



Important Dates

Adelaide Cup Public
Holiday

Monday 10 March 2025

Benedict Campus
Tour, 4.30pm

Monday 17 March 2025

Bosco Campus
Tour, 9.15am

Wednesday 19 March 2025

Harmony Day
Celebrations

Friday 21 March 2025

07.03.25

Principal's Update T1, W6

Community

I often use the word community: St Mark's College community, our Parish community, the wider community, even the global community, but what does community actually mean?

Dictionary definitions do not quite capture the essence of community. Definitions from the Merriam-Webster dictionary include: a unified body of individuals; a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society; a group linked by a common policy; a body of persons or nations having a common history or common social, economic, and political interests, and perhaps more generally, an interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location.

At St Mark's College we are a diverse community seeking to act harmoniously and foster a sense of belonging. According to the Cambridge dictionary, a sense of belonging is one of humanity's most basic needs. To belong means to feel comfortable, welcomed and accepted and to be in good relationship with other members of the community. On one level, our new House polo tops have instantly

generated a visible sign of belonging and contributed to a great community atmosphere at Bosco Athletics Day last week, but we know that it takes more than uniform to create a community.

When children are enrolled at St Mark's College, the students and the families become part of our community. We are a community of learning; the purpose of a school is to enable learning through providing appropriate supports and challenges that empower students to grow and develop the knowledge and skills to be successful in life and contribute effectively to society. We have a great team of teachers, curriculum and wellbeing leaders, and educational support officers working with students and their families to support the development of shared understandings, expectations and accountabilities that foster student development.

A genuine, open and supportive partnership contributes significantly to the maintenance of a strong community. We each are members of our community and we each have our part to play in supporting the growth, belonging and flourishing of everyone within it.

Go well!

Dr Sandra Hewson, Principal

07.03.25

Faith and Mission, T1, W6



Sacramental Information Meeting

Preparation for the Parish Sacramental Programme began with an information evening on Monday this week. Teachers of Year 4 students explained the programme involving celebrating First Holy Communion, and teachers of Year 6 did the same for Confirmation.

Fr Jimmy elaborated on the sacraments as a way we celebrate God's grace and as a sign of God's spirit acting in our lives and accompanying us on our faith journey. The Sacraments are an integral element of the connection between parish and school.

Catholic families from other schools were encouraged to participate, and several expressed interest in the programme; a big thank you to Claire Conaghty for facilitating this ministry to these families.

Shrove Tuesday

Benedict and Bosco celebrated the end of Ordinary Time and the preparation for Lent by cooking and eating pancakes. Traditionally, it was a way to destock one's supplies in preparation for fasting or abstaining from rich foods.

At Bosco, pancakes were sold to raise funds for Project Compassion. Staff and students contributed \$195 to the fundraising efforts. Our Year 9 students are organising further fundraising efforts through their SRM (Spiritualities, Religion and Meaning) subject.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season. It is a time of preparation leading up to the remembrance of Jesus' passion and death, then celebrating his resurrection at Easter. The marking of ashes on the forehead symbolises our mortality and urgency to seek forgiveness and become better people, more open to receiving and believing the Good News through Jesus Christ.

The day began with our Year 12 students travelling to the Cathedral to attend their first Mass with parishioners for the year. At this Mass, the ashes were blessed and marked on their foreheads. Collecting ashes from this Mass, the Year 12s transported them back to

Benedict and Bosco Campuses for their respective liturgies.

Benedict Campus had a campus liturgy with the scripture reading focusing on humility and modesty in our behaviour during the Lenten season. Teachers observed several students reminding each other of this behaviour following the liturgy. It speaks to the connectedness and attentiveness of our younger students to the wisdom and truth witnessed in our Catholic identity.

Bosco Campus had four simultaneous liturgies organised in Houses around the school. At this liturgy, the Year 12s carried on the blessing of the ashes by placing them on their House members' foreheads. At these liturgies, the Year 9s from each House launched our Project Compassion fundraising campaign, with the theme 'Unite against poverty'. This theme recognises that together, we can make a massive impact on the poverty in the world. Working together to raise funds, we contribute to programmes that promote the dignity of the human person, regardless of circumstances, to allow the living of life to the full.

Our school has a Project Compassion fundraising page through Caritas Australia- [to make a donation, click here](#). Electronic giving allows more people than ever to contribute to the fundraising campaign and enables better tracking of how much is being raised. Please consider donating to Project Compassion to support their work on social justice and outreach to fight poverty worldwide.

