It’s Saturday afternoon and it’s raining at the moment. An hour ago I was enjoying the sunshine. Yesterday we had a high temperature for the day nearing thirty. This was followed by an intense storm of heavy rain, hail, high winds, thunder and lightning. Then the sun came out again. It seems despite forecasting based on the best information available, we still can’t be sure of knowing what we are going to get with the weather.

I can just remember when my boys were babies and bedtime came for them. How would they settle? Would they sleep through the night? What sort of night were we going to get? It was unpredictable.

I went to the SANFL grand final at the end of September to watch my Eagles play in the grand final. Sadly my confidence in knowing or maybe hoping in what I thought would happen, faded as the game went on and we lost. I didn’t get what I hoped for or thought would happen after being the favourite team. You never know what you’ll get following a sports team.

I’m struggling to think of many if any examples in my life where I can be guaranteed to know beforehand what will happen or what I’ll get.

Sometimes it can even feel that way with God. We pray for an outcome or blessing. We know God loves us but even then, we don’t know for sure what will happen. Sometimes the opposite seems to happen and we don’t get what we thought we should. If I try to turn God into my own supply of assurances for how my day to day life will turn out, I’ve made a mistake and not listened to God’s promises to me.

When we feel that way about God we need to go back to what God has promised us. He hasn’t promised us the outcomes with the day to day events that we experience as part of life.

What he has promised us is that we are always loved by him and that his free gift of grace is always ours when we believe in the saving work of Jesus. His love and grace are the constants in our life and he never changes. With God we can be guaranteed that through Jesus we are going to get his love, his grace and his forgiveness for us.

‘God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful’ 1 Corinthians 1:9.

St Mark’s snapshots
- School Council meets tonight at 7:30pm.
- Whole school assembly will be held tomorrow with our 4B class sharing. We begin at 9:00 am in our hall.
- P and F Ice block day occurs tomorrow at recess time. Pre orders have been required.
- The Foundation 2017 parent information night will be held tomorrow evening.
- Students in Year 4 to 6 who are part of our St Mark’s athletics team will compete at the Lutheran Schools Champions Challenge on Thursday at Cornerstone College.
- Whole school chapel will be led this Friday by Pastor Clayton. We begin at 9:00am in our hall and coffee and chat will follow chapel.
- Whole School closing worship for all students – Wednesday 14th December @7pm.
This week at St Mark’s
Our focus this week is ‘moving around the school in a safe manner.’ With over 340 students on site this is an important aspect of St Mark’s. If every student, staff member, family and visitor who came on site wore a Fitbit I think we would be astounded at just how much movement occurs each day. You can help us this week by talking with your children about how they move safely in the morning when arriving at school and the afternoon when they leave, especially around the car park.

Aston Hills Community Update
Included in today’s newsletter is the latest community update outlining the current status of investigations. As you will read we will be part of a feasibility study exploring a number of options considering what role we want St Mark’s to have in the years to come as the population around us increases significantly in the future.

I assure you that no decisions have been made by us as to the future of St Mark’s in relation to any of the options to be explored. What we are ensuring is that a rigorous and thorough process occurs that allows credible information to be used to enable decisions to be made in the future. Parent views will be part of this upcoming process.

2017 Planning
I was asked a question last week about the role of teachers in the class placement process. The question arose as parents are required to provide any information regarding class placements to me directly. Our teaching staff, including specialist teachers and Janene Overton, had considerable involvement in the process of forming class groupings.

Your perspectives need to come to me directly to avoid staff being inadvertently asked to have conversations which at times asks them to discuss their views on their fellow teaching staff or perceptions of other students. This would clearly be an inappropriate conversation. Your knowledge of your child and their experience at school is vital but it needs to be conveyed to me when it comes to the class placement process.

An important part of our planning for 2017 is our staff team. I’m pleased to announce that we have appointed Mr Steve Seidel to our teaching staff on an ongoing basis. Mr Seidel is an experienced Lutheran educator and brings a passion for being with students in the classroom.

James Heyne
Principal

Sports NEWS

Congratulations and Good Luck
The following students have been chosen in the St. Mark’s Champion’s Challenge Team for 2016. These students will represent St. Mark’s against the other LEAH primary schools at Cornerstone College on Thursday the 17th of November.

