



Year 4 doing The Cookie Challenge!

Faith Focus

Hello!!!

I'm Pastor Greg and I am the new pastor next door at St Mark's Lutheran Church. Many of you will already know my wife Meredith, who has worked at the school for some years now.

St Mark's is my third congregation, having served at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Murray Bridge, and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Novar Gardens. Meredith and I have lived in Mount Barker for 12 years, so I am very much looking forward to serving the community in which I have lived for so long.

Primary schools and their communities are one of my passions. I only started at St Mark's at the beginning of Week 1, so I am still finding my feet, but once I get to know my way around, you'll see plenty of me around the school. I look forward to getting to know – and making myself available to – the students, their families and the school staff. If there's anything I can do for you, or you have any questions for me, you can contact me on greg@stmarksmtbarker.org.au.

One of my favourite Bible verses is [Luke 18:16](#) which reads,

"Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'"

I love it because it reminds me that:

- God only wants to give us good things, and
- Children have no baggage that stops them from receiving God's good things.

As adults we tend to build all sorts of walls and excuses that stand between us and God (and therefore His gifts), but children have unblemished, wide-eyed enthusiasm and hunger to learn, grow and develop in every way they can.

I look forward to getting to know you and your children, and being part of each child's journey of discovery as they grow and develop into everything God has created them to be.

I pray you have a blessed and peaceful 2024!



Pastor Greg

Important Bits

Principal Ponderings

'Our purpose is to inspire each learner today to shape the world of tomorrow, encouraged and cared for in a community drawn together by shared Christian Values.'

At our 2023 School Closing Service, I had the privilege of sharing the above statement with our community. It is the culmination of our strategic planning process facilitated through 2023, to ensure we stay focused and clear on why we turn up each day – our purpose.

Next week I will elaborate on the first part of our purpose statement, but today I am beginning with the foundational aspect of our purpose statement 'Christian Values'. While our 4 values – LOVE, COURAGE, CURIOSITY and SERVICE are not unique to St Mark's, our understanding and motivation to live them, are. Our lens for our values is striving to think, act and behave in ways that reflect what Christians believe about their identity in relation to God. **Rather than our values being rules we are expected to follow, we instead see them as responses to God's love for us.** They help us describe how we want to be as community and the roles we can all play to achieve this.

I'm often asked what being a Christian School means, which is the same as 'a community drawn together by shared Christian values'. The short answer is, we are a community where our St Mark's Church, School Council and staff seek to create an experience for all our families and staff, that shows the same love to others that we believe God has shown to us. I look forward to the experiences we will have in 2024 as community.

Introducing.. Mrs Wilson

My name is Sheridan Wilson and I am blessed to be working along side our Year 6 students and teachers in 2024, a day a week in each class.

I have lived in Hahndorf with my husband and three children for the past 12 years. I have been teaching in the Adelaide Hills across all year levels for the past 13 years.

I'm very excited for the journey ahead at St Mark's and look forward to sharing the experience with you and your child.



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. Second trial held at **7.15am- 8.15am on Friday, 9th Feb.**

A 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.

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>.

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 as a priority.

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 are welcome to pop in to the Wellness Room (next to the front office) to say hello anytime. Julian also has books available to borrow if you need.



School Life

Year 2 News

Students enjoyed creating their own plays with You Can Do It themes.



Students are settling in to school routines and the team building and connection activities are preparing them well for new learning and experiences.

What Do I Do If We're Late/Absent?

If your child is unwell or going to be absent on any school day, please notify the school office ASAP so we can account for the whereabouts of your child. You can do this via the St Mark's School App, or call 8391 0444, leave a message on the answering machine or email on contact@stmarks.sa.edu.au. If you know of absences in advance, a letter/note can be sent to the teacher prior.

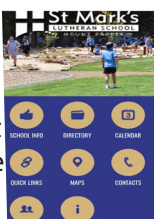
Early Pick-up/Appointments - If for some reason you need to pick up your child during school hours, please let the teacher/front office know earlier and collect your child from the front office. All students leaving early must be signed out by a parent or guardian.

Students who arrive after 8:50am in the morning **need to sign in at the office** and receive a late slip before moving to their classroom.

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.**



Coming Up...

