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Term 4 Week 8

Faith Focus

Keep it simple

As I sat down to write my final faith focus, I procrastinated for way too long. With this being my last opportunity to share with you in this way, I wanted to make sure I got it right. I thought about many bible passages, stories and words of wisdom, but couldn't settle on what I thought would be just the right message.

During chapels and devotions, I've always been keen to remind our students of 1 John 3:1 'See what great love the father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are'. I want us all to know how special we are as loved children of God.

I've also often shared the words of Ephesians 2:8 'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.' I want us to know that we don't have to and can't earn God's love, he just freely gives it to each of us.

I think I was making it harder than it needs to be as God has kept it simple for us. As I leave St Mark's, my prayer simply is that St Mark's has been and remains a place where we come together knowing

- Each one of us is a special and unique individual created by God with unmeasurable worth as God's children.
- God loves us each one of us just as we are and nothing changes his love for us.
- Through Jesus he saves and forgives us, we don't earn this, it's a gift
- God wants to bless us each and every day

God bless for the next chapters of your lives.

James Heyne

Principal Ponderings

Once again we have our traditional end of year activities and celebrations occurring which bring celebration to the end of our year. Below I've summarised these with key pieces of information for you.

Thursday 4th Dec - Year 6 Celebration Dinner

Tonight our Year 6 students and their parents and carers gather at Auchendarroch House for our celebration evening. This will be a time of sharing memories and reflecting on who our students have become. Arrival is from 6:30pm for a 7pm start.

Monday 8th Dec - Step Up To 2026

Step Up Day is part of our preparation and transition for our 2026 Year 1 to 6 students. It will be held next Monday, 8th December. Between recess and lunch students will move to their 2026 classes with their 2026 teachers. A number of our new students beginning at St Mark's in Years 1 to 6 in 2026 will join us for the day.

Monday 8th Dec - SRC Student Talent Show

Our Year 4 to 6 classes are auditioning in their class groups to select the very best talent show acts to entertain our Year 3 to 6 students. It will be held in our hall on Monday, 8th December after lunch.

Tuesday 9th December – Year 6 Big Day Out

Our Year 6 students head off site to enjoy the day relaxing together at the recreation centre and movies

Tuesday 9th Dec - Class Parties and Christmas Casual Clothes Day

While our Year 6 students are enjoying their 'Big Day Out', Foundation to Year 5 classes will enjoy a lunchtime class party. Our wonderful P&F are providing a pizza and hot chip lunch for all students. Students only need to bring their recess and drink bottle.

To add to the festive tone students may choose to dress for a Christmas themed casual clothes day.

Tuesday 9th Dec - End Of Year Reports

Written student reports are being finalised and will be emailed to parents on Tuesday, 9th December. Teachers are available to meet with you to discuss any questions until Friday morning next week. If you would like to find a suitable time to talk, please phone ahead to the office or email your child's teacher to arrange this. It is important to make a

time to talk as staff have a number of commitments scheduled for the remainder of the year.

Wednesday 10th Dec - Final Student Assembly

Our student assembly is on Wednesday, 10th December at 9:15 am in our school hall. At this assembly: Our School Band will perform; 2026 School Captains will be announced and receive the Leadership mantle from our 2025 School Captains; The 2025 House Shield will be presented; Final achievement awards and other certificates will be presented and we'll enjoy a few favourite Christmas carols. Please note the school office will be temporarily closed from 9:10am to 10:00am. Families are welcome to attend.

Wednesday 10th Dec - Whole School Closing Service & Year 6 Graduation

I am always delighted that our whole school will gather for this most significant event in our school year next Wednesday, 10th at 7pm. All students are expected to attend. If for any reason your child is not able to attend, please phone or email the office contact@stmarks.sa.edu.au.

The service begins at 7pm, with Foundation to Year 5 students to arrive by 6:50pm. Students wear their summer uniform. During the service: Our Foundation students provide a special welcome to their Year 6 buddies; Our Choir will sing; All Foundation to Year 5 students sing a farewell blessing to our Year 6 students; Graduation certificates will be presented as our Year 6 students formally graduate from St Mark's and our Year 6 students will perform a final item.

2026 Student Stationery

We continue to manage this process for you so enjoy the break from this task. If your preference is for your child to access individual stationery, please advise the school office of this.

Christmas cards and candy canes

We have started to see students sharing Christmas cards with each other. I remind families that we do not distribute Christmas candy canes, sweets or chocolates as part of card and greeting giving.

I'll have a final message for families next Tuesday, but again I wish to thank you for your ongoing support.

James Heyne
Principal

School life

Assembly

Our Week 7 Assembly was led by Lawson, Parker, and Grace. Year 3L presented their learnings around different poems and shared some of their own creations. Year 4K shared about their recent excursion to the SA Art Gallery. Year 5H prepared a skit around persuasive texts discussing why Year 5 is the best year in primary school. Students who participated in Maths Olympiads were presented with their certificates, and as always, we celebrated all those who received Achievement Awards.



