



Year 5's greeting the Book Fair delivery truck

Term 2 Week 2

Faith Focus

On Saturday 1, along with a few other staff members, participated in Australian Lutheran World Service's 'Walk My Way' event. Participants chose to either walk 3 or 10 kilometres, fundraising to provide food, schooling and safety for 75,000 vulnerable children impacted by conflict and poverty. ALWS' theme for this event is, 'Step out to give a child a step up,' and they have and will take place all around Australia as they celebrate 75 years of supporting people all around the world.

We began from the historic campus of Australian Lutheran College in North Adelaide, which many of us had a personal connection to as we spent some time there studying theology in education. Our 10 kilometre walk took us along the picturesque River Torrens.

It was a glorious day spent with friends, walking through our city. At the back of my mind, was how wonderful it was to do this for children in our world who don't experience the everyday basics that we do and often take for granted.

Just as we were reminded in last week's newsletter, about opportunities to be God's mirror, giving back the kindness we have received, this was one small way to do so, in a different way.

Once the 'Walk My Way' event was completed and we'd had some time to sit, reflect and enjoy some lunch, I walked back into the city to Rundle Mall. I dropped in to Cibo to grab a coffee. After placing my order and getting ready to pay, the gentleman behind the counter told me that my coffee was free. It had been paid for by a group of young people sitting at a table behind me. I immediately turned around, waved and thanked them. Two of them came over, handed me a piece of paper, and said that they wanted to bless me. As I waited for my coffee, I opened the handwritten note to read John 3:16. 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' Smiling, I placed it in my pocket. After collecting my coffee, I could have simply walked away but God placed it on my heart to go back over to these courageous young Christians, tell them that I was also a Christian, and give them some more money to continue blessing others. Giving and kindness can really be contagious, all because we have been given so much love, grace, forgiveness and kindness from and through Jesus.

'Instead, be kind to each other, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.' Ephesians 4:32

I pray that we all continue to look for opportunities to be a blessing to others.

Cheryl Liebelt

Principal Ponderings

I've had the opportunity to see some really impressive things around the school this week. It's been wonderful to see the leadership shown by the students here. Last Friday I met with three of our school captains, Charlotte, Jake and Lucy (Lawson was absent but I will catch up with him soon) and they told me about their role, their projects from Term 1 and their ideas for Term 2. It's great to have such engaged and enthusiastic student leaders and to hear how active our SRC has been. Thank you to those students who give up their time to be part of the SRC and to Mrs Kluge for her work in supporting them.

As I've been out in the yard, I've had the chance to see our student peer mentors at work, supporting other students who are having difficulty and helping to resolve some of the issues which arise. I've seen students showing some real initiative with organising and running lunchtime clubs to help other students by providing structured activities. I've seen some terrific creativity, like the little pop-up portrait studio which was set up the other day, where students could have free portraits drawn by their peers. I've also seen our Year 6 students doing a fantastic job of supporting their Foundation buddies. I've worked in a lot of schools and visited many more, and this level of student engagement really stands out as something pretty special about St Mark's.

I was fortunate enough to meet a number of parents and friends from St Mark's on the weekend, as I visited the school on election day. The St Mark's P&F did a wonderful job, putting in hours of work to organise and run a very successful barbecue. Thanks to the P&F and to all the volunteers that came along on the day. They raised almost \$800, which is a terrific result. They were at it again this morning, running the Mothers' Day stall and providing students with an opportunity to do something nice for their Mums. We appreciate you giving so generously of your time to support the St Mark's community.

The St Mark's community is also blessed with a very dedicated and caring staff. It's been great to see the positive way they interact with students and families at the school and the way

they are consistently looking to provide support and improve outcomes. On a personal note, I'm really grateful for the support they've provided to me as I've come into the school.

Our book fair this week has created some real excitement for students – thanks again to Mrs Paterson for all your hard work to organise this. I'm looking forward to our House Sports day tomorrow, and I know our students are too. It promises to be a lot of fun – a big thanks to Mr Scott and Mrs Sanders for all their efforts to make this day happen.

I've had a great first couple of weeks and a real highlight has been having the opportunity to meet members of the St Mark's community. Thanks for your patience as I've tried to put names to faces and work out who belongs to whom. I'll close by offering my best wishes to all our Mums for this Sunday. You do a really critical job and I hope you have a wonderful day.

Andrew Boesch
Acting Principal



Second-Hand Uniform Store

Did you know we have a SecondHand Uniform Store located within the school?

Here you are able to purchase preloved uniforms for a discounted price. Ask at the front office and they will be able to help you!

Book Fair

by the St Mark's Scribes

This week, Mrs Paterson had the pleasure of holding Book Fair for our St Mark's students in the library. There were a variety of items being sold, including books, posters, and novelty items.

