



Foundation Hassold playing 'French Beans'.

Faith Focus

Chosen

During the last week, as I've led devotions for staff, school council and our opening chapel service, I've focused the message on [Colossians 3:12](#). It says

'Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.'

When reading the bible passage, it's not uncommon for us to quickly be drawn to focus on how we act – such as with compassion, kindness, patience, humility and gentleness. These are all certainly characteristics and attitudes we value and want to encourage and see in all people.

However, I've gone back one step and focused on the beginning of the verse and in particular seeing us as '[God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved](#).' I believe that when I start my day knowing God loves me and has chosen me to be part of His family, I can be equipped and inspired to share the love He has for me with others.

Because I live in a merit-based world that has conditioned me to believing I need to earn or deserve what I have, it's hard to accept that God just chooses me because He loves me. I don't have to, and actually can't, earn God's love – it's His free gift to me.

For me that's the beauty of St Mark's. Every day each one of us turns up and is loved by God, no matter who we are, what our story has been or what is going on in our lives.

As we start our year together I pray we all remember how dearly loved we are by God.

James Heyne

Important Bits

Principal Ponderings

It has again been wonderful to welcome students and families back to St Mark's for the 2024 school year. I love the vibe of classrooms, hallways and play spaces filled with students. I'm looking forward to a wonderful year of growth and connection together. Over the coming weeks I will provide a series of updates, providing detail of our 2024 priorities arising from the strategic plan adopted towards the end of 2023. We have exciting times ahead.

Routines

During our preparation for the start of the school year, we spent time as staff focusing on the many routines that make up the rhythm and structure of a school day. We've been practising ways of doing things that help us establish our shared expectations of how we will 'be' together in community. By establishing clear routines, we lessen the 'wondering' students can have about the day ahead. It's one less thing for them to think about.

As a school community, we also have routines that we all follow so we have a foundation to work together from each day. Examples are our drop off and pick up routines, notifying absentees, methods we use to communicate etc. If you are unsure of any of our routines, please contact the office.

Each morning, staff gather together for devotion at 8.20am and finish around 8.25am. Classrooms are then opened by teachers. Until then, students gather as a community at the quadrangle near our front office. They are supervised from 8.20am.

Outdoor Learning Spaces

You might have noticed the construction fences alongside of the southern side of the main building. Over the coming weeks we will be completing the development of the outdoor learning space for our Year 6 students. The project also includes improving the access to the hall and classroom spaces from the main carpark.

Eat, Meet and Greet

Formerly known as Parent Information Night, next **Thursday, 8th February**, we are holding Eat, Meet and Greet night. We start at 6pm with a sausage sizzle and games on the oval before moving to classrooms to meet your child's teacher. There is also an opportunity to visit our other learning spaces in the school. Our schedule for the evening is listed (above right).

6 - 6:45pm

6:45 - 7:45pm

Sausage sizzle and games

Open school for families and students to visit all our learning spaces, including our hall (PE), Music room and German room. During this time class teachers will provide an introductory overview as per the schedule below.

6:45 to 7:00pm

Foundation teacher presentation

7:05pm to 7:20pm

Year 1/Year 3/Year 5 teacher presentation

7:25 to 7:40pm

Year 2/Year 4 teacher presentation

7:30 to 7:45pm

Year 6 teacher presentation

2024 School Captains

Congratulations to *Austin* and *Mia* who were elected as our 2024 School Captains. They accepted their leadership positions from outgoing School Captains, Isaac and Saphira at the final assembly with their first official duties taking place at the 2023 Whole School Closing Assembly. Well done and we trust you will ably lead the soon to be elected Semester 1 SRC.

Semester One SRC class representatives will be elected by students in the coming weeks and announced at chapel. Information about nominating for SRC will be sent home shortly.



Pastoral Care Worker

Julian is our resident Pastoral Care Worker and is available **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Friday mornings**. He supports students in many ways, including helping them manage social interactions and emotions. You can pop in to the Wellness Room (next to the front office) to say hello or to borrow a book.



