

A Different Ball Game

It's that time of year again footy finals! My footy team made the finals for the second year running. We were the 5th team in the top 5 but our team was a mix of new players, players who were out there to have fun and a handful of experienced players who have played for a few years now. We were the underdogs, coming up against some highly experienced teams comprised of SANFLW players, players who had played together for years and ones who had many finals experience. Although we didn't make it past the first final, we went into the game with great belief in our team. We know that the team that's been on top all season can stumble, while the underdog can rise up and surprise everyone. Finals footy is a different ball game altogether.

Life can feel like that too. Some days we feel on top of the ladder; strong, confident, in control and undefeatable. Other days, we feel like the underdog, unsure if we will get through the challenges in front of us. The good news is that with God, every day is a new day.

The Bible tells us: "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" Lamentations 3:22–23.

So remember, no matter how tough yesterday was, God promises new strength today. He gives us resilience, the ability to keep going even when things are hard. Like my team, a team that never gave up until the final siren, we can stand strong, not in our own strength, but in God's.

Are you're feeling like the favourite or the underdog this week? Just remember that with God, you're never alone on the field. Trust in Him, draw on His strength, and take courage knowing He has already given you what you need to face life's biggest challenges.

....and go Ewe Rams for 2026! 😊

Dani Barolo

Principal Ponderings



Forward Planning

September is the month that we step up our planning for next year. We review what is currently working well and clarify the priority areas we want to continue to improve. Our 2026 school budget provides the resourcing for this. Quite rightly our staff team is our biggest investment in our student's growth. They make the difference. As our budget income is strongly linked to our enrolment numbers, we want to be as accurate as we can with our 2026 enrolment projections.

To assist us in our planning, I ask that any families who may have a change of circumstances that leads to their children not being at St Mark's next year, to please contact Leanne in the front office as soon as possible.

Next term we will begin our process to form our 2026 class groups. If you have any information relating to your child's needs that we are not aware of, that will inform class groups, I ask that you please provide that in writing directly to me jheyne@stmarks.sa.edu.au by the end of this term.

Term 4 pupil free day

We are continuing with our practice to provide a pupil free day for our staff to assist with preparation of our end of year written reports. This will be held on Monday 24th November 2025.

As we will be closed for the day, our OHSC provider, the YMCA, will be offering care for the day.

James Heyne Principal

Parent Volunteer Request

Thank you for everyone who has helped with Concert prep. We have managed to get everything needed to get done, so tomorrow's session is no longer required. Thank you.

Lost Property

A bag was left at pick up. If this is your child's items, please collect from the front office.







Casual Day - Sep 26

This term, our SRC have chosen to put our chapel offerings towards the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The SRC are having a casual day on the last day of term, Friday, 26 September. You can help support people in need by bringing a gold coin donation for the RFDS. Students will have the opportunity to create and fly paper planes, in honour of the RFDS. Together, we can make a difference.







School life



Lightning Carnival

On Wednesday, Year 6 students had the exciting opportunity of going to St Francis and participating in the Lightning Carnival. The Lighting Carnival is where Year 6 students come together from different schools to work as a team and have fun playing sport for the day. They played either netball, basketball, football, or soccer.

It was great to see everybody giving it a go, and putting their best effort in, whether sport is their thing or not. It wasn't about being the best player after all, it was about working well as a team. The Lightning Carnival was also a great opportunity to have a break from work and hang out with friends. Some old friends were reunited, and new ones were made. Overall, the day was a great success, and everybody enjoyed it!

Written by Elsa, Year 6 Student as part of the St Mark's Scribes.



School life

Four Spheres of Earth

This term the Year 6's have been learning about the impact of climate change. Today I will investigate the four spheres, and a fellow Scribe will investigate the documentary they are watching called Fight for Planet A.

The four spheres are the hydrosphere, biosphere, geosphere and the atmosphere, with each sphere making up part of the earth. Hydrosphere is water, biosphere is living, geosphere is natural resources, and the atmosphere is air and clouds.