Book Fair gives us the chance to think about our favourite books and what we enjoy reading. Mrs Paterson shared with us some of her favourite books and authors. She is very interested in reading murder mysteries, and her favourite author is Jane Harper. She also commented that Scar Town is a very popular book in our library and is enjoyed by many students in our school. She also loves this book too!

Mrs. Paterson loves being our school librarian because she likes to see all our students enjoy reading books. A big part of her job is to encourage students to develop a love of reading.

Some of the most popular items sold this year were diaries and journals, a book kit about rocks and minerals, Pokémon and Minecraft books, posters, and other smaller novelty items like the balloon animal erasers, and the axolotl pencil toppers. The money raised from these sales go towards buying new books for our school library.

A memorable moment for Mrs Paterson was back in 2016, when a special visitor came to St Marks dressed up as the Big Cranky Bear.



Student Reviews

There are lots of great books out there, but it can be hard to find the right one. Here are some reviews on excellent books to inspire your next read from Year 6 students.



Scar Town

"This is a very well written novel that takes you right into the adventure and makes you feel like one of the characters. I felt like one of the characters because the setting, how the characters appear, and the climax are all very intriguing and relatable. There are no dull moments in this book."

- Charlotte C



Sunny Makes a Splash

"This is a beautifully written book that takes you into the story with Sunny! I have read this book repeatedly and I never get tired of it. It brings me joy each time I read it. It is about a girl and her summer, about growing up, getting a job and making new friends."

- Asha H

Written by Malakai, Elsa, Lydia, and Ruby.

School life



You are invited to

St Mark's Special Friends Day

We warmly invite our students' special friends – grandparents, relatives, or close family friends – to join us for Special Friends Day.

Friday, 23 May
Starting at 1:40pm

Come and enjoy a memorable afternoon together, with a guided tour of our beautiful school grounds by your special friend, fun classroom activities to share, and a photo booth experience to capture the moment!

It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with your special person and celebrate the learning and community spirit that makes St Mark's so unique.

Bookings are essential – please reserve your visit [here](#)

We can't wait to welcome you to St Mark's for this cherished event!



Dear Parents/Care-givers,

Last year at St Mark's Closing Service, Mr James Heyne, shared with the school community the St Mark's Learning Principles that were refined in 2024 with the support of educational consultant, Karen Schoff.

These three principles are what guide and inform the way we approach teaching and learning here at St Mark's. They are:-

- We are valued for who we are.
- Our learning is real life.
- Feedback helps us grow in our learning.

I am excited to share with you that throughout this term, a team of St Mark's staff will be taking part in valuable professional learning aligned with our school's strategic priority of 'Learning and Growth' as they explore approaches to the teaching of Literacy—specifically reading- as well as Inclusive Education. This professional learning will build on the strong foundations already in place at St Mark's and is designed to further enhance our shared commitment to high quality, evidence informed practice. I look forward to sharing the teams' findings with you later in the term.

Rachel Harrip
Deputy Principal



School life

Year 1 Needs Your Help!

Do you eat chips?

The Year 1 classes would love you to drop in your clean, empty chip packets that are 175g or larger. They are collecting the chip packets to help support the Life FM 'Buddy Blanket' project creating blankets for the homeless this winter.

At St Mark's, our learning **is** real life and this experience is a great opportunity for the Year 1s Science, Christian Studies and English learning this term to enact this!

So get eating and drop off your clean, empty chip packets no later than Thursday 29 May to the Year 1 classrooms to help keep others in our community warm this winter!

...and stay tuned to hear about how the chip packets are used from our Year 1s later in the term.

Thank you for your support
The Year 1 classes



Tomorrow, 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.

