



St Michael's

Lutheran Primary School



Wonder and Thinking

2023 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.

2023 was a busy year filled with community connection and involvement. The school held a very successful 'AutumnFest', welcomed a new class of mid-year foundation students and received an award for the work our students completed on improving the Hahndorf creek.

This report provides a snapshot into the life at St Michael's. For more information, or to book a 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.

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.



2023 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 Michael's is committed to developing globally minded students who are diverse thinkers, with a heart for service.

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.

2023 in Review

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In 2023 St Michael's continued our record of strong sporting success. Students participated in the following interschool events throughout the year:

Courier Cup – 5th Adjusted Category
District Athletics Carnival – 1st Adjusted Category
State Athletics Championships
District and State Cross Country
Knockout Netball, Soccer and Basketball
Mountain Bike Team Championships
State Championships for Softball, Soccer, Basketball

And much more...

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. Students travelled by plane to Canberra and visited a range of venues including Parliament House, The National War Memorial, Questacon, The National Museum, The Deep Space Centre and the Australian Institute of Sport.

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, helping the students to understand more about indigenous cultures and Kuarna country.



2023 in Review

Our Beginning Learning Community Students enjoy a 'stay up' each year, where they stay late at school and enjoy a small meal together before going home to sleep.

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 the goal of creating a community event hosted by the school. This event was 'AutumnFest' and involved school families as well as community groups such as the Hahndorf Netball club and St Michael's Church.

A huge thanks to Hannah Waller and Anne Maynard for leading the organisation of this fabulous event, which not only raised money for the school, but bought the Hahndorf Community together for a family day of fun.

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.

The year ended with a Christmas Market, including a mini market provided by students of the school. The St Michael's choir entertained families while they enjoyed mulled wine and pizza.



2023 in Review



CLASS CARERS

Each Learning Community has several parents who volunteer to be Class Carers. Like the name suggests, Class Carers provide care and promote community connection for our families. This happens in various way, such as:

- Coffee catch ups
- Meals for families in need
- Family Picnics
- Mums or Dads dinners

The Class Carer program helps our families to connect with others and develops a real sense of community and belonging at St Michael's.



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 2023, these clubs include 'Dude Perfect' club, Lego Club, Making Club and Digital Technologies Club. Early in 2023, a small group of students approached staff with a request to have a Creek Club each week to help maintain the creek environment. Students also requested a dance club be formed and while this club was supervised by a staff member, the students led and choreographed the dances. The dance club performed a fabulous item at the end of year Christmas lunch.

These clubs are supported by school staff and volunteers from our school and church community.



2023 in Review

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

St Michael's places a high priority on student leadership and in 2023, numerous leadership opportunities enabled students to take an active role in the decision making and running of the school.

The House Captains take ownership of managing the sport equipment allocation during recess and lunch times. Student leaders also worked in the St Michael's church café once week as well as assist with Kindergym. Senior students assist in managing library book returns and our weekly worship time.

School Captains, Tom Johns and Eve Williams ably led school assemblies and fulfilled roles representing our school at ANZAC day, Remembrance Day and in 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 number of special events to raise funds for a variety of local and international charities.

Australian Lutheran World Service is one charity that our students support regularly and this year each class chose a 'gift' from the gift of grace catalogue, to raise funds and provide to villages, not as fortunate as us.

HAHNDORF CREEK

REHABILITATION PROJECT

The project which began in 2018 continues with ongoing maintenance and learning.

In 2023, following a nomination from the Lions Club, we were fortunate enough to be the recipients of Premiers Community Service Harry Tillyer Schools Award for the work completed on the Hahndorf Creek.



2023 in Review



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, both during class time and in lunchtime clubs.

The school continues to add to its array of 'tools' for digital learning and in 2023 our senior students created 3D projects and printed them on a 3D printer acquired by the school.

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 2023 artificial grass was added to the Outdoor Learning Space to better enhance the creative play of our students. This element became floors, roofs and walls of cubby constructions.

2023 in Review

SCIENCE WEEK

In 2023 National Science week was celebrated at St Michael's. With a theme of Innovation: Powering future industries, the students enjoyed a number of scientific activities throughout the week exploring innovative technologies.

