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.

If you have any questions regarding this information please direct them to the Principal, Mr James Heyne.

**Contextual Information**

In 2015 St Mark’s Lutheran School operated with a Foundation to Year 6 structure providing 14 class groups. St Mark’s continues to operate as a systemic Lutheran school located in the Adelaide Hills. In harmony with our 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 English, Mathematics, History, Science, Geography, The Arts, Health and PE underpins quality learning experiences for our students.

Areas of subject specialisation in 2015 included Music, German, Physical Education and collaborative use of our Library.

In addition, students at St Mark’s undertake a wide range of learning experiences 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 a 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 including student discos, sports day, a trivia night and many special activities and treats for our students

Sport: SAPSASA, Inter-Lutheran Athletics, Cross Country, House Sports

Related Curricula: Inter-School Chess, 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 Religious Pastoral Support Worker provided support and care for our students and families in all aspects of their lives. The consolidation of the ‘You Can Do It’ curriculum as an enhancement for student wellbeing occurred during 2015 in addition to a renewed focus on our use of restorative practices as the foundation of our Behaviour Education Policy.

St Mark’s has excellent facilities including bright and inviting classrooms, a multi-purpose hall, upgraded and expanded computer network, a substantial well-resourced library and high quality play spaces.
Our Students
In 2015 St Mark’s provided enrolment for 346 students comprised of 185 girls and 161 boys. Two students 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.

The following table indicates the highest qualifications of St Mark’s teaching staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Masters</th>
<th>Bachelor</th>
<th>Graduate Diploma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 2015 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, and the use of inquiry as a platform for student learning. Together we developed our knowledge of the strategies and support we can provide to students to enable us to cater for a range of student abilities within our learning spaces. In 2015 we focused on catering for students exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia and sensory needs. Our focus is at all times to improve our practice to ensure engaging, challenging and relevant learning experiences are provided for our students.

In 2015 the school was served by 25 teaching staff and 11 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 2015 across the school was 94.7% for all students. This is comprised of the following attendance rate in each Year level from Year 1 to 6.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>% attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>94.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>94.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>95.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>94.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>95.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>94.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Total</td>
<td>94.7</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.**

<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>98</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</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 Staff Satisfaction with the School**

In 2015 our St Mark’s community undertook a substantial strategic planning process. This was a wonderful opportunity for our whole community - students, families and staff to provide their perspectives on our current performance, what they most valued and their hopes for future improvements. After months of consultations through surveys, small group forums and ongoing written communications we adopted our three year strategic plan towards the end of 2015.

The consultation process with our community reaffirmed the high levels of satisfaction with all essential elements of our school. Of note were the high levels of satisfaction with the quality of our learning programs and the strength of our community.

It was pleasing that our strategic plan was not developed to address deficiencies or areas of concern but rather to ensure ongoing improvement remains a core element of our St Mark’s culture. As you read in our strategic plan summary our focus is clearly on ensuring we are preparing our students for the 21st century world in which they live. The clearly identified priorities will ensure students at St Mark’s experience an education that fully prepares them for their futures.
"St Mark's vision is to provide a student-centred learning community that engages in 21st century practices while we embrace, value and nurture community in an environment grounded in Christ."

**Our Strategic Priorities**

1. **Focusing on our students being front and centre**

   "Provide an innovative and engaging learning community that is student-centred and reflects 21st century learning practices."

   We achieve this by

   1.1 Reviewing and restating St Mark’s definition of 21st Century learning.
   1.2 Delivering curriculum in alignment with the school’s interpretation of 21st century learning.
   1.3 Supporting the adoption of inclusive learning practices throughout the school that are relevant to 21st century learning.
   1.4 Engaging in assessment practices that provide direction for ongoing development in teaching, learning and reporting.
   1.5 Maintaining ongoing development of our student wellbeing strategies to ensure the needs of students are being met.

2. **Supporting a first class community of staff learners**

   "Provide a satisfying and supportive workplace that encourages people to embrace and develop their skills, abilities and talents as God-given gifts."

   We achieve this by

   2.1 Fostering a strong culture of respect, grace and love of Christ within the school.
   2.2 Ensuring the core values of the school are firmly embedded within the operations of the school.
   2.3 Ensuring policies, practices and procedures define and support clear roles and responsibilities in a dynamic staff team.
   2.4 Maintaining professional development strategies to ensure staff effectively undertake their role in the school, engaging in a culture of continuous improvement.

3. **Providing sustainable, high quality facilities and environment**

   "Provide an excellent and effective learning environment through responsible and strategic management and planning practices."

   We achieve this by

   3.1 Aligning and implementing developments and improvements reflective of the priorities in our strategic plan, to provide for first class learning spaces and resources that facilitate 21st century learning for all students.
   3.2 Maintaining best practice financial and management systems, ensuring their alignment with the expectations of School Council and the LSA.
   3.3 Developing an awareness of funding opportunities that are relevant to the school and maintain a proactive approach to funding application.
   3.4 Ensuring that the school site meets the needs of students and staff, and maximises opportunities for development.

4. **Building an engaged and respected school community**

   "Establish a respected and significant presence within the local community while implementing the school’s Mission & Ministry objectives."

   We achieve this by

   4.1 Developing and maximising opportunities for the school community to fully embrace God’s Word and mission.
   4.2 Ensuring communications within the school community are professional and highly effective.
   4.3 Ensuring St Mark’s fosters strong community support and is easily recognisable.
   4.4 Developing effective marketing strategies that engage the wider community and maximise opportunities for growth and development that complement the school strategic plan.
In addition to the formal feedback gathered during our strategic planning we continued to be affirmed by our community through the following indicators.

- 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.

- 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. Visitors to the school consistently commented on this aspect of St Mark’s.

- 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, 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 Religious Pastoral Support Worker 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 care, dedication and abilities. They consistently and willingly commit many hours of their time to provide opportunities for our students and families.

Key improvements to the school in 2015 continued in the areas of student wellbeing, the integration of technology into classroom learning and strategies to cater for students with specific learning needs. This was achieved through teams of staff working collaboratively as they conducted research into best practice and then developed implementation of the improvements into classrooms.

The results of the work of staff teams can be seen in the

- The review of our Behaviour Education Policy with a renewed focus on restorative practices underpinning our approach and the consolidation of the five keys to success of confidence, getting along, organisation, persistence and resilience in the You Can Do It curriculum.

- The substantial upgrade of our IT infrastructure, purchase of new windows and apple devices and ongoing professional learning for staff to enable them to present learning opportunities to students with technology integrated into the learning experience.

- Ongoing focus on using differentiation to support students with literacy and numeracy learning needs and inquiry scaffolding learning experiences
School income broken down by funding source
Below is listed the income received by the school in 2015. 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.

Commonwealth Government Funding $2,130,849
State Government Funding $485,324
Tuition Fees $950,165
Other Income $257,379

**Total Income** **$3,823,717**

Thank you for taking the time read our 2015 School Performance report. I would welcome any questions you may have. The best way to understand the experience we provide for our community is to visit us personally. I would welcome the opportunity to share our story with you.

Respectfully Submitted

James Heyne
Principal
St Mark’s Lutheran School.