4B- Tom Blows, Matthew Blandford, Marella Day, Riley Schubert, Sienna Laan

4K- Jayden Nunan, James Scott, Amy Hirschausen, Luka Punkhurst, Sophie Porter, Brodie Meyers, Alecia Bailey

5H- Richard Fries, Eddie Hopley, Harrison Hoppe, Tamika Male, Madi Gevers

5A- Flynn Samardzic, Emma Heinrich, Sienna McClean, Monique Raidis, Tahlia Cain

6B- George Pope, Alex Borgo, Oscar Hahn, Jaslyn Kupke, Jasmine Strachan, Bridie Marshall, Tahlia Burdett

6KB- Spencer Eales, Lachlan Howe, Oliver Thorpe, Max May

We wish them all the best for their individual and team events on the day!

Mr Scott
Come along and celebrate with JAFFA youth with a light dinner and some Christmas cheer!

**Sunday 20th November 2016**

4:00pm - 6:00 pm at the Church

**Please RSVP by the 16th November via text or email**

**Bring:** $5.00, plus $1.50 for can of drink (if you would like one), a friend, and whatever Christmas clothing takes your fancy (eg. Santa Hat)

**JAFFA Junior Youth** (school years 5-8) - Contact- Zoë Kleinig 0488 155 757, zjkleinig@gmail.com

There are adults who are ChildSafe trained supervising the whole event.

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**Book Club**

Book Club order forms will be coming home this week. This is the last order for the year! All orders are due in to the office by **Wednesday 30th November**.

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**Readers Challenge**

Reader’s Challenge Certificates and medals will be handed out on Wednesday. Children in Foundation and Year 1 who completed the challenge will have their certificates in their Progress Folders which are sent home at the end of the year.

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Thank you,

**Mrs Paterson, Teacher/Librarian**
The 2016 St Marks Lutheran Lightning Pedal Prix Team would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support.
Parents & Friends

Please be advised that the chevron designs and colours previously advertised on the order form are being discontinued so supply of that design is limited and uncertain. The new pattern/colours are now shown on the order form.

First visual is striped range: blue, charcoal and pink. Second visual is Basic range: blue, charcoal and pink.

There is no change to size or bamboo/cotton mix.

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Car Boot Sale

Saturday, November 26th

8am - 3pm

Sausage Sizzle, Cake stall

St Mark’s Lutheran Church Rear Carpark

Car boot - Sites $10

Book a site call Neil Launer

0402 355 528 or 8391 1341

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Community Information Evening

Where: ‘Faidaila” Middle School building, Cornerstone College, Mount Barker

When: Thursday, 17 November, 2016. 7.30pm start.

Andrew’s presentation will go for about an hour.

RSVP: It would be helpful to us if you could let us know you’re coming by replying via www.Trybooking.com/NQTM or phone 8398 6000.

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LIFE IN A
REFUGEE CAMP
tragedy, resilience and hope

Earlier this year, Cornerstone teacher Andrew Weiss spent two weeks in the country of Djibouti (situated on the Horn of Africa) visiting and teaching in the refugee camps located there.

Andrew’s presentation will be a great opportunity to learn and find out about the country of Djibouti, how refugee camps are run, what life is like in a refugee camp and how people end up in refugee camps.

He has already been interviewed on ABC 89.1 Afternoon Show and Power FM about his experience. It promises to be a very informative evening.
ENJO Bamboo Kitchen T-Towel Fundraiser Drive

Softer, greener and more absorbent than its cotton counterparts, the combination of bamboo and cotton fibre dries dishes, glasses, cookware and more. Available in grey, green, red or yellow. $15 each. Each T-Towel contributes $2 to the school.

Please ensure all forms and money are returned to school by FRIDAY, 25th NOVEMBER. To ensure delivery by end of Term 4, we can’t accept late orders.

