



Rocket Launch Time

Week 6 | Term 1 | 2026

Faith Focus

Chapel in Week 6 of Term 1 is always a special time because that's when the school and the St Mark's congregation share the joyous activity of presenting bibles to the Year 2 students. The congregation's Women's Fellowship group donate towards the purchase of the Bibles, and several representatives come along to Chapel to hand them out.

The Bible – also known as Holy Scripture – is SUCH a special book. Not only does it tell us about God's guidance of his people throughout history – often providing additional information on numerous events that are also recorded in conventional historical records – but it also shows God's undivided, unconditional love for those who come to accept him into their lives.

The Bible is divided into 66 'books'. The first 39 books, known as the Old Testament, contain some pretty wild stories of the things God had to do to protect his people and keep them on track in their preparation for the arrival of Jesus. The remaining 27 books then tell the story of the ministry of Jesus as God's gift of forgiveness to all human beings – past, present, and future.

If you've never read the Bible, this might all sound a bit bland, but the Bible is recognised as the best-selling, most translated, most broadly distributed, most widely read book of all time. Current statistics record that roughly 100 million Bibles are printed annually!

But so what? How can this old book be of any relevance to us today? Well, here's the thing. The Bible itself tells us that, *"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right"* (2 Timothy 3:16 New Living Translation).

I don't know about you, but I NEED a book like that in my life! Through the Bible, God not only challenges and corrects me, but also comforts, heals, and encourages me.

I encourage you to check it out. Make time to read the Bible regularly to discover and grow your relationship with God. You'll be glad you did! And if you've never tried it, you can [start here!](#)

I'm at Chapel most Fridays and available for a chat afterwards. Feel free to come and say "Hi." God bless your week!

Pastor Greg

Principal Ponderings

One of our learning principles at St Mark's is, "Our learning is real life". Our teachers work hard to provide learning experiences for our students which are engaging and connect them with the world outside of school. There were some exciting things going on around the school this week, and it was great to see some of the real life learning in our upper primary grades. Our Year 4 students were visited by Jade Cornish from SA Water as part of their look at water as a resource. Our Year 6 students hosted visits from Matt Schultz, who spoke to them about state government and Ben Footner, who spoke about local government, before going on excursion to Parliament House in Adelaide. Our Year 5's had some very engaging learning experiences, travelling to Port Hughes for their coastal explorer camp.

On Friday, our Year 2 students will receive their Bibles during chapel. Pastor Greg will be there to present them, along with the Women's Fellowship from St Mark's Lutheran Church. Our visitors will spend some time with the Year 2's after chapel, reading some stories and getting to know our students. We are grateful to the St Mark's congregation for their generous support of our school.

School Board

St Mark's School Board is seeking nominations to fill 3 vacancies on the Board and 1 vacancy on the Finance Risk and Audit Sub-committee. Nominations are sought from persons with skills in finance and accounting, information technology, education, facilities management, marketing and communications, legal and compliance. Nominations close 18 March 2026. For further information, please contact Casey Work at chair@stmarks.sa.edu.au

Sports Day

Thanks again to everyone who has volunteered to help out with the P&F sports day barbecue

and cake stall. This is our P&F's major fundraiser for the year and one that requires a lot of helpers if it is to run successfully. The P&F are a tremendous support for our school and our community – please do what you can to support them as they do this.

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. An eForm was sent out last week, which you can complete to lend your support. We're looking forward to a successful and enjoyable day.

Andrew Boesch
Principal



Lost Property

These glasses have been handed in to the front office. If they are your child's, please come collect them from Steph at the front office.





P&F Update

Sports Day - Friday 13 March

Sports day snack packs close Monday! Please get orders in now on Flexischools
Snack packs include a fruit box, apple, popcorn, gummy bears and a Le Snak for \$7.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please sign up to volunteer at the Sports day BBQ. Volunteers are desperately needed. Contact the school or email CJ at stmarkspf@gmail.com

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.

Sports Day

At St Mark's students belong to one of four house teams; Barker (yellow), Davison (blue), Sturt (green), or 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.

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 BBQ. 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 program of the events has been included in this newsletter.