Some of our students designed prototypes, tested and successfully ran solar car models as part of their experimentation during the week. 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 2023 all staff members became mentors for our students, supporting them to inquire deeper into their topic of choice. The Central Idea was Humans shape our sustainable future under the Transdisciplinary theme of Sharing the Planet. This Central idea enabled students to explore a wide range of sustainable choices.



2023 in Review

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 2023, all students were involved in a Learning Showcase during the year. Learning Showcases form part of the schools' reporting processes. In 2023 these Showcases explored how people live, work and play in communities, (Beginning Learning Community F/1) considered how the environment in a region influences how people live. (Junior Learning Community 2/3) and designed prototypes for new arcade games. (Middle Learning Community 4/5).

ICAS ACHIEVEMENT

Each year many St Michael's students participate in the International Competitions and Assessment for School (ICAS). ICAS online assessments are held in a variety of subject areas, across 41 countries. This year, a number of our students received Credits, Distinctions and High Distinction certificates for their efforts. We were very excited to celebrate with Emily (Yr 2) who received a Medal for both Science and English.

Medals are given to the student who achieves the highest score in Australia

for their year level. To be a multi-medal winner is an outstanding (and rare) achievement.

Congratulations Emily!

BENE NURSING HOME VISITS

During 2023 the St Michael's Beginning Learning Community was able to visit and make connections with some of the residents Bene Nursing Home. Sadly due to COVID we had to cancel our later visits, closer to Christmas, so the caring BLC students made wreaths and tree ornaments to share with the residents. We look forward to continue these relationships in 2024.



2023 in Review



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 2023, 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.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

The annual Mother's Day breakfast is held 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.

2023 in Review

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

In 2023 we updated our R.A.P which was subsequently endorsed by Nurragunnawali. The Reconciliation Action team consisted of staff, students, external consultants and Jade Brooke, proud indigenous woman and cultural representative and advisor. We are grateful to Jade for her support of our RAP.

The 2023 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 Australia's First Peoples' cultures and continuing contributions are an integral part of who we are as Australians.

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

We acknowledge that reconciliation must involve an understanding of justice, recognition and healing. Our heart is for greater understanding, learning and respect within our school community to continue to work towards a reconciled Australia.



We need to build, and will commit to building, strong, authentic relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, in particular with the Peramangk peoples, who are the Custodians of the Land on which we learn, work and play.

We also acknowledge neighbouring Language Groups and the connection they have had and continue to have on Peramangk Country.

Throughout the year a wide range of professional learning experiences occurred with staff and students were engaged with integrated learning opportunities. Across the year a number of guest speakers visited our classrooms to share first hand knowledge and understanding. With 'The Voice to Parliament' referendum occurring, students engaged in discussions relevant to this topic. Our Junior Learning Community's camp was incorporated a wide range of learning about the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains.

2023 in Review

CHOIR

In a collaboration with Cornerstone College, St Michael's continues to provide our students the opportunity to be in the Senior Choir. Led by Cornerstone Music Teachers, our MLC students and some of our Senior students made up the choir in 2023. Throughout the year they performed at school events and also at Autumn Fest.

CONCERT

The 2023 Concert was performed by the Middle Learning Community as they journeyed to the depths of Sherwood Forest to perform 'Robin Hood Raps'.

Thanks to the students and staff for all their hard work to make the production such as success - everyone did an amazing job! 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.



2023 in Review

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.



2023 in Review



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 LEAVER DESTINATIONS

In 2023, 29 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.

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

2023 in Review

SCHOOL BOARD

In 2023 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 2023, the Board continued to outwork the strategic plan for the period 2021 – 2024. The greatest focus was on planning for the construction of an Early Learning Centre. To this end, the Board engaged JBG architects to create the plans for the ELC and sought funding from the Lutheran Laypersons League.

As 2023 drew to a close, the plans for the ELC had progressed to planning at Mt Barker Council and we look forward to further development in 2024.

In addition to planning for the ELC, the School Board continued to work toward achieving the renovations outlined in the school's Masterplan. This saw a beautiful renovation of the oldest part of our school completed. The Middle Learning Community moved into this new space at the start of Term 3.

A special thank you to 2023 chairperson, Mr Scott Fairley for his dedication to the school over the past 12 months. Thank you to each Board member for their work and support of the school through diligent governance. We said farewell to Board Members Rosina Dimech and Andrew Boesch at the end of 2023 and we sincerely thank them for their many years of service to St Michael's school.



