



Year 6 Survivor -Bug Battle Challenge

Week 5 | Term 1 | 2026

Faith Focus

When the Ropes Feel Wobbly

The other weekend, my family and I went to TreeClimb at Kuitpo. High up in the trees, we navigated rope bridges and moving platforms. At times I was far off the ground. The ropes wobbled. The platforms swayed. My legs felt wobbly too.

There were moments when I had to choose:
Do I stop? Do I go back? Or do I take the next step?

One moment stood out. One of my daughters froze on an obstacle. She was very scared. She couldn't go forward. She couldn't go back. She just held on.

A Tree Climb staff member climbed up to her, carried her safely across, and then stayed with her. He guided her, encouraged her and talked her through each step. The ropes were still wobbly. The height hadn't changed. But she wasn't alone anymore – and that changed everything.

It reminded me of Moses in The Book of Exodus. When God called him to lead His people out of Egypt, Moses felt overwhelmed and inadequate. He asked, "Who am I?" "What if they don't believe me?" "I'm not good at speaking." In many ways, he was frozen on a wobbly rope.

God didn't remove the challenge. Instead, He made a promise: "I will be with you."

Courage is not the absence of fear. Courage is taking the next step while the rope still shakes beneath your feet.

There will be moments for each of us – children and adults alike – when the ropes feel wobbly. In those moments, may we remember God's promise. We are not alone. God guides us, strengthens us and walks beside us, step by step.

Joshua 1:9

"...Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go."

Rachel Harrip

Principal Ponderings

It's hard to believe we're almost at the end of Week 5 already. There has been a lot happening at St Mark's and the weeks seem to be flying by. Our staff have been working very hard to implement new systems and routines and new programs, from the way we run our office, to the way we teach and support in classrooms. It has been really encouraging to see the way our new literacy programs have been rolling out, with teaching staff introducing our students to new learning about phonemic awareness (knowing the sounds we hear in words) and phonics (knowing the letter combinations which make these sounds). Students in upper primary classes have also been learning about the way words are structured and where they come from, and how this affects their meaning and spelling.

On top of this, there has been testing going on across the school to look at how we can best support students in literacy. A big thank you to Dani Barolo and Rachel Harrip for their work in leading implementation of our literacy programs. If you would like to find how to support beginning readers, you are invited to come along to a parent information session next week, please see details on page 7.

We have some exciting events coming up, with our discus and 600m events happening tomorrow, our Year 5 students heading off on camp next week to Port Hughes, our twilight Sports Day in Week 7, and the Year 4s going to their camp at She Oak in Week 9. There certainly has been a lot happening, but despite everything that has been going on, I have been really encouraged to notice the sense of calm around the school. Our staff have had a real focus on making a positive start this year and keeping stress and anxiety to a minimum. I think they are doing a wonderful job. I want to thank you, our school community, for the support you've given us as we've started the year and managed some significant changes.

Sports Day

A huge thank you to those members of our school community who have already signed up to help the P&F with our sports day barbecue and cake stall. This is a huge fundraiser for the P&F and helps them to support our students and our community. If you can spare some time to cook on the barbecue, bake a cake or help out on the stall, we would love to hear from you. You might have noticed some sign up sheets set up before and after school where you can add your name, or you can contact the office to let us know you're interested. Our P&F do an amazing job and it will be great if we can support them in having a successful sports day.

Mobile devices

Information has been sent home regarding the school's mobile device policy. If your child has a mobile device, including a smart watch which can connect to the internet, this is to be dropped at the office at the start of the school day and collected at the end of the school day. An eform was sent out with this information for parents/caregivers. If your child has a mobile device, please complete this form. If you need this sent out to you again, please contact the office. We thank you for your support with this.

Congratulations

We had some exciting news on staff last week, when we heard that our learning support coordinator, Meredith Page, has now completed requirements for her PhD in education. Her doctorate will be awarded in April and we will look forward to meeting Doctor Page in Term 2!

Andrew Boesch
Principal



Sports Day

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.



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 are available for order on Flexischools. 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.



**Year 4-6 students come in
House colours tomorrow for
600m/Discuss**

School life

Assembly

Our week 5 Assembly was led by Louis and Karla with 3MOW, 3M, and 4K sharing their learnings. Mrs Kluge presented this year's Peer Mentors. School Captains, Henrik and Ellie, shared their update about lunch clubs. Mr Boesch had a message around the different leadership opportunities, and several Achievement Awards were given out.



Achievement Awards

Congratulations to the following students
who received awards at our Week 5
Assembly:

George P
Isabella d S
Harry J
Oscar K



School life

Cornerstone College Legacy Project

On Tuesday we had a group of Year 12 Students visit us from Cornerstone College. The Legacy Project is a Cornerstone initiative which sees students work in service to their sister school, St Mark's.

They joined in with different classes and engaged with St Mark's students across a variety of activities including PE, reading, music, games, and more. This project will see Cornerstone students visiting each week for the rest of term.



German - Schultüte

In Germany, children celebrate their very first day of school with a special tradition called a Schultüte (school cone). This colourful, cone-shaped gift dates back to the 19th century and is filled with small surprises to make the big milestone of starting school feel exciting and memorable.

Our Year 6 students embraced this tradition by creating a Schultüte for their Foundation buddies. Each cone was thoughtfully decorated and filled with a small toy, a sweet treat (Gummi Bears), and useful stationery items such as a coloured pencil and a crayon. This meaningful activity helped our students explore German culture while also building positive relationships across year levels. It was wonderful to see the joy on our Foundation students' faces as they received their special Schultüte (school cone) – a warm and welcoming way to begin their school journey.



