

Recess play

Term 2 Week 1

Faith Focus

Be God's Mirror

Have you ever looked into a mirror? What do you see? Your own reflection — smiling back when you smile, frowning when you frown. A mirror gives back exactly what it sees.

Kindness works much the same way.

When we speak gentle, thoughtful words — a simple “thank you,” “please,” “you’ve got this,” or “can I help?” — it’s like smiling into a mirror. More often than not, that kindness is reflected right back at us. Acts of kindness — whether it’s sharing, helping, or listening — ripple outward. One small gesture can brighten someone’s entire day... and inspire them to pass it on.

Jesus reminds us in Luke 6:31, “Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

This simple yet powerful verse speaks into a world that can sometimes feel rushed, distracted, or unkind. Choosing to reflect love, patience, and compassion brings light and warmth into our homes, classrooms, and communities.

As parents and caregivers, the way we speak, act, and respond becomes the “mirror” our children look into as they learn how to engage with the world. What a precious opportunity we have — to reflect God’s grace in the everyday moments, and to show our children what it means to live loved and love well.

And yes — tomorrow you might ask me, “But what about when kindness isn’t returned, Loredana?” My answer will always be... Be kind anyway!

I often think that when someone doesn’t reflect kindness back, it may be because they’ve rarely received it themselves. And that’s where we come in. Because we know we are deeply loved by an awesome God, we’re called to be His mirror in this world — showing others what kindness looks like, even when it’s not returned. We may not be on the receiving end of their kindness... but someone else might be.

May your week be filled with moments of kindness — given and received — like shining reflections of God’s heart in the lives of those around you.

Sending you all the blessing of kindness.

Loredana Saracini

Principal Ponderings

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Andrew Boesch and I will be at St Mark's in Term 2 while Mr Heyne is enjoying a well-earned break and taking some long service leave. I come to St Mark's from Immanuel Gawler, where I've worked as Learning Coordinator for the past eight years. I've had the good fortune to have worked in Lutheran schools for almost thirty years. Prior to my role in Gawler I was Principal at Spring Head Lutheran School in Mount Torrens. I've also taught at Lutheran schools in Hahndorf, Melbourne, Mildura and Darwin, as well as spending six years on School Council in Hahndorf.

I live in Mount Barker, where I have been for the past eighteen years. Although I enjoy the drive to Gawler, it has been nice to reduce my driving time down to five minutes.

I'm delighted to have the opportunity to join the St Mark's community for this term. You have a wonderful school here with very caring and hard-working staff, and very friendly, positive students. I have really appreciated the warm welcome I've received.

While we're on the topic of welcomes, we welcome back Ms Saracini, Mrs Page and Mrs Otto-Williams who were on extended leave in Term 1. We also welcome some new students to our school: Isabella in Year 1, Isabella in Year 3 and Khadija in Year 4. It's lovely to have you with us and to be able to welcome your families to our community.

We've already had a busy start to Term 2, and for two of our student leaders, Jake and Lucy, it started last week when they did a terrific job of representing St Mark's at the ANZAC day service in Mount Barker. We had our photo day on Tuesday and our P&F are running the barbecue at the St Mark's polling booth this Saturday. Mrs Paterson has been working hard to coordinate the Scholastic Book Fair next week, while our Year 3 teachers and students are getting ready to go on camp to Aldinga in Week 3 (14-16 May). We're also really looking forward to the Special Friends Day which is coming up in Week 4 (23 May). I'm told this is the first time this event will be held since COVID restrictions were introduced.

Some reminders from Term 1:

I was able to spend a significant amount of time speaking with Mr Heyne before he left to go on leave and there are some reminders I would like to pass on from the end of Term 1 on his behalf.

Regarding uniform:

- Sports jumpers are only worn with sports uniform – not as an alternative to the brown school jumper;
- Boys wear grey socks with their summer and winter uniforms;
- Rain jackets or coats are only worn over the top of winter jumpers when outside. They are not a substitute for jumpers; and
- Sneakers and sandals are only worn with sports uniform and are to be predominately white.

Crossing the road outside the church near the Hampden Road/Alexandrina Road corner was another item of concern. This section of road gets very busy at the end of the day and poses potential hazards for parents crossing with students. Please cross at the designated pedestrian crossing on Hampden Road.

I'm very much looking forward to my time here at St Mark's and to getting to know the students, staff, and members of the community.

Andrew Boesch
Acting Principal



P&F Mother's Day stall

Thursday, 8 May

\$5 & \$10 gifts for purchase.

Students to bring money Thursday morning.
Those absent can purchase a gift on Friday, 9 May.

