



Year 1 students meet their Year 5 Buddies!

Faith Focus

The Transformative Power of God's Word

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

Picture a humble caterpillar, inching along the ground, content in its earthly existence. Inchng ever so slowly towards its last luscious leaf before it will latch on upside down from a twig and spins itself a silky cocoon into a shiny chrysalis.

It's what happens next that fascinated me the most... when hearing this during last Sunday's service (thank you Pastor Greg!). As a child I learnt that in the chrysalis, the caterpillar transformed into a butterfly but I hadn't given much thought to its 'actual' transformation. Caterpillar to butterfly...simple I thought. But something more happens... the caterpillar digests itself, releasing enzymes to dissolve all its tissues. If you were to cut open a chrysalis at just the right time, caterpillar soup would ooze out. The caterpillar undergoes a profound metamorphosis. Similarly, when we immerse ourselves in God's Word, we are enveloped by its transformative power, renewing our hearts and minds.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17, we read,

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

This verse echoes the profound change that takes place within the chrysalis. The caterpillar, once limited to crawling on the ground, emerges as a beautiful butterfly, soaring to new heights. In the same way, God's word lifts us from the mundane and transforms us into new creations in Christ.

As we welcome this time of Lent and begin our journey towards the cross (Good Friday) and then celebrate the gift of Easter (the resurrection) I invite you to do so with expectant hearts, ready for the transformative work that this time brings to each of us. May we be like the caterpillar, embracing the chrysalis of God's Word, emerging as new creations in Christ....turning us all into beautiful butterflies!

Loredana Saracini

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.'

This week I want to expand on the first part of our purpose statement ***'to inspire each learner today to shape the world of tomorrow'***.

Another way I describe this aspect of our purpose statement would be to say, laying a foundation today, for what we will encounter tomorrow. Inspiring learners is far more than creating motivation and enthusiasm. It is developing the capabilities, knowledge, skills and attributes that equip our young people to be confident and capable to thrive today and every day to come. We want to ensure they can communicate, analyse, discuss, problem solve and hypothesise. We want them to have belief in themselves to influence and achieve. And importantly, we want them to do all of this as people of character, displaying kindness, compassion, empathy and respect.



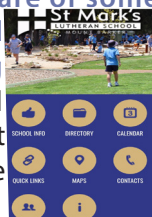
The character traits and capabilities I have described above are essential, as we know with the pace of change in the world, we need our learners to have more than a knowledge grounding based on what we know today. The knowledge they gain today is the foundation for ongoing learning, but it isn't enough by itself.

At St Mark's we believe we inspire learners when we build connection, create a sense of worth and value, and they grow to appreciate that who they are growing to be, has purpose for today and what will come tomorrow.

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.**



What is the Courier Cup?



Courier Cup is a swimming event at the Mountain Pool, Mount Barker, on the 29th February, where a variety of schools from across the Adelaide Hills participate.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to compete:

10 Year Olds

Karla F • Carli H • Phoenix C • Jace C • Jake S

11 Year Olds

Emily T • Ruby S • Grace S • Sophie M

12 Year Olds

Oscar W • Max I • Josh N • Lachlan S • Billy M
Anika W • Emma C • Isobel J

Final training is Wednesday, 21st February- 7.15am- 8.15am at the Mountain Pool.

Students race in the following age groups:

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

12 Years- Born in 2012

SRC News

Last Friday the Semester one SRC were announced and will join School Captains Mia and Austin.



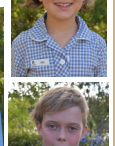
We are proud to welcome the following students into leadership:



Jake (5H) • Charlotte (5SM)
Louis (4K) • Karla (4A)
Madison (3MW) • Logan (3L)



Mila (2M) • Leo (2KB)
Alma (1US) • Casper (1W)



We look forward to the new SRC initiatives and ideas.

Lunch time meetings will be fortnightly and students will discuss community building school events, opportunities to serve and alternate play options.

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.

School Life

What Happens On Sports Day?

At St Mark's, students belong to one of four house teams; Barker (yellow), Davison (blue), Sturt (green) and Dunn (red). House teams are involved in various activities on a number of occasions throughout the year. For Sports Day, the four houses compete in a number of athletic and novelty events for the Sports Day House Shield.

