



Enjoying pancakes for Shrove Tuesday

Week 4 | Term 1 | 2026

Faith Focus

This week marks the start of the Lenten season. On Tuesday we celebrated with pancakes...but why pancakes?

Shrove Tuesday comes just before the season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. The word “shrove” comes from the old word “shrive,” meaning to confess. Traditionally, Christians would take time to reflect, say sorry for the wrong things they had done, and prepare their hearts for the 40 days of Lent leading up to Easter.

In the past, families would use up rich ingredients in their cupboards including eggs, milk, butter, and sugar to mark a period of fasting. Pancakes were the perfect way to make sure that these ingredients weren't wasted.

Lent itself is a time to pause, reflect, pray and strengthen our relationship with God. It is not meant to be a time of hardship but a time to reflect on what truly matters. When we give something up that we love, it makes us think about the ‘why’ in what we are doing.

In Joel 2:12, we read “Return to me with all your heart.”

These words remind us that Lent is an invitation. An invitation to spend more time with God. A time to reflect and reset.

Dani Barolo

Principal Ponderings

We were fortunate to have a visit at Friday's chapel from Celia Fielke, who is an education officer at Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS). St Mark's, like many Lutheran schools, has had a long partnership with ALWS. ALWS works in some of the world's poorest countries and partners with communities to help people support themselves. They have projects around the world, in places like Burundi, Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Nepal and Bangladesh. Celia spoke to us about a project we will be supporting in South Sudan, where ALWS is providing fishing kits and training to families so they can earn extra income from fishing. It's wonderful that our staff and students have the opportunity to support this project and serve those who really need our help.

Our school captains had a rewarding day out last week, when they visited Our Saviour Lutheran School in Aberfoyle Park to learn about what it means to be a leader. They looked at the four S's of leadership: Significant others, Spiritual leadership, Servant leadership and Support. It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and initiative our school leaders have shown so far this year, from our school captains, to our house captains, to our SRC representatives. This morning we had the first of our peer mentors join me on yard duty to welcome people to St Mark's. We've also had students volunteer to be Scribes, writing reports for the newsletter, and an overwhelming response from students wanting to help on the tech crew. We have spoken to all the students at St Mark's about leadership, and the fact that you don't need a badge to be a leader. The way we live out our values and model this to others, is a really powerful example of leadership we can show each day.

Sports Day

Our P&F do an amazing job with raising funds to support our students and running events that our students really look forward to each year.

One big event the P&F are involved with is the upcoming sports day, where they run a very popular community barbecue. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with making this event happen. If you can help in any capacity, whether it's just to spare an hour or two cooking on the barbecue, we would be really grateful and we would love to hear from you.

Uniform

Just a reminder about uniform as we settle into Term 1. The link [here](#) provides comprehensive details of uniform requirements.

There are a few items that I want to highlight in regard to this:

- Girls' PE uniform should be navy blue peach face microfibre sports short or navy blue skort. Bike shorts/active wear shorts are not part of the uniform.
- Summer uniform shoes should be black leather lace-up shoes (Velcro buckles are permitted if the whole foot is protected).
- If your child is unable to wear a particular item of school clothing, for whatever reason, please provide a note to their teacher. If there are difficulties with suppliers, please contact the school.
- Please note, the dark brown school bag with the St Mark's logo is optional, but we have had a few issues in younger grades where students are bringing in bags with novelty designs, e.g. superheroes, cartoon characters, and finding they are not large enough to fit all their equipment. You can help us out by checking to ensure your child's bag is a suitable size.

Thank you for your support with this.

Andrew Boesch
Principal



REMINDER

Scholastic Book Club

A reminder that Scholastic Book Club orders and payment are due by, tomorrow, Fri 20 Feb.

School life

Shrove Tuesday





P&F Update

Sports Day - Friday 13 March

BBQ & Cake stall volunteers - P&F will be asking for volunteers for the BBQ and Cake stall. To make these successful, we will require 12 parents each hour between 10:30am till 7pm

Cake donations - We will accept all cake, cookies, muffin slices for the cake stall. If you wish to make something please provide a paper slip with the ingredients list to add with dietary requirements.

Snack packs - Sports day snack packs will be available for order on Flexischools early next week. These will include a fruit box, apple, popcorn, gummy bears and a Le Snak for \$7. Orders must be made by Monday 9th March.

Election BBQ - Saturday 21 March

The P&F ask for volunteers to work the election day BBQ, snags, drinks and toasties will be cooked up and sold opposite the library between 7am and 3pm. We would like to have 6 volunteers please.

P&F Meeting - Tuesday 3 March

The next P&F meeting is Tuesday 3rd March 6:30pm in the staffroom. Online Teams can be made available for those wishing to attend remotely. Please ask the school for the link.

T1 Assembly Roster	Hosts	Classes
Week 5	Louis & Karla	3MOW, 3M, 4K
Week 7	Will & Saya	Year 1, 6WM
Week 9	Elijah & Sarah	2L, Foundation
Week 11	Maddy & Miriam	2M, Year 5

At St Mark's students belong to one of four house teams; Barker (yellow), Davison (blue), Sturt (green) and Dunn (red). House teams are involved in various activities on a number of occasions throughout the year. St Mark's first whole school event is our annual Sports Day. Due to the number of events, St Mark's Sports Day is held over two days;

Friday, 27 February (Week 5): 600m and Discus Day!

