



Week 2 | Term 1 | 2026

Faith Focus

When you look at people, what do you see? How do you see others?

In 1 Samuel 16 we read about how God spoke to Samuel and told him to go to the house of Jesse, a man from Bethlehem, and there he would find the next king of Israel. Looking over Jesse's sons, Samuel assumed the oldest son would be God's selection, after all he presumably looked like a king... impressive, tall and strong. But no, he was not the one. Jesse then proceeded to present 6 more of his sons but each one was rejected too. The youngest son, David was out in the fields watching the sheep, and was, by this Biblical account, dark and handsome with beautiful eyes. But it wasn't this reason that God chose David. In verse 17 we read, "The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart."

This story reminds us that when we look at others, we should try to see them as God sees them, with 'soft eyes', not judging others by how they look, how confident they seem or how important they appear. God deeply loves, knows and values us all.

God sees qualities such as kindness, faithfulness, humility, and trust in Him... things we cannot always see on the outside. Looking at others with God's eyes means treating everyone with respect, being open to seeing their strengths, and remembering that every person is created, valued and known by God, even when others do not notice them.

A few years ago I came across this quote, "Put on your God glasses every morning and see the world like God sees it."

We could broaden this quote a little considering 1 Samuel 16:7... "Put on your God glasses every morning and choose to see people the way God does, with soft eyes, not by what they look like on the outside, but by what is growing in their hearts."

For those of us who wear glasses, and even if you don't, as we physically put them on, or as we get up each day, I encourage us all to pray this very simple prayer... Lord, help us to look at hearts, not just appearances, seeing others the way You see them. Amen.

You are welcome to join us for Chapel tomorrow (Friday) morning at 9am where we will be exploring this idea of putting on our God glasses and seeing people the way God sees us.

Cheryl Liebelt

Principal Ponderings

Welcome to Week 2. We've had a busy week here at St Mark's and it has been exciting to see all that has been going on in the school. Our staff are looking forward to connecting with families at our Eat, Meet and Greet night tonight. We are really grateful to our P&F for putting on the sausage sizzle, and to all the people coming along to help. Our P&F met on Tuesday night and it was lovely to see some new faces there. They do a lot for our school and to support our students and they have some exciting things planned for 2026. They have their next get together in March. We would love to see you there and we'll keep you posted with details.

I really appreciated the opportunity to visit St Mark's Lutheran Church on the weekend, for the principal installation and blessing of staff. It was great to see so many people there and to have a chance to catch up with people from the school and the church. St Mark's congregation is another group of people who are a wonderful support for our school. On Friday last week, representatives from the women's fellowship came and presented bag tags to all of our Foundation students. We will see them again when they present the Year 2 students with their Bibles at chapel on Friday, 6th March (Week 6). We also have some congregation members coming in to run the Kids' Hope program, where students who are needing some support spend time with an older support person.

One other really noteworthy item came up this week, when I had a chance to meet with our school captains for the first (official) time. They are eager to represent the students of St Mark's and be involved in the life of the school. They were already involved in doing readings at Sunday's installation service and they did a terrific job. There are a lot of opportunities for students to take a lead here at St Mark's, with SRC elections and house captain elections taking place this week and roles available for

students in facilitating lunch time clubs, being peer mediators, as well as music and choir captains. I'm also impressed with the leadership students show day to day in just upholding the school values and setting a good example for their peers.

Sport's Day

The date for our twilight Sports Day has now been set. This will be held on Friday, 13th March (Week 7). We will update you further on details. This is another event where our P&F are really busy supporting our school. They would love to hear from people who can help out (in whatever capacity).

Car Parking

Just a couple of brief reminders about the car park. To facilitate flow of traffic at the kiss and drop, if you can come as close as you can to the end of the zone while your kids get into the car, that would be really helpful. We will try and help them with getting to cars so things can move smoothly.

Please be aware of road rules and giving way as you enter the driveway from the road as this makes for smooth operations too.

Have a great week.

Andrew Boesch

Principal

School life

House Captain Speeches

Year 4-6 students gathered in their House teams to listen and vote for their House Captains. There were a few nerves but each nominee showed great courage and were able to confidently express how they could lead their teams this year. House Captains will be announced at next week's Assembly along with elected SRC members.