The Witness

[Click here for the latest edition.](#)

Southern Cross

[Click here for the latest edition.](#)

Mr Isaac Ellis, APRIM



06.03.25

Benedict Campus Reminders, T1, W6

Key Dates: Term 1, Week 7 and 8

- **Adelaide Cup Public Holiday**
 â€¢Monday 10 March, 8.30am – 11.30am
- **Mini Mark's Playgroup – Dress Up as a Superhero**
 â€¢Tuesday 11 March, 9.00am – 10.30am
- **NAPLAN**
 â€¢Wednesday 12 – Monday 24 March
- **Little Lions Session 6**
 â€¢Friday 14 March, 8.30am – 11.30am

- **Little Lions Session 6**
â€ˆMonday 17 March, 8.30am – 11.30am
- **Benedict Campus Tour**
â€ˆMonday 17 March, 4.30pm – 5.30pm
- **Mini Mark’s Playgroup – National Playgroup Week Party**
â€ˆTuesday 18 March, 9.00am – 10.30am
- **Little Lions Session 7**
â€ˆFriday 21 March, 8.30am – 11.30am
- **Harmony Day**
Friday 21 March, wear a splash of orange

Cultivating a love of reading

In an age dominated by digital screens and instant enjoyment, the timeless magic of reading often gets overlooked. Yet, the importance of cultivating a love for reading in our children cannot be overstated. Reading is not just an academic exercise; it’s a crucial life skill that shapes a child’s cognitive, emotional, and social development.

Building Cognitive Skills: Reading stimulates the brain in ways that no other activity can. It enhances vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills. When children read, they encounter new words and concepts, which expand their knowledge and understanding of the world. This cognitive development lays the foundation for academic success across all subjects.

Fostering Emotional Intelligence: Through stories, children experience a wide range of emotions and learn to empathise with characters from different backgrounds and situations. This emotional journey helps them understand and manage their own feelings and develop empathy for others. Books can be a source of comfort and reassurance, especially during challenging times.

Strengthening Social Skills: Reading encourages children to imagine and explore new worlds, cultures, and perspectives. This exposure broadens their horizons and fosters an appreciation for diversity. Discussions about books with peers and family members also improve communication skills and create opportunities for meaningful connections.

Sparking Creativity and Imagination: Books transport children to fantastical realms and adventures that ignite their creativity and imagination. They inspire children to dream big, think creatively, and solve problems in innovative ways. The limitless possibilities within the pages of a book encourage children to explore their own potential and aspirations.

Creating Lifelong Learners: A love for reading instills a thirst for knowledge that lasts a lifetime. Children who enjoy reading are more likely to become self-motivated learners who seek out information and continuously expand their understanding of the world. This lifelong habit of reading contributes to personal growth and success in various aspects of life.

What you can do to help:

- **Set Aside Reading Time:** Dedicate a specific time each day for reading. Make it a family activity to model good reading habits.
- **Create a Reading-Friendly Environment:** Fill your home with books and create a cozy reading nook where your child can escape into their favourite stories.
- **Encourage Exploration:** Allow your child to choose books that interest them, whether it’s fiction, non-fiction, or graphic novels. Their passion for reading will flourish when they have the freedom to explore different genres.
- **Be a Reading Role Model:** Show your child that reading is a valuable and enjoyable activity by reading yourself. Share your favourite books and discuss them with your child.

Reading is a gift that keeps on giving. By nurturing a love for reading in your child, you are equipping them with the tools they need to navigate the world with confidence, empathy, and curiosity. Let’s work together to create a generation of enthusiastic readers who embrace the power of books.

Mrs Sarah Freer, Deputy Principal, Benedict Campus

What's been happening at Benedict Campus?

There's been plenty happening at Benedict Campus during Week 5 and 6...



07.03.25

Bosco Campus Reminders, T1, W6

Key Dates: Term 1, Week 7 and 8

- **Adelaide Cup Public Holiday**
Monday 10 March, 8.30am – 11.30am
- **NAPLAN**
Wednesday 12 – Monday 24 March
- **Year 10 Immunisations**
Friday 14 March
â€‹
- **Bosco Campus Tour**
â€‹Wednesday 19 March, 9.15am
- **Harmony Day**
â€‹Friday 21 March
- **Boarding House Opening**
Friday 21 March, 2.00pm for invited guests only

NAPLAN Reminder

A reminder that NAPLAN literacy and numeracy skills testing will take place from Wednesday next week for Year 7 and 9 students.