The first thing students were assigned to do is make a poster in their house team for the sphere that their house team was assigned to with Barker getting biosphere, Davison getting geosphere, Sturt got atmosphere and Dunn getting hydrosphere. After the teams finished their posters, they were put up in the Year 6 classrooms.

The Year 6's were then assigned to find the problem with throwing a cup inside the classroom, this ended up showing how one human action can impact every sphere. So that's it, that's where the Year 6's are up to right now, I'm going to go see you later.

Written by Malakai, Year 6 Student as part of the St Mark's Scribes.





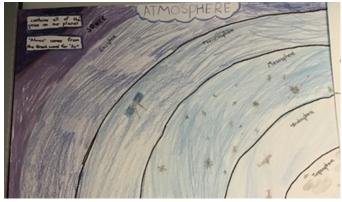
Climate Change

In science, the Year 6's have also been learning about climate change. They are watching a three-part documentary called 'Fight for Planet A: Our Climate Challenge' which talks about our carbon emissions; where they come from, why they matter and how to reduce them.

According to Craig Reucassel, presenter of the documentary, in 2020, every Australian was producing approximately 2.6kg of CO2 per hour. This is over four times the global average and has led to dramatic environmental changes including increased wildfires and coral bleaching.

Fortunately, there are things we can do. Switching to renewable energy, turning off appliances, installing a water-saving showerhead, walking, cycling or taking public transport instead of driving, choosing local produce and plenty more. Together, we can fight this issue and put a stop to the terrible effects of climate change.

Written by Ruby, Year 6 Student as part of the St Mark's Scribes.





School life

Year 1 Shape Mess About

This week, Year 1 students begun exploring 2D shapes and 3D shapes with a Mess About. We are looking forward to exploring these more in the coming weeks.





Cabaret

On Friday, 5 September, Week 7, there was the Cornerstone Cabaret. This year's theme was Hollywood in the Hills. Some of our St Mark's students performed in the choir and/or band. Choir performed the song Firework by Katy Perry. The songs that the band performed were Oompa Loompa, and High High Hopes.

Cabaret was an exciting experience for the students in Years 4 to 6. Multiple musical groups at Cornerstone from Years 7 - 12 performed songs that they may have written or found online. Special guest artists Ella and Sienna performed some of their own songs. They talked a little bit about their career and they mentioned their new song coming out soon.

Written by Lydia, Year 6 Student as part of the St Mark's Scribes.



ST MARKS PRESENTS SELLING FAST!

EDDIE THE PENGUIS SAVES THE WORLD

JUNIOR PRIMARY CONCERT 2025





BOOKINGS NOW OPEN!

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24 MATINEE PERFORMANCES

BAND, FD, 1W, 2M, 3MOW, 4K AT 9:30AM CHOIR, FH, 1U, 2MA, 3L, 4AY AT 11:30AM

EVENING PERFORMANCE

BAND, FD, 1W, 2M, 3MOW, 4K AT 7:00PM

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH

EVENING PERFORMANCE

CHOIR, FH, 1U, 2MA, 3L, 4AY AT 7:00PM

BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN, TO BOOK YOUR TICKETS CLICK HERE

WE LOOK FORWARD TO FAMILIES JOINING US FOR WHAT PROMISES TO BE A WONDERFUL JUNIOR PRIMARY CONCERT!



Diary

September

Sep 12 - Chapel

Sep 16 - Assembly

Sep 19 - Chapel

Sep 24-25 - JP Concert

Sep 26 - Chapel

Sep 26 - Last Day Term 3

October

Oct 13 - Term 4 starts + Opening Chapel

Oct 17 - Cross Country

Oct 24 - Chapel

Oct 24 - Colour Run



Friday Chapel

Chapel is held every Friday at 9am in the Hall. We look forward to 5M leading us in Chapel tomorrow.

