



Relax and Chill Lunch Club

Term 1 Week 4

Faith Focus

Blackberries, blackberries, blackberries!

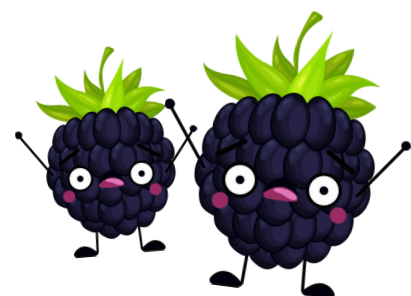
They are delicious to eat, but boy oh boy, are they hard to get rid of on our property! It's blackberry season and I have been enjoying harvesting punnets of the yummy berries; eating them fresh for breakfast, adding them to smoothies, making blackberry muffins, freezing them, and of course there is scrumptious blackberry pie, and blackberry jam. But along with the wonderful fruit-filled joy of these berries, comes their invasive wild side.

Our property in Bridgewater was covered in blackberry bushes when we first bought it. It took many a working bee with willing extended family to begin to get them under control. But keeping these ever growing, ever trailing, constantly sprouting weeds at bay, is a never-ending task. One morning, while yet again attempting to remove blackberry runners from my vegetable garden, it occurred to me that there are things in our lives that 'take over', that 'suffocate' the good, that invade our minds and our hearts. Without constant vigilance and regular 'weeding', bad habits and sin can root themselves in our lives. So, on this particular morning, my blackberries turned me to prayer, a prayer that God would help me to keep my life free of the useless stuff, the garbage, *'the sin that so easily entangles'*. *Hebrews 12:1*

Over time it became apparent that, unless I planted something in their place, the blackberries would just re-establish themselves in the same location from which they had been removed. And so it is with our lives. As we root out the negative mindsets, the unhelpful behaviours, the 'sin' that distances us from God, we need to sow something else in its place. We need to fill those areas with good things, with an 'others-focus', with love and kindness, so that the bad habits don't just come creeping back.

Who would have thought that God could teach me such truths through the humble blackberry! Clearly, he speaks to us through his creation. What a blessing!

Karen Moseley



Principal Ponderings

Active Citizens

After questioning from several Year 3 students yesterday, I worked out that *Participating in My Local Community as an Active Citizen* is one of their Term 1 learning units. They asked me about what I am paid to do and if there is anywhere I volunteer and don't get paid. I'm delighted Year 3's are delving into this unit of work, as it will assist them to identify the valuable and essential contribution volunteers make to community groups.

Our staff spent time at the beginning of the year creating awareness of the history of the school. It was clearly evident the difference our volunteers have made to our school. We would be less today without our volunteers' contributions.

Even though life has become more crowded in many ways, the contribution of volunteers is as important as ever. I appreciate the challenges just keeping up with life creates but my request and encouragement to us all is to see if each of us can identify one opportunity this year to volunteer.

It might be on a committee, helping at one of the many P&F events they hold, listening to students read, helping out on an excursion or camp, making a meal for our Carernet support of families in need, or any other way you'll hear about from us. Every contribution is always gratefully received.

I look forward to my follow up conversations with our Year 3 students, to hear more on their learning about volunteers.

James Heyne
Principal

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Sports Day - P&F

BBQ

P&F will be hosting a 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 **ingredient list**.

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, with 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 break time on Sports Day. The pack will be \$7 and include popcorn, Le Snak, Haribo gummies, an apple and fruit box.

Flexischools order forms are open for ordering.

Classroom Request

Woolworths are currently offering Minecraft Cubeez with every \$30 you spend. If you happen to shop at Woolworth and receive them but don't collect yourself, Foundation would very much appreciate them. Any donations can be dropped off to our classroom



School life

Year 4 Sustainability

We had Mrs Schmarr come and visit the class and discuss sustainable practices here at St Mark's. We then had her show us around the school, so we could see all of the areas she mentioned – solar panels, green bins, rainwater tanks, vegetable garden.



