



St Michael's Lutheran Primary School

2020 School Performance Report



Wonder Challenge Explore Discover



From the Principal

A warm welcome to St Michael's Lutheran Primary School, Hahndorf.

St Michael's is a co-educational Lutheran primary school with a reputation for providing quality; Christ-centred education in the Adelaide Hills.

2020 was a year unlike any in recent years. In the Adelaide Hills, it began with tragic bushfires affecting many of our families and students. By the time school began, we started to hear rumours of a virus causing problems overseas and by mid-March, our school, like others around the world, were preparing for a very different type of education.

While many things changed or were abandoned in 2020, there were also many blessings that came in a year where schools, and in fact the world, were forced to rethink how they functioned.



I hope that this report gives readers a sense of the blessings of 2020 as it focuses on what we could do, rather than what we could not.

This report provides a snapshot into the life at St Michael's. For more information, or to book a Principal's Tour, please contact the school office or take a virtual tour via our website at www.stmichaels.sa.edu.au

Kind regards,

Terri Taylor
Principal

Contextual Information

St. Michael's Lutheran School is a co-educational primary school offering contemporary education from Foundation through to Year 7. Located in the township of Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills, St. Michael's has been offering Lutheran education to the Adelaide Hills Community since 1839. The school's mission statement, *'To provide Christ-centred, dynamic and innovative education in an inclusive school community'*, guides the decision-making process within the school.

St Michael's offers the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program from Foundation to Year 7. Through a program of inquiry, students learn to be independent thinkers with a passion for learning. The school provides a wide variety of experiences for students, designed to enable all students to fulfil their potential. St Michael's students are supported to wonder, challenge, explore and discover.

Organised into multi-age learning communities, St Michael's students think outside of the box. We embrace the diversity of every child, as students strive to reach their potential.

With outstanding facilities, St Michael's is a school where students have abundant opportunities to wonder, create, experience challenge, develop skills and contribute to the community.

An enthusiastic and hard-working Parents and Friends group and a dedicated School Board support St Michael's student. St Michael's is an outstanding community in the Adelaide Hills.



2020 In Review

Throughout the year, St Michael's has worked to provide a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for our students. We foster students desire to wonder about their world, embrace challenge, explore openly and make new and creative discoveries.

As an International Baccalaureate World School, St Michaels' is committed to developing globally minded students who are diverse thinkers, with a heart for service. 2020 provided us with ample opportunity to study world events and their impact on us, despite being a long way from the source of some of these events. Apart from COVID-19, the Black Lives Matter Rallies and the US Election presented us with valuable discussion points to explore.

At the core of our school are the Christian beliefs and values, which underpin all learning. Students participate in worship, devotion and Christian Studies lessons as a normal part of the school week. In 2020, there were periods of time where we were not able to gather for corporate worship and so we improvised by creating 'worship in the cloud', an online worship streamed directly into each classroom and into a nearby café, enabling parents to participate also.

At St Michael's, student achievement is not just measured in academic pursuits. Students are encouraged to live out the IB Learner Profile through Physical Education, the Arts, Languages, Science and indeed all curriculum areas. In addition, we understand that a student's social and emotional wellbeing is critical to ensuring that our students are balanced people prepared to contribute to the community. In 2020, the way that we support student wellbeing became even more critical as children grappled with the challenges in their wider community.

SPORTING ENDEAVORS

Despite the cancellation and modification of many events, 2020 still provided some opportunities for our school to be successful in interschool sports. The SAPSASA Courier Cup Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country went ahead during the year, with strong performances by our students.

In addition, students participated in interschool equestrian, golf and downhill cycling events. At St Michael's we strive to provide wide and diverse opportunities for students to participate in their chosen sport and to try new sports.

Our Twilight Sports Day was won by Prince George after a hard-fought day of competition.

Swimming Lessons and the Year 6 Aquatics day went ahead as normal.



SAPSASA Athletics

CAMPS AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION

A highlight of the St Michael's school experience is the Year 6 Canberra Trip. Unfortunately, this trip needed to be cancelled due to travel restriction in 2020, so the teaching staff worked to create a local camp for our Year 6 students. With the theme of Health and Wellbeing, students investigated a range of activities across the city of Adelaide. During the week they did community service in Holdfast Bay, experienced an afternoon at Sprout Cooking School, participated in AFL Max, did aquatics at West Lakes, the Tree Climb at Unley, worked with a physio, tried meditating and learned a little about being independent as they managed their own cooking and cleaning in a cabin at West Beach.



