



David Booth with the mural at this weeks Assembly

## Term 4 Week 5

# Faith Focus

*Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Romans 12:2*

Conforming is so often easy to do. It requires little effort or thought. Just do what everyone around you tells you to do. Just follow the personal opinions of social media Influencers and Content Creators, they must be right, everyone is following them, right? No, personal opinions aren't that special, after all everyone has one.

There may be safety and comfort in following the well-travelled road, even a sense of belonging in being part of the crowd. The problem with following the crowd is only the ones at the front can see the impending cliff drop. Jesus didn't call a crowd; he called twelve close followers. Jesus wasn't there to impress the crowd, he came to transform hearts, minds and ultimately lives, one at a time. Extreme makeovers are quite popular today, houses, businesses, and personal wardrobes. The more extreme the better the program ratings. But Jesus' call for our transformation is to experience a change in our priorities, and our commitments, a change of heart and mind. He is not asking us to run off and be a hermit in the bush, he is asking us to transform where we are in our everyday lives. When my son was young, he had a toy that could change from a robot into an airplane, I always struggled to remember the first move that would begin the transformation. Without this first move nothing happened, it stayed as a robot. The first move to transform our lives into the hope that we were created for has already been done.

Jesus came into the world to transform our everyday lives; God has made the first move. The way we choose to think about ourselves, and others, is the next move. Rather than being focused on the physical, and temporary world around us, we can set our thoughts and heart on why Jesus became one of us.

Why else would Christians celebrate Christmas every year?

*Meredith Page*

# Principal Ponderings



## Lest We Forget

I had the privilege of accompanying our School Captains, Mia and Austin, to the cenotaph in Mann Street on Monday morning for the Remembrance Day commemoration. They laid a wreath on behalf of our community. The ceremony was a reminder of the ultimate service and sacrifice our armed defence forces have made for our freedom.

Our school value of service says - 'We give generously of our time and talents for others.' Each day we seek to model this to our students and community and instil in them a service heart for others. In our day to day lives there is a degree of sacrifice that will always accompany any of our acts of service. That's the nature of service, it requires us to put others' needs before our own. As we nurture service to our community, with our Kind Words and Kind Actions, we are grateful it doesn't cost us what it did to so many of our service personnel.

Lest We Forget the ultimate service and sacrifice of our past and present ADF and their families. so many.

## Volunteering at St Mark's

Our students and staff have benefited greatly again this year from the contributions of time, skills and abilities from many volunteers. We thank you greatly for all you have contributed. To be ready for the 2025 school year we will email details of the 3 requirements all volunteers must complete to volunteer in the school environment.

Please note the RRHAN-EC is due for a 3-year

refresher training and all volunteers will need to complete this training before the 31st December 2024 to be eligible for volunteering in 2025.

If at any time you require any assistance to complete the training, or access to technology, please contact Fiona Harley in our school office.

## Important whole school diary dates

Monday, 25 November

- Pupil free day. YMCA will be offering care for the day.

Wednesday 11 December

- 7pm, whole school closing service for all students and families

James Heyne  
Principal

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**REMINDER**

## Parking

Please be courteous to our neighbours when parking on Exhibition Road and Hampden Road by ensuring you are not impeding accessibility to driveways or other pathways.



# School life

## Year 6 Camp

The Year 6s attended an action packed 2 days at the Murraylands Aquatics Centre for their final primary school camp. The group participated in a variety of water sports including: kneeboarding, skiing, catamaraning, small boat handling, kayaking and stand up paddleboarding. Students overcame challenges for themselves or supported others to by applying their YCDI keys. An exhausted group of students returned late Friday afternoon with grins wider than the Murray River ready for a restful weekend!



## Year 6 Camp by Oscar Wright

On Thursday and Friday of week 4, we went to the Murray Lands Aquatics for camp. Our activities were catamarans, knee-boarding, stand up paddle boarding, kayaking, small boat handling, and skiing.

My top three favourite things were

1. Knee-boarding
2. Stand up paddle boarding
3. Skiing which was a bit challenging but fun





# School life



## REMINDER

### Kmart Wishing Tree

On Wednesday, members of the St Mark's Choir performed at the launch of the Kmart Wishing Tree. We encourage the St Mark's community to get behind the great work of the Salvation Army who partner with Kmart and customers to give to the Kmart Wishing Appeal.



### Lost Property

We are getting quite the collection of lost property at the front office, especially from some of our recent events. If you think anything something may be yours, please come and check the front office. We would love for it all to find its way back to their owners before the end of term!

### Swimming

This week, year 1-4 students have been participating in swimming lessons. Students have been learning about water safety, and well as other important water based skills.



## Congratulations



### SAPSASA Selection

Congratulations to Josh N, Micah M, Abigail P (6) and Lily Duncan (5) who have successfully made the BARKER District tennis team. Students will participate against other Districts in Week 6- November 20th- 22nd. Good luck!



