The last few weeks have shown me quite vividly how difficult it is to stay connected in a deeper sense when your usual communication tool doesn’t exist. I’ve maintained my usual lifestyle, been at work, in the staffroom, in meetings with different sized groups, viewed school concert, attended Sunday worship at St Mark’s and relaxed with my family. In all of the situations I have been part of what has been happening, I’ve seen and heard what has been occurring but still felt not quite part of it. Without the use of my voice, my connections with events that are occurring and my relationships with those around me have been different. I’ve often wanted to respond to a question, make a comment, say thank you or give a compliment but I’ve had to refrain, and it’s been quite frustrating. I think this frustration has reminded me that relationships work best when the people involved can openly communicate together.

It’s had me thinking about my relationship and connection to God. I am so grateful that God knew all about connections and sent his son into the world to establish his relationship with us. He has given us his word that tells us about him, his love for us and his plan for our lives. He comes to us in worship and Baptism and Holy Communion, so that we can be connected to him. The parable of the lost sheep in Luke 15 makes God’s intentions really clear for us. He’s always seeking us out.

Despite this there have been times in my life when I don’t feel that connected or close to God. I might feel like I’m going through the motions or God isn’t hearing my prayers. But then I remember that God is the one that keeps connected to me. Whether I feel it or not God is staying connected to me. He has promised that he is always close and always with us. Matthew 28:20 ‘I am with you always, even to the end of the ages.’

This week at St Mark’s
Our focus this week is ‘look after the school’s facilities, resources and other’s personal equipment’. Each class is focusing on what this looks like, sounds like and feels like at St Mark’s and what we need to be doing to make this happen.

Great Joy
I offer my congratulations to our wonderfully talented students and staff led by Mrs Steffan for the quality and enjoyment we received from their performances of the ‘Peace Child’. Congratulations also to our Senior choir and our School band for the beautiful sounds they created.

I can confidently say that St Mark’s is blessed with many talented actors and musicians.

St Mark’s snapshots
- Our 1M class will be sharing their learning with us at our whole school assembly tomorrow beginning at 9:00am in our hall.
- Year 6 students head to the Murraylands Aquatic centre tomorrow morning for the 3 day aquatic experience.
- Year 4 students head to Victor Harbor next Monday morning for their three day camp.
- 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.
- As the changeable weather continues both summer or winter uniform are acceptable until advised differently.
- Whole School closing worship for all students – Wednesday 14th December @7pm.
Lunch Clubs

The students from our SRC have been busy gathering ideas from their classmates about some lunchtime activities they would like to see made available to add to their lunchtime play experiences. In order for this to happen, we are inviting our school families to donate any of the following if they are in good condition and no longer needed at home:

- Lego, clothes and accessories for dress-up’s, chalk, plastic tea sets or small kitchen items/stove/tables/chairs etc. for imaginary play, dolls, sandpit toys, puppets, hammers/nails/wood for construction, water play toys, board games, chess sets, card games, matchbox or small cars, craft items and materials, stationary for craft/drawing/cutting/gluing/construction, skipping ropes, hula hoops, sports equipment.

We would also welcome some small pieces of carpet or mats (around 1m x 2m) and large plastic crates/containers with our without lids to keep the equipment in for easy storage when items are not in use.

Please send your donations to your child’s classroom or to the front office. Once we have enough items, our Year 6 peer mentors as well as teachers will put them out in a designated area in the playground, undercover area or inside area so our students have a variety of activities to participate in. We would appreciate your donations as soon as possible so by the end of Week 3, November 4th we can get these activities under way. Our students are excited about the prospect of alternative play activities and we thank you our parents and school community for your continued support.

Music News

We are participating in Music count Us In once again for 2016.

This is the day when thousands of children from hundreds of schools come together to sing one song all at the same time!

This year’s song is ‘Let it Play’ and it will be led by musicians from Sydney and be live on the screen in the hall on Thursday, 3rd November from 11.30am (Week 3).