School Life

Introducing... Mrs Schmarr Our New Business Manager

Hello, I am Carly Schmarr. I am excited to have joined the unique community here at St Mark's and I already feel so welcomed. My role is diverse here, as is my work history, from manufacturing to not-for-profit to the wine tourism industry. When not at work I really enjoy spending time with my family and walking - I completed the Santiago de Camino (a pilgrimage walk across Spain) with my husband in October last year.



Mrs Burden

Hello! My Name is Georgia Burden and I can't wait to officially be a part of the St Marks team.



I have done many relief teaching days at St Marks and have thoroughly enjoyed working across all year levels. This year I will be teaching Year 2 with Mrs Kuchel. I love going to the beach, going for walks and spending time with my son Henry.

Welcome Back...

Mrs Angwin

Hello, my name is Lisa Angwin James but the school knows me as Miss A. I joined the St Mark's



community in 2012 and was the Year 5 teacher for 9 years. I am excited to be returning after 3 years leave and the switch to teaching Year 4. I am a mum to 3 young adults and have five step-sons. I love singing, hiking, gardening, spending time with my dog Bailey and most of all teaching. It truly is the best job in the world.

...and Mrs Wright!

Hello, I'm Rebekah Wright and I'm excited to be back teaching at St Mark's.

I have taught in schools both here in South Australia and in Queensland. I particularly enjoy teaching students in their first few years of school.

I have three children who also attend St Mark's, and as a family we enjoy going camping, walks to the park, bike riding, baking and watching movies.



Coming Up...

February

Friday 2nd

No Chapel

Wednesday 7th

Foundation Rest Day

Thursday 8th

SRC Elections

Parent Information Evening - Eat, Meet and Greet - 6pm

Friday 9th

Chapel, 9am - Ms Saracini

SRC and House Captains announced

Sunday 11th

Staff Blessing Service, St Mark's Church - 10.30am

Tuesday 13th

Assembly, 9am - led by SRC

P&F Meeting, Staffroom - 6.30pm

Wednesday 14th

Foundation Rest Day

Thursday 15th

Band Rehearsal, 8.30am

Friday 16th

Chapel, 9am

Book Club Orders Due



Welcome To The New Year!

St Mark's has a wonderful history of hosting fun community building events as well as raising funds for our school. The brains and muscle behind these events comes from the P&F.

The P&F are a team of parents and friends who work together to plan and facilitate events like the BBQ at Sports Day, School Disco and the Colour Run.

We welcome anyone to come along to one of our meetings to help with contributing new ideas, organisation and planning for events. Your time commitment can be large or small - any help is appreciated!

If you'd like more information about the P&F, please email Chris Luck at stmarkspf@gmail.com.

2025 Enrolments

If parents and caregivers are planning to enrol siblings for St Mark's 2025 Foundation intake and haven't yet completed an enrolment form, please pick up an enrolment pack from the Front Office and return at your earliest convenience.

School Life



SRC News

Dear Families,

Next week, students in Years 1-5 will be invited to consider nominating themselves for election to the SRC. The representatives for Semester 1 (the first half of the year) will be organised as follows:

YEAR LEVEL	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
FOUNDATION D	-	Boy and Girl representative
FOUNDATION H	-	Boy and Girl representative
1W	Boy representative	Girl representative
1US	Girl representative	Boy representative
2KB	Boy representative	Girl representative
2M	Girl representative	Boy representative
3L	Boy representative	Girl Representative
3MW	Girl representative	Boy representative
4K	Boy representative	Girl representative
4A	Girl representative	Boy representative
5H	Boy representative	Girl representative
5SM	Girl representative	Boy representative

Class teachers will call for **SRC nominations on Tuesday, February 6th for Year 1 to Year 5** with Foundations invited to nominate in Semester 2, 2024. **Elections will occur on Thursday, February 8th.** Students who wish to nominate are required to prepare a one-minute speech explaining why they would like to represent their peers as a member of the SRC. Their speech can begin with the following...

Good morning... My name is... I would like to be a member of Year...SRC because....