Money and orders due back: FRI 25th NOVEMBER
Proceeds go to: St Mark’s Lutheran School - Mount Barker
Family Name:

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Total number T-Towels purchased: [Blank]
Total amount of money enclosed $ [Blank]

New Design (striped range): blue, charcoal and pink

New Design (basic range): blue, charcoal and pink
2016
Friday 2nd December
St Mark’s School Hall

Rec - Year 2  6.00pm-7.00pm
Year 3      choose one disco
Year 4-7    7.30pm-9.00pm

Entry Fee   $5.00 (includes fruit box and chips)
Lolly Bag    $2.00
Crazy Hair  $2.00

In order for the disco to go ahead, we need Santa’s Little Helpers to supervise each age group. Contact Tanya Secomb if you would like to help on 0411955729. Please note, only designated volunteers (santa’s helpers) will be allowed in the hall.
*Please drop off and pick up your children at the Hall door - not the carpark.
Let's Boogie!

St Marks Disco Friday 2nd December 2016
Junior (Rec to Yr 2) Disco 6-7pm
Year 3’s can choose one disco they wish to attend
Senior (Yr 4 - Yr 6) Disco 7.30-9pm

Please return the completed forms with money enclosed before
Friday 25th November 2016.

**(Please do not sticky tape money to the reply slips, an envelope or snap lock bag would be appreciated).**

Name: ___________________________ Class:_____________________

- Entry Fee $5 (includes fruit box and chips)  
- Lolly Bag $2 (optional) 
- Crazy Hair $2 (optional)

Junior Disco OR Senior Disco

Total Enclosed $__________________

Name: ___________________________ Class:_____________________

- Entry Fee $5 (includes fruit box and chips)  
- Lolly Bag $2 (optional) 
- Crazy Hair $2 (optional)

Junior Disco OR Senior Disco

Total Enclosed $__________________

Name: ___________________________ Class:_____________________

- Entry Fee $5 (includes fruit box and chips)  
- Lolly Bag $2 (optional) 
- Crazy Hair $2 (optional)

Junior Disco OR Senior Disco

Total Enclosed $__________________

Name: ___________________________ Class:_____________________

- Entry Fee $5 (includes fruit box and chips)  
- Lolly Bag $2 (optional) 
- Crazy Hair $2 (optional)

Junior Disco OR Senior Disco

Total Enclosed $__________________

PARENT HELPERS

Each disco requires 8 parent helpers if you are able to assist please return the completed form.

Name: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________ Mobile Number: ___________________________

I will be helping with the junior/senior disco (please circle)

Contact Tanya Secomb on 0411 955 729 for more information
The Working Group have been considering how Lutheran Education in the Adelaide Hills will respond to an increasing population within the Mount Barker district, and how the gifted land at Aston Hills may best be utilised to meet a growing demand on Lutheran education, ministry and shared use opportunities.

The outcome of four years of meeting and consultation has resulted in the compilation of fourteen recommendations which were recently circulated and endorsed by the Adelaide Hills Lutheran school and church governing bodies. The recommendations will now be presented to the Council of the Lutheran Schools Association for final endorsement and approval.

There are four key recommendations that require a Feasibility Study to assess the viability of each idea and two of these, the Childhood and Early Learning Centre and the Aquatic and Wellness Precinct were shared in the previous update.

The remaining two recommendations that require further research and consultation are focused on primary years education in the immediate Mount Barker and Hahndorf townships.

The Working Group therefore share two further recommendations in advance so that feasibility studies can commence in a timely manner:

- **Primary Years Education** – It is proposed that St Mark’s Lutheran Primary School consider and evaluate options to cater for the expansion and development of primary years learning within their catchment. Options to evaluate are as follows:
  - St Mark’s relocating to the gifted land at Aston Hills
  - St Mark’s establishing a second campus on the gifted land
  - St Mark’s continuing at its current site and a new standalone school be established on the gifted land
  - St Mark’s continuing at its current site and undertaking a major redevelopment.

  A feasibility study to be undertaken for each option, outlining the mission and ministry, educational, community and financial impacts for St Mark’s and Lutheran Education in the Adelaide Hills.

  Communication and discussions with the St Mark’s congregation to continue throughout the process.

- **Primary Years Education** – It is proposed that St Michael’s Lutheran Primary School cater for the expansion and development of primary years learning within their catchment. It is recommended that a Strategic Review be undertaken and a revised Master Plan prepared for St Michael’s, identifying the impacts of the growth and development of the District and how these can best be accommodated by the school.

