For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function. Romans 12:4

One little daily task I like to complete is a small jigsaw on my IPad. Each day after 7pm the new puzzle of the day becomes available for me. The timing suits me well as it helps me transition from the day’s activities into the evening. It is a few moments when I can retreat into a different mindset.

You can imagine the frustration when after 30 minutes there is only one space left in the puzzle and the final piece is nowhere to be seen. On my IPad puzzle, it always turns up, camouflaged in with the other pieces. It does make you realize just how important each little piece is to complete the puzzle.

Last week we spent intentional time in our classrooms reflecting and planning how we are communities in our classes. We talked about what makes us work well together, what our goals are and how we all can grow and learn this year.

Our reason for all this time and energy is our belief that God has placed all of us at St Mark’s as part of his carefully designed puzzle. He’s gathered each one of us, as a unique and special creation of his, to be part of St Mark’s now. He thinks each one of us is so valuable and precious that we are worth the sacrifice of his son, Jesus. We have the opportunity as we gather as St Mark’s to share the love God has first given us as we value each other, work together and be the community God wants us to be.

Our year begins
What an interesting week we had to start our 2016 year together. With a mixture of sunshine and heavy rain, 63 new students experienced classroom life at St Mark’s for the first time. All our classrooms had a strong focus on building their classroom communities and understanding what attitudes and behaviours are needed for everyone to succeed. It has been pleasing to see the way teachers laid such a firm foundation for the year ahead.

Parent Information Nights
Staff and I look forward to meeting you on Thursday 11th February (Year 4 to 6 classes) and Tuesday 16th February (Foundation to Year 3 classes) at our Parent Information nights. Both evenings begin at 7 pm in our hall where I will take the opportunity to speak with you and share some of the focus areas for the year ahead. Following this you are invited to move to your child’s classroom to meet their teacher.

If you are unable to provide supervision for school aged children we will provide supervision for them. Please bring them to the Library for this to occur.
Having the right information
Thank you to families who have completed and returned the range of forms we asked you complete for us at the start of this year. It is important that we do have correct information from you. If you have not yet returned any of the forms below please do so as soon as possible or contact the office if you require another copy.

- Family Database Form
- General Consent Form
- Key Dates for 2016
- Collection Notice
- Substitutes Authorised To Collect Children From School In Case Of An Emergency/Disaster
- Tuition Fees and Charges payment
- information and 2016 Fee Schedule
- Catastrophic Fire Day Information
- Traffic Management Plan

Even when I don’t want to
Being part of community means we understand and accept that for our community to function most effectively we need agreed norms and ways of functioning. Not many, if any at all, of these agreed norms will be decided by consensus which means we will all have at times a request or procedure to follow that we don’t actually support. Being part of a community means though that we accept and support our St Mark’s procedures, even the ones that we don’t agree with.

A great example of this is our hat policy. Quite a number of students and even some staff would prefer to not always wear hats outside during the school day. But it is our procedure so that’s what we all do.

As we begin the year I respectfully ask that we all become familiar with our traffic and pedestrian movement procedures as well as our uniform policy (please note carefully the requirement for students to have predominately white sand shoes) and support these. We can very effectively model to our children the appropriate attitudes required to be respectful members of a community when we support the school policies and procedures.

LEAH schools partnerships
As we announced last year, we have strengthened our partnership with Cornerstone College in a practical way to assist families who have students enrolled at St Mark’s and Cornerstone at the same time. A rebate is available from us for your child attending St Mark’s and from Cornerstone for your child enrolled there. An application form is available from our office if you would like to apply for the rebate. It should be completed and returned to us and then we will forward it to Cornerstone College for them to action.

This week’s events and activities
Tuesday 9th - school Council meet tonight at 7:30pm in the staffroom.
Wednesday 10th - Fete planning committee meets at 7:30 pm in the library.
Thursday 11th February - Year 4 to 6 Parent Information evening @7pm beginning in the hall.
Friday 12th February - whole school chapel in the hall @9:00 am followed by Coffee N Chat in the Library.

Events and activities on the horizon
Tuesday 16th February - F to Year 3 parent information evening at 7pm in the school hall.
Friday 19th February - Installation of semester 1 SRC and 2016 House captains at school chapel.
Thursday 25th February - P and F AGM at St Mark’s at 7pm in the staff room.
Friday 4th March - Blessing of 2016 class carers at school chapel.
Monday 29th to Wednesday 2nd March - Year 3 camp at Aldinga.
Friday 18th March - F to Year 6 twilight sports day. Students attend from.
Saturday 9th April - St Mark’s ‘International’ Fete from 10 to 3 pm.
Premiers Reading Challenge.
The Premiers Reading Challenge is about to begin!! Participation last year was fantastic with almost ¾ of the students completing the challenge. I have included some information about the challenge for the benefit of new parents.