Class teachers have also advised students of the role of SRC.

The Student Representative Council...

- ✓ *Is a voice for the student body*
- ✓ *Identifies and clarifies students' interests or needs by listening to their peers through incidental conversations and scheduled class meetings*
- ✓ *Gathers ideas from peers about possible changes or improvements, and encourages all to take action*
- ✓ *Raises awareness about needs or events beyond our immediate community*
- ✓ *Helps to create structures and processes that build and enrich relationships across the school and in doing so builds community spirit*
- ✓ *Organises and manages lunch time clubs*

Our Semester 1 SRC will be announced at Chapel on **Friday, February 9th at 9:00am** with our first meeting for 2024 held on the same day at 12:50pm in the Library. Families will be notified if their child has been elected on Thursday, February 8th. All families are welcome to attend Chapel.

Loredana Saracini
Deputy Principal
February 1st, 2024

What is the Courier Cup?

Courier Cup is a swimming event at the Mountain Pool, Mount Barker, where a variety of schools from across the Adelaide Hills participate. St Mark's has a proud history of being involved. The school team is selected based on results of two trials held before school on the dates below.

• **Wednesday, 7th Feb - 7.15am- 8.15am** • **Friday, 9th Feb -**

A third practice session with the selected team will be in **Week 4, date TBA**

Students race in the following age groups:

10 Years- Born in 2014 • 11 Years- Born in 2013 • 12 Years- Born in 2012

Students will need to be comfortable diving into the pool and swimming from one end to the other (Mountain Pool, Mount Barker).

Mr Scott has sent home information with students who have shown interest. For further information, please contact Mr Scott.



School Life

Lunch Orders

Cornerstone College, in partnership with St Mark's, provides a lunch order canteen service. This service is provided every Wednesday and began yesterday **Wednesday, 31st of January**.

You establish a pre-paid online account with Flexischools and order lunches which will be delivered on a Wednesday. There are a range of great foods to select, from freshly made rolls, sandwiches and wraps, to hot food including bakery items, lasagne and fried rice. There are also choices for vegetarian and gluten free diets.

Visit www.flexischools.com.au for details on how to order or through our website - School Life - Lunch Orders.

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

Parents are reminded to change their child(rens) class in FlexiSchools to represent their new classes for 2024.

www.flexischools.com.au

ONLINE ORDERING



- Available 24/7
- Convenient for parents
- Removes paper orders and cash
- FREE registration

Online ordering is more convenient, providing a 24/7 payment and ordering system that can be accessed from home, work or a mobile device.

No more fumbling around for coins in the morning or sending kids to school with excess cash, online orders are faster and more accurate giving parents peace of mind that their order and payment is received accurately at the school.

Registration is free and only takes a few minutes.

EASY, ONLINE REGISTRATION

- Go to www.flexischools.com.au
- Click REGISTER
- Enter your email
- You will be emailed a link to an online form - follow the link
- Choose a username and password and complete the form
- Add each student and their class
- Top-up the account - VISA or Mastercard preferred.



Place lunch orders from your iPhone, iPad or mobile device!

For help call **1300 361 769**



Hills Bus Information

St Mark's wish to advise our families that capacity has been reached on most HILS bus service routes for Term 1. If you would like to be placed onto our waitlist for future consideration, please complete the Expression of interest form located on our website at <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage>.

Choir and Band News

Choir and Band recommence in Week 3.

Choir is held **8:45am Wednesday (14th Feb)**, new students are welcome (Yrs 4-6 only). **Band** is held **8:30am Thursday (15th Feb)** by invitation only (see Miss Lyall if you are interested).

We also offer private instrumental lessons during school hours for interested students. Please talk to Miss Lyall or collect an Application for Enrolment from the front office.

St Mark's and Cornerstone Rebate

We are pleased to again offer a tuition fee rebate to families who have children enrolled at both St Mark's and Cornerstone College in 2024.