Shoe Mix up

During Dodgeball on Wednesday, Week 2, some “Alpha Black” lace up shoes got mixed up. Size 4 shoes were taken home by another student. If your child wears these in size 5, can you please check you have the correct size. If you have them, please drop them to the front office to swap with the size 5s left behind.



Year 5 Explores ‘People Power: Australian Democracy’

This term, our Year 5 students have been learning about Australian Democracy and the power of the people in decision-making. To deepen their understanding, they participated in a mock election, experiencing first-hand how our voting system works.

With six representatives campaigning for votes, students cast their choices through a secret ballot, using preferential voting. After carefully counting the votes together, they saw democracy in action as the winner was officially announced!

It was a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their civic knowledge and appreciation for the electoral process.



School life

Cornerstone College Legacy Project

On Tuesday we had 35 Year 12 Students visit us from Cornerstone College. The Legacy Project is a Cornerstone initiative which sees students work in service to their sister school, St Mark's.

They joined in with different classes and engaged with St Mark's students across a variety of activities including PE, reading, music, games, and more. This project will see Cornerstone students visiting each week for the rest of term.



School life

Mess About – Year 6 – Electric Circuits

What is a Mess About? At St Mark's we develop understanding in Science through a Concept Based Inquiry (CBI) approach. On Friday the Year 6's engaged in a 'Mess About'. This was an initial session where students got to play with a banana piano, musical flowers, foot controlled PacMan, screaming carrots and an alarmed cookie jar. So why play? To discover, to question and to provide an engaging basis for further inquiry.



The Courier Cup

Final training session for our Swimming team is tomorrow (Friday, 21 February) 7.20am-8.20am at the Mountain Pool.



Sports Day

Friday, 14 March

School begins at 12.40pm on Sports Day!

St Mark's first whole school event for 2025 is our annual Sports Day. Due to the number of events, St Mark's Sports Day is held over two days; Wednesday, 12 March and Friday, 14 March.

Only students in Years 4-6 are involved on Wednesday for the 600m run and discus, (beginning at 9.15am approx) 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.

On Friday, 14 March, from 12.40pm, the whole school will be competing in a number of athletic and novelty events in competition for the Sports Day House Shield. For those families who wish to have lunch at the school prior to the event, you can arrive at 12:00pm. The P&F will have sausages and their famous yiros available for purchase. Otherwise, students are expected to have had lunch and be in their classrooms at 12:40pm for roll call. The presentation of the House Shield is scheduled for 5:30pm with a community tea run by the P&F to follow.

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. **All students need a (plain) house coloured polo shirt in their team colour**

HOUSE COLOURS:

BARKER- Yellow | DUNN- Red

DAVISON- Blue | STURT- Green

We look forward to seeing you there supporting your team and wearing your house colours - the community spirit on this day is great to see. A program and map of the events will be included in the newsletter soon.

Lunch Clubs

Lunch Clubs have started for the year! The students discuss, with their SRC representative which clubs they would like. The SRC then organise and lead these clubs during lunch time across the week. Some of the students favourite clubs are Dance club, Dodgeball, Coding, Brick, and Chill Clubs.



School Board

St Mark's Lutheran School Board Nominations

Nominations for four (4) positions on the St Mark's Lutheran School Board are now open.

School Board holds governance responsibility for St Mark's Lutheran School. It comprises up to nine members including:

- up to five members required to be members of the St Mark's Lutheran Church or another Lutheran Church; and
- up to four members who are practicing Christians from the school, or wider community.

The positions open for nomination are for a three year term. Current School Board members completing their current term are able to re-nominate.

School Board membership is voluntary and requires members to meet once a month during the school year, with some out of session activities from time to time.

Applicants will ideally have experience in one or more of the following areas: financial management, risk management, governance and policy development, information technology, education, facilities and master planning. These skills will complement School Board's current skills profile.

School Board membership is elected by members of the St Mark's Lutheran School Mt Barker Inc, at an Annual Election Meeting in May. Elections are based on recommendation from School Board.