The song will be played at exactly 12.00 noon after a lead up including past years' songs.

Please note that there will be no band next week (Week 4).

BOOK CLUB

Issue 7 Book Club Order Forms are due into the office by Thursday, 3rd November 2016.

Thank you

Mrs Paterson
LOST PROPERTY

If you are missing a bag of dried fruits, please see Leanne in the front office.

REMINDEERS

Parents please check our child(ren)'s self managed asthma medications to ensure they are still within their expiry dates. Your assistance would be most appreciated.

Thank you in advance

Parents & Friends

Our ENJO Tea Towel Fundraiser is happening again this term!

Please refer to the attached order form for further information.

The summer holiday program is available with registrations open until 19 December 2016. Please visit their website on www.vacswimsa.com.au for further details and enrolment information.

ENJO®

Sunday 6 November 2016
5.00pm – 8.00pm
Mount Barker Community Library
5 Dumas Street Mount Barker
$12 Adults $8 Child $33 Family
Tickets available at:
mbcl-cosentino.eventbrite.com.au
or at the library (cash only)

Talk & Book Signing
Copies of ANTHING IS POSSIBLE available on the night

Magic show by Adelaide magician Matt Tarrant

Carnival style food & drinks
Roving Performers
ICE BLOCK DAY

Wednesday 16th of November
Ice blocks handed out at recess

$2 each

On the day choose from Rasberry, Cola, Lemonade or Choc bar

Please return the ICE BLOCK order slip to your class trays or Front Office with your money by Friday the 11th November.

Student.................................................Class: ...............Money..............

Student.................................................Class: ...............Money..............

Student.................................................Class: ...............Money..............

Student.................................................Class: ...............Money..............

Student.................................................Class: ...............Money..............

Total.........................
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
St Mark’s Lutheran Church Christmas Eve Service 2016

St Mark’s Lutheran Church invites your children to participate in our Christmas Eve Service. “Unwrapping the Gift of God”.

This invitation also welcomes new families to the area whose children love to sing, dance, read or act in public, and especially those who are interested in finding a new home Church family to join!

This year Christmas Eve falls on Saturday the 24th of December.

For this family Service, we need the help of:

- Children aged 4 years old up to Year 10 for various parts (older children are given first choice of speaking/bible reading parts)
- Younger children can choose to be angels, shepherds, wise men or just be ‘regular’ children, some have short speaking parts (not all are required to dress up in costume)
- Please feel free to contact Sue Bormann ph 0424 562 349 or email sueb63.sb@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Speaking parts/readings will be given out at the first practice. If you wish to have a speaking part you are encouraged to attend all practices, however where this is not possible, we ask that your child (attends at least 3 of the practices, especially the final practice. Details to be given later.

**All initial practices will be held in the Church Hall from 10:30 – 11:30 am.**

Once we have numbers and parts assigned, more details will be sent out regarding final practices dates and times.

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**Christmas Eve Service Practice Times**

Please ensure you are able to come to the following practices:

Sunday Nov 13th for learning songs and giving out parts from 10am to sign in.

Practices: **Sunday Nov 20th, Nov 27th Dec 4th, 11th, 18th in the Church Hall**

Parents please sign their child/children in and out of each practice and leave a contact number also. Thankyou!

Final Practice: **Friday Dec 23rd, 3:30 – 5:30 pm (to be confirmed)**

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Please return the slips below by Friday Nov. 11th to St Mark’s School office, addressed to myself, Sue Bormann.

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Yes please, my child/children would love to be involved in the Christmas Eve Service!

**Names:** .................................................. Preferred part: ..................................................

**Ages:** ..................................................

**Parent signature:** ................................Parent name: ..................................................

**Email:** ..................................................

**Phone no.:** ........................................... **Date:** ..................................................

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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: 

Total amount of money enclosed $