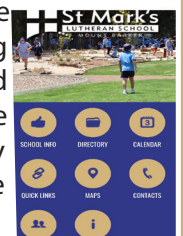
For further detail, or to apply, please request an application form from the office. The rebate will be applied to Term Two tuition fee accounts.

Please note a new application is required each year.

St Mark's Lutheran School App

Thank you to families that have downloaded the App and are using it to notify the school of absences. We urge all parents and caregivers to download the App and start exploring!

Should you have any issues downloading the App, or need a login or password, please contact Leanne in the front office. We are aware of some issues currently being experienced by android users and are working to resolve these. Please email or call the front office to notify of student absences until we advise of these issues **being resolved**.



2023 Graduation Service

Our graduation service at Inbarendi was a great way to complete the year and farewell our Year 6 students. Thank you to everyone who attended on what was a memorable evening.

Congratulations to Year 6 students pictured below who received awards on the night. *Abigail* received the

2023 Academic Award and *Saphira* who received the Service Award.



School Life



First Week Activities



Scholastic Book Club Order forms have been sent home this week. Orders and payment are due by **Friday, 16th February**. Scholastic Book Club is an optional service offered to parents to help provide children with affordable literature. Brochures are sent home twice each term.

In Term 3 we have a Book Fair where parents and students can come into the Library and purchase or order books from the selection we provide. Your support of Book Club and Book Fair earns the school reward points which allows us to purchase books and other resources for the Library and classrooms. Payment options are provided on the back of the order form. Most parents choose to use the credit card option (LOOP) but you are able to pay by cash if you prefer. If you have any questions please ask Mrs Paterson (Library) or Mrs Short (Office).

PREMIERS' READING Challenge

Our school has been an avid supporter of the Premiers Reading Challenge since it began 20 yrs ago! To complete the challenge, students have approximately 9 months to read 12 books. Eight of these books must be from the Readers Challenge list and 4 books are FREE CHOICE. There are books for different year levels. In our Library they are identified: F-Yr2 Orange dot, Yr3-Yr5 Green dot and Yr6 Blue dot.

Children in Foundation – Yr2 may have a parent read the books TO the children but older children are encouraged to read the books themselves. Every time a book is read, the title and author should be recorded on the Student Reading Record sheet. For younger students, this sheet will be at the back of their Communication books. Older students may have them in their homework books (check with your child).

In the first year of the Challenge, students receive a Certificate of participation. Every year after that the children will receive a medal! It is always a day of great excitement when the medals are handed out. Please encourage your children to participate in the challenge.

School Life



2024 Term 1

Phone 08 8391 0444
 Fax 08 8398 3505
 OSHC 08 8200 2516 (YMCA)
 Web stmarks.sa.edu.au
 Email contact@stmarks.sa.edu.au

