



St Michael's Lutheran Primary School

2021 School Performance Report



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.

Educating students from Foundation to Year 6, St Michael's students work in multi-age classes to learn.

Utilising our beautiful outdoor spaces, including a creek, the school provides opportunities for our students to experience their environment in 'hands on' ways; encouraging them to explore and discover new thinking as they make sense of the world around them.

In 2021 the global COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact the functioning of schools across South Australia and the world. With focussed preparation, St Michael's was able to seamlessly provide online education for our students during the short periods of time that our State was in lock down.

Thankfully, for the most part, learning was only minimally interrupted throughout 2021 and St Michael's school and its students thrived.

During the year the School Board was involved in strategic planning, which included the formation of a Master Plan for future school facilities. These plans were constructed with input and feedback from all stakeholders in our community.

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 book online, via our website at www.stmichaels.sa.edu.au

Kind regards,

Terri Taylor
Principal



Introduction

St. Michael's Lutheran School is a co-educational primary school offering contemporary education from Foundation through to Year 6. 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.

In 2021 the School Board's vision is that St Michael's will **be recognised as a welcoming learning community in which each student is able to flourish personally and achieve excellent academic growth. Innovative personalised learning and shared Christian values will nurture a passion for learning and a caring attitude towards others and the environment.**

It is St Michael's mission that **highly skilled teachers partner with parents and carers to create a culture that inspires every child. We draw on contemporary understanding about how young people learn best and challenge each student through inquiry-based learning to explore and discover the world and their place in it. Our beautiful campus and township provide a variety of immersive learning environments and experiences through which students develop intellectual, technological, physical and creative talents and their understanding of the world.**

Our care for each other, the environment and broader community reflects deeply held Christian values that are at the heart of everything we do.

St Michael's offers the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program from Foundation to Year 6. 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 learn both inside and outdoors as they 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 students. St Michael's is an outstanding learning community in the Adelaide Hills.



2021 In Review

Throughout the year, St Michael's has provided a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for our students. We foster students desire to wonder about their world, embrace challenge, and explore openly and so that students can 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. 2021 provided us with opportunities to view events in the world and consider the global impact of topical issues such as climate change, inequality, democracy and world health.

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. The school has a close relationship with St Michael's Lutheran Church and share facilities for many events and opportunities to gather.

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. Students inquire into their interests and passions. 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.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In 2021 we welcomed Mr Steven Braun as our PE Teacher. Mr Braun continued the school's long tradition of sporting success. Throughout the year students participated in many interschool carnivals including:

Courier Cup – 3rd Adjusted Category
State Swimming Championships
State Softball Championships
State Soccer Championships
State Hockey Championships
District Athletics Carnival – 1st Adjusted Category
State Athletics Championships
District and State Cross Country
Knockout Netball, Soccer and Basketball
Mountain Bike Team Championships
Equestrian competitions



The annual School Sports Carnival was won by Prince George House.

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 again in 2021 due to border restrictions caused by COVID outbreaks. For the second year in a row, teaching staff worked to create a local camp for our Year 6 students. With the themes of Health and Wellbeing as well as Government and Democracy, students investigated a range of activities across the city of Adelaide. During the week they visited Parliament and Government House, participated in AFL Max, completed the Tree Climb at Unley, worked with Active Education at West Beach and learned a little about being independent as they managed their own cooking and cleaning in a cabin at West Beach.



The Junior Learning Community (Year 2/3) spent a night at the Aldinga Caravan Park where a series of activities were facilitated by Active Education, teaching the students about marine environments.

At St Michael's, we understand that camps create lifelong memories for our students and work tirelessly to ensure these events are memorable and important school life experiences.

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 also held their annual and popular Mother's and Father's Day stalls as well as a disco and special food days for the students.

During 2021 the P&F raised \$6,800 for the school.



LUNCHTIME CLUBS

In order to support the diversity of our students' interests, as well as to provide creative and stimulating experiences, St Michael's offers many lunchtime clubs. In 2021, these clubs include Ukulele Club, 'Dude Perfect' club, Lego Club, Coding Club and Digital Technologies Club. This year we also had a sewing for charity club, where students learned the skills of sewing as they created bags for charity. These clubs were supported by school staff and volunteers from our school and church community.

In addition, students from St Michael's assisted in the St Michael's Church Community Garden, working with members of the church community to plant, harvest and care for the gardens.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

St Michael's places a high priority on student leadership and in 2021, 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 technology.

School Captains, Alice Marshall and Emmett Mickan ably led school assemblies and fulfilled roles such as wreath laying and public speaking at school events.

