



Term 4 Week 7

Faith Focus

Belonging

A few years ago I read in an article showing that an effective transition centres on a child's sense of belonging. They comment that 'a sense of belonging can assist many aspects of children's learning and development, including their emerging sense of identity, wellbeing and engagement with learning.' The article outlines practices that support developing a sense of belonging.

When you read that, I'm sure you are not surprised by the article's findings as you can relate to times when you have felt a sense of belonging and times when you didn't. You've felt the difference to your own wellbeing depending on your sense of belonging.

It's unfortunate that in many situations, a sense of belonging or acceptance can seem to depend on what we contribute or can offer, or how well we seem to fit in rather than just being freely accepted. Often we feel like we need to do something to belong.

It's different with God. We all belong to him without having to offer him something first. We don't have to reach a standard or earn his favour to belong. He accepts us because of his love for us and the forgiveness we have through Jesus. In Matthew 19:14 he says '*Let the little children come to me for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them*'. They haven't earnt his love but he freely gives it. They, like us, belong to God.

In a world where we all want to belong and be accepted, God is someone you can go to and depend on to be accepted, just as you are. You will always belong to him.

'For in Jesus you are all children of God through faith'
 Galatians 3:26

James Heyne

Principal Ponderings

Transitions

Even though they occur regularly throughout the year, it feels like we are in transition season at the moment as

- this week, our 2026 start of year Foundation students had their first visits to St Mark's by themselves.
- Our Year 6 students are in the process of visiting the secondary schools they will attend in 2026,
- New students in Years 1 to 6 in 2026 are preparing to join us.
- Calendar dates are being transferred from this year to next
- Students are preparing for Step Up day on Monday 8th December, when they meet their 2026 teachers and classmates.

We naturally see a range of feelings as transitions occur as we step into new situations and circumstances. We want to acknowledge the different feelings children have while at the same time building their confidence and ability to work through their feelings and transition successfully.

I encourage you to talk with your children at home, listen to their feelings and then help them see and plan for a successful transition.

Student medication reminder

I remind families that all medications that students may require at school, including those available at supermarkets such as paracetamols and hay fever tablets are to be handed in to and stored at the office. Students are not to have any medications in their school bags.

James Heyne
Principal

In This Edition

- Assembly
- Reimagine Markets
- SAPSASA Cricket
- Year 6 Cornerstone Orientation
- P&F Update
- Casual Day
- Performing Arts
- Diary
- Community News and Events

Important dates not to miss

Sat 6th December

Mt Barker Pageant with St Marks Community Float.

Tuesday, 2nd December

Casual Day

Friday, 5th December

Colour Run in the afternoon.

Wednesday, 10th December at 7pm

Whole School Closing Service for all students at Inbarendi at Cornerstone College



The Library is now closed

The Library is now closed for borrowing. All Library books and Readers should be returned ASAP to assist with Stocktake.

Thank you
Mrs Paterson

School life

Assembly

Our Week 7 Assembly was led by Lauren, Pippa, and Chelsea. Year 2 students shared their learnings about our solar system. Class 3MOW presented their science findings around heat. As always, we celebrated all those who received Achievement Awards. We also celebrated Mrs Kluge who was awarded an ALWS Champion Award for coordinating St Mark's support of ALWS over many years.



Achievement Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards at our Week 7 Assembly:

Pippa K	Theodore W	Hugo W	Matteo D	Alice J
Charlotte E	Huey L	Noah P	Bastian P	Jack B
Elle E	Hamish G	Oliver L	Logan M	Eli V
Connor V-R	Jack H	Hugo S	Eddie B-P	Lucy H
Archie H	Lucas M	Aubrey C	Tom W	Charlie W
Henley H	Ava M	Chase R	Jack S	Lydia M
Kai M	Tristan C	Liyana H	Carys H	Connor L



School life

Reimagine Markets

Last week students in Year 5 and 6 lived out our learning principle 'Our learning is real life' through the annual Reimagine Market. This market showcases the learning undertaken in students' HASS, Science and Maths units. Products ranged from crocheted pickles proclaiming 'Our world is in a pickle....' with a sustainable action the consumer could be involved in, to 100 year old Sourdough promoting the making of your own bread reducing food miles, to the creation of funky coloured and shaped crayons made from the leftover bits and pieces collected from classrooms which alternatively would have gone to landfill. The sustainable theme of reuse, repurpose, reduce, recycle and refuse was well met at all stalls. The students should be very proud of the \$1332.10 profit from their sales which will be donated to not for profit organisations, ALWS and OzHarvest. A sustainably rewarding experience for all to engage in!



Hello everyone, today I am talking about the Reimagine Market, some of the products, why we do it, and the process behind it!

We do the Reimagine Market for a couple reasons; the Year 6s do it for sustainability focus in science and Year 5s do it for consumer needs and wants, but also to give the parents and students high quality sustainable products.