It needs to be understood by our communities that a feasibility study does not constitute that these projects are approved. They need to be considered and endorsed by the Lutheran communities in the Adelaide Hills and undergo the same rigour of process as any other development in the Lutheran system.

It is an exciting time for Lutheran Education in the Adelaide Hills. The Working Group greatly appreciates your continued support and prayers and looks forward to sharing the remaining recommendations with you once they are formally approved.

*Colossians 4:2* "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."

John Proeve
Executive Director LSA SA/NT/WA
ST MARK'S COMMUNITY FLOAT

It's Pageant time again and St Mark's Church & St Mark's Lutheran School will be entering a Nativity float in the Mt Barker Christmas Pageant on Saturday 3rd of December. It is a great way to remind people about the reason for this wonderful season. But of course we do need children to go on it!

The theme this year is "Unwrapping the Gift of God". While we all love to receive gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning, the most miraculous gift of all is receiving Jesus at this very special time. Christmas is really about how Jesus is God's present to all of us.

We will be using a car trailer with bales of hay (covered). Older children will be able to walk alongside the float if there is no room on the trailer.

If your child is interested in joining us, please complete the attached form and hand it into the front office, or ask your child to put it into their class tray.

Please note the following:

- Children will need to meet at the church hall at (9.45am) to dress. The Church does have nativity costumes, but if any girls have angel costumes they would like to wear please do so. Parents will need to sign in and ‘dress’ their own children. Parents are also requested to stay to help walk the children over to the oval.

- When ready, children will be walked over to the Mt Barker oval where they will get on the float ready to leave by 10:30am sharp (at this stage, parents can leave to watch the pageant).

- At the end of the pageant children must be picked up from Walker St (just near the sports shop – SPORTSPOWER). PLEASE ensure you pick your children up promptly when our float arrives at Sportspower.

James Heyne
Principal
15th November 2016
ST MARK’S LUTHERAN CHURCH/ST MARK’S LUTHERAN SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REGISTRATION FORM

In order for us to provide the best level of care while your child is under our supervision, we require that you fill out and return this registration form. The information provided below will be treated confidentially.

PERSONAL DETAILS:
Child’s First name  Surname  Age


For any update of information please include your Email:

PHOTOGRAPHY CONSENT:
Do you consent to the appropriate use of photographs taken at the Christmas Pageant that include your child? (For possible inclusion in: St Mark’s Matters (quarterly newsletter) / St Mark’s Worship Service (a PowerPoint slide) / St Mark’s Church/School websites.)  Yes / No

EMERGENCY CONTACT:
In the case of an emergency, please list the phone numbers where you and one other trusted adult may be contacted during the pageant.
Name  Relationship to the child  Phone number (preferably mobile)
1.
2.

MEDICAL INFORMATION:
Please ensure your child has applied sunscreen, has a named hat and water bottle. Are there any medical conditions or other issues which require special attention that we should know about?


ARRIVAL/COLLECTION OF CHILDREN:
Parents will need to dress their own child at the church hall and stay to help walk the children over to the oval. Who will collect your child(ren) at the end of the pageant from Walker St (Sports Power) after trailer arrives?  
Name:  Mobile No:
(Families are requested to position themselves near the end of the pageant route in order to collect your child as soon as the St Mark’s float is finished at Walker Street/or ensure pick up from Walker Street when the trailer arrives.

YOUR AGREEMENT WITH US:
I understand that although the leaders will take all reasonable care to ensure both the comfort and safety of my child, there is still a risk that an accident may occur. I will ensure my child is signed in on arrival at St Mark’s Church hall and signed out before our child is collected by the person nominated above.

Name of Parent/Caregiver  Signature of Parent/Caregiver  Date
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

HOLIDAY BOOKINGS ARE OPEN!

Please ensure you get in early for our excursion days!

All bookings can be made at www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubfun or you can call our friendly customer service team 1300 105 343.

For a copy of the program, please call into the front office or see the friendly staff in OSHC direct.

Sam Thomas and team  
email: sastmarks@oshccampaustralia.com.au  
Mobile: 0403 731 488

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email: sastmarks@oshccampaustralia.com.au  
Mobile: 0403 731 488