The Middle Learning Community students (Yr 4/5) were scheduled to attend camp at Sovereign Hill in Ballarat, however, the long closure of borders to Victoria forced the cancellation of that plan. Instead, teaching staff implemented a 2-night, 3-day camp at Wallaroo. The students bravely managed extreme weather conditions which saw high temperatures, unexpected severe storms and flooding. The history of Wallaroo and the colonial roots were explored as well as the beach eco system.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS EVENTS

The Parents and Friends began the year with their 'Back to School Bash', an event to welcome families back to school for the year. Unfortunately, this was the only event held which did not require significant adjustment.

The P&F Committee were determined to enable the extremely popular Mother's and Father's Day stalls to go ahead and, with COVID safe practices in place, found ways to make this happen. In addition they held an end of year Christmas Stall for the families to enjoy.

Despite the challenges of COVID and the inability to hold many of their regular events, the P&F still managed to raise \$7,600 for the school community, supporting us to purchase big games for our school courtyard.



LUNCHTIME CLUBS

In order to support the diversity of our students interests, as well as to provide creative and stimulating experiences for our students, St Michael's offers many lunchtime clubs. In 2020, these clubs include Ukelele Club, Gardening Club, 'Dude Perfect' club as a number of clubs which were held in our Maker Space such as Lego Club, Coding Club and Digital Technologies Club.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

St Michael's places a high priority on student leadership and in 2020, numerous leadership opportunities were created which enabled students to take an active role in the decision making and running of the school.

The House Captains took ownership of managing the sport equipment allocation during recess and lunch times, with great success. Student leaders supported younger children in the library and with ICT.

School Captains, Emily Stewart and Thomas King found creative ways to support our school in COVID times. Emily presented our school with an inspirational video to encourage students who, like herself, needed to stay home to remain safe. Thomas took it upon himself to create an ANZAC wreath and lay it at the Memorial in Hahndorf, after the official ceremony was cancelled.

The Student Representative Council met fortnightly to discuss ideas to improve our school and provide fun events for our students to enjoy. Throughout the year the SRC hosted a gumboot and ugg boot day as well as casual days to raise funds for organisations such as Australian Lutheran World Service.

HAHNDORF CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

The project which began in 2018 continued in 2020 with tree planning, water and wildlife monitoring and maintenance. During 2020 the school also received a grant from the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board to begin Stage 2 of the project in the 2020/21 financial year.

The creek project has provided us with a unique opportunity to be involved in a real and impactful environmental challenge. During the year the students observed a number of Eastern Rosellas nesting in the boxes and growing from eggs to chicks to leaving the nest.



Tree Planting in the Hahndorf Creek



SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

COVID restrictions caused the cancellation of most of our regular events, due to capacity and contact restrictions. However, it did not stop us from developing many student centred events.

ROBOTICS AND CODING

Using digital technology to enhance learning for students is a natural part of schooling at St Michael's. With a 1:1 iPad program, the school is well placed to provide opportunities for students.

From Foundation to Year 7, students are involved in robotics and coding experiences. In 2020 the school installed a green screen, enabling our students to move into the area of digital media creation.



OUTDOOR LEARNING

St Michael's has a number of beautiful outdoor spaces constructed specifically for outdoor exploration and learning. In 2020 the school began the renovation of yet another garden space to enable it to be used for student learning. This is in line with our belief that the school is for the students and therefore all spaces should be areas of wonder and learning.

Sticks, crates, pallets, dirt, buckets and water provide hours of creative fun and learning for our students as they explore the natural environments within our school.

The Hahndorf Creek restoration project has added another element to our outdoor spaces, providing a real habitat to explore and sustain.

SCIENCE WEEK

In 2020 National Science week was celebrated with a week of challenges. Included in this event was a teacher dress up day where teachers dressed as a famous sea 'thing' and the students entered a competition to guess who or what each teacher was.

From a sea pig to the pacific garbage dump, students had to research and think to discover who each teacher represented.



PYP EXHIBITION

As part of our commitment to the International Baccalaureat Primary Years Program, St Michaels holds an exhibition of learning for our Year 6 students each year.

In 2020 the Central Idea was *our lifestyle can affect individuals, communities and the environment* and enabled students to explore a wide range of lifestyle choices. The Exhibition was cleverly organised to enable many families to attend in a COVID safe way.

SHOWCASES

Learning Showcases are one way that St Michael's students demonstrate their learning to their parents. These evenings are an interactive culmination of a unit of inquiry, providing our families with detail about specific outcomes.