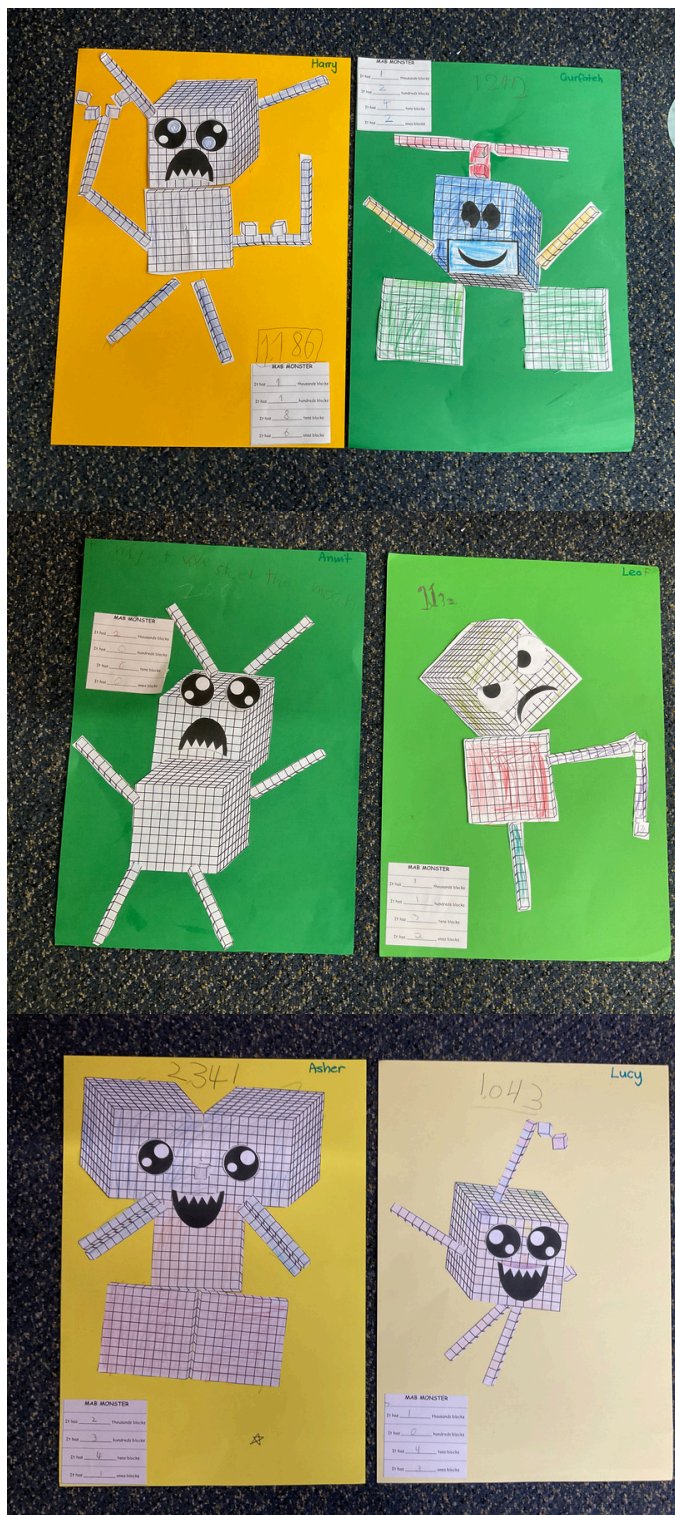
If you can assist in umpiring a Senior Primary game (Soccer, Netball or AFL) please contact Mr Scott- it would be fantastic to have a few volunteers to support our teachers. Volunteers must have applicable St Mark's Volunteer Checks completed.



School life

Year 3 MAB Monsters

Year 3 students have been looking at representing numbers using MAB blocks. Each student created a monster that had 4 digits and then counted to understand the value of their monster.



P&F

P&F had a busy Saturday serving voters their democracy sausages! Acting Principal, Mr Boesch even had a go manning the tongs! Thank you to everyone who came and supported the BBQ.

Today, students got the chance to purchase gifts from the P&F Mother's Day stall. We hope you all have a blessed day on Sunday.

There is a P&F Meeting on Tuesday, 13 May at 6.30pm, where all parents and friends are invited.





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 9 - House Sports
May 12 - Year 2 Excursion
May 13 - Assembly
May 13 - P&F Meeting 6.30pm
May 14-16 - Year 3 Camp
May 16 - Mid Year Foundation Playdate
May 19 - Foundation Playdate 3.15pm
May 21 - Year 3 Playdate 3.15pm
May 23 - Special Friends Day
May 26 - National Reconciliation Week
May 27 - Assembly

June

June 5 - Year 4 Playdate 3.15pm
June 6 - Pupil Free Day

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/adelaidehills



NASA
QUIZ NIGHT

Crunch the numbers, crack the clues, conquer the quiz!

WED 13TH AUGUST
7:00pm to 9:30pm
HOSTED BY ST FRANCIS DE SALES COLLEGE

Quiz questions in a mix of Maths and General Knowledge

Compete in teams of 4 in the following groups:
Primary (Years 5 and 6)
Junior (Years 7 and 8)
Intermediate (Years 9 and 10)
Senior (Years 11 and 12)

 St Francis de Sales COLLEGE



PRESENTED BY MOUNT BARKER DISTRICT COUNCIL

WEDNESDAYS
HIT DIFFERENT

COMMUNITY EVENT FOR YOUTH, FILLED WITH:

MUSIC - SPORT - ART
GIANT JENGA - FREE FOOD & MORE

KEITH STEPHENSON PARK

2:00PM - 4:45PM **FREE EVENT**

WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY

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

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

 MOUNT BARKER DISTRICT COUNCIL