February

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



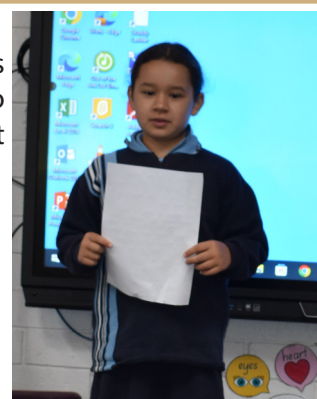
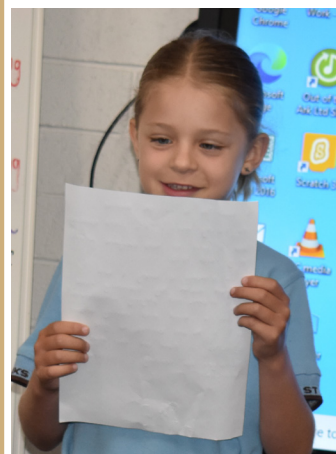
Welcome To The Next Meeting!

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! Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, 13th February at 6.30pm** in the staffroom. If you'd like more information about the P&F, please email Chris Luck at stmarkspf@gmail.com.

Reminder!!! The Eat Meet and Greet Night is TONIGHT! There is a free BBQ and \$2 for drinks (eftpos only). See you there!

SRC News

This week Years 1 - 5 students had the opportunity to apply for the Student Representative Council.



They gave a short speech to their peers and we are very proud of their bravery. The Semester One SRC will be announced this Friday after Chapel.

School Life

Dear Parents & Carers,

At St Mark's, the safety of your children is a priority. In 2024 our students will be participating in the **Inform & Empower Cyber Safety & Digital Wellbeing** program endorsed by the eSafety Commissioner.

The 4 online sessions (1 session per term) aims to help students better navigate the online world in a way that will see them become safe and responsible digital citizens. Information about each of the student sessions will be communicated to families each term.

Inform and Empower are also providing a 90 minute FREE webinar for St Mark's families. We encourage families to register to attend the webinar on **Thursday, February 22nd at 7:00pm.** The webinar will provide information on...

- Social media
- Impacts of screen time
- Online gaming
- Child and tween online trends
- Cyberbullying
- Managing devices in the home

Please note that the webinar is only for parents and carers as some of the information shared may not be suitable for a primary school audience. Participating in the webinar will also provide families with exclusive access to helpful resources to support you in learning how to keep your children safe in the digital world.

To register for the webinar please go to

Register to attend the webinar:

bit.ly/22feb2024

or scan the QR code below.



I look forward to joining you at our first Inform and Empower parent webinar. Thank you for partnering with St Mark's in the support of your children being safe and responsible in the online world.

Loredana Saracini
Deputy Principal

Year 5 News

This week there has been a strong focus on team-building across year level groups and individual classes. Year 5 students have been discussing growth mindsets and thinking positively. These ideas were enhanced with team games using YCDI (You Can Do It) strategies.



They collected different letters for their group to make a growth mindset statement from the letters they collected ie 'I can't do this YET'. Each group had letters in a different colour so they knew what colour letter they were looking for.



Buddies!

The Foundations met their Year 6 buddies for the first time this week and completed their first activity together- a Scavenger Hunt.

So beautiful to see connections being made!



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.)



Community

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



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](https://www.facebook.com/mtbcc.org.au) [mtbcc.org.au](https://www.facebook.com/mtbcc.org.au) [P](https://www.facebook.com/mtbcc.org.au) 83912747 [E](mailto:enquiries@mtbcc.org.au) enquiries@mtbcc.org.au | 3 Dumas Street Mount Barker SA 5251

Get That Diary Out

February

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

Wednesday 14th

Foundation Rest Day

Thursday 15th

Band Rehearsal, 8.30am

Friday 16th

Chapel, 9am -

Wednesday 21st

Foundation Rest Day

Thursday 22nd

Cybersafety Parent Webinar - 7.30pm

Friday 23rd

Chapel, 9am

Tuesday 27th

Assembly, 9am

Wednesday 28th

Foundation Rest Day

Thursday 29th

Band Rehearsal, 8.30am

Courier Cup

Friday 30th

Chapel, 9am

Band will recommence



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 and collect them at the end of the school day and keep them in bags until 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.