Please see Operoo for the full details, students must be prepared with charged laptops and earphones.

Learning Conversations

Information about Year 10 - 12 Learning Conversations (previously called Parent Teacher Interviews) will be sent out via Operoo next week. We ask that students attend these meetings along with their parents / guardians to build their agency and capacity. This will ensure that everyone has a shared understanding and will assist your child to reach their potential.

International Women's Day

College Captain Eva Christensen-Lauder and Vice-Captain Zoe Reid along with Fiona Clarke will attend the International Women's Day Luncheon today hosted by Soroptimist International. The guest speaker at the luncheon is Old Scholar Maria Palumbo - CEO of Junction Australia.

Bosco Athletics Day

Many thanks to our students, staff, volunteers and families for making last week's Athletics Day a wonderful event. It was excellent to see the team spirit displayed on the day and the number of students participating in events. Thank you to Mr Leo Coates and Mr Kris Sjostrom for their overall organisation of the day. Well done Polding!

Mrs Katie Pole, Deputy Principal, Bosco Campus

What's been happening at Bosco Campus?

There's been plenty happening at Bosco Campus during Week 5 and 6...



Bosco Athletics Day 2025



Congratulations to all our students for competing with lots of team spirit last Friday. It was great to see so many students participating in events and supporting one another! Well done to our back-to-back winners the Polding Wolves for taking the overall win on the day!

Frank Lauritsen Memorial Shield (overall winner):

- | | |
|--------------|------|
| 1. Polding | 2280 |
| 2. Bosco | 2269 |
| 3. Gallagher | 1785 |
| 4. McNally | 1672 |

Fr Ray Cau Memorial Handicap Shield:

- | | |
|--------------|------|
| 1. Bosco | 2678 |
| 2. Polding | 2505 |
| 3. McNally | 2128 |
| 4. Gallagher | 1672 |

Individual Record Breakers:

Jaspa, U13 Female

- 100m Heat 13.92
- 100m Final 14.65 (14.84 S Chivell)
- 200m 31.36 (31.57 C Tiller)
- 400m 1.13.25 (1.14.04 C Tiller)
- Long Jump 4.09m (3.67m M Ackland)
- Shotput 9.08m (8.98m J Kelly)

Hayley, U13 Female

- 100m Heat 13.92

Max, U13 Male

- High Jump 1.45m (1.43m R Ireland)

Madison, U13 Female

- 800m 2.50.02 (2.57.00 S Chivell)

Chloe, U13 Female

- Shotput 9.03m (8.98 J Kelly)

Lexie, U13 Female

- Javelin 20.1 (19.30 L Merkel)

Connor, U13 Male

- Javelin 28.3 (26.63 B Bridley)
- 100m Heat 12.28

Dane' Open Female

- 800m 2.28.13 (2.33.10 M Stirling)

Beau Open Male

- 400m 56.09 (56.16 M Connelly)

Individual Age Group Champions:

- U13- Jaspa and Connor
- U14- Zaid and Sloan
- U15- Ryleigh and Jaida
- U16- Lily and Lucas
- Open- Beau and Abbie

For all of the photos of the day, check out our [Bosco Athletics Day gallery!](#)

Student Leadership

Last week we commissioned our new student leaders at Benedict and Bosco Campuses. Congratulations to all students who have been selected to represent their peers!





Child Safety Alert - Port Pirie

Students and families are reminded to be wary of approaches from strangers, especially when they are unaccompanied or travelling to and from school. If they are approached students should not respond and should not accept offers of rides or gifts.

Students should seek the assistance of other nearby adults if they feel unsafe and should report the event to a trusted adult (parent or school staff member) as soon as possible.

SA Police advises that taking out a mobile phone and calling police can deter the offender and they recommend the student making a

formal report to their closest police station.

For guidance on what to teach your child about strategies for saying safe, view this link: [SAPOL Personal Safety | Safety for Young People](#).

06.03.25

College Sports



Welcome Leo!

Hey, I'm Leo! I'm the new Sports Administrator here at St Mark's College, which means I help organise Sports Days, PE and weekend sports. My job is to make sure everything runs smoothly so everyone can have fun and enjoy the games.

I've always been passionate about sports and love being involved in all the action. The best part is seeing how sports bring people together and create such a great sense of community, whether it's through competition or just having a good time. As an Old Scholar myself I have worn the navy, gold and red to compete in Knock Out football!

Can't wait to see everyone out there in their navy, gold and red at all our College sports!