Only students in Years 4-6 are involved on this day. 600m takes place after Chapel – each student runs in their age group. Following this, students return to their classrooms before being invited to the oval in age group order (youngest to oldest) to complete the Discus event.

Friday March 13, (Week 7) St Mark's Twilight Sports Day (Whole school event)

Parents, caregivers, and students are invited to attend an optional community lunch from 12.00pm. You are welcome to bring a picnic or purchase lunch from the P&F. Please note that all children are expected to be in their classroom at 12.40pm for the official school roll call. Before entering the classroom, please ensure your child has eaten a substantial lunch, is wearing their house coloured plain polo top, has applied sunscreen, has a bottle of water and their school hat.

A final program and map of the events will be included in the newsletter in the coming weeks.



School life

Year 5 - Is it Broken?

In Christian Studies, our Year 5 students have been exploring how God can take our brokenness and sin and make us whole again. Students were given the task of repairing a variety of broken items and carefully considered whether each one could be restored and used again. Through reflection, we connected this experience to God's work in our own lives. Just as the students worked to repair what was broken, God restores us through His love and grace, making us whole again.

School App – Absence Reporting Issues

We are aware that some families may be experiencing difficulties with the school app, particularly when reporting student absences.

If you are having trouble using the app, please try removing (uninstalling) the app from your device, then reinstalling it and logging back in. This has resolved the issue for many users.

If you have forgotten your login details or need assistance accessing your account, please contact the Front Office and our staff will be happy to help.



School life



School Swimming

Congratulations to the students below who have made the St Mark's swimming team. Students will attend the Summit Aquatic Centre next Thursday the 26th of February to compete against other BARKER affiliated schools.

Formerly held at the Mountain Pool, this year will be the first time the event has taken place at the Summit Aquatic Centre. Very exciting! We wish these students all the best for next Thursday.

10 Year Olds

Saya P, Chelsea S, Jack S, Harry J, Jackson B, Mason W, Eliana P

11 Year Olds

Khadija T, Emily G, Grace B-K, Winnie W, Logan C, Anhad T, Seth W, William M, Ezra K

12 Year Olds

Karla F, Carli H, Phoenix C, Holly B, Elijah M

Break time fun



SPORT'S DAY PROGRAM - FRIDAY, 7 MARCH

9.45AM START - AFTER CHAPEL

Senior 600m – boys and girls race separately- 9 Years first.

Age Group	9 years (2017)	10 years (2016)	11 years (2015)	12+ years (2014)
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AFTER 600M - RECESS ONWARDS

Senior Tabloid – Discus (PLEASE NOTE - The times below are a rough guide only.)

9 Year Old (2017) will complete discus prior to recess, time permitting

Time	Before Recess	11:20 - 12:00pm	12:05- 12:50pm	1:40 - 2.25pm
Class	9 years (2017)	10 years (2016)	11 years (2015)	12+ years (2014)

Diary

February

Feb 20 - Chapel - 9.00am
Feb 24 - Assembly - 2.40pm
Feb 26 - Hills/Barker Swimming
Feb 27 - Chapel - 9.00am

March

Mar 4-6 Year 5 Camp Port Hughes
Mar 6 - Chapel 9am
Mar 9 - Public Holiday
Mar 10 - Assembly 2.40pm
Mar 13 - Twilight Sports Day - Community Lunch
from 12 noon, students in classrooms
by 12.40pm
Mar 20 - Chapel 9am

Introducing **STEM** early helps children build **problem-solving, creativity** and **critical thinking skills**, sparking curiosity and supporting their learning for the future, whatever path they choose.

At **OSHC**, children explore STEM every day through fun, hands-on activities like **cooking, gardening, construction play** and **creative art**. They're learning through play, building confidence, curiosity and a love of discovery, often without even realising it.

STEM ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME

LAVA LAMPS with a water bottle, vegetable oil, food colouring and an Alka-Seltzer. Discovering chemical reactions.

MARBLE RUNS with cardboard tubes, tape and marbles. Discovering gravity, motion and problem solving.

NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT, create a list for children to find in the back yard, encourages observations, discovery and categorisation.



Friday Chapel

Chapel is held every Friday at 9am in the Hall. We look forward to Class 6K 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!

FAMILY FUN, FITNESS & SELF-DEFENCE

FREE TRIAL!
2 X LESSONS FREE!

RHEE TAEKWON DO AT LITTLEHAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Join us to learn the exciting traditional Korean martial art of Rhee Taekwon-Do!

Our classes are suitable for all ages and fitness levels, offering a safe, fun and inclusive training environment while learning traditional values and self-defence skills.

- > Classes on Tuesday + Thursday 6.30pm - 7.30pm
- > Learn self-defence and build confidence
- > Fun + energetic family classes for all ages (5+)
- > Multiple locations across Adelaide

BOOK YOUR FREE TRIAL!

FOR MORE INFO OR TO BOOK:
1300 743 853 / WWW.RHEETKD.INFO

Community news & events



🏀 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



Mt Barker Lutheran Netball Club is welcoming new players, coaches and umpires for the 2026 season.

We're a family-focused club offering a supportive and encouraging environment from juniors through to seniors, including our popular Sparklers program for 5–10 year olds. Whether you're new to netball or returning to the game, we'd love to see you join our purple and gold community.

Registrations and enquiries are now open via our website and social pages.