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is a literacy engagement program that was introduced by the Premier in 2004 to:

- Encourage students to read more books and enjoy reading; and
- Improve literacy levels.

The Challenge requires students to read 12 books between the beginning of the school year and early September. Students can read a combination of books from the Challenge booklists and books of their own choosing. Please check out the Premier’s Reading Challenge website for more information on www.premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au.

Reception to Year 7 students select at least 8 books from the booklists on the Premier’s Reading Challenge website and 4 books of their own choice.


Books in our Library from the Readers Challenge list have been identified with coloured stickers: Orange for Foundation – Year 2, Green for Year 3 – Year 5 and Blue for Year 6. Children in Foundation and Year 1 do not have to read the books themselves – a parent can read TO them.

The Student Record sheets will be kept in the back of your child’s Communication book or Homework book. When it has been completed it can be handed in to the class teacher or given to Mrs Paterson. Medals and certificates are handed out in November.

Please encourage your child to participate.

Book Club
Scholastic order forms were handed out last week. Scholastic provides schools with the option to purchase books through Scholastic Book Club. These books are generally well priced and they often have a few very good specials! The school receives bonuses according to the amount of books ordered. We use the credit from these bonus points to purchase books and other resources for the Library and classroom teachers.

There are two orders per term. In August we also run Scholastic Book Fair which the children really enjoy! There are two ways to place an order. You can fill out an order form and send the cash or a cheque to school. This should be in an envelope or plastic bag and can be handed in to the front office or put into the class tray. The second way is to do an online order (LOOP) where you place your order online and pay by credit card. This is a popular choice for people wanting to purchase gifts or items that they don’t want their children to see.

Issue 1 orders are due in by Thursday 17th Feb with orders generally taking about one week to arrive.

If you have any questions please ask me or your class room teachers.

Thank you,

Louise Paterson
Teacher/Librarian
Welcome to Music & Drama in 2016!

BAND news
This year we welcome Miss Sarah Byron as our Band Teacher. Sarah has completed her Bachelor of Music at the Elder Conservatorium and is a member of jazz, wind & concert bands and orchestras across Adelaide on her principal instruments, the saxophone. Sarah will also be tutoring students in the saxophone and clarinet this year.

The St Mark’s School Band consists of students who are invited to join, usually from years 4-6. Your child may receive an invitation this week, to become part of the band even if they have done so before. Band rehearsal days will be Thursdays from 8.20am – 9.15am beginning Week 3. Performance dates for 2016 will be outlined in the letter of invitation.

CHOIR news
In 2015 we will continue with 2 choirs; a Junior Choir (Year 1-3) and a Senior Choir (Year 4-6).

Junior Choir will be compulsory for all students in year 1-3 and will give students an opportunity to sing as part of a group and begin to learn the skills involved for being a choir member. Junior choir will be attended by whole classes accompanied by their class teacher.

Senior Choir membership is by student choice with a commitment expected to attend all rehearsals and performances for the year. Rehearsals then begin in week 2 for those interested to “have a go”. By week 6 all students in Senior Choir will be asked to make a commitment to stay for the entire year.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS
These are available in a number of instruments including piano, guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, drums & violin at school by our talented and enthusiastic tutors. Please see Leanne in the front office if you are interested for an enrolment form. If you are already enrolled, tutors may be contacted directly to arrange lesson details. Fees will remain at $28 per half hour lesson for 2016.

Thank you for your support in keeping our music program thriving,

Narelle Steffan

In 2016 I am excited to bring the German language and the different cultures of German-speaking countries to our students. We spent the first week establishing our community of learning, while also engaging in some ‘getting to know you’ games, songs and revision activities. I am very proud of the students for remembering lots of German vocabulary and concepts from previous years - exceptional! This week we will also begin to introduce our ‘word/phrase of the week’ again. This is a word or small phrase in German that students are encouraged to use in their classrooms and beyond.

During Term 1, Foundation students will be meeting their new German friends ‘Felix und Franzi’ and crafting their ‘Schultüte this week. While the Year 1 will begin to read and respond to “Brauner Bär,wen siehst denn du?” (Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See?” by Eric Carle, the Year 2 students will engage in a German picture book “Thomas und Lena: Meine Familie”, by also creating their own booklets. The Year 3 students will begin to prepare a digital ‘Who Am I?’ collage, to then be able to make statements in German about their worlds. While the Year 4 students are diving into the world of German fairy tales, Year 5 students will experience various digital texts about daily life and recycling in German-speaking countries. The Year 6 will be involved in various activities and tasks centred around a book “Felix aus Berlin’ (Felix from Berlin) to continue working on their grammatical and word knowledge in German.
St Mark’s Lutheran School

International Fete

Saturday, 9th April 2016

10:00am - 3:00pm

Calling all school families to become involved in this wonderful community event

An information pack for families will come home shortly

A planning meeting will be held in the St Mark’s School library at 7:30pm tomorrow night

All welcome!!!
Dear Parents,

For a number of years we have been able to implement a Care-net program at St Mark’s with the assistance of Class Carers, who will be introduced to you at our upcoming Parent Information Nights.