Achievement Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards at our Week 8 Assembly:

Willow VDB	Jack H	Lewis S	Ethan H	Harry G
Marshall P	Kylah B	Zoe B	Emily G	Charlotte L
Jake VL	Wren J	Amy T	Flynn M	Piper B-C
Keanan S	Austin H	Isla M	Annalise VH	Isabella R
Parker W	Sebastian D	Gurfateh S	Imogen B	William O
Irina YS	Immanuel BK	Oakleigh M	Ashton F	Hunter C
Sam M	Ruhi G	Asher B	Holly B	Frankie V
Leo S	Adalynd M	William R	Sylvie S	Opal M
Oliver W	Rida N	Ellie E		



School life

Year 1 Visit to Sash Ferguson

In Christian Studies this term, the Year 1's have been exploring the gifts and talents that God has given us and how we can use these to serve others. On Friday we brought joy to the residents at Sash Ferguson through sharing songs. We had a wonderful time walking over to visit them and sharing some cards and decorations that we had made for them!



Year 4 Arcade Science

This term Year 4 have been exploring materials and forces in Science. Last week they used their scientific skills to plan, design, create, test and produce a fun arcade game for others to play. They then reflected on which materials they used and which forces were used throughout the playing of their games.



School life

Chapel with Foundation Driver

Last Friday, Chapel was led by Foundation Driver which showed us how to have courage and faith, like Daniel in the lions den.



Jace was selected to represent SA at the School Sports Australia track and field championship which was held in Canberra, at The Institute of Sport.

Jace has been training at Port Adelaide every Saturday morning with the team for the past few months.

Jace competed in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay. He recorded a personal best in the 100m coming in as the fastest boy from SA with 13.39sec. In the 200m he ranked as the 13th fastest with a time of 28.22sec. The boys came 5th in their relay with the eastern states (Qld, ACT, NSW and VIC) dominating due to the pathways and athletic academies for their elite athletes.

Jace came away from the championship determined to improve and will work with a sprint coach to develop his technique, power, speed and mind set.

Library News

Premier's Reading Challenge

Yesterday the children received their medals and certificates for this year's Reading Challenge. We had another wonderful year with 314 students completing the challenge!! I look forward to another year of great reading in 2026!

Library Books

There are still a LOT of outstanding books and readers that need to be returned. Please assist us by returning these ASAP so that our Stock-take can be finalized.

Louise Paterson
Library Resource Manager

Diary

December

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 Class 2M 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



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 4 pm - 4:30 pm | 4:40 pm - 5:10 pm
NINJA STARS (6-7YO)
SAMURAI WARRIORS (8-11YO)
 Monday, Wednesday & Friday
 10:15 am - 11 am | 1:40 pm - 2:20 pm
 4 pm - 4:40 pm | 4:40 pm - 5:20 pm

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Mt Barker

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36ERS **HomeStart**

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Vacation Care | 11 Dec–23 Jan

IN-HOUSE	FULL FEE	\$69.90	CCS REDUCED FEE*	\$10.05 – \$36.85
OUT-OF-HOUSE / NOISE / NOISE	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

Outcomes: 1, 2, 4, 5

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
37 Hampden Road, Mount Barker, 5251
Cayla Thompson
0499 591 662

OSHC Support Team
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OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Vacation Care | 11 Dec–23 Jan






SESSION 1 MONDAY	FULL FEE	\$69.90	CCS REDUCED FEE*	\$10.05 - \$36.85
	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	In-House Space Explorers	Excursion Inflatable World	In-House Yard Games	Excursion Dunes Mini Golf
				
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. Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Suit up, astronauts! Our Space Explorers Day is packed with rocket-building, solar system fun, and exciting space missions. Outcomes: 1, 2, 4, 5	Jump and bounce your way through the obstacle courses and enjoy a day out at Inflatable world. Depart: 10:00am Return: 3:00pm Transport: Private Bus Outcomes: 1, 3, 5	Play against your friends and the educators with five big yard games. Let's see who the winners will be. Start: 9:30am Finish: 3:00pm Outcomes: 1, 3, 4, 5	We are off to test our skills and challenge our friends to a game of mini golf. Depart: 10:00am Return: 2:00pm Transport: Private Bus Outcomes: 2, 4, 5

WEEK 4

Monday 12 January	Tuesday 13 January	Wednesday 14 January	Thursday 15 January	Friday 16 January
In-House Papier Mache Day	Excursion Funtopia	In-House Game Day	In-House ECO Makeshift	In-House Top Secret Agents
				
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. Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Get ready for a fun-filled day of climbing, sliding, and exploring! Today we're heading to Funtopia. Depart: 11:30am Return: 4:00pm Transport: Private Bus Outcomes: 1, 2, 4, 5	Come dressed in your sporting gear for a big day of games and friendly competitions. Outcomes: 1, 3, 5	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. Outcomes: 1, 3, 4, 5	Dress up as a secret agent because you will need to complete a top secret mission. Outcomes: 2, 4, 5

WEEK 5

Monday 19 January	Tuesday 20 January	Wednesday 21 January	Thursday 22 January	Friday 23 January
In-House Minute To Win It	In-House Water Sports	Excursion Stem Day Science Collective	In-House Mad Scientist	Excursion Hahndorf Farm Barn
				
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. Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	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. Start: 1:00pm Finish: 3:00pm Outcomes: 1, 2, 4, 5	Come and see a magic and science show, then meet some animals from Animals Anonymous. Depart: 8:20am Return: 1:30pm Transport: Private Bus Outcomes: 1, 3, 5	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. Outcomes: 1, 3, 4, 5	Come meet all the cute animals at the Hahndorf Farm. Depart: 9:30am Return: 2:00pm Transport: Private Bus Outcomes: 2, 4, 5

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