In 2020, all students were involved in a Learning Showcase during the year. Learning Showcases form part of the schools reporting processes.

ACTIVE TRAVEL DAYS

As a Way2Go school, St Michael's strongly encourages students to find active ways to get to school. Each term we hold an *Active Travel Day* where students walk, ride or scoot to school.

These days are immensely popular with our students and since this initiative began, we have seen a distinct rise in the number of students using active ways to travel to school.

COLOUR RUN

Amongst 2020's concluding events was the annual Colour Run, held on our school oval. This year, in addition to the colour run was a variety of land and water activities designed to be fun and interactive.

SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

At St Michael's our students study Creative Arts, German and Sport with specialist teachers. Each of these subject teachers work with the classroom teachers to enhance the units of inquiry being studied each term.

SCHOOL LEAVER DESTINATIONS

In 2020, 34 Year 6 students graduated from St Michael's. These students celebrated their graduation with a **Senior's dinner** and a **special graduation service**.

Students from St Michael's moved on to Year 7 programs at Cornerstone College, Heathfield Secondary School, Concordia College, Eastern Fleurieu and Mitcham Girls.

OTHER

Other annual events include the Foundation Bible presentations, Book Week dress up day, Book Fair, Outdoor Education Day and Mud Day.



WELLBEING AT ST MICHAEL'S

St Michael's strives to provide a safe environment where student's social and emotional learning needs are met through evidence-based, whole school practices.

St Michael's has a dedicated wellbeing room, created to provide a space where students can take scheduled breaks, or find a quiet place to reset their "engines" as required.

Several times each week our school 'Wellbeing Dog', Raz, visits the school to spread joy and calm throughout the grounds. He is an important member of our well-being team and a sought after "teacher" when students require assistance to regulate themselves.

The Wellbeing room also has an external garden. This garden is well utilised by students who find the peaceful space assists them to self-regulate.

Catering for and respecting diversity is deeply valued at St Michael's. For this reason, our classrooms are designed with flexible learning spaces which consider the needs of all students in the classroom.

Each year we celebrate Harmony Week with special activities to highlight and develop mutual understanding and appreciation for our sameness and difference as individuals within the local and wider community.

Throughout the year, our Diverse Learning Coordinator presents children's talks and whole school activities designed to educate students in areas such as self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, relationship skills and responsible decision making (Casel, 2017).

Students are also offered targeted, individual/small group assistance, as required. Within this context, students are provided with the opportunity to develop their own understanding of themselves as learners, and identify and practice strategies to maximise their sense of well-being.

Evidence-based and highly regarded programmes including "What's the Buzz" and "Seasons for Growth" are also delivered regularly throughout the school year.



KINDERGYM

Due to COVID-19 the Kindergym was unable to operate for a period of time in 2020. Once it re-opened in Term 3, the attendance numbers increased significantly as families sought places to take their young children.

Affiliated with Gymnastics SA and led by our PE Teacher and Accredited Kindergym coach, Mick Phillips, Kindergym runs every Thursday morning during term time.

Kindergym incorporates movement, music and fun to support muscle and brain development in young children.

The program consistently attracts up to 60 pre-school aged children from the Adelaide Hills Community.

Enquiries about Kindergym can be made by contacting the school office on 8388 7228.



SCHOOL BOARD

In 2020 the School Board continued to work diligently to ensure effective governance of the school.

The school community is thankful for the dedicated work of the School Board.

During 2020 the School Board undertook the task of completing major changes to the school constitution and on 7th January 2021 the new constitution was approved by the office of Consumer and Business Affairs.

In addition, the Board began the process of creating a strategic plan for the period 2021 – 2024 by engaging Peter and Linda Bleckly from Bleckly Consulting who facilitated numerous community consultations late in 2020.

A special thank you to 2020 chairperson, Mr Scott Fairley for his dedication to the school over the past 12 months. Thank you to each council member for their work and support of the school through diligent governance.





2020 Teaching Staff List and Qualification

St Michael's is fortunate to have an experienced and dedicated staff who work tirelessly to create learning experiences which meet the needs of all of our students. We commend our teaching and support staff on the work that they do to provide positive outcomes in all areas of learning.



Terri Taylor
Dip T (ECE), Grad.
Dip.Theo. Ed,
MEdTheo



Evie Stevens
B. ECE, Grad Cert.
Ed. Lead, Grad. Dip.
Theo. Ed, M. Ed



Lisa Smith
B.Ed. Early
Childhood



Melissa Smith
B.Ed. (Jnr
Prim/Prim.)



