Welcome again to our 2017 school year. It was a pleasure to have our school bubbling with excitement once again as students returned to their classrooms. The settled feeling in the school yesterday was a reflection of the preparation and skill of our staff.

I extend a special welcome to the following families joining our school in 2017.

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Today’s newsletter is a brief edition with reminders of requests and information provided last week with stationery packs and a highlighting of several activities.

**What’s on at St Mark’s**

Our term calendar continues to fill quickly and these dates have been included for you. Below are two events in theses first weeks of school this year I wish to highlight.

**Parent Information Nights**

Year 4 to 6 families are invited to join us on Thursday 9th February beginning at 7 pm in the hall. I will provide an overview of 2017 whole school topics after which you move to your child’s classroom. Your child’s teacher will then overview the year ahead and classroom routines and expectations for you.

Foundation to Year 3 families are invited to join us on Tuesday 14th February when the same format will be repeated beginning at 7pm in the hall.

**Family Fun Night**

Our Parents and Friends will be hosting a whole school family fun night on Friday 24th February. More details will be provided after our planning meeting on Thursday evening. The fun night will include tea as well as games for all ages.

**2017 Pedal Prix**

An information and planning meeting will be held in the school library on Wednesday, 8th February beginning at 7pm for families of any Year 6 students who are considering joining our 2017 St Mark’s Lutheran Lightning Pedal Prix team.

As parents are required to manage and run the team it is essential that all students who may wish to participate are represented at the meeting by a family member. We will be making final decisions re the entry of our team following the meeting.

**Friday Chapel**

Please note there will not be Friday chapel this week following our opening chapel yesterday.
Cornerstone College in partnership with St Mark’s provides a lunch order canteen service. This service is provided on Wednesdays. The value-for-money menu contains a great mix of healthy and nutritious food as well as a range of occasional treats.

Orders are placed online at FlexiSchools, food is prepared by the Cornerstone canteen and then a St Mark’s staff member collects the orders ready for Wednesday lunch beginning on Wednesday, 8th February 2017.

The service will not run during Cornerstone staff training weeks or when Cornerstone students are not on campus.

Visit the FlexiSchools website for further information and the menu.

Parents are reminded to change their child(ren)s class in FlexiSchools to represent their new classes for 2017.

www.flexishools.com.au

Forms and Information

Thank you for the prompt return of many of the forms we provided to you last week with stationery packs. If you have not yet done so I ask you to please return the following forms this week.

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

James Heyne
Principal

Mount Barker High School Student Free Days 2017

On Monday 20th of February and Monday 24th of July MTBHS will be having Student Free Days. There will be others coming to be advised later.

The buses will not be running on those days.
2017 Term Dates

Term One
- Year 1 to 6 students commence on Monday 30th January
- Foundation 2017 students first day of school on Tuesday 31st January. (Stationery can be dropped off to the classroom on Monday 30th January between 8:30am-10:30am or 2:00pm-3:45pm
- Last day of Term One Thursday 13th April

Term Two - Monday 1st May to Friday 30th June
Professional Learning week for staff. No student attendance - Monday 3rd to Friday 7th July

Term Three - Monday 24th July to Friday 29th September

Term Four - Monday 16th October to Wednesday 13th December

2017 Key School dates
I have listed below key dates of events that are currently planned on our calendar. Unless unknown significant activities occur we will commit to the dates listed below.

St Mark’s twilight Sports day – Friday 24th March

Parent Information nights
F to Year 3 – Tuesday 14th February 7 pm.
Year 4 to 6 - Thursday 9th February 7 pm.

School Council first meeting - Tuesday 31st January

P and F first meeting – Thursday 2nd February

Parent teacher interviews
Thursday 6th, Monday 10th and Wednesday 12th April

Year 3 and 5 NAPLAN
Tuesday 9th to Thursday 11th May.

Junior Primary Concerts
Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th September.