Foundations Receiving Bag Tags

On Friday, Pastor Greg, Jane, and Lyn, members of the St Mark's Church, gifted personalised name tags for each of our new Foundation students—what a beautiful gesture of welcome!



School life

Meeting our Buddies!

One of the highlights our learners often talk about is spending time with their Buddy. In previous years, this program has involved our Foundations, Year 1s, Year 5s and Year 6s. In 2026 we are excited to share that we will all have buddies!

The Buddy Class Program is based on the rationale that older students, when buddied with younger students, can provide support and role modelling that benefits all students. This reciprocal relationship encourages leadership and responsibility in our Year 5 and 6 students, while providing guidance and a stronger sense of security for our Foundation and Year 1 students. Additionally, our Buddy Class Program enables vertical grouping for our Years 2 – 4 students, expanding their connections and overall sense of belonging.



School life

Year 6 Pizza Muffin Challenge

Students were challenged to practise their collaboration through working together. They baked pizza muffins when everyone was given different roles without knowing what the end product was. This activity helped them realise how to work together and communicate at each step so they could successfully create pizza muffins.



HILLS/BARKER SWIMMING (Year 4-6)

Students are welcome to attend the second trial at the new Summit Aquatic Centre on Tuesday morning (Week 3). **If attending the trials, you will need to bring your child to the Summit Aquatic Centre, as well as transport them to school after the trials have concluded.**

- **Tuesday 10th of February 7.20am- 8.20am**

Students can race in three individual races, plus a relay/s.

- Freestyle
- Backstroke
- Breaststroke
- Butterfly

Please note (new in 2026) that students will need to be able to swim their chosen stroke for 50metres- which is two laps of the Aquatic Centre pool- up and back.

Students race in the following age groups:

10 Years- Born in 2016

11 Years- Born in 2015

12 Years- Born in 2014



Icy Tubes are back!

In Term 1 the SRC will be selling delicious Fruit Juice Icy Tubes each Friday. The ice blocks will be available after lunch eating time outside of the Library. Please bring a \$1 coin if you would like to enjoy one. Any profits will go towards our Term 1 giving focus - Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS).

School life

Scholastic Book Club

Scholastic Book Club Order forms have been sent home this week. Orders and payment are due by Friday 20th February.

Scholastic Book Club is an optional service offered to parents to help provide your children with affordable literature.

In Term 2 we have a Book Fair where parents and students can come into the Library and purchase or order books from the selection we will have provided. Your support of Book Club and Book Fair earns the school rewards points which allows us to purchase books and other resources for the Library and classrooms.

Payment options are provided on the back of the Order form. Most parents choose to use the credit card option (LOOP) but you are able to pay by cash if you prefer. If you have any questions please ask Mrs Paterson (Library) or Mrs Short (Office)



P&F Update

Come join the P&F Committee. The P&F are in need of more members to help organise the school events within the year. Please come to the next meeting to be a part of a great friendly team.

P&F Meeting

The next P&F meeting is on Tuesday March 3rd at 6:30pm

Sports Day Snack Packs

Orders will be available soon via Flexischools for the Sports Day Snack packs which will include an apple, popcorn, gummy bears and fruit box.

Sports day volunteers

P&F will be asking for volunteers for the BBQ and Cake stall again this year.

Eat, Meet, & Greet

Our Eat, Meet and Greet night will be held tonight. The evening will begin with a sausage sizzle at 5:30pm, before moving to classrooms, to meet your child's classroom teacher, and taking the opportunity to visit other learning spaces in the school.

The evening's schedule will be as follows:

- 5:30–6:30pm: Sausage sizzle
- 6:00–7:00pm: Open school for families to visit our learning spaces, including our hall (PE), music room and library. Teachers will be available in classrooms and other learning spaces so you can meet them, chat and ask questions about the year ahead.

Please be aware that supervision of students on the night will be the responsibility of parents and caregivers.