At times during the year, families experience both difficult and joyful times – bereavement, a birth, an accident, a serious illness, an injured child, etc. Through the Class Carer and Care-net system, the school community has the opportunity to help and support each other and to provide care when needed. Attached is a form outlining practical ways assistance can be given and asking for your help in this area. It need not be a large commitment, but any offer to help will be a benefit to those whom you are supporting and showing care.

If you know of any families, or are a family who would benefit from extra care or are experiencing any of the above mentioned difficult or joyous times please let your class teacher, your Class Carers or Janene Overton (Religious Pastoral Support Worker) know as soon as possible.

If you would like to assist in the CARE-NET, please fill out the WILLINESS TO HELP form on page 9 and return to the front office as soon as possible.

Yours in Christ’s Service

Janene Overton - Religious Pastoral Support Worker

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JUNIOR REGISTRATION NIGHT

A Football Skills Night for kids, plus loads of FUN!
Friday February 19 from 6pm
All Grades - AusKick to Senior Colts

JUNIOR PLAYERS WANTED

- Family friendly club for players and parents
- Be part of our after school Skills Development Program
- Enjoy lots of game time every week
- Cheap subs and club membership for all the family

Everyone welcome!
Check out our facilities
Food and drinks available

Contact Vaughan Brooks: 0457 537 794
Troy de Ron: 0438 151 921
St Mark’s P&F AGM Thursday 25th of February
7:00pm in the Staff Room

On behalf of the St Mark’s Parents & Friends Committee I would like to welcome all students, staff and parents to the start of the 2016 school year. I hope the first week has been exciting and you and your children have felt welcomed into the St Mark’s community.

The St Mark’s Parents & Friends is a collection of mums and dads who choose to be on a committee that facilitates events that raise money and builds community spirit for the St Mark’s School. We have a great set of events that are scheduled throughout the year.

The P&F has a strong established work force and as Chair of the committee I am proud to say that the effort to organise events is spread over a wide group of volunteers.

These events include the Disco, PJ & Pizza nights, catering for the twilight sports day, major raffle and various morning teas.

This year is fete year and the P&F has a subcommittee that has already started planning to make this event a success.

The next P&F (AGM) meeting is Thursday the 25th of February at 7pm in the staff room.

I invite all parents and care givers who would like to immerse themselves in the St Mark’s community spirit to attend this meeting and commit to assisting the P&F for 2017.

Scott Filmer
P&F Chair

SUNDAY MORNINGS
10-11.00am ($4.00 player)
Adelaide Hills Recreation Centre
Commencing Feb 14th 2016

JAFFA Junior Youth is starting up again for another fun filled year! This youth group is open for children in Years 5-8 and happens 2-3 times each term. With the Church redevelopment that is underway for about half or the year JAFFA will mostly be using the school facilities (oval, hall, courts, library).

There are registration forms for new families to complete upon arrival to any event. Also this year I please ask for RSVP’s for each event so I can get an idea of numbers for catering, supplies and know how many ChildSafe trained people to have at each event.

The details for our first event for the year which is ‘Messy Games’ are given below:

Sunday 21st February 2016 - RSVP by Thursday 18th Feb
2:00pm - 4:00pm on the School Oval

Bring: $2.50, water, a hat, wear sunscreen, towel, and we encourage them to bring along any friends.

JAFFA Junior Youth (school years 5-8): Contact- Zoë Kleinig on 0488 155 757 or via email to zkkleinig@gmail.com
CARE-NET / WILLINGNESS TO HELP

Name: ____________________________________________

Names and Year Level(s) of children:
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Home Phone: __________________________ Mobile: __________________________

Town you live in: _________________________________________________________

I would be willing to help in my child’s/children’s class(es) in the following ways:

☐ Transport of children to/from school in emergency situations

☐ Before/after school care of children in emergency situations

☐ Provide a meal in emergency situations

☐ Main meal

☐ Dessert

☐ Bake a cake or biscuits

☐ Be willing to phone and be phoned in emergency situations.

☐ Are you willing for your contact details to be released to 2014 Class Carers only? Yes/No

☐ Help with classroom matters

☐ Other – Do you have any other skills that you think could be useful?

☐ I am agree that Janene Overton, Religious Pastoral Support Worker at St Mark’s school, can have my phone numbers to ring me in relation to Care-net matters

☐ I agree that this year (2016) Class Carers can also have my phone numbers to ring me in relation to Care-net matters

Signed_________________________________________