Camps
Year 1 - Term 4. Monday 30th to Tuesday, 31st October.
Year 2 - Term 4 either in Week 1 or 2 to be confirmed.
Year 3 – Term 1. Monday 27th February to Wednesday 1st March.
Year 4 – Term 2. Wednesday 10th to Friday 12th May.
Year 5 – Term 1. Wednesday 29th to 31st March.
Year 6 - Term 4. Aquatics camp - 1st Wednesday 1st to Friday 3rd November.

Courier Cup Swimming Team

Our first sporting opportunity for students in Year 4-6 begins next week with try-outs for the St. Mark’s swimming team. If your son or daughter is interested please speak to Mr Scott so he can take down their details- Mr Scott will be asking students at school during Week 1. Try-outs will take place at the Mountain Pool on Tuesday the 7th and Thursday the 10th of February beginning at 7am and concluding at 7.45am.
Parents & Friends Meeting
Thursday, 2nd February @ 7.30pm in School Staffroom

Calisthenics combines the athleticism of sport with the grace of the performing arts.

Onkaparinga offers a safe, indoor environment for children aged 3+ to improve their confidence, flexibility and posture. They learn about the importance of teamwork and commitment.

The emphasis here is on FUN!

We are a small, friendly club that has been established in Oakbank for nearly 40 years.

Our coach is fully accredited and has a background in early childhood education – your child is in experienced hands.

No sewing skills are required!

Free come & try
Tuesdays 7th & 14th February
4:30-5:30
Call Louise on 0424 440 201
Email onkaparingacalisthenics@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

Mount Barker and Districts Little Athletics
FREE Family Fun Day on Sunday 5th February, 11-2
Mt Barker High School Oval, Mt Barker
Ages 3-17 years
Regular meets Friday’s @ 4.30pm
Go to www.mbdlac.org.au or email info@mbdlac.org.au

MILO T20 Blast Program
MILO T20 Blast is a fun, safe, action packed cricket program for boys and girls in Year 2-5. The program involves modified games of cricket, where each child gets an equal turn at batting, bowling and fielding.

There are many centres starting soon with the first session at each centre is always being a FREE Come & Try Session. Your nearest MILO T20 Blast Centre will be run at:

Mount Barker MILO T20 Blast
Howard Lane
Mount Barker
Tuesday 7th February, 5:30pm – 7:00pm
By registering for MILO T20 Blast everyone will get a full season of fun, excitement, new skills and also a MILO T20 Blast Participant Pack including playing shirt, Adelaide Strikers cap, bag and more!

To find out more details about your nearest Centre and to register for this season log on to www.playcricket.com.au and type your post code into the centre finder.
Dear Families

An important aspect of my role as Religious Pastoral Support Worker is to support student well-being. We all understand that change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives.

At St Mark’s we recognize that when changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce or related circumstances, relocating homes and schools or any other kind of loss or change, young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively.

We are therefore offering a very successful education program called Seasons for Growth.

This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research that highlights the importance of social support and the need to practice new skills to cope effectively with change and loss.

The program focuses on issues such as self-esteem, recognizing and managing feelings, problem-solving, decision-making, effective communication and developing support networks.

Seasons for Growth runs for eight sessions and each session is 60 minutes in length, once a week during the school day and then the program concludes with a ‘Celebration’ session after school that parents can attend.

There are 3 levels;

- Level 1—year 1, 2 students
- Level 2—year 3, 4 students
- Level 3—year 5, 6 students

Seasons for Growth will commence in week four of Term 1. I will facilitate the program as I have received special training in the use of this program. I have run this program for the past 8 years and many students have participated.

If you think your son or daughter would benefit from Seasons for Growth I would encourage you to talk to him or her about this. It is important that the child chooses to do the course rather than being told to do the course.

Should he/she decide to participate please fill in the tear-off section below and return to the school by Friday 17th February 2017.

================================================================

SEASONS FOR GROWTH with Janene Overton

My child ____________________________ is interested in taking part in the SEASONS FOR GROWTH program in Term 1—2017.

I have discussed this with him / her.

The reason (s) he / she wants to do the program are;

________________________________________________________________________

______________________________          _____________________________ Class: ________

Parent/Guardian Signature                      Student’s Signature