



Music Workshop with Jon Maddin

Term 1 Week 5

Faith Focus

As someone new to the St Mark's school community, I have been truly blessed by the warm welcome I've received over the past four weeks. From friendly smiles in the hallway, to thoughtful gestures of kindness, it has been a joy to not only witness the love and care that students and staff show each other each day, but also to receive this.

In the mornings, I have watched Year 6 students helping Foundation students settle into the routines of school, guiding them with patience and encouragement. During recess and lunch, I have observed students including others in their games and sharing sports equipment and play spaces. Throughout the day, I have noticed staff listening and supporting students helping them to navigate a new school year filled with new teachers, new classrooms and new peers. These small but powerful moments of kindness all reflect the heart of Jesus' teaching - *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.* John 13:34

From sending a kind message to someone, sharing a genuine smile, offering words of encouragement or donating items no longer needed, there are many ways that we can show love to each other, and in doing so "be Jesus' hands and feet" in our community. Another way we can serve, and show Jesus' love to each other in our St Mark's community is through the Whispers of Hope program. This program allows families to support one another in times of need, whether by cooking a meal, providing emergency school pick-up or drop-off, offering emergency babysitting, or finding other ways to care for those around us.

I invite you to consider how you could act as a whisper of hope in our community by showing love and kindness. Should you require further information about Whispers of Hope, please do not hesitate to contact our Pastoral Care Worker, Julian Feldstein through the front office.

Rachel Harrip

Principal Ponderings

Empowered students

One of the benefits of working in a school, is seeing how simply students can convey a message. Our 6K class did this beautifully at assembly on Tuesday. They very simply showed the meaning and application of our 5 You Can Do It keys – Organisation, Persistence, Resilience, Getting Along and Confidence. They showed how each key is important by itself, but the real power of each key is harnessed when the keys are used together.

When I see students putting the keys into practice, it is clear how empowered they are and the greater sense of optimism they exhibit. This is why we'll keep prioritising time in our week to build our student's capacity to be develop their growth with our 5 keys.

Help us help you

We all value quality communication between home and school and welcome your questions and our opportunity to share information about your child.

With the nature and busyness of the school day for staff, with a focus on caring for students and then staff commitments to meetings and professional conversations, it is important that to support quality communication we are able to set aside time to meet with you and give you our full attention. During the morning drop off and afternoon pick up we are not able to do this.

To help us help you, please either email teachers or phone the office in advance to let us know you would like to meet. We can then schedule a convenient time with you to give you our full attention and have quality communication.

I ask for your understanding when staff will need to let you know they can't meet right now but will welcome scheduling a time to meet.

It's that time

It's common at this time of the year for our newsletter to be longer than usual. It's for good reason as we prepare for our upcoming Sport's Day. Besides information on how Sport's Day will run there's a list of requests for help from our P&F, to enable them to complete their valuable role on the day. Please consider how you can support our community through helping the P&F.

Silent time

My apologies if you have felt I haven't verbally responded to you this week. Unfortunately, I've completely lost my voice and need to rest it, at least for this week. As we explained to students, I still welcome your conversations and will find other ways to respond.

James Heyne
Principal

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School life

Jon Madin Music Workshop

Year 2, 3 and 4 students were lucky enough to take part in a musical workshop with Jon Madin last Friday. These workshops included a range of fun wacky instruments, made by Jon himself. Students got the chance to play echocellos, tuned carpet tiles, bicycle powered contraptions, marimbas, and the always fun, Farty Footpumper! Students were bowing, jumping, pumping, banging, and made some wonderful sounds with a lot of joy, teaching them music through play.



School life

Jon Madia Music Workshop



School life

Year 1 and Year 5 Buddies

Buddies have been getting to know each other since the start of term, with regular catch ups. This week, the Year 5's took their Year 1 buddies to enjoy the beautiful weather outside, and read stories together by the Cross.



Chapel offerings

The SRC have decided this term to support ALWS who are celebrating 75 years of service. Their goal for 2025 is "celebrating 75 years by supporting 75,000 children". Chapel offerings, and other donations from Zooper Doopers and casual days, will go towards this worthy cause. To learn more about ALWS check out their website www.alws75.org.au/



Thank you from Hungry No More

Thank you for the generous support of the Hungry No More program in Term 4, 2024.

With the help and generosity of St Mark's school we were able to give out over two hundred hampers at Christmas.



School life

Year 3 Active Citizens

Year 3's put their HASS learning into action on Tuesday afternoon by being active citizens in our St Mark's community. They worked in groups, volunteering to help out around the school after planning what they would do, how they would do it and what they would need.



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.



School life

Sports Day - P&F

BBQ

P&F will be hosting a BBQ at Sport's Day with sausages, yiros and drinks on sale, with vegetarian and gluten free options available.

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** (no nuts please). These can be dropped off to the Front Office from 8.15am onwards on Friday 14th March.

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.

Snack packs are live on Flexischools, or can be completed by paper form which have been sent home earlier this week.

Classroom Request

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



Week 5 Assembly

This weeks Assembly was led by Lawson and Lucy, with both Year 6 classes presenting their learnings on the Keys to Success and the pieces of me.





Sport's Day

Friday, 14 March

School begins at 12.40pm on Sport's Day!

St Mark's first whole school event for 2025 is our annual Sport's Day. Due to the number of events, St Mark's Sports Day is held over two days; **Friday*, 7 March and Friday, 14 March.**

***PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE 600M RUN AND DISCUS EVENTS!**

Only students in Years 4-6 are involved on Friday, 7 March (Week 6) 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. **Year 4-6 students will need to wear house coloured polo tops for this day.**

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 from 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.

An overview of the day is as follows:

- Session 1 - 1- 4pm - Athletic/Tabloid Events
- Session 2 4.30-5pm - Novelty/House Events
- Session 3 5-5.30pm - Whole School Events
- (Relays, Parent Teacher race)
- Presentation of the House Shield at 5.30pm with a community meal, 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.



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.

To find out more about the role of a School Board Member please contact our 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 books of the week are 'Praising Girls Well' & 'Praising Boys Well'. These books assist parents with the art of praising and encouraging their children in an age-appropriate way.

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

March

3-5 Mar - Year 5 Camp
7 Mar - Gifting of Year 2 Bibles @ Chapel
7 Mar - 600m & Discus
10 Mar - Public Holiday
11 Mar - Assembly
12 Mar - NAPLAN commences
14 Mar - Sports Day
24-26 Mar - Year 4 Camp

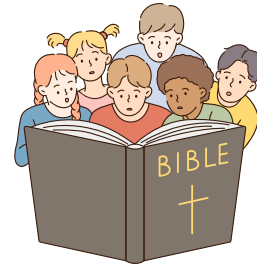
April

Apr 2 - Learning Conversations
Apr 3 - Athletics

Friday Chapel

Chapel is held every Friday at 9am in the Hall. We look forward to Class 6K 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

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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



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

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ADELAIDE HILLS ALL GIRLS AUSKICK CENTRE

Summit Sport & Rec Park, 304 Springs Rd, Mount Barker
Wednesdays, 4:00 to 5:00PM
6 SESSIONS - 5th March to 9th April
Open to children aged 4 to 12 (must be turning 5 in 2025)
This is a modified Auskick program for \$55 and 6 weeks only.

REGISTER HERE