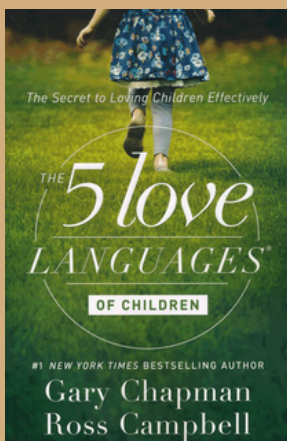
The Board are also seeking nominations for its Finance, Risk and Audit sub-committee. Applicants to FRAC will ideally have skills in finance, accounting and risk management.

Nomination forms are available by contacting School Board Chairperson Casey Work on 0422 070 986 or chair@stmarks.sa.edu.au, or by contacting Leanne Llewellyn at the School Front Office on 08 8391 0444 or llewellyn@stmarks.sa.edu.au

Completed nomination forms are to be provided to the Chairperson chair@stmarks.sa.edu.au by Monday, 3rd March 2025.

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.



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

24 Feb - School Board Meeting
25 Feb - Assembly
25 Feb - NAPLAN practice test
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
24 Mar - Year 4 Camp

Friday Chapel

Chapel is held every Friday at 9am in the Hall. We look forward to Tom Brennan, the principal at Cornerstone College 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



Nitro Nat: Phantastic Physics Show

The Phantastic Physics Show is a journey of discovering what makes things move. We explore energy and forces with Phantastic science demonstrations that you don't get to see every day!

High powered lasers, cannons that suck in the air around us and we finish with a BANG! This is a show for any age, small kids to big kids.

Great for school aged kids!

*Children 2 years & under free

Tickets: \$12.00

Date/Time: 14 April 2025, 11AM

Available at the Murray Bridge Regional Gallery (08)

8539 1420 or

www.ticketbooth.com.au

WEDNESDAYS
HIT DIFFERENT

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

KEITH STEPHENSON PARK

2:30PM - 4:30PM FREE EVENT

NEW DATE: WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

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

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 -

Community News and Events

BUILDING POSITIVE FUTURES

sensory friendly event

FOR YOUNG ADULTS LIVING WITH AUTISM

Wednesday 26th March 5 - 7pm

At Mount Barker Community Centre, 3 Dumas Street, Mount Barker

An event for young adults (15 - 25) and their parents and care givers. Discover training, employment and participation opportunities with a focus on building confidence and access to services.

All welcome, the event will be relevant to people living with a range of disabilities.

Guest Speaker panel covering:

- Autism, barriers and successes •
- Service providers Expo • Free BBQ •

Bookings: events.humanitix.com/host/mtbcc



AUTISM FAMILY DAY

FREE EXPO

CONNECT, THRIVE, BELONG

Tuesday 15th April 2025
Auchendarroch House, Mount Barker

A safe and inclusive event for families with children aged 14 and under

10.30am
Expo starts at Auchendarroch House

12.00pm
quiet lunches available at Oak and Iron Tavern

2.30pm
screening of Minecraft film in Wallis cinema

- Native animal interactions • Slime making
- Sensory friendly Glow stick disco
- Football skills on the lawn • Sensory safe zone
- Services on display

Bookings Essential: events.humanitix.com/host/mtbcc



ink pot arts inc

★ ADELAIDE FRINGE ★

Alice in Wonderland

Book, Music and Lyrics by Janet Vales Uogl and Mark Friedman
Based on the classic story by Lewis Carroll

For tickets visit:
Alice in Wonderland | Adelaide Fringe

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH ORIGIN™ THEATRICAL ON BEHALF OF THEATRICAL RIGHTS WORLDWIDE, NEW YORK

Saturday 22nd February
Saturday 1st March at 5pm

Sunday 23rd February
Sunday 2nd March at 2pm

The Living Arts Centre ~ 27 Sims Road, Mt Barker SA 5251
Info: quill@inkpot.com.au www.inkpot.com.au



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ROB KILPATRICK PARK, PINE AVENUE

PLUS! 19 & 26 FEB 6-7PM
GOALKEEPING SKILLS

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