School life

Congratulations to our Swim Team

On Thursday the 26th of February, 21 enthusiastic swimmers attended the Summit Aquatic Centre, Mount Barker, to represent our school in the annual Courier Cup swimming carnival. It was the first time this event had been at the Summit Aquatic Centre and it was fantastic to use the new facilities. In the lead up, these students attended trials to prepare for the day and have shown a strong commitment to improving their swimming strokes! Mr Scott and Mrs Fourie were very proud to witness the students' efforts and team comradery. Well done to our swimmers; we finished 2nd place overall in the BARKER district.



Visits by Mr Schulz and Mr Footner

On Monday, Year 4 to 6 students went to the library to listen to Matt Schultz. He is running as an Independent for Kavel, to represent Mt Barker. He is going to be in the upcoming election. He talked to us because in HASS we are learning about Parliament, so he came here to tell us about Parliament House and what he wants to do during the next 3 years!

Mr Footner also came in to talk about his work and what he does. He works for the Mt Barker Council (local government). He helps with all the things in Mt Barker. Things like pet registrations and potholes in roads. It was interesting to hear how people serve for the community.

Written by Jemima & Sylvie, Year 6 Student on behalf of the St Mark's Scribes

Year 4 SA Water Visit

Our Year 4 students were visited by Jade Cornish from SA Water as part of their Look at Water as a Resource work.



School life

Year 6 Parliament Excursion

On Tuesday, the Year 6 classes went to Parliament House on North Terrace, and The Democracy Museum in Adelaide, as an educational excursion while learning about democracy and Australia's government. They also visited The Adelaide Migration Museum as a peek into what they would be exploring next.

We interviewed some of our fellow Year 6's about their experience and this is what they said:

"It was fun learning about how the government worked, and we also learned about the structure of Parliament House." - Jenon

"We got to see the Lower House and the Upper House and learned about the traditions of the houses." - Carli

"It was a great experience to sit where the real politicians sit." - Louis

"It was absolutely wonderful to learn so much about Australia's democracy and how the government works." - Navneeth



School life

600m & Discus

Last Friday, Year Four to Six participated in the 600m races and discus. We started with 600m, we went through each year level, starting with 9-year-olds to 12-year-olds. Everyone showed persistence and confidence as they ran. Discus ran throughout the rest of the day with some great results from the throwing. We're all excited about Sports Day next Friday.

Written by Sylvie, Year 6 Student on behalf of the St Mark's Scribes



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

School TV

We are excited to announce that we have partnered with SchoolTV to provide families with access to clear, expert-led guidance on the issues affecting young people today. SchoolTV is an evidence-based wellbeing resource designed to support parents and carers in raising children and adolescents.

Families are encouraged to explore SchoolTV regularly and to sign up to Get Alerts within any SchoolTV topic to stay informed when new topics are released. SchoolTV can be accessed via our website [here](#). You can read the information below, or watch a video introducing SchoolTV [here](#)

How SchoolTV can support parents & carers



SchoolTV delivers the greatest impact when it is used consistently across the whole school community. This guide outlines how parents and carers can use SchoolTV in complementary ways to strengthen wellbeing practice, build shared understanding and support positive outcomes for students.

1

Access trusted guidance when it matters most

Use SchoolTV when your school shares a topic to build your understanding of wellbeing, or when concerns arise about your child's wellbeing, offering timely, expert-led guidance you can trust.

2

Understand and respond to wellbeing needs early

Learn to recognise early warning signs and emerging issues through clear, evidence-based guidance that supports early intervention and preventative approaches at home.

3

Build confidence supporting your child

Use SchoolTV to better understand and navigate the challenges young people face today, and to foster constructive conversations with your child using practical, age-appropriate strategies.

4

Make informed decisions and seek support sooner

Access credible advice and guidance to understand next steps, explore support options, and make informed decisions for your child's wellbeing, helping to bridge the gap while families and students await professional support.

5

Rely on one trusted, school-endorsed resource

Use SchoolTV as a consistent, reliable platform recommended by your school, making it easy to share trusted information with other adult caregivers and reducing the need to search multiple online resources.

Diary

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
- Mar 30 - Learning Conversations

April

- Apr 1 - Learning Conversations
- Apr 7 - Assembly 2.40pm
- Apr 7 - Learning Conversations
- Apr 8 - School photos
- Apr 10 - Closing Chapel - 9am
- Apr 10 - Whole School Musical Jam 1.45pm

Mini Mavs – U10 Girls Pathway Program

Calling all young hoop stars! ✨

Start your basketball journey on Sunday mornings, 8:30–9:15 AM at St Francis de Sales College. Terms 2 & 3 focus on fun, skill-building, and game play, helping girls aged 4–9 years develop confidence, teamwork, and a love for basketball. All sessions are led by experienced coaches who make learning the game exciting and inclusive.