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 crazy hair day amongst other casual days, to raise funds for organisations such as Australian Lutheran World Service.

Students in Year 6 participate in a Leadership Development Program which sees all students selecting a leadership responsibility throughout the year. These include; environmental leadership, library leaders, Kindergym leadership as well as traditional school leadership roles.



HAHNDORF CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT

The project which began in 2018 continued in 2021 as we fulfilled a grant from the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board. Stage 2 of this project included extending the fencing and pathway along the creek, weeding and replanting native shrubs and erecting additional bird boxes.

Signage that honoured the Peramangk people was also erected along the creek.

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 and Galahs nesting in the boxes and even spotted a possum relaxing in the possum box.



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 6, students are involved in robotics and coding experiences.

Digital Technologies are integrated into units of inquiry as students learn to use technology to create and present learning. Digital media creation continues to be a large part of the curriculum as students of all ages use the green screen to create media.



A dedicated 'maker space' provides an area for students to get creative and work on long term, creative projects.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

St Michael's has a number of beautiful outdoor spaces constructed specifically for outdoor exploration and learning. It is our belief that the school is for the students and therefore all spaces should be areas of wonder and learning. The school has a sensory Garden and Outdoor Learning space which are kept natural for stick, dirt, mud and water play.

In 2021 loose parts were added to these spaces to better enhance the creative play of our students.

SCIENCE WEEK

In 2021 National Science week was celebrated at St Michael's. With a theme of Food: different by design, the school used a grant from National Science Week to create a series of experiences using apples. We experimented with apples, cooked with apples, planted apple trees and ate apples. We also held our annual 'staff dress as a scientist' guessing competition, which is much loved by our students.



PYP EXHIBITION

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

The Exhibition is the 'culmination' experience of our students learning at St Michael's. The students spent the best part of a term researching, collaborating and creating presentations of their learning. They present to family and dignitaries alike, with confidence and authority in their chosen topic.

Additionally, each student needs to produce a creative piece which represents their learning and a combined performance representing the Central Idea as a whole. Exhibition is an exciting, challenging and very engaging part of the curriculum at St Michael's.

In 2021 the Central Idea was *our lifestyle can affect individuals, communities and the environment* and enabled students to explore a wide range of lifestyle choices.

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 2021, all students were involved in a Learning Showcase during the year. Learning Showcases form part of the schools' reporting processes. In 2021 these Showcases included the creation of a working village in the Beginning Learning Community (F/1) an exploration of natural and built features in the Junior Learning Community (2/3) a series of science experiments in the Middle Learning Community (4/5).

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.

In 2021, our Middle learning Community students participated in Bike Education as part of the Way2Go program.

COLOUR RUN

The annual Colour Run is always highly anticipated by our students. Held at the end of the year, this event includes a variety of land and water activities designed to be fun and interactive. A whole heap of messy fun is had by all.

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, through integrating their specialist area into the Unit of Inquiry. This enhances engagement and provides depth to the area of study, showing children the integrated nature of learning, in action.



SCHOOL LEAVER DESTINATIONS

In 2021, 37 Year 6 students graduated from St Michael's. These students celebrated their graduation with a **Senior's dinner** at the Hahndorf Resort and a **special graduation service**.

For the first time, South Australian Year 6 students could choose to go to any high school, following a change in policy which saw Year 7 move to secondary school. Because of this, we saw the broadest range of destination school ever experienced.

Students from St Michael's chose the following high schools: Cornerstone College, Mt Barker High School, Oakbank Area School, Concordia College, Wilderness School, Adelaide Hills Montessori, Unity College, Heathfield High School and Mitcham Girls school. The highest percentage of St Michael's students go to Cornerstone College after Primary School.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

In 2021 St Michael's held its inaugural Mother's Day breakfast in our gymnasium, Bukatila. A large number of mother's attended the continental style breakfast, followed by our special Mother's Day worship. We enjoyed the opportunity to thank our school mums for all that they do to support students at St Michael's.



RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

In March 2021 our first R.A.P was endorsed by Nurragunnawali. The Reconciliation Action team consisted of staff, students, external consultants and David Booth, Indigenous artist and advisor. The 2021 vision was:

We believe in a reconciled Australia, where all Australians have a great sense of pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and cultures. We believe these cultures are an integral part of who we are as Australians.

We commit to respecting the wisdom and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, so present and future generations can be enriched by the sharing of this knowledge of the Land, the Seas, the Sky and the Waterways and the Lore that connects them all.

