



Experimenting with sound

Term 1 Week 2

Faith Focus

Hope

Hope... it's a short word that we probably use quite often, probably without even realising we are saying it. We might say...

- I hope it's a nice day today.
- I hope my team wins.
- I hope it will rain soon.
- I hope you have a great day.
- I hope it's not too hot today.

I wonder how you have used the word, HOPE. Have you used it today?

Every morning before the day begins with students at St Mark's, the teachers gather together for devotion. Last week I led our staff devotions. On the first day of the school year we prayed for our students and families.

On the next day I asked the staff to think about what they hope for in their work and service at St Mark's for 2025 and to write these things down.

We held our hopes in our hands and in prayer, placed them in the hands of our God of Hope. The hope we have in God is not just a wishful thinking, cross your fingers, 'please, please, please' kind of hope.

Romans 5:5 says, 'And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love.'

This tells us that what we hope for in God will not lead to disappointment.

What we hope for in God is a confident hope because we are not relying on our human selves. Instead, we are placing our trust and faith in God to provide. God loves us and He keeps His promises. He gives examples of this all throughout the Bible and in our life experiences too.

Our 4 values at St Mark's are love, courage, curiosity and service. Hope fits nicely under the value of courage where 'we welcome challenges as opportunities to learn and grow, moving forward with optimism and confidence.' Hope is the optimistic and confident hope we have in God because He is our gracious, loving God.

As we begin our 2025 school year together, I encourage you to take some time in thought and prayer, placing your hopes in the hands of our God of hope, the ever faithful provider of all good things.

My prayer for us all in 2025 comes from Romans 15:13...

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Cheryl Leibelt

Principal Ponderings

How do I?

At the start of a new school year “How do I?” is a common question heard at St Mark’s. With students in new classes adjusting to new spaces and routines and new families and staff experiencing a year of firsts, there’s a lot to find out about how we do things at St Mark’s.

Our school is a busy place with many moving parts. To assist us functioning well we develop and implement common ways and expectations about how we do things. On Monday you will have received via email our Parent Information Handbook 2025 which provides an overview of key aspects of our operations. If you have any questions relating to the information provided, please contact the school office. A more comprehensive information booklet is currently being prepared for you.

We also regularly provide reminders of routines and procedures in our weekly school newsletter.

If you have any questions regarding “how we do things”, please contact the office.

Eat, Meet, and Greet Night

As advised on Tuesday, we have cancelled the ‘Eat’ and games component of our evening. Staff do look forward to meeting and greeting you tonight in our learning spaces.

Our schedule for the open school and classroom visits is as follows.

- 6:45pm - Foundation and Year 1
- 7:05pm - Year 2 and Year 3
- 7:25pm - Year 4 and year 5
- 7:45pm - Year 6

2025 Student Leaders

The announcement and blessing of elected SRC and House Captains will occur during tomorrow’s Chapel.

James Heyne
Principal



CORRECTION

Band and Choir times

Please note that band and choir times were incorrect on the term calendar. Band is 8:20-9:15am on Wednesdays and Choir is 2:40-3:15pm on Thursdays.

The Courier Cup

Courier Cup is our one and only (school) swimming event. Based at the Mountain Pool, Mount Barker, a variety of schools from across the Adelaide Hills gather to participate. St. Mark’s has a proud history of being involved and the school team is selected based on results of trials.

A third practice session with the selected team will be in Week 4- DATE- TBA

What events can my son/daughter be involved in?

Students can race in three 1 lap individual races, plus a relay/s.

- Freestyle
- Backstroke
- Breaststroke
- Butterfly

Students race in the following age groups:

- 10 Years- Born in 2015
- 11 Years- Born in 2014
- 12 Years- Born in 2013

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

School life

House Captain Speeches

Year 4-6 students gathered in their House teams to listen and vote for their House Captains. There were a few nerves but each nominee showed great courage and were able to confidently express how they could lead their teams this year. House Captains will be announced at tomorrow's Chapel along with elected SRC members.



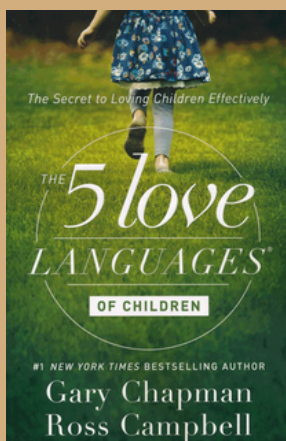
Foundations Receiving Bag Tags

On Friday, Lyn, a member of the church, gifted personalised name tags for each of our new Foundation students—what a beautiful gesture of welcome!



Wellbeing Resources

At St Mark's we offer book resources to parents and caregivers to better understand and support their children.



Parents can borrow books about grief, loss, bullying, anxiety, depression, parenting, boundaries, friendship, feelings, faith and more from the Parent Library in the Wellbeing Room.

The book of the week is 'The 5 Love Languages of Children'. This book assists parents to understand and speak their children's love language.

Please see Julian, our Pastoral Care Worker, if you are interested in borrowing a book. If Julian is not available, someone in the front office will be able to help you.

School life

Year 2 Sound

On Tuesday Year 2 students were given the opportunity to play with sound. They had the choice of several instruments and were able to see what different sounds they could make.



Sports Day - P&F

BBQ

P&F will be hosting the BBQ at Sports Day with sausages, yiros and drinks on sale with vegetarian and gluten free options.

Cake Stall

We humbly ask for donations of cakes, muffins, biscuits, cookies, honey crackles, etc. Please make sure to provide a note with a name and **list ingredients** for the items.

Volunteers

Volunteers will be required for the setup, cooking, serving and clean up of the bbq and serving at the cake stall.