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Regular Events		Whole School Assembly (Odd weeks)	Choir 8.45am— Hall	Band Practice 8.30-9.15am Hall	Whole School Chapel Hall		
	Mainly Music 9.30 - 11.00am Church		Lunch Orders				
1	Jan 29 Term 1 (Years 1-6) Commences Opening Chapel 9.00am Hall	Jan 30 Foundations First Day	Jan 31	Feb 1	Feb 2 No Chapel	Feb 3	Feb 4 Pastor Greg Installation Service @ St Mark's Church
2	Feb 5	Feb 6	Feb 7 Foundation Rest Day	Feb 8 Parent Info Night 6pm Eat, Meet & Greet	Feb 9 Chapel— Ms Saracini Announcement of SRC and House Captains	Feb 10	Feb 11 Staff Blessing and Installation Service @ St Mark's Church 10.30 am
3	Feb 12	Feb 13 Assembly—SRC leading	Feb 14 Foundation Rest Day	Feb 15	Feb 16 Chapel—5SM	Feb 17	Feb 18
4	Feb 19	Feb 20	Feb 21 Foundation Rest Day	Feb 22 Inform & Empower Cyber Safety Parent Webinar	Feb 23 Chapel— Cornerstone College	Feb 24	Feb 25
5	Feb 26 School Council 7.30pm	Feb 27 Assembly	Mar 28 Foundation Rest Day	Feb 29 Courier Cup	Mar 1 Chapel—6BW Jon Maddin Music Workshop/Concert	Mar 2	Mar 3
6	Mar 4	Mar 5	Mar 6 Foundation Rest Day	Mar 7	Mar 8 Chapel—Pastor Greg, Giving of Yr 2 Bibles	Mar 9	Mar 10
7	Mar 11 Public Holiday Adelaide Cup Day	Mar 12 Assembly	Mar 13 NAPLAN Years 4-6 600m/Discus Foundations attending full time from today	Mar 14 NAPLAN	Mar 15 NAPLAN Twilight Sports Day	Mar 16	Mar 17
8	Mar 18 NAPLAN	Mar 19 NAPLAN	Mar 20 NAPLAN	Mar 21 NAPLAN	Mar 22 NAPLAN Chapel- 4K	Mar 23	Mar 24
9	Mar 25 NAPLAN School Council 7.30pm	Mar 26 Assembly	Mar 27	Mar 28 Maundy Thursday Chapel— 3L	Mar 29 Public Holiday Good Friday	Mar 30	Mar 31 Public Holiday Easter Sunday
10	Apr 1 Public Holiday Easter Monday	Apr 2	Apr 3 Learning Conversations (Parent Teacher Interviews) TBC SAPSASA Athletics TBC	Apr 4	Apr 5 Chapel—Pastor Greg	Apr 6	Apr 7
11	Apr 8 Year 5 Camp	Apr 9 Assembly Year 5 Camp Learning Conversations TBC	Apr 10 Year 5 Camp	Apr 11 Learning Conversations TBC	Apr 12 Chapel—Ms Saracini Term 1 End	Apr 13	Apr 14

Year Level Carers & Whispers of Hope

At St Mark's we value the wellbeing of our students, families, and staff.

One way we care for our community is through the appointment of Year Level Carers. The following is a summary of the proposed Year Level Carer role for 2024.

- Acting as a point of reference for families to contact in case of hardship, then working with the Pastoral Care Worker or, in their absence, the Deputy Principal in responding to the hardship.
- Promote positive relations between parents and teachers.
- Co-ordinate year level social events
- Maintain confidentiality of all involved, whilst passing on relevant information to the Pastoral Care Worker or the Deputy Principal if deemed appropriate.

The role of Year Level Carer is not to act as a 'go-between' to resolve conflict between parents/teachers, parents/parents, or parents/students. Year Level Carer/s are asked to refer parents to the school Grievance Procedure, the Pastoral Care Worker (Julian Feldstein), or the Deputy Principal (Loredana Saracini).

At St Mark's we understand families may be time-poor and even though they would love to be of assistance to others in time of need, they are unable to do so through the ongoing commitment of the role of Year Level Carer. This leads to another way we create a culture of care at St Mark's, the **Whispers of Hope program**. We invite these families to act as the 'whispers of hope' in our community by cooking a meal, assisting with school pick up or drop off, emergency babysitting, or any other ways families can care for others.

I invite you to complete the tear-off slip below or email contact@stmarks.sa.edu.au with your availability for 'Whispers of Hope' 2024 or as a 2024 Year Level Carer.

Should you require further information about either program, please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office on 83910444.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to consider how you might contribute to the care of others in our community in 2024.



Loredana Saracini
Deputy Principal
February 1st, 2024

Year Level Carers 2024 – Whispers of Hope 2024

Parent Name: _____

☐ 2024 Year Level Carer (Please tick if you are able to act as a Year Level Carer.)

Act as a Whisper of Hope by _____.
(Please indicate how you might care for others.)



School Life

Student Mobile Phones

When onsite at St Mark's, students do not use their mobile phones. When they arrive they hand them into the office. They collect them from the office at the end of the school day and keep them in their bags until they are offsite.