St Mark's first whole school event is our annual Sports Day. Due to the number of events, St Mark's **Sports Day is held over two days; Wednesday, 13th March and Friday, 15th March.** Only students in Years 4-6 are involved on Wednesday for the 600m run and discus, beginning from 9.15am (approximately) until each age group has had their turn. The 600m run will be first, then discus in order of the youngest to eldest age group.

St Mark's Sports Day on **Friday March 15th** is held as a twilight event **beginning at 12.40pm.** This is an outstanding community event where parents and students are invited to attend an optional community lunch from 12.00pm. You are welcome to bring a picnic or purchase lunch from the P&F. Please note that all **children are expected to be in their classroom at 12.40pm** for the official school roll call.



If you are unable to provide care and supervision for your child before the 12.40pm roll call, we can provide modified supervision for

them at school from our usual start time. Please inform us through the front office if you need this assistance. YMCA will provide their usual before school care on the day.

The day is run in three sessions. During the first session, Junior Primary students compete in Junior Tabloid events which help develop skills for future Senior Tabloid events. These include; Jumping Hoops, Accuracy Throw, Distance Push, Hockey Hit, Vertical Jump, Accuracy Kick, Goal Throw and Sprints. Junior Primary students stay in class groups and are accompanied by their teacher to each event. They will receive a placing to record on their Sports Day tag. At the same time, Upper Primary Students compete in age groups in Senior Tabloid Events including; High Jump, Long Jump, Javelin, Sprints and Shot Put.

Coming Up...

February

Friday 16th

Chapel, 9am - 5SM

Book Club Orders Due

Wednesday 21st

Foundation Rest Day

Thursday 22nd

Cybersafety Parent Webinar - 7.30pm

Friday 23rd

Chapel, 9am - led by Cornerstone



Sports Day is Coming!

P&F are seeking volunteers for Sports Day for

- Set up or pack down
- BBQ
- Cake stall
- Making or donating cakes/biscuits

Next week we will have a volunteer form available for parents to volunteer an hour or so over the course of the day. It's a great event and working with other parents is an easy way to make connections and develop community. Many hands make light work!

If you would like to donate/bake for the cake stall, please include details of ingredients and please, no nuts! House coloured patty pans are available from the office if you would like to make cupcakes in your House colour!

After an afternoon break, the second session begins. Students compete in house teams in year level groups in novelty events. During the final session of the day we have the presentation



of each house War Cry, the Year 1-6 relay and Parent/Teacher races. Students cheer from their coloured house tents. The presentation of the House Shield will conclude the formalities and is scheduled for 5.30pm. A community tea run by the P&F will follow.

The community spirit on this day is great to see. Students will be wearing their house coloured tops and it would be terrific to see parents supporting their child's house in the same way.

A final program and map of the events will be included in the newsletter in the coming weeks.

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



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

Has Your Child Had An 'Accident'?

We are pleased to provide extra uniform and underwear to students who have an 'accident' or need clean or dry replacement uniform. These items are clearly named St Mark's. If you have some of these at home please launder and return to the front office so we can continue this service.



Year 1 News

The Year 1 students met their Year 5 buddies this week.



This is such an important part of our culture. We value the community this program develops as well as the maturity it fosters in our older students as they befriend, direct and relate to students much younger than themselves.

Sports News

Mr Scott's PE classes have been focussed on building skills that will be



used on Sports Day. Older classes have been training in shot put and long jump/ high jump - events that are introduced in Year 4.

Year 4 News

Our resident Pastoral Care Worker Julian, spent time getting to know the Year 4 students this week over a friendly game of handball.



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.)





Student Acceptable Usage of Digital Technologies Agreement 2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

St Mark's Lutheran School provides access to technology resources to enrich the teaching and learning experience for all staff and students. Cyber safety is an important issue for young children. By the time children arrive at school many are already online or using digital technologies. St Mark's Lutheran School recognises the need for students to be safe and responsible users of digital technologies. We believe that explicitly teaching students about safe, responsible and ethical use of digital technologies and online behaviours is essential and is best taught in partnership with parents and caregivers. We request that parents and caregivers work with us and encourage this behaviour at home. Students are expected to use all digital technology devices, resources and services responsibly, purposefully and ethically. Use of devices, services and resources is always at the discretion of class teachers and other school staff.