Parents and friends are all welcome to attend, and to join us in the staff room before and after Chapel for coffee, tea, hot chocolate and biscuits!







September 29. October 10 2025

MOUNT BARKER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
29 Sept	30 Sept	1 Oct	2 Oct	3 Oct	4 Oct	5 Oct
Sourdough Starter 1-3 PM \$5 Ages 12 Plus	Computer Game Design 9-11am \$5 Ages 6 plus	Bubble Wand Whittling 11am-12pm \$5 Ages 5 plus	Make a Pom Pom 1-2.30pm Free Ages 5 plus	Free Play Activities Board Games Lego Puzzles	Free Play Activities Board Games Lego Puzzles	Library Closed
6 Oct PUBLIC HOLIDAY	7 Oct Dream Catcher 10.30am- 11.30am 11.45am-12.45pm \$5 Ages 6 plus	8 Oct Miniature Nature Worlds 11am-12pm \$5 Ages 5 plus Skating Through Trouble book launch 2-3pm Free Skateboard Art 3-4pm \$12 Ages 8-12	9 Oct Adelaide Hills Farmers Market Presenting Mini Makers Market at Mann Street 4-7.30Pm	10 Oct Free Play Activities – Board Games Lego Puzzles	11 Oct Free Play Activities Board Games Lego Puzzles	12 Oct Library Closed

Bookings at https://mbcl.eventbrite.com.au

Community News and Events



OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE



Vacation Care | 29 Sept - 10

WEEK 1

Monday 29 September

Incursion

Board and Giant Lawn Games



Enjoy giant lawn games play classic card and board games, and get creative by designing your very own board game or card set!

Start: 9:00am Finish: 3:00pm

Outcomes: 1, 3, 4

Tuesday

30 September

In-House

Mad Scientists



Create dazzling crystals, make your own lava lamps, and craft erupting volcano

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Wednesday

1 October

Excursion

Healthy Kicks At West Adelaide FC



Celebrate 175 years of YMCA with AFL Max. Face 4 fun-filled quarters promoting healthy bodies, minds, food choices, and teamwork! Depart: 8:30am Return: 2:00pm Transport: Private Bus

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Thursday

2 October

Excursion Inflatable Zone



Get ready for some bouncy fun at Inflatable Zone!

Depart: 8:45am Return:1:30pm Transport: Private Bus

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3

Friday

3 October

In-House





Come dressed as your favourite Superhero. Design your own superhero masks craft powerful cuffs, and create heroic pop stick characters!

Outcomes: 1, 3, 4

WEEK 2

Monday



Tuesday

7 October

In-House

Sensory Seekers



Tackle a thrilling obstacle course, get hands-on with cloud dough, and make your own stress balls!

Outcomes: 1, 3

Wednesday

8 October

Incursion

Build a Bear



Make your old bear to take home. Give it a new name. dress it up and build a cozy little home using recycled materials

Outcomes: 4, 5

Thursday

9 October

In-House

Disco Day



Dance, twist, and groove with musical statues, limbo, and Just Dance!

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Friday

10 October

Excursion

Movie Day



We are heading to the cinema to see Bad Gus 2. then bringing the movie magic to life with themed

Depart: 9:00am Return: 1:00pm Walking

Outcomes: 2, 3, 4, 5



Book your session via the Xplor Home App Visit sa.ymca.org.au/OSHC for more information

St. Mark's Lutheran OSHC 37 Hampden Road, Mount Barker, 5251 **Kylie Craig** 0499 591 662

OSHC Support Team P 08 8200 2516 E oshc@ymcasa.org.au f/YMCA SA OSHC



Community News and Events





Spring into Adventure 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 \$80 per day (Scout Members save 20%) from 9am to 5pm.

PLUS check out the Events page on our website for exciting events, perfect for keeping the whole family active and entertained this Spring, including Outdoor Laser Skirmish and camping on the October Long Weekend!.

www.woodhouse.org.au