If you need to pass a message to your child, even when they are at our pick up waiting areas, e.g. if you are running late or your plans change, please phone the school office. This is in place as we have found when students are on site, they access their phones while waiting to be picked up and the temptation to access online content can become too great.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



CALLING ALL DADS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL GIRLS,
DAUGHTERS AND DADS CRICKET IS HERE!!!

Do you want to...

- Spend quality one on one time with your daughter?
- Develop cricket skills and have fun getting active together?
- Help her build confidence, self-esteem and resilience?

Strengthen your relationship with your daughter and improve her enjoyment and engagement in cricket.

Spaces are limited, book online
DON'T MISS OUT!

WHEN IS IT HAPPENING?

Date	Sundays from 11 February - 7 April
Location	St Mark's Lutheran School 37 Hampden Road, Mount Barker
Time	9:30am - 11:00am
Cost	\$130 per daughter & dad pair

NEED MORE DETAILS?

Name: Taryn Williams
 ✉ twilliams@saca.com.au
 ☎ 08 8300 3215

www.daughtersanddads.cricket.com.au

WHAT IS THE PROGRAM?

- 90 mins a week over 9 weeks.
- A combination of cricket skills and well-being education for primary school girls 6-12 years and their dads (or father figure)

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- Rough and tumble play, fitness and cricket skills.
- Your daughter will improve her catching, batting, bowling and throwing.

WELL-BEING EDUCATION

You will help your daughter develop:

Bravery, self-control, resilience, persistence, positivity

Scan the QR code to find out more and register

SCAN ME

Camps

Year 5 - Monday 8th - Wednesday 10th April

Year 3 - Wednesday 22nd - Friday 24th May

Year 4 - Wednesday 22nd - Friday 24th May

Year 2 - Thursday 29th - Friday 30th August

Year 1 - Wednesday 30th - Thursday 31st October

Year 6 - Thursday 7th - Friday 8th November

Community

MT BARKER LUTHERAN NETBALL CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mon 12th Feb

7PM @ ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

PLEASE ATTEND TO SUPPORT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE 2024 SEASON AND TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR WONDERFUL CLUB

Committee Positions Available!

WHAT'S ON! at your Community Centre

February 2024

Date

Time

Playing For All – weekly games-based program for children with an intellectual disability/autism and those without.	Starts Friday 2 nd February	4.30 – 5.30pm
Robotics 5 session workshop series – fortnightly classes for 5 - 8 year olds	Starts Tuesday 6 th February	2 – 3pm and 3.30 – 4.30pm
Advanced Creative Writing – 10 month program	Starts Wednesday 7 th February	7 – 9pm
Create: Make, Bake and Paint – a 4-week program for 12 - 17 year olds	Starts Monday 12 th February	3.45-5pm
Recycled fabric and raffia basket workshop	Saturday 17 th February	11am – 3.30pm
Intro to coffee skills – a 5-week course for 15 - 25-year-olds	Starts Tuesday 27 th February	9.30am – 1.30pm
Big Screen Gaming at Wallis Cinema – for 18 - 25-year-olds (Sensory Friendly)	Tuesday 27 th February	5 – 8pm
The Wonder of Neurodiversity – Parent Education Workshop with Mark Le Messurier	Wednesday 28 th February	6 – 7.30pm
Clay Mandala Workshop for Women	Friday 22 nd March	10am – 12.30pm
Big Screen Gaming at Wallis Cinema – for 18 - 25-year-olds	Tuesday 26 th March	5 – 8pm
Building Emotional Resilience in Children – Parent Education Seminar with Mark Le Messurier	Wednesday 27 th March	6 – 7.30pm
Laratinga Community Shed Monday: Women's Day Tuesday and Wednesday: Community Days Thursday: Men's Day	Monday – Thursday	9am – 2pm
The Haven Mount Barker – an Information Service for Women	Monday – Friday	10am – 2pm

Bookings essential for all events. Most events can be booked online:
<https://events.humanitix.com/host/mtbcc>

Like us and share W [mtbcc.org.au](https://www.mtbcc.org.au) P 83912747 E enquiries@mtbcc.org.au | 3 Dumas Street Mount Barker SA 5251

