



Mid Year Foundation's playing with their Year 5 Buddies

Term 4 Week 4

Faith Focus

This weekend's Adelaide Christmas pageant marks the beginning of an exciting season — one filled with joy, colour, music, and anticipation. For many families, the pageant is one of the first signs that Christmas is near.

In the Church year, this season of waiting and preparation is called Advent. Advent invites us to pause in the busyness and prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus — the greatest gift of all. Just as we prepare our homes with decorations, trees, and lights, Advent reminds us to prepare our hearts with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Families have many traditions that help us get ready for Christmas — lighting Advent candles, opening an Advent calendar, setting up the tree, or singing carols together. Each one is a way of watching, waiting, and making room for Jesus in our celebrations and in our hearts.

As many people come together for the pageant tomorrow, may it be a reminder of the wonder of this season — that God's love came to us in Jesus, bringing light and joy to the world.

“Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.” — Luke 3:4

Prayer:

Loving God,
Thank You for this season of Advent — a time to prepare and to wait for Jesus.
Help us to slow down, notice Your goodness, and share Your love with others.
Bless our school, our families, and our community as we celebrate together.
May Your light shine brightly through all we do.
Amen.

Rachel Harrip

Principal Ponderings

As you have heard me often affirm, our staff are the amazing foundation of St Mark's. Each day they provide excellent care, nurture and learning experiences for our students. I'm pleased to provide an update on our classroom teaching roles in 2026. We have the same classroom teaching team as 2025 with only a small number of changes to year levels for some teachers.

Next week I will provide an update on our specialist and support teachers, additional leadership roles for teachers, admin, office and LSO staff. In all, we will have over 40 staff that provide the wide range of services required for our school to thrive.

Foundation W - Rebekah Wright
Foundation D - Katy Driver
Foundation MY - Leanne Mibus

Year 1H - Kelly Hassold
Year 1US - Jenny Uebergang
- Jade Schubert
(returns from Term 2 (Fri))

Year 2M - Rachel Mackenzie
Year 2L - Cheryl Liebelt

Year 3MOW- Liz Marsh (Mon-Wed)
- Siobhan Otto-Williams (Th-Fr)
Year 3M - Anthea Marshall

Year 4K - Anna Kotzikas
Year 4AY - Lisa Angwin (Mon, Tues, Thur, Fri)
- Moz Yeoward (Wed)

Year 5H - Rebecca Hansford
Year 5M - Brianna Menz

Year 6WM - Sheridan Wilson (Mon-Wed)
- Karen Moseley (Thur, Fri)
Year 6K - Amanda Kluge

James Heyne
Principal

Important dates not to miss

Wednesday, 10th December at 7pm

Whole School Closing Service for all students.

Monday, 24th November

Pupil Free School Closure Day (YMCA operating to provide care for the day).

Friday, 5th December

Colour Run in the afternoon.

2026 Term Dates:

Term One

Tuesday 27th January 2026* - Friday, 10th April 2026

(*Foundation students begin Wednesday 28th January 2026)

Term Two

Monday 27th April to Friday 26th June 2026

Term Three

Monday 20th July to Friday 25th September

Term Four

Monday 12th October to Wednesday 9th December 2026

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Year 2 Excursion

Year 2 students had their excursion to the Planetarium. They were taken on an immersive journey through space, with stars and constellations coming alive. There was also STEM activities and lots of fun learning to be had!



Foundation Symbols

Miss Williams took FH to the Church with Pastor Greg to further their learnings around Christian Symbols and discussed the meanings around them. They also shared stories around other signs and symbols that they had seen around our community.

Parking Reminder

Please be aware that our accessible parking, marked with the accessibility symbol, is reserved for members of our school community who have the appropriate permits.

We thank you for your understanding and for respecting our school community members.

Please be courteous to our neighbours when parking on Exhibition Road and Hampden Road by ensuring you are not impeding accessibility to driveways and other pathways.

Please use the designated pedestrian crossings on Hampden and Exhibition Roads, to ensure the safety of our students is maintained at all times.



REIMAGINE MARKET

A student-led initiative coming to St Mark's on Thursday, Week 6.

As part of the Year 5 & 6 Business and Economics learning, our students are busy preparing a range of sustainably produced products and services to sell at our annual market event.

More details will come your way soon but for now we are seeking:

- Kids sized t-shirts, pants and dresses ready to have a new home.
- Old dress ups/costumes.
- Outgrown shoes with lots of life still in them.
- Pre-loved stuffed animals .
- Buttons (any shape and size).
- Soft drink can tabs.
- Socks (the odd sock, a holey sock, etc.).
- Jars with lids of all sizes.

If you also love our planet and have some of the above items, please deliver them to the front office and let the team know they are ready to be

REiMAGiNEd!

Thank you!



RECONSTRUCT REMAKE
RECYCLE REJUVENATE
REVAMP REDESIGN RENOVATE
REIMAGINE
RETHINK REUSE RECREATE
REFURBISH RESTORE RENEW
REMODEL REDO REVISE

School life

Year 1 Camp

The Year 1 students enjoyed their first camp experience at Narnu Farm last week. During their stay, they were able to learn about life in the past through activities such as butter making, mudbrick making, playing pioneer games and exploring the old farm machinery. Some of the highlights for many of the children were holding chickens and guinea pigs as well as feeding the many different animals at the farm. It was a fun and busy camp for all with many happy memories made!



School life

Year 1 Camp



Diary

November

Nov 3-7 - Year 1 Swim Week
Nov 6-7 - Year 6 camp
Nov 7 - Chapel
Nov 10-14 - Year 2-4 Swim Week
Nov 11 - Assembly
Nov 13 - Champions Challenge
Nov 14 - Chapel
Nov 14 - Foundation Afternoon of Fun
Nov 17-21 - FO Swim Week
Nov 20 - Reimagine Markets
Nov 21 - Year 6 Transition to Cornerstone
Nov 24 - Pupil Free Day
Nov 25 - Assembly

Friday Chapel

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

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



Kids in Years 4 – 6! Join us for our 2025 ...



Sunday November 16, 1:30 – 3:30pm
St Mark's Church Link
Bring \$4.00, Enthusiasm and Your Friends

Please bring a hat and a water bottle for the GooseChase Scavenger Hunt around the school grounds.

Contact Emma Graetz on 0418 898 430 or emmagraetz@gmail.com to RSVP by Friday November 14th or for any questions you might have.

Looking forward to seeing you and your friends there!





Mission and Ministry

All Parents and Caregivers welcome!

**3.45pm, Thursday,
6 November 2025
@ St Mark's School Library**

At our get together we'll discuss how our school families and congregation can work together in our preparation for the 2025 Mt Barker Pageant.

I look forward to welcoming you to St Mark's for a coffee, cake, and conversation on how together we can continue to do God's work for St Mark's church, school, and beyond.

Rachel Harrip
Deputy Principal

**RSVP Wednesday, 5 November
via school office - 8391 0444**



COSTUME TRY ONS

Be part of the magic and join the Mount Barker Christmas Pageant!



You don't have to be part of a group entry to be in the Pageant!

School-age children, teens and adults are invited to take part by riding on one of the Committee's themed floats.



As well as people for floats, we also look for outgoing individuals to entertain the spectators as clowns, or in the important positions of Banner Carriers and Christmas Trees at the head of the parade.

Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th November

Costume Shed, Dumas St Park n Ride, Mount Barker
(green shed at the back left-hand side)

To book your Costume Try On appointment,
scan the QR code or visit -

<https://calendar.app.google/UN3KcWkDk4zzCnB66>



Follow us for event news & updates!



@mtbarkerchristmaspageant