For the process, students were told to come up with a product that they could make roughly 15 of in 3 weeks while still accounting for other subjects. Some examples of products were, Pots of polar animals, small Santa hats, dehydrated fruit, crochet pickles, plant tags, sourdough starter, homemade playdoh, plants, succulents, lemon cupcakes, banana bread and cork horses!

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

School life



P&F Update

P&F Committee - New members needed

The P&F will be sadly losing core members by the end of the year. We ask the whole school community to please consider joining the P&F committee to help keep the great work running into 2026.

P&F Meeting - Tuesday, 2 Dec

the next P&F Meeting is Next Tuesday 2d December at 6:30pm in the staffroom

Donut Day - Friday 5th December (Week 8)

Order forms have been sent out for Donut Day.

\$3.50 each, one per student only.

Now with gluten free options for students. Please order on Flexischools or the paperform.

Colour run (Week 8) - Volunteers

If you wish to help with colour run on Friday 5th December please contact the school front desk to put your name down. Arrive at 1:45pm for a debrief by Amanda Kluge.



Year 6 Cornerstone College Orientation

Last Friday, our Year 6 students who are attending Cornerstone College in 2026 had their very exciting orientation day. They started off the day by sorting us into our house teams and introducing us to our home group teachers. After spending our morning in our home group class, with the help of some house leaders we got to have fun and play games on the oval. There was a sack race, tug of war, and tunnel ball.

After a play and a zooper dooper, we got to meet our core class teachers. Next, we did get-to-know-you games with our new classmates and teacher. The teachers set up an amazing race with clues around the school, and an aluminium foil boat-making challenge. It was great fun and we can't wait for high school next year!

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



School life

Performing Arts

Term 4 has been about creativity and movement. Students across all year levels have enjoyed learning about a variety of different forms of movement through puppets, fans, paper lanterns, ribbons to poses and more! Student have loved these lesson filled with colour and movement!



Diary

November

Nov 28 - Chapel - FD

December

Dec 2 - Assembly

Dec 2 - Casual Day

Dec 3 - FO 2026 Transition Group 1

Dec 4 - FO 2026 Transition Group 2

Dec 4 - Year 6 Celebration Dinner

Dec 5 - Chapel

Dec 8 - Step Up Day & Talent Quest

Dec 10 - Assembly

Dec 9 - Class Parties and Year 6 Big Day Out

Dec 10 - Assembly

Dec 10 - Whole School End of Year Service 7pm

Friday Chapel

Chapel is held every Friday at 9am in the Hall. We look forward to Foundation D 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!



Nairne Community Carols
SINGERS NEEDED!
Children's Choir for ages 5–12
Community Choir – all ages welcome!

Rehearsals at Hills Family Church
Sunday Nov 30th
Sunday Dec 7th
3:30pm for kids
4:15pm for adults

The Nairne Community Carols will be held at the Nairne School on Saturday Dec 13th

Hosted by the Nairne & Districts Residents' Association

In partnership with: Jones Radiology

Supported by: MOUNT BARKER DISTRICT COUNCIL, Nairne Football & Netball Club, Blakiston Nairne, Rotary Club of Blakiston Nairne, The Nairne Market



LIMITED TICKET OFFER

Strikers WBBL | 11

Use the code below to redeem a **FREE** junior ticket plus two adult tickets for the **price of one** to the Strikers WBBL | 11 match at Adelaide Oval.

Offer valid until 28 Nov

POWBBLAO25

FRI 28 NOV

 vs

6:40PM @ ADELAIDE OVAL



3-Hour Clinics
21 Jan

9:00am - 12:00pm
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Mt Barker

BOOK NOW!

 

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Vacation Care | 11 Dec–23 Jan

NON-RESIDENT / INDIVIDUAL	FULL FEE	\$69.90	CCS REDUCED FEE*	\$10.05 - \$36.85
NON-RESIDENT / INDIVIDUAL	FULL FEE	\$90.80	CCS REDUCED FEE*	\$13.05 - \$47.85

*Estimation of fees after subsidy is applied

WEEK 1

Thursday
11 December

In-House
Mission Impossible



Your mission, if you choose to accept it:

Join together with your friends to go on an epic scavenger hunt and find all the items before everyone else!

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Friday
12 December

In-House
Movie And Pjs



Walk the red carpet in your best PJs for our movie day! We'll hold a catwalk parade with prizes for the best PJs, followed by two movies chosen by the children through a poll the day before.

Outcomes: 1, 2, 4, 5

CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY BREAK
20 December - 4 January



WEEK 2

Monday
15 December

In-House
T-Shirt Decorating



You will be provided with a white shirt, fabric pens, markers and other arts and craft items to decorate your new shirt. You are welcome to bring your own shirt as well.

Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Tuesday
16 December

Incursion
Tiki Wet Obstacle Course



Get ready for an obstacle with a twist. You will need a change of clothes today because you will get wet.

Start: 10:00am
Finish: 3:00pm

Wednesday
17 December

Incursion
Wiz Bang Family Fun Centre



Spend a day at Wiz Bang playing laser tag and enjoying the indoor playground.