Diary

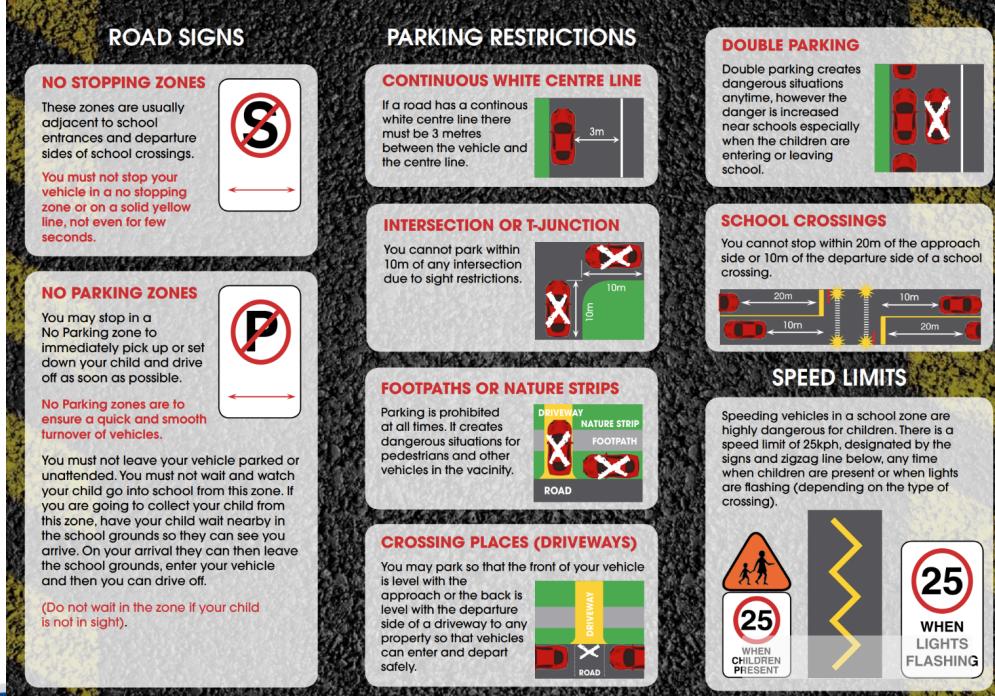
February

- Feb 5 - Eat, Meet, & Greet - 5.30-7.00pm
- Feb 6 - Chapel - 9.00am
- Feb 10 - Assembly - 2.40pm
- Feb 13 - Chapel - 9.00am
- Feb 20 - Chapel - 9.00am
- Feb 24 - Assembly - 2.40pm
- Feb 26 - Hills/Barker Swimming
- Feb 27 - Chapel - 9.00am

Friday Chapel

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

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



Community news & events

JOIN IN THE FUN!

YMCA OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

- Before and after school care
- Quality educators
- Child led programs
- Art and crafts
- Cooking experiences
- Sporting activities
- Learn life skills
- Create long lasting friendships
- Vacation care with excursions and incursions

CONTACT US
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CHILDCARE SUBSIDY APPROVED

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CORNERSTONE COLLEGE
Christ our Firm Foundation

Year 7 in 2028?
Your future starts HERE

Meet our team and explore Cornerstone College at our College Information Evening

Wednesday 18 February 5pm or 7pm

REGISTER HERE TO ATTEND

YOUR Potential. YOUR Purpose. YOUR Place.

FREE MAVS COME AND TRY

Eastern Mavericks – Free Come & Try Sessions

Is your child interested in basketball? New to the game or keen to give it a go? This is the perfect opportunity to experience the Mavericks environment.

Who it's for

- ✓ Suitable for beginners
- ✓ No experience needed
- ✓ Open to new players

Session Dates (all sessions run 12:00 – 1:30pm)

- U14s (born 2013–2014): 7 & 14 February 2026
- U10s (born 2017–2020): 21 & 28 February 2026
- U12s (born 2015–2016): 14 & 21 March 2026

Venue

Mt Lofty Community Sports Centre
99 Longwood Rd, Heathfield SA 5153

Cost

- ✓ Free for new players
- ✓ Free for Mavericks players who bring a non-Mavericks friend

Otherwise, a gold coin donation applies

Coaching

All sessions are run by Division 1 & State Level Mavericks coaches, focusing on skill development, confidence, and fun in a supportive environment.

No limited spots – come along and give it a try!

A great introduction to basketball and a chance to see what the Mavericks are all about.

You can just arrive and try, or register via link on The Eastern Mavericks Facebook page. Alternatively, you can email community@easternmavericks.com.au