💰 Cost: \$200 for both terms - training singlet included

📅 Start Date: Sunday, 3rd May

❌ No training: 31st May, 7th June, 28th June, 5th July & 12th July

📍 Where: St Francis de Sales College

This program is the first step toward Mini Mavs, giving young players the foundations to join our pathway programs in the future while having fun, making friends, and learning the game in a safe and supportive environment.

Register: Email admin@easternmavericks.com.au

**U10 GIRLS
PATHWAY
PROGRAM**

**SUNDAY MORNINGS
8.30–9.15AM AT SFDS**

Join us for terms 2 & 3 for skills and game play training on Sunday mornings

Friday Chapel

Chapel is held every Friday at 9am in the Hall. We look forward to Pastor Greg leading us in Chapel tomorrow, along with the gifting of Bibles to Year 2 students.

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!

**ECHUNGA TENNIS CLUB...
COME AND TRY DAY**

SUNDAY 15TH OF MARCH 10AM TO 1PM

- Come and try session
- Register for upcoming competitive and social season
- Meet the coaches
- All ages and skills welcome
- Free BBQ lunch

FOR MORE INFO: bill@adelaidehillstenniscoaching.com.au

**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

News & Community Events

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

In-House	FULL FEE	\$69.90	CCS REDUCED FEE*	\$10.05 - \$36.85
	Excursion/Inclusion	FULL FEE	\$90.80	CCS REDUCED FEE*

*Estimation of fees after subsidy is applied

Vacation Care | 13 April - 24 April

WEEK 1

Monday 13 April	Tuesday 14 April	Wednesday 15 April	Thursday 16 April	Friday 17 April
In-House Bedazzling Gem Art	Excursion Bridge Bowling	In-House Heroes On Wheels	In-House OSHC Olympics	Excursion Monarto Zoo
Dive into a world of creativity with OSHC. Bedazzle fun items, take part in engaging art and craft activities, and enjoy a hands-on experience filled with colour, sparkle, and fun.	Enjoy action-packed games and plenty of fun as we roll into a day of strikes and smiles. Depart: 11:00am Return: 3:00pm Transport: Private Bus	Bring your wheels and join the Superhero Training Academy! Create your own costume, tackle a fun training course, and design comic strips. Don't forget to bring your bike and helmets!	A sports day for all to enjoy. Pick a colour, create some team posters and complete in a team. Obstacles, games and competitions. Who will win?	Let's jump on the Monarto bus and see what animals we can find. Depart: 9:00am Return: 1:00pm Transport: Private Bus
Outcomes: 1, 4, 5	Outcomes: 1, 3, 4, 5	Outcomes: 1, 4	Outcomes: 2, 4, 5	Outcomes: 1, 3, 5

WEEK 2

Monday 20 April	Tuesday 21 April	Wednesday 22 April	Thursday 23 April	Friday 24 April
In-House Dress To Impress Career Day	In-House Tiny Town	Excursion A Day At The Movies	In-House Show and Tell Disco	Excursion Bounce
Dress up as your dream career and show off your style, there's a prize for the best costume! Everyone will get a chance to share why they chose their career, so don't forget to bring your accessories.	Let your imagination bloom! Create miniature houses, magical fairy gardens, and build your very own tiny town!	Let's go to the cinemas to see a movie. When we come back, we will continue the fun with some themed activities. Depart: 9.00am Return: 2.00pm Walking (15mins)	Bring something special from home to share with everyone! In the afternoon, get ready to light up the dance floor at our OSHC Glow Disco and groove to all your favourite tunes.	Get ready for a fun-filled day of jumping, climbing, and moving to keep active and energized.
Outcomes: 2, 3	Outcomes: 1, 4	Outcomes: 1, 2	Outcomes: 3	Outcomes: 3

Book your session via the Xplor Home App
Visit sa.ymcasa.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
P 08 8200 2516
E oshc@ymcasa.org.au
f /YMCA SA OSHC