Registrations Open

A reminder to all families that registrations are now open for:

- Soccer:
 - Junior Under 7's includes Receptions (if parents deem they are ready for team sport)
 - Under 9's: Age-based
 - Primary: Students up to Year 6
 - Junior High: Year 7, 8 and 9
 - Senior High: Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12
- Netball:
 - Juniors (8-17 years)
 - Seniors (turning 18+)
 - Net Set Go
- Football:
 - Auskick
 - Under 9 (born in 2016 or younger - or turning 7 in 2025)
 - Under 11 (born in 2014 or younger)
 - Under 13 (born in 2012 or younger)

[Click to register](#), Sports Vouchers are available for download.

Hockey are finalising registration details and this will be communicated shortly. Hook in 2 Hockey is open for registration, [click for more](#)

info, or [click to register](#).

Your help is needed!

The opportunity for your child to play sport is only possible if we have willing volunteers to coach a team. The commitment is small but rewarding and the College will provide you with support if you take on a coach's role.

If you wish to consider a coaching role, please email: sport@smc.catholic.edu.au.

Mr Leo Coates, Sports Administrator



Tips on showing your child kindness

I can do
everything
that I set my
mind to

Tips from our School Counsellors, Naomi and Sonya

Teaching your child positive self-talk involves modelling encouraging language and reinforcing their strengths. You can acknowledge by pointing out their accomplishments, reminding them of their abilities, and teaching them to replace negative thoughts with more

constructive ones, like “I can try my best” instead of “I can’t do this”. Encouraging your child to recognise their efforts helps build their confidence and resilience.

21.02.25

Discounted Uniform Items for Purchase

The following discounted items are available to purchase from College Administration, Bosco Campus:

- PE Shorts (4C - 16C; XS-4XL)
- PE Polo Shirt (2C - 16C; XS-4XL)
- PE Track Pant (10C, 16C; XS-2XL)
- PE Jacket (6C, 12C, 14C, 16C; XS-3XL)
- Summer Dress (4C, 6C)
- Long Sleeve Shirt (4-6)
- Short Sleeve Shirt (4-6)
- Winter Skirt (6C)

Note: These items are unable to be worn from 2027 onwards.

2026 + 2027 Enrolments



Enrolments are open for students commencing at St Mark's in 2026 and 2027. Early enrolment is encouraged!

Scholarships are available for new and current enrolments. Click to find out more about our [scholarships](#) which close on 27 June.

Click to find out about the [enrolment process](#) or here to view our [Campus Tour](#) dates.

College Calendar

[Click here](#) to access the Calendar for our College events.

Canteen Specials

[Click here](#) to check out the weekly specials for the upcoming fortnight.

Community News

> **OSHC April School Holidays Schedule**

Click to see the schedule and find out more about booking your child's place!

> **Phillippines Fundraiser - Bottles and Cans Collection**

To arrange pick up of bottles and cans, contact Grant Hanlon 0414 320 840


> **Advocating for Safe and Respectful School Communities**

Catholic School Parents SA

> **NDIS Mental Health and Wellbeing Support**

Appointments with Registered Psychologist available now

Saver Plus Information Sessions



Could Saver Plus help with your education costs?

Google

 [Saver Plus YouTube](#)

to see our quick explainer video and find out if you're eligible.



[Read More](#)

Interested in hosting an exchange student?

Bonjour!

We have a group of French teenagers coming to South Australia at the end of May for 12 weeks.

The students come here to improve their English and to have a cultural immersion with an Australian family.

If you have a space in your home to share with a student, please contact:

Jenny Hanson, SA Manager, Southern Cross Cultural Exchange

jenny.h@scce.com.au

0409 890 184

Mini Mark's Playgroup



Tuesday mornings, 9.00am – 10.30am held during term time

All welcome!

[Read More](#)

Out of School Hours Care



Available at Benedict Campus for Before School, After School and Vacation Care.

[Find out more about OSHC.](#)

Study Hub



Need assistance with your study?

Visit the Bosco Campus Student Hub after school daily until 4.30pm.

College Quick Links

[College Uniform](#)

[Uniform Policy and Guidelines](#)

[Uniform Buy, Swap and Sell](#)

Parents + Friends Community

Join our community!

Term Dates 2025

Term 1 - Tuesday 28 January - Friday 11 April

Term 2 - Tuesday 29 April - Friday 4 July

Term 3 - Tuesday 22 July - Friday 26 September

Term 4 - Monday 13 October - Wednesday 10 December

All Content Copyright 2025 ©