Rosters for both stalls of allotted times for each year level to volunteer will be created.

Snack Pack

Parents will be able to purchase snack packs for students to enjoy at the break time on sports day. The pack will be \$7 and include popcorn, Le Snak, Haribo gummies, an apple and fruit box.

Order forms and Flexischools will be provided in Week 4 for ordering.

St Mark's Routines

How to report absentees?

There are three options available to families when needing to report a student is absent.

Families can either send an email to contact@stmarks.sa.edu.au, complete an absentee via the St Mark's School app, or telephone the front office on 08 8391 0444.

Please refrain from emailing the teacher directly in regards to absentees.

School life

Year 6 Space Lander And Pizza Muffin Challenge

Students were challenged on Wednesday to practise their collaboration through working together. They had to create a space lander to deliver their cargo safely to the ground. They also baked pizza muffins when everyone was given different roles without knowing what the end product was. This activity helped them realise how to work together and communicate at each step so they could successfully build their space lander and pizza muffins.



Library News

Book Club

Scholastic Book Club Order forms have been sent home this week. Orders and payment are due by Friday 14th February. Your support of Book Club and Book Fair earns the school rewards 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. 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 over 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-Year 2 Orange dot**, **Year 3-5 Green dot** and **Year 6 Blue dot**. Children in Foundation – Year 2 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 all the medals are handed out. Please encourage your children to participate in the challenge.





Whispers of Hope

At St Mark's we care for our students and families. One way we do this is through Whispers of Hope.

Whispers of Hope is an invitation to families to act as a whisper of hope in our community by cooking a meal, emergency school pick up or drop off, emergency babysitting or any other ways families are able to care for others. I invite you to email contact@stmarks.sa.edu.au with your availability for Term 1 Whispers of Hope.

Should you require further information about Whispers of Hope, please do not hesitate to contact me, Julian Feldstein the Pastoral Care Worker, through the front office on 83910444.

Thank you to the families who were able to assist with the Whispers of Hope initiative last year. You truly are the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

Julian Feldstein
Pastoral Care Worker



Diary

February

11 Feb - Assembly
24 Feb - School Board Meeting
25 Feb - Assembly
27 Feb - Courier Cup

March

3-5 Mar - Year 5 Camp
10 Mar - Public Holiday
11 Mar - Assembly
12 Mar - NAPLAN commences
14 Mar - Sports Day

Friday Chapel

Chapel is held every Friday at 9am in the Hall. We look forward to Cheryl Liebelt leading us in chapel tomorrow.

Parents and friends are all welcome to attend, as well as come to the staff room before or after Chapel for coffee, tea or hot chocolate and biscuits!



Community News and Events



Come and join us



Year 7 in 2027 information evening

**If you have a child currently in Year 5,
this is for you!**

Enrolment for Year 7 begins now. We invite you and your child to meet key staff and students, learn about our Middle School program and explore Cornerstone College.



SCAN TO BOOK

Wednesday 19 February
5pm Session 1 or, 7pm Session 2

Your Potential. Your Purpose. Your Place.

PRESENTED BY MOUNT BARKER DISTRICT COUNCIL

WEDNESDAYS HIT DIFFERENT

COMMUNITY EVENT FOR YOUTH, FILLED WITH:

**SPORT - MUSIC - FREE FOOD
ART WORKSHOPS - GIANT
JENGA - CRICKET- BEAN BAGS
CONNECT FOUR & MORE**

KEITH STEPHENSON PARK

2:30PM - 4:30PM

FREE EVENT

STARTING **WED 12TH FEBRUARY**,
THEN EVERY 2ND WED OF THE MONTH

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO **ALL YOUNG PEOPLE**
COME AND GO AS YOU PLEASE!

VISIT THE **CHILD & YOUTH** PAGE ON THE
COUNCIL WEBSITE FOR QUERIES

Community News and Events

2025

TRIALS TRIALS TRIALS



**MT BARKER
LUTHERAN**

March 11 Tuesday	5:00pm - 6:00pm 6:00pm - 7:00pm	Under 11's Under 13's
March 13 Thursday	5:00pm - 6:30pm 6:30pm - 8:00pm	Inters Seniors
March 17 Monday	5:00pm - 6:00pm 6:00pm - 7:00pm	Under 11's Under 13's
March 19 Wednesday	5:00pm - 6:30pm 6:30pm - 8:00pm	Inters Seniors

Additional trials will be held if needed for required age groups

COACHES

expression of interest

Mt Barker Lutheran Netball Club invites expressions of interest for senior and junior coaches.



Use the QR code below or link in bio to register.




FREE

come and try
karate lesson

In Your Area

National Karate
Academies™



0437 523 913

www.nationalkarate.com.au

Mount Barker Dojo

Training on Monday nights
Juniors: 6:30pm (5-12yo)
Seniors: 7pm (13yo & over)
St Marks Lutheran Church Hall
35 Hampden Road, Mount Barker

NKA Miranda Kai is a family oriented form of martial arts developed by Professor Steve Miranda. With over 50 years of practical experience, he uses traditional principles and techniques, tailored and updated to suit our ever changing world.

Perfect for developing valuable life skills

- focus and self-discipline
- gain confidence
- respect for self and others
- learn practical self-defence techniques
- lots of fun in a structured environment

All Miranda Kai instructors have undertaken full police and working with children checks and hold current senior first aid certificates.

As a life-long Mount Barker resident and former St Marks Lutheran Primary School student, I am delighted to have taken on the role of instructor at the Mt Barker Dojo.

We would like to welcome all current St Marks students and any interested family or friends to a free 'come and try' session in the Church Hall on Monday evenings.

Bookings not necessary, but please arrive early for introductions before class.

- Dal Sempai Dave -