Dunn, winners of the St Mark's Sports day 2025

Term 1 Week 8

Faith Focus

At St Mark's..... We are valued for who we are.

This is the very first of our three learning principles. What a wonderful opportunity it is to celebrate this learning principle as we mark Harmony Week this week and Harmony Day this Friday, March 21st. The theme for Harmony Day is 'Everyone Belongs.' Harmony Day celebrates our country's cultural diversity including the wonderfully rich history of our First Nations Australians and was inspired by the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which was declared in 1966.

At St Mark's we celebrate the ever-growing cultural diversity in our own community. We value and embrace students and their families from Australia's First Nation Peoples, and who are from other countries or connected to other countries including India, England, Sweden, South Africa, Kuwait, Zimbabwe, America, Israel, Ukraine, Germany, Italy, Greece, New Zealand, China, Japan and many, many more.

At St Mark's, we don't just celebrate our cultural diversity on one day, we value each child for who they are every day. We value that every member of our community is a unique child of God and brings with them something wonderful to shape our community into the rich learning space it is. Just as the most intricate puzzle, art piece or musical composition requires every component to produce an end masterpiece, our school would not be the same if you weren't here. In the colourful hallways of our Junior Primary end you will see the words from Psalm 139, 'You are a child of God....You are wonderfully made, dearly loved and precious in His sight. Before God made you, He knew you....there is no one else like you!'

At St Mark's, we are valued for who we are. At St Mark's, we value you!

Dani Barolo

Principal Ponderings



Thank you

What a wonderful day Monday was. One of the joys of my role is being part of events like our sports day, when our community gathers. It's a credit to our staff, students, P&F team and families for adapting to the change of day and format to make Monday's sports day a success. I appreciated the spirit and enthusiasm of our students supporting and encouraging each other, the commitment and support our staff provided to our students, the service of our P&F and volunteers to provide the catering and the support of families and friends. Thank you all.

Learning conversations

Last week you received an email invitation to book your time to spend time with your child's teacher at our upcoming Learning Conversations. If you have any questions or need assistance with the booking process, please contact the school office.

We look forward to providing you with the opportunity to gain an insight into your child's progress at St Mark's.

James Heyne Principal



A big thank you to all the volunteers that helped with the cake stall and BBQ at Sport's Day. A great deal of effort went into the day and we are happy at how it worked out. Thanks to the families that donated the tasty cakes and treats. The donations are always appreciated by the community. For those parents who kindly donated cupcakes and biscuits, please come collect your containers via the school staffroom tables.

Great work Dunn on winning.

Harmony Day

Tomorrow, Friday March 21 is Harmony Day, a day that celebrates Australia's amazing cultural diversity. During this week, schools celebrate inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for all Australians, from the traditional custodians of the land to those who have come from many countries around the world.

This year we will be celebrating Harmony Day, Week 8 Friday by wearing orange or cultural dress (e.g. Sari, Kimono, lederhosen). Please note if students do not wish to wear orange, they will wear their normal school uniform for the day.

Over the past 70 years, more than seven and a half million migrants have made Australia home



2027 Envolments

For families with children due to start school in 2027, we ask that you complete an enrolment application as soon as possible. Please contact the front office for an application form if needed.

School life



Sport's Day

On Monday, St Mark's held their annual Sport's Day for 2025. Throughout the day, students were seen across the school in their house-coloured polo tops, participating in various events. The senior events were sprints, shotput, javelin, long jump, high jump, goal shooting and the relay, as well as novelty games such as the sack race, egg and spoon race, and knee ball. The junior participants were involved in vertical jump, beanbag throw, beanbag push, sprints, hoop jump, soccer kick, hockey hit, and some novelty games like rob the nest and water bucket relay. In the end, Dunn came out on top once again, taking home the glorious trophy. At the end of the day, fun was still had by all teams during this exciting occasion, always having and go and doing their best.

Our two sport teachers (Mr Scott and Mrs Sanders) have provided some interesting information about the day. This year, Sports Day was postponed to the following Monday and changed to school hours. This meant there were different break times, and the event timetable was changed. Mrs Sanders (our newest sport teacher for the Year 1 and Foundation students) got to experience her first Sport's Day as a sport teacher. She enjoyed the community atmosphere and hearing others encourage each other. Mr Scott and his helpers started preparing for Sports Day as early as week 4. He was up nice and early to finish setting up on the day for 2-3 hours, with help from staff and Cornerstone College students. Overall the day was a huge success and everyone had fun.

Written by Ruby and Elsa as part the St Mark's Scribes



School life



Relay Events



School life







PET Meet and Greet

The P&F invite you to attend a meet and greet as part of our next meeting. When Tuesday 1st April (Week 10), 6pm in the school staffroom.

Drinks and nibbles will be provided as we chat about P&F involvement in the school community. Hope to see you there.

School life











School life





School life





School life





School life



Novelty Events



School life

Novelty Events





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

Mar 21 - Harmony Day Mar 24-26 - Year 4 Camp

April

- Apr 1 P&F Meet and Greet, 6pm Apr 2 - Learning Conversations Apr 3 - FO Mid Year Playdate Apr 4 - Athletics Apr 4 - Casual Day Apr 7 - Swimming Championships Apr 8 - Assembly Apr 8 - Learning Conversations Apr 9 - Year 6 Woodhouse Excursion Apr 10 - Learning Conversations
- Apr 11 End of Term 1

Friday Chapel

Friday Chapel Chapel is held every Friday at 9am in the Hall. We look forward to Class 4A 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





St. Mark's Lutheran OSHC 37 Hampden Road, Mount Barker, 5251 Wayne Copley 0499 591 642 OSHC Support Team P 08 8200 2516 E oshc@ymcasa.org.au fl/YMCA SA OSHC

Community News and Events



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





Autumn adventures at Woodhouse Adventure Park!

Whether the kids are attending the 'Drop & Go' UNPLUGGED program, you're visiting as a family for the day, or settling in for an overnight stay, you can expect memorable screen-free fun at Woodhouse in Piccadilly!

School Holidays UNPLUGGED, our 'drop & go' kids-only day camps, feature adventures designed to keep primary school kids active and entertained all day... with a different theme daily, including Challenge Hill obstacle course and Tube Slide (weather permitting).

Just \$78 per day (Scout Members save 20%) from 9am to 5pm.

www.woodhouse.org.au





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