Depart: 12:30pm
Return: 4:00pm
Transport: Private Bus

Outcomes: 1, 3, 4, 5

Thursday
18 December

Incursion
The Pig Parade



Lambs, chickens, ducks, rabbits, and goats! They are coming to visit. Come dressed as your favourite animal and receive a pig themed gift bag take home.

Start: 11:00am
Finish: 1:00pm

Outcomes: 1, 3, 4, 5

Friday
19 December

In-House
Christmas Gift Crafts



Use recycled materials to create Christmas cards, jewellery and other fun gifts. Be as creative as you can be.

Outcomes: 2, 4, 5



Book your session via the Xplor Home App

Visit sa.ymca.org.au/OSHC for more information

St. Mark's Lutheran OSHC
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OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Vacation Care | 11 Dec–23 Jan

MONDAY 5 JANUARY	FULL FEE \$69.90	CCS REDUCED FEE* \$10.05 - \$36.85
TUESDAY 6 JANUARY	FULL FEE \$90.80	CCS REDUCED FEE* \$13.05 - \$47.85

*Estimation of fees after subsidy is applied

WEEK 3

Monday 5 January	Tuesday 6 January	Wednesday 7 January	Thursday 8 January	Friday 9 January
In-House Paper Aeroplane Competition  <p>Spend the morning creating and decorating your paper planes. Then in the afternoon join the competition to see which planes fly the longest distance. There will be prizes to be won.</p> <p>Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</p>	In-House Space Explorers  <p>Suit up, astronauts! Our Space Explorers Day is packed with rocket-building, solar system fun, and exciting space missions.</p> <p>Outcomes: 1, 2, 4, 5</p>	Excursion Inflatable World  <p>Jump and bounce your way through the obstacle courses and enjoy a day out at Inflatable world.</p> <p>Depart: 10:00am Return: 3:00pm Transport: Private Bus</p> <p>Outcomes: 1, 3, 5</p>	Incursion Yard Games  <p>Play against your friends and the educators with five big yard games. Let's see who the winners will be.</p> <p>Start: 9:30am Finish: 3:00pm</p> <p>Outcomes: 1, 3, 4, 5</p>	Excursion Dunes Mini Golf  <p>We are off to test our skills and challenge our friends to a game of mini golf.</p> <p>Depart: 10:00am Return: 2:00pm Transport: Private Bus</p> <p>Outcomes: 2, 4, 5</p>

WEEK 4

Monday 12 January	Tuesday 13 January	Wednesday 14 January	Thursday 15 January	Friday 16 January
In-House Papier Mache Day  <p>Get your creative ideas flowing as you create something all made from papier mache. Use bottles, balloons, cardboard and anything else you can find to make something special.</p> <p>Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</p>	Excursion Funtopia  <p>Get ready for a fun-filled day of climbing, sliding, and exploring! Today we're heading to Funtopia.</p> <p>Depart: 11:30am Return: 4:00pm Transport: Private Bus</p> <p>Outcomes: 1, 2, 4, 5</p>	In-House Game Day  <p>Come dressed in your sporting gear for a big day of games and friendly competitions.</p> <p>Outcomes: 1, 3, 5</p>	In-House ECO Makeshift  <p>Join us for a hands-on celebration of creativity and sustainability! We will design, build, and craft using recycled materials while learning how small actions can make a big difference for our planet.</p> <p>Outcomes: 1, 3, 4, 5</p>	In-House Top Secret Agents  <p>Dress up as a secret agent because you will need to complete a top secret mission.</p> <p>Outcomes: 2, 4, 5</p>

WEEK 5

Monday 19 January	Tuesday 20 January	Wednesday 21 January	Thursday 22 January	Friday 23 January
In-House Minute To Win It  <p>Use your problem-solving skills to get through all the challenges today with only a minute to do it. There will be prizes to win as well.</p> <p>Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</p>	Incursion Water Sports  <p>Bring a spare set of clothes and a towel today as NLS is bringing some fun water games to us. Play water balloon hot potato and join in for some water battles.</p> <p>Start: 1:00pm Finish: 3:00pm</p> <p>Outcomes: 1, 2, 4, 5</p>	Excursion STEM Day Science Collective  <p>Come and see a magic and science show, then meet some animals from Animals Anonymous.</p> <p>Depart: 8:20am Return: 1:30pm Transport: Private Bus</p> <p>Outcomes: 1, 3, 5</p>	In-House Mad Scientist  <p>Grab your lab coats it's time to experiment! Today we're becoming mad scientists as we mix, fizz, and discover the magic of science through hands-on fun.</p> <p>Outcomes: 1, 3, 4, 5</p>	Excursion Hahndorf Farm Barn  <p>Come meet all the cute animals at the Hahndorf Farm.</p> <p>Depart: 9:30am Return: 2:00pm Transport: Private Bus</p> <p>Outcomes: 2, 4, 5</p>



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[Visit s YMCA.org.au/OSHC](http://visit.s YMCA.org.au/OSHC) for more information

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