Jenny Schultz
 Grad. Cert. Th. Ed., B.
 Early Childhood



Daniel Eckermann
 B. Ed. Prim., B. Sc



Rene Kruger
 B. Teach., Grad. Dip.
 Th. Ed.



Darlene Hall
 B. A., M. A. Tch.



Brad Pfeiffer
 B. Teach., Grad. Dip.
 Th. Ed



Mandy Moseley
 B. Teach., Grad.
 Dip. Th. Ed



Georgia Pope
 M. Spec. Ed. B. Ed,
 Dip. T. (Jnr Primary)



Michael Phillips
 B. Early Childhood



Theresa Sugars
 B. Contemp Arts, B.T.
 Prim. Sec



Helen Westermann
 B.A., Grad Dip Ed.
 Cambridge Uni/RSA
 CTEFLA

2020 Lutheran Support Officers

Student Support



Mrs Jane Mahomet



Mrs Janine Liebelt



Mrs Debra Nobes

Administration



Mrs Lee-Anne Francis



Mrs Cassie Menzel

Library



Mrs Ann Grivell



Mrs Raylene Johnson

Business Manager



Mrs Tracy Downing

ICT Support



Mrs Mary Whittaker

Maintenance



Mr Ben Steiner



Mr Dennis Collins

Workforce Composition

Male Teachers – 3

Female Teachers – 11

Positions of Added Responsibility – 6

Administration, Student Support, ICT and Maintenance staff – 11

Indigenous Staff - 0

Staff Professional Development

St Michael's is proud of its culture of learning. All staff are actively involved in learning and engage in internal and external professional learning in order to improve their teaching.

In 2020 St Michael's invested a total of \$11,780 staff professional learning.

The need to rapidly move into a position where we would be able to provide quality online learning for our students provided us with an opportunity to engage in specific professional learning on platforms such as SeeSaw, Teams and Edmodo, our chosen online platforms. In addition, staff participated in learning about effective ways of communicating and teaching online.

As our face-to-face learning opportunities were not able to go ahead, due to COVID restrictions, we engaged in online learning via Zoom. We worked with 2 other schools to engage with 'Australians Together', learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures. This inspired teachers to confidently approach educational opportunities in the classroom, resulting in collaborations with a number of indigenous guest speakers.



The 2020 PYP focus was to be developing conceptual understanding and how to personalise inquiries. We were fortunate enough to engage the time and expertise of Kath Murdoch, leading international educator and speaker for 2.5 days of learning. Kath worked exclusively with our teaching team, via zoom, to support our inquiry conceptual planning and development. This included a follow up workshop during a staff meeting later in the year.

All staff begin the year with a Professional Learning Plan based on their own self-assessment of need, and feedback from the previous year alongside of school wide goals. Staff worked with AISSA consultant, Lynda Seacombe to workshop goals for 2020.

In addition, the school began to pilot a 'peer observation' framework with the intention of including all staff in 2021.



2020 Parent, Staff and Student Feedback

In 2020 St Michael's began the process of strategic planning for the period 2021 – 2024. This process involved gathering feedback from the students, staff and parents of St Michael's. This feedback was gathered through face-to-face forums and an online 'health check' survey encompassing all aspects of the school operation.

This feedback was collated externally and reported back to St Michael's School Board for consideration in the construction of the Strategic Plan.

In addition, students participated in the National Wellbeing Survey, as we do each year. While this survey showed our students feel generally happy, safe and secure, the survey as a whole indicated that Australian students felt generally lower levels of wellbeing in 2020.

School Attendance

Year Level	Number of Students	Attendance rate
Foundation	26	88%
1	25	89%
2	17	91%
3	28	93%
4	35	91%
5	36	91%
6	34	93%

Process for Managing Absence

Student attendance is:

- Checked daily
- Calculated termly and recorded on school reports
- Later arrivals at school sign in at the front office
- Students absent without explanation will be followed up with an SMS message and phone call
- Explained absences are accompanied by a written explanation or notation in record.
- Anomalies are followed up by the Principal



NAPLAN Results

NAPLAN was abandoned in Australia in 2020 due to COVID-19

School Income by Funding Source for 2020

Tuition Fees	\$765,179	25%
Commonwealth Government Funding	\$1,660,392	54%
State Government Funding	\$434,088	14%
State Government Capital Funding	\$25,183	1%
Other income	\$140,156	6%
Total Gross Income	\$3,081,374	100%