# School life

## Remembrance Day

On Monday, in honour of Remembrance Day, School Captains, Mia and Austin, laid a wreath on by Cenotaph.



RECONSTRUCT REMAKE  
RECYCLE REJUVENATE  
REVAMP REDESIGN RENOVATE  
**REIMAGINE**  
RETHINK REUSE RECREATE  
REFURBISH RESTORE RENEW  
REMODEL REDO REVISE

## REIMAGINE MARKET

*Saving Planet A in a Festive Way*

A student-led initiative coming to St Mark's in Week 6.

Throughout our learning this year the Year 5 & 6 students have been investigating the impact human actions have on our planet and the choices they can make to reduce this impact. More details will come your way soon but for now we are seeking:

- Old stockings (with runs, holes are great!)
- Old fabric and clothes (not fit for wear/purpose)
- Excess flowers suitable for drying (e.g. lavender, rose petals, hydrangea, etc.)
- Glass jars and bottles with lids
- Small plastic containers (e.g. condiment containers)
- Herbs (which are in abundance in your garden)
- Unwanted dress jewelry
- Unwanted long sleeve tops
- Unwanted or ripped teddies (under 40cm)
- Old school uniforms (not fit for wearing – stained, ripped, etc)
- Kids size 4-16 unwanted clothes (E.g. shirts, dresses, shorts, skirts, jeans, pjs). NO underwear or socks.
- Unwanted sewing thread
- Excess vegetable and herb seeds
- Old pegs
- Front of Old Christmas Cards
- End of roll Christmas wrapping paper

If you also love our planet and have some of the above items please deliver to the Year 5 & 6 classrooms. Thank you



## ALWS Gifts of Grace: Perfect gifts for precious people!

Families will receive a ALWS Gifts of Grace catalogue this week filled with different gifts that bless others. Each Gift of Grace you choose represents the help you give someone in need through ALWS. Find out more [here](#).



## Library News

### Book Fair

Thank you so much for your support of Book Fair last week. The commission we earned from book sales has allowed us to receive approximately \$3000 worth of free books!!

A very excited group of children came to the Library to receive the prizes they won in the Lucky Ticket draw. A few children were absent from the photo. The winners were: Lucas(FH), Tristan (FD), Jayvir(FD), Bastian(1US), Cristian(1W), Elijah M(1W), Belle(2KB), Harrison(2KB), Lilly M(4K), Phoenix(4K), Milan(4A) and Hugo(6KW).

### Book Club

Issue 8 Book Club order forms are going home this week. This is the final Book Club Order for the year. This will be a quick order to make sure that books arrive before the end of term. Orders will be due on Friday 22nd November which is the end of Week 6 – next week!

### Premier's Reading Challenge

Children should have received their medals and certificates this week. We had a fantastic year of participation with 319 students completing the challenge! I look forward to another year of great reading in 2025.

Louise Paterson  
Librarian



## Achievement Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards at our Week 5 Assembly:

Zoe B	Macson H	Jace C	Hamish H	Cooper H
William R	Lucas M	Isla M	Hamish G	Brookelyn M
Tristan C	Logan G	Isabella V	Grayson C	Bastian P
Tom J	Lewis S	Inara M	Grace W	Avery B
Thomas M	Jed H	Immanuel K	Frank G	Austin S
Rylee E	Jasper W	Hunter C	Finn S	Austin H
Ruby W	James G	Hugo W	Felix K	Archie H
Poppy D	Jake K	Hugo R	Eve W	Amelia H
Oscar W	Jacob S	Harry E	Eloisa P	Alma H
Michael C	Jack H	Harrison W	Cristian Y	Ada K
Madeline V	Jack B			



# Diary

## November

21 Nov - Reimagine Market

25 Nov - Pupil Free Day

26 - Assembly

## December

6 Dec - Donut Day & Casual Day

7 Dec - Mt Barker Christmas Pageant

Dec 9 - Step Up Day

Dec 10 - Class parties

11 Dec - Whole School End of Year Service



## Friday Chapel

Chapel is held every Friday at 9am in the Hall. We look forward to Cornerstone College leading us in chapel tomorrow. Parents and friends are all welcome to attend.

*Save the Date*



Mount Barker  
**Christmas**  
PAGEANT

St Mark's is participating in the Mt Barker Christmas Pageant on

**Saturday, 7 December 2024**  
**from 9:45am**

Further information about how your child can participate will be shared through the school newsletter in early Term 4!

St Mark's looks forward to sharing the message of Christmas with the local community!



**MT BARKER UNITED FC**

**ARE YOU INTERESTED  
IN PLAYING CLUB SOCCER  
THIS SEASON?**

» *Mt Barker United is the place for you!*

» *Spaces available for players aged 5-18*

*For more information contact: [info@mbusc.com.au](mailto:info@mbusc.com.au)*