that highlight the positive environment of our community include

- Our school has again been greatly supported through the wonderful efforts of a dedicated team of Parents and Friends. Throughout the year they undertook both fundraising and community building activities. Highlights of the year included a quiz night, student disco, major raffle, a movie and pizza night for students (a great chance for parents to have a Saturday night out) and a number of special recess treats. They were able to donate over $25000 of resources to our school. This was an outstanding effort and demonstrates the crucial role the P and F play in our school.

- 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, 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.

Key improvements to the school in 2013 were the implementation of the Australian Curriculum learning areas of Science, History and Geography underpinned by a platform of inquiry and the integration of technology as a tool for learning.

In 2013 our school community participated in the Lutheran Education Australia’s Better Schools Survey. The results again demonstrated that St Mark’s is a community that is valued and respected as a high quality environment by our students and families. As continuous learners, it has assisted us to identify that we will continue to strive for deeper levels of engagement with our community and students centred on their learning. We look forward to making this improvement.
School Income broken down by Funding Source
Below is listed the income received by the school in 2013. 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>$2,094,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government Funding</td>
<td>$473,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Fees</td>
<td>$1,004,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$59,549</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Income**  $3,631,701

Thank you for taking the time read our 2013 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.