At St Mark's Lutheran School we:

- Use digital technologies for educational purposes.
- Educate our students to be safe, responsible and ethical users of digital technologies.
- Provide supervision and support for students in developing digital literacy skills and knowledge.
- Raise our students' awareness of issues such as online privacy, cyber bullying and copyright.
- Provide a filtered internet service however acknowledge that full protection from inappropriate material can never be guaranteed and therefore students will be explicitly taught procedures to follow if inappropriate material is accessed.
- Respond to issues or incidents that have the potential to impact on the wellbeing of our students.
- Know that some online activities are illegal and as such we are required to report this to the Police.
- Support parents and caregivers to understand the importance of safe and responsible use of digital technologies, the potential issues that surround their use and strategies that they can implement at home to support their child.

Within the 'Student Acceptable Usage of Digital Technologies Agreement' you will find a list of age appropriate technology related issues that have been discussed in your child's class. This agreement frames the use of all digital technology by all students at St Mark's and guides students to make safe, responsible and ethical choices. We ask that you also read through and discuss these points with your child to enrich their understanding of using digital technologies appropriately.

Students are informed that their electronic work created via the school's network is not private and that the school may review files and other communications to check for compliance to the 'Student Acceptable Usage of Digital Technologies Agreement' if deemed necessary.

Consequences

If a student fails to comply with the agreement, in consultation with school administration, the teacher will determine appropriate consequences for any breach. Consequences may include one or more of the following:

- Student and teacher discuss the inappropriate behaviour.
- Withdrawal of access to digital technologies at school.
- Indefinite withdrawal of access from using digital technologies until the school deems the student is ready to be reinstated.
- Parents informed.
- Serious breaches will be referred to the Principal and if necessary to the appropriate authorities.

Thank you for your support in helping your child use digital technology as a powerful learning tool.



Student Acceptable Usage of Digital Technologies Agreement Foundation and Year 1

How we use digital technologies at St Mark's

At St Mark's we follow this agreement to keep me, others and our digital technology devices safe.

I will use technology in a way that is safe, ethical and respectful to myself, others and all digital technology devices and equipment. I understand there may be consequences if the agreement is not followed.

When using digital technologies at St Mark's I will

1. Look after myself and others.
2. Use digital technologies to enhance my learning.
3. Respect all school digital technology devices and equipment.

As explained to me by my teacher, this means I will.....

- Only use technology for learning when the teacher asks me to.
- Only use the apps and website links my teacher tells me to.
- Ask for help if I'm unsure what to do.
- Turn off the screen when asked to.
- Do this straight away if I see something on the iPad or computer that makes me feel uncomfortable or upset:
 1. Turn off the screen
 2. Do not show other students
 3. Tell a teacher straight away.
- Ask for permission before taking a photo or video of other people.
- Be respectful in all photos or videos I take or I am in.
- Respect other students work by only opening and changing my own work on the iPad or computer.
- Use technology devices with clean hands
- Hold portable technology devices carefully with two hands at all times.
- Always walk when carrying a technology device.
- Never leave a technology device in an unsafe place, eg on the floor or on the edge of a desk.
- Carefully put back all technology equipment (eg iPads, headphones, computers) the way I have been taught.
- Keep all drinks and food away from devices.
- Never take off protective covers and stickers, or pull apart technology equipment unless asked to by the teacher.
- Never change or attempt to change any settings.
- Only print with the teacher's permission.
- Let my teacher know straight away if any equipment is damaged or not working.



Student Acceptable Usage of Digital Technologies Agreement

Years 2-6

How we use digital technologies at St Mark's

At St Mark's we follow this agreement to keep me, others and our digital technology devices safe.

I will use technology in a way that is safe, ethical and respectful to myself, others and all digital technology devices and equipment. I understand there may be consequences if the agreement is not followed.