Election Day BBQ

Saturday, 3 May

7am-2pm

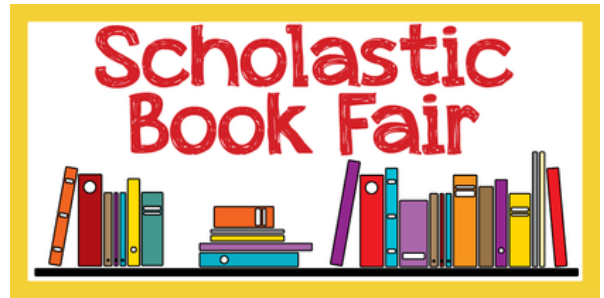
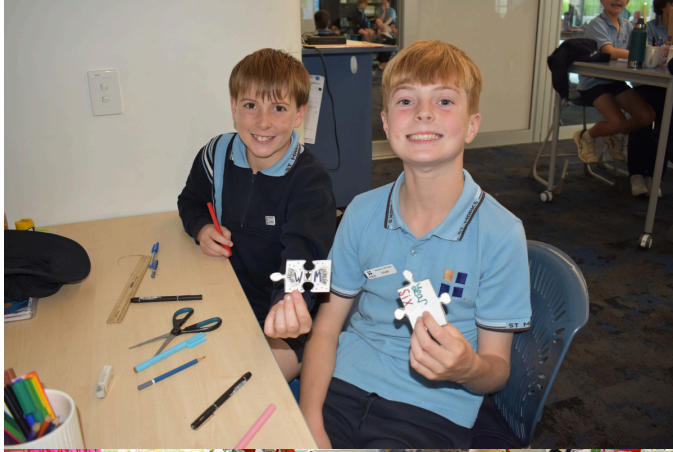
Snags and drinks for sale
Bike shed next to the library.



School life

Connections

This week classes have focused on building connections, with each other and their teachers after returning from the school holidays.



Library News

Book Fair is coming!!!

Book Fair will now be held in Week 2 of Term 2.

During that week parents and children can visit the Library to view and purchase books. More updates later!!



REMINDER



There is NO library borrowing next week due to Book Fair

Year 6 Micro-Stories

In Term 1, Year 6's learnt how to write micro-stories. This is a complete story written in 100 words. They learnt how to use concise language and other language tools (metaphors, similes etc) to write an engaging text. Below is the micro-story written by Lucy H.

Nailed it

A massive crowd gathered. A shadow of a man walked up Golgotha hill. Bloody scars all over his body. His long brown hair danced in the wind, but this was no happy dance, this was a sad one. A man in gold armor shouts out

“Move it!”

They nailed his hands and feet to the cross. He hung there like a dead mouse. Mysterious clouds fill the air crying like nothing else exists. BANG! Lightning crashed violently to the ground knocking people out.

“This man truly is the son of God,” said a guard.

This was the day Jesus died.

School life

Chapel

A joyful Opening Chapel led by Ms Saracini kicked off the term, with a message that Kind Words and Kind Actions matter - they are like the mirror that reflects goodness into the world. There was also singing and dancing to some of our favourite songs!



Next Friday, 9 May (Week 2), we have our annual House Sports competition.

The Junior Primary (Foundation – Year 3) will be participating in a number of relay events such as Rob the Nest, Running Relay, The Sack Race and a Water Bucket Relay- this will be based at St. Mark's and completed in their year level. Starting at 11am and finishing at approximately 12pm.

The Senior Primary (Year 4 – 6) will be competing in a round robin competition of Netball, Soccer or Football. Soccer at St Mark's, Netball and AFL across the road at the Mount Barker Oval/netball courts. Starting at 11am- finishing at 12.45pm.

All students will need to wear their house sports top and/or sports clothes for the day. You are more than welcome to come and support your child at this event.

If you can assist in umpiring a Senior Primary game (Soccer, Netball or AFL) please contact Mr Scott- it would be fantastic to have a few volunteers to support our teachers. Volunteers must have applicable St Mark's Volunteer Checks completed.



School life

Year 1 Mess about

The Year 1's explored a variety of different pieces of technology from the past and present. From this they hope to gain a better understanding of the difference between hardware and software and how they make digital systems work.



Seesaw Parent Communication

We are excited to share with you some important information about how we will be communicating your child's learning progress throughout the school year.

We will continue to use Seesaw as our primary platform to share timely and meaningful insights into your child's learning journey. This platform will allow you to view your child's progress regularly, and celebrate their growth and achievements as they happen.

Each term, your child's classroom teacher will post four individual learning updates to Seesaw:

- 2 posts from English
- 2 posts from Mathematics

Each post will include:

- A clear description of the task or learning activity.
- A comment from the teacher that provides specific feedback on your child's work and that clearly articulates your child's achievement.

In addition to classroom learning posts, specialist teachers (e.g. German, Health & Physical Education, Music) will contribute a minimum of two snapshot posts per term. These posts will also include an informative description of your child's year level experience in the specialist area.

This approach will continue to strengthen the connection between school and home by keeping you informed and engaged in your child's learning throughout the year.

If you haven't already, we encourage you to ensure you are connected to your child's Seesaw account so you don't miss any updates. Please feel free to reach out to the office if you need help setting this up.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to sharing your child's learning journey with you through Seesaw.