We recognise that to achieve a reconciled Australia we need to build strong authentic relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in particular with the Peramangk peoples who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which we learn. We also acknowledge our neighbouring language groups and the connection they have had and continue to have on Peramangk Country



The 2021 R.A.P was launched with a day celebrating indigenous culture. Students learned about traditional dance and art, explored contemporary topics and even enjoyed a sausage sizzle! Families were invited to the opening and closing ceremonies of the day.

Throughout the year a wide range of professional learning experiences occurred with staff and students were engaged with integrated learning opportunities. The creek was used to explore more about how our local area supported indigenous people and their important role in conservation of the environment and a bush tucker garden was created.

CHOIR

In a collaboration with Cornerstone College, St Michael's began rehearsals for a Senior Choir, supported by Cornerstone Music Teacher, Sophie Zerner. A gifted music teacher, Sophie was able to inspire our students to learn some amazing skills enabling them to perform together at various internal events.

CONCERT

The 2021 Concert was performed by the Middle Learning Community and was based on the Dr Seuss Book, The Lorax. With input from the students and props and backdrops created by children, the musical performance was a highlight of the year and a memorable experience for all involved.



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 takes inclusion seriously, working hard to ensure that the needs of our students are met so that they are able to learn effectively and thrive, no matter the challenges they face.

Often, this includes adjusting the environment or the task in order for students to achieve success. At St Michael's there is not a 'one size fits all' mindset but rather a 'what fits you' way of thinking.

To this end, 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

Affiliated with Gymnastics SA and led by our PE Teacher and Accredited Kindergym coach, Steven Braun, 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 2021 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.

In 2021, the Board completed the process of creating a strategic plan for the period 2021 – 2024. This process included significant collection of feedback and data from all sectors of our community.

A significant part of the strategic plan was to focus on future infrastructure, creation of an ELC and personalising learning for our students. 2021 saw the board engage in a feasibility study for an ELC, start the process of constructing a master plan for future developments and develop a professional learning plan for staff to enhance personalisation of learning for students.

A special thank you to 2021 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.



2021 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, MEd
Theo



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



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



Lisa Smith
B.Ed. Early
Childhood



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



Lauren Barnett
B. Ed. Prim.



Susannah Freer
B.Ed. Early
Childhood, Grad Cert
International Ed



Louise Davies
B.Ed. Prim., Grad.
Cert. Early Childhood



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



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



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



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



Sara Holman
B.Ed. Mid, B.A



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



Georgie Zikos
B. Ed. Prim.



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



Steven Braun
B. Ed. Jnr. Prim. / Prim.



Helen Westermann
B. A, Grad.Dip.Ed. Sec



Brenda Klose
B.Ed Grad.Dip.Theo.Ed

2021 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 Raelene 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 – 12

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 2021 St Michael's invested a total of \$12,684 staff professional learning.

Online Professional Development continued to be an attractive option for staff as we navigated the Pandemic in 2021. However, we were able to participate in a variety of opportunities in face-to-face modes as well.

Professional Learning included:

- Indigenous culture and awareness PD
- Spiritual Development/ Connect
- Professional observation and feedback
- Literacy/reading/ phonological awareness
- Dyslexia training with Bill Hansbury



2021 Parent, Staff and Student Feedback

In 2020/21 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. Our results over time do not show significant change from year to year.

Our Student Representative Council meet fortnightly to discuss school matters concerning students. Our students provide feedback and contribute ideas to school planning.

School Attendance

Year Level	Number of Students	Attendance rate
Foundation	18	89%
1	30	93%
2	26	87%
3	17	96%
4	29	93%
5	28	94%
6	33	95%

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



2021 NAPLAN Results

NAPLAN testing returned this year, and we had sound results across the two cohorts of students and we are above national means in all areas except spelling.

2021 St Michael's results compared to National Averages

Year 3 Learning Area 14 students	National Mean	St Michael's Mean
Reading	426.1	467.3
Writing	411.5	442.6
Spelling	412.1	410.3
Grammar & Punctuation	418.3	419.4
Numeracy	393.8	429.4

Year 5 Learning Area 31 students	National Mean	St Michael's Mean
Reading	501.4	519.1
Writing	466.3	473.0
Spelling	498.9	491.4
Grammar & Punctuation	490.5	502.2
Numeracy	482.4	495.8

School Income by Funding Source for 2021

Tuition Fees	\$762,613	23%
Commonwealth Government Funding	\$1,824,088	54%
State Government Funding	\$477,867	14%
State Government Capital Funding	\$158,500	5%
Other income	\$161,110	5%
Total Gross Income	\$3,384,178	100%