2023 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)



Georgie Zikos

B. Ed. Prim.



Melissa Smith

B.Ed. (Jnr Prim/Prim.)



Olivia Sam

B.Ed ECE



Sara Holman

B.Ed. Mid, B.A



Daniel Eckermann

B. Ed. Prim., B. Sc



Rene Kruger

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



Brad Pfeiffer

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



Mandy Moseley

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



Claire Daughtry

B.Ed ECE



Theresa Sugars

B. Contemp Arts
B.T. Prim. Sec



Steven Braun

B. Ed. Jnr. Prim. / Prim.

2023 Lutheran Support Officers

Student Support



Mrs Debra Nobes



Mrs Jane Mahomet



Mrs Janine Liebelt



Mrs Kelly Willason



Mrs Ann Grivell

Administration



Mrs Tracy Downing
Business Manager



**Mrs Anouska
Thomson**



Mrs Cassie Menzel



**Mrs Suzanne
Tomich**

2023 Lutheran Support Officers

Library



**Mrs Raelene
Johnson**



Mrs Joy Wildmann

ICT Support



Mrs Mary Wittaker

Maintenance



Mr Darren Stanbury



Mr Dennis Collins

Workforce Composition

Male Teachers	3
Female Teachers	12
Positions of Added Responsibility	6
Administration, Student Support, ICT and Maintenance Staff	14
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 2023 St Michael's invested a total of \$29,465.00 staff professional learning. Online Professional Development continues to be one option for staff to access a wide variety of learning. However, we participated 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
- DIBLS and OG Training
- Positive Partnerships
- Cyber Safety and Digital Security staff training
- PYP – Evidencing the Learning Workshop
- Valuing Safe Communities
- Respecting Gender Diversity

2023 Parent, Staff and Student Feedback

In 2023 St Michael's reviewed our Inclusive Education policies and practices as part of our self reflection for the upcoming 2024 PYP Evaluation. This review involved seeking feedback from our families around the changes that we had implemented to improve Inclusive Education at St Michael's.

Information was sought through surveys and face to face forums from students, staff and parents.

Additionally, the school participated in the National Wellbeing Survey as we do annually. This survey provides us with data over time on the impact of our wellbeing practices.

Students have been provided with community letter boxes which provide anonymous opportunities for our students to provide feedback or raise concerns, should they wish to do so.



School Attendance

Year Level	Number of Students	Attendane Rate
Foundation	23	85%
1	26	90%
2	17	88%
3	28	89%
4	23	92%
5	20	88%
6	29	89%

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



2023 NAPLAN Results

NAPLAN Domain	Year 3			Year 5		
	SA	Aust	St Michael's	SA	Aust	St Michael's
Grammar and Punctuation	400.04	410.81	432.3	487.09	496.65	494.8
Numeracy	395.72	407.27	435.1	474.60	487.58	470.5
Reading	398.59	404.58	427.8	489.00	495.94	511.1
Spelling	403.33	403.72	384.5	484.57	488.72	486.9
Writing	406.69	416.28	428.5	468.87	482.87	475.3

A new NAPLAN time series began in 2023.

St Michael's had a 96% participation rate in Year 3 (which equates to 1 student withdrawn) and 100% Participation Rate in Year 5.

In all domains St Michael's recorded a **strong** proficiency level.

Proficiency Levels are a new rating this year and are as follows. The NAPLAN proficiency standards include 4 proficiency levels for each assessment area at each year level:

- **Exceeding:** the student's result exceeds expectations at the time of testing.
- **Strong:** the student's result meets challenging but reasonable expectations at the time of testing.

- **Developing:** the student's result indicates that they are working towards expectations at the time of testing.
- **Needs additional support:** the student's result indicates that they are not achieving the learning outcomes expected at the time of testing. They are likely to need additional support to progress satisfactorily.

15 students across Year 3 and 5 recorded 'exceeding' proficiency levels in one or more of their individual results.

6 Students across Year 3 and 5 recorded that they 'need additional support' in at least one domain.

St Michael's has a history of supporting students with diverse learning needs and having very few students withdraw from NAPLAN.

School Income by Funding Source for 2023

Tuition Fees	\$730,815	21%
Commonwealth Government Funding	\$1,958,822	56%
State Government Funding	\$508,141	15%
State Government Capital Funding	\$38,800	1%
Other