I agree to:

1. Look after myself and others while using digital technologies:

- Only use the internet when supervised by a teacher in suitable locations as discussed in class.
- Always do appropriate internet searches.
- Follow this procedure if I see something on my screen that makes me feel uncomfortable or upset:
 1. Turn off the screen
 2. Do not show other students
 3. Tell a teacher straight away.
- Ensure any comments that I post or any work that I wish to have published online is respectful, carefully written, edited and well presented.
- Only take photos or videos of other people with their permission and teacher approval.
- Be respectful in all photos or videos I take or I am in.
- Keep all passwords private and only use my own password.
- Never give out my own or others personal information online.
- Only communicate via digital technologies with people I personally know and talk to my parents/caregivers and teachers about any online friends or communication.
- Never go into, delete or change other people's digital files, folders and media in shared folders and devices.

2. Use digital technologies to enhance my learning:

- Follow instructions to do the task that is required and ask for help if I'm unsure about what to do.
- Only use technology devices or equipment when asked by the teacher.
- Only access websites, programs and apps that I need for my learning and have permission to do so.
- Help others learn with technology by teaching them, not doing it for them.
- Never copy or download material from the internet unless I have permission and suitably acknowledge the source where necessary.
- Ensure my digital work is always respectful, carefully written, edited and well presented.
- Ensure digital work is saved and organised so that it can be found when needed.

3. Respect all school digital technology devices and equipment:

- Have clean hands when using a device.
- Handle appropriately, follow procedures as agreed upon in class.
- Use devices in safe positions and locations.
- Keep all drinks and food away from devices.
- Never pull apart any devices, remove protective covers, stickers or similar from devices unless asked to by the teacher.
- Close apps/programs when finished and shut down or restart devices the way I have been taught.
- Only print with the teacher's permission.
- Never change or attempt to change any settings.
- Never install or attempt to install programs on school devices.
- Only store files and other media that are for school purposes, including files on my USB.
- Inform an adult immediately if equipment is damaged or not working.

Community

Welcoming children in Years 4 to 6 to our
first JAFFA event for 2024!



Sunday March 3, 1:30 – 3:30pm

St Mark's Church Link

Bring \$4.00, Enthusiasm and Your Friends

Please note that we're going to head outdoors for this event so be sure
to bring a hat and a water bottle and to wear sunscreen

Contact Emma Graetz on 0418 898 430 or
emmagraetz@gmail.com to RSVP by March 1st
or for any questions you might have.



WANT TO TRY SOCCER?
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME AT OUR FREE SESSIONS

COME & TRY

4-17YO ~ MIXED + GIRLS ONLY OPTIONS

WED 21/2 **3:30-4:30PM**

HAHNDORF PRIMARY SCHOOL

WED 21/2 & WED 28/2 **5-6PM**

ROB KILPATRICK PARK, PINE AVENUE

WWW.HAHNDORFSC.COM

ZOOPER DOOPERS ARE BACK!

Friday Lunchtime

\$1

Proceeds to charity (TBA)

Get That Diary Out

February

Friday 16th

Chapel, 9am - 5SM

Wednesday 21st

Foundation Rest Day

Thursday 22nd

Cybersafety Parent Webinar - 7.30pm

Friday 23rd

Chapel, 9am - Cornerstone

Tuesday 27th

Assembly, 9am

Wednesday 28th

Foundation Rest Day

Thursday 29th

Band Rehearsal, 8.30am

Courier Cup

March

Friday 1st

Chapel, 9am - 6BW

Wednesday 6th

Foundation Rest Day

Thursday 7th

Band Rehearsal, 8.30am

Friday 8th

Chapel, 9am - Pastor Greg, giving of Year 2 Bibles

Mt Barker Lutheran Netball Club

TRIALS

TUESDAY 5TH MARCH AND
WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH
11&U 5PM-6PM
13&U 6PM-7PM

SAVE
THE
DATES

WEDNESDAY 6TH MARCH AND
THURSDAY 14TH MARCH
INTERS 5:30-7:00PM
SENIORS 7:00-8:30PM

TUESDAY 19TH AND WEDNESDAY 20TH
IF REQUIRED
TIMES WILL BE ADVISED

@ St Mark's Lutheran School Courts