St Mark's Scribes

Hello, we're the St Mark's Scribes for 2026 and we are Year 6 students who love to write. We will be writing in this newsletter every week about things that are going on at our school. We will be the student voice of St Marks. We will write in this newsletter about things like camps, sports day, harmony day and other very important stuff.



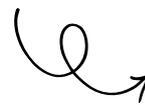
Hi! I'm Sylvie! I am part of the St Mark's Scribe team for 2026. I wanted to be a Scribe because I love to write, especially stories. I also love reading and I read A LOT.

I came to St Mark's in 2025 and have really enjoyed being a part of this amazing school. I really like sport; I play tennis and enjoy it very much. I'm really looking forward to interviewing the Year 5s and writing about their camp.



Hi, I'm Jemima, I am part of the 2026 Scribes. I came to St Mark's in 2021. I love writing about interesting things that happen in St Mark's as it is so fun. I like reading books to my sisters. I love netball, I am a defender in the goal part on the court.

I have been writing since I was 5 years old. I wanted to be a Scribe because when I was a Year 1 I saw everyone else write a lot, so I wanted to be one ever since. 😊



Yo! I'm Navneeth and I'm part of the 2026 St Mark's Scribes. I love playing sports, I play cricket and tennis and do karate. I came to St Mark's in 2024.

I am excited to be part of the team this year and interview people about their experiences. I hope to write about Sports Days, camps and other interesting stuff.



School life

Foundation Senses

In Nature Play, the Foundation students explored how they can use their body to find out about the world around them. They discovered that they can use their senses to see, smell, hear, taste and touch. They had lots of fun exploring their senses and enjoyed some tasty treats as well!



Parent Information Night - Early Readers

We warmly invite parents and caregivers to join us for an upcoming information session focused on supporting early readers from Foundation to Year 3. In previous years, this session was offered to Foundation families; however, this year we are opening this to all families across Foundation-Year 3 to help build a shared understanding of how reading develops and to learn practical strategies to use at home.

During the session, we will explore how children learn to read, what this looks like in the early years of school, and simple, effective ways you can support decoding, fluency, and confidence. Whether your child is just beginning their reading journey or consolidating their skills, this session will offer helpful insights and tools.

We will be offering two sessions:

- Thursday 5th March 2.15-3.00pm
- Thursday 5th March 6.00-6.45pm

To help us prepare for the evening, bookings are required by Tuesday 2nd March, using the link:

[Supporting Early Readers - Information Sessions - Fill in form](#)

We look forward to partnering with you as we nurture capable and confident readers together.

Rachel Harrip & Dani Barolo
Deputy Principals

SPORT'S DAY - TOMORROW FRIDAY, 27 FEB

Year 4-6 students come in House colours tomorrow for 600m/Discuss

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)
------------------	-------------------	--------------------	--------------------	---------------------

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)

PROGRAM - FRIDAY, 13 MARCH

The second day of the 2026 Sports Day will run as listed below:

12:00PM

Students and families are invited to bring a picnic lunch or share in a community BBQ prior to the event commencing.

12:40PM

Students need to be in their classrooms at 12.40pm to meet their teachers and for roll call

12:50PM

Students will be seated at house tents by their class teacher and ready for the opening of the 2026 Sports Day followed by the Acknowledgement of Country.

1:00PM

Introduction to Sports Day, including House Captain's oath before groups move off to tabloid events.

FIRST SESSION - TABLOID EVENTS

EVENT	JUNIOR TABLOID	SENIOR TABLOID
1	1:05	1:05
2	1:30	1:35
3	1:50	2:05
4	2:15	2:35
5	2:35	3:05
6	3:00	3:35
7	3:20	
8	3:45	

AFTERNOON BREAK - 4:05-4:30PM

Students enjoy their afternoon break in the comfort of their classrooms

SECOND SESSION - 4:30PM JUNIOR/SENIOR EVENTS

Foundation/Year 1 – Rob the Nest (junior oval). Year 1's first, followed by Foundations

Year 2/ Year 3 – Year 2 - Water Bucket Relay (outside Year 4's), Year 3 – Rob The Nest (senior oval) *Year 2&3s to complete both activities*

Year 4 - Year 4 - Sack Race, Year 5 - Egg and Spoon and Year 6- Knee Ball Relay (senior oval). *Year 4-6 - complete all activities once (time permitting)*

THIRD SESSION - WHOLE SCHOOL

5:00pm- 1-6 Relay – Boys (Race A)/ Girls (Race B)

5:10pm- House War Cry

5:20pm- Student/Teacher/Parent Race

5:30pm - Presentation of House Sports Shield

6:00pm - St Mark's Community Tea

Diary

February

Feb 27 - Chapel - 9.00am

Feb 27 - 600m/Discuss

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

Mar 23-25 - Year 4 Camp She Oak

Mar 24 - Assembly 2.40pm

Mar 27 - Chapel 9am

Friday Chapel

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

OSHC CUSTOMER SUPPORT INFORMATION

Our friendly Customer Support team is here to support you every step of the way, from enquiries and enrolments to bookings and accounts.

CONTACT DETAILS

E oshc@ymcasa.org.au
P 8200 2516

OPERATIONAL HOURS

9:00am – 5:00pm



OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE



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



URAI^{DLA}
SUSTAINABILITY
Fair

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026
10am - 4pm, Uraidla Showgrounds
Tickets \$5, Families \$10
Kids under 12 FREE, bookings essential

Growing Change: Local action from the ground up