TERM 2 2025

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Regular events	Mainly Music 9.30 - 11.00am <i>Church</i>	Whole School Assembly (odd weeks) 9am	Band 8.20-9.15am Lunch Orders	Choir 2.40-3.15pm <i>Hall</i>	Whole School Chapel 9.00am <i>Hall</i>
1	Apr 28 School Term Starts Years 1-6 Opening Chapel 9.00am - <i>Hall</i>	Apr 29 School Photo Day	Apr 30	May 1	May 2
2	May 5 Book Fair Week	May 6 Maths Olympiad	May 7	May 8 P&F Mother's Day Stall	May 9 Chapel 9.00am - <i>Hall</i> House Sports
3	May 12 Year 2 Excursion Museum	May 13 Whole School Assembly 9am - <i>Hall</i>	May 14 Year 3 Camp Camp Ngaltingga Aldinga	May 15 Year 3 Camp Camp Ngaltingga Aldinga	May 16 Chapel 9.00am - <i>Hall</i> FO Mid Year Playdate Year 3 Camp Camp Ngaltingga Aldinga
4	May 19	May 20 Cross Country SAPSASA	May 21	May 22	May 23 Chapel 9.00am - <i>Hall</i> Special Friends Afternoon
5	May 26 Reconciliation Week AFL SAPSASA	May 27 Whole School Assembly 9am - <i>Hall</i> AFL SAPSASA	May 28 FO Mid Year Playdate AFL SAPSASA	May 29	May 30 Chapel 9.00am - <i>Hall</i> Year 6 HILS Cornerstone
6	Jun 2	Jun 3	Jun 4 FO Mid Year Parent Info Evening	Jun 5	Jun 6 Pupil Free Day
7	Jun 9 Public Holiday	Jun 10 Whole School Assembly 9am - <i>Hall</i>	Jun 11 Maths Olympiad	Jun 12 Nature Play Day	Jun 13 Chapel 9.00am - <i>Hall</i> Jun 14 P&F PJ & Pizza Night
8	Jun 16	Jun 17	Jun 18 Netball SAPSASA	Jun 19 FO Mid Year Transition Visit 1 Netball SAPSASA	Jun 20 Chapel 9.00am - <i>Hall</i> FO Zoo Excursion Netball SAPSASA
9	Jun 23	Jun 24 Whole School Assembly 9am - <i>Hall</i>	Jun 25	Jun 26 FO Mid Year Transition Visit 2	Jun 27 School Term Ends Closing Chapel 9.00am - <i>Hall</i>
10	Jun 30	Jul 1	Jul 2	Jul 3	Jul 4 Professional Learning Week



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 2 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.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank families who were able to assist in the Whispers of Hope program in Term 1 of 2025. You truly are the hands and feet of Christ in our community. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to consider how you might contribute to the care of others in our community in Term 2.

Julian Feldstein
Pastoral Care Worker



Diary

May

May 5-9 - Book Fair Week
 May 7 - Maths Olympiad
 May 8 - P&F Mother's Day Stall
 May 9 - House Sports
 May 12 - Year 2 Excursion
 May 13 - Assembly
 May 14-16 - Year 3 Camp
 May 16 - Mid Year Foundation Playdate
 May 23 - Special Friends Afternoon

Community News and Events



ENROL
 Grasshopper
SOCCER
TERM 2

MOUNT BARKER
 Saturday Mornings
 St Francis De Sales College

HAHNDORF
 Sunday Mornings
 St Michaels Primary

✓ DEVELOP SOCCER SKILLS
 ✓ NON-COMPETITIVE AND FUN
 ✓ TEAMWORK AND SPORTSMANSHIP

CONTACT US ☎ 0489 203 989 📍 grasshoppersoccer.com.au/adelaide_hills



nab AFL Auskick

GOOD CLEAN FUN

PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK

**MOUNT BARKER FC (SA)
 AUSKICK CENTRE**

Benson Radiology Oval, 2 Howard Lane, Mount Barker

Sundays, 9:30 to 10:30am
 8 SESSIONS - 4th May to 29th June
 Open to children aged 4 to 12 (must be turning 5 in 2025)
 Auskick is FREE with a ORSR Sports voucher or \$100 without

REGISTER HERE

Mt Barker & District Residents' Association
 Presents
ENVIRONMENT MUSTER 2025

WHERE
 162 Flaxley Rd,
 Mt Barker
**KITCHEN FARM
 ADELAIDE HILLS**

WHEN
 Sunday 4th May
 11am - 4pm

Come and join your community and discover ways you can learn about and support your local environment.

Are you interested in volunteering in restoration projects, citizen science activities, and creating bird friendly gardens?

An opportunity to get up close and learn about animals that live near you and how you can help to protect and support them.

Do you love the natural environment and its wildlife but would like to learn why we should protect it and how you can help?

Members of the Mt Barker & District Residents' Association will be available to talk to you about how you can get involved in your community

Free parking and event donations welcomed. Lunch available but bookings will need to be made via the Kitchen Farm - 0460 419 397

Supported by the Mt Barker District Council & Kitchen Farm Adelaide Hills

**KITCHEN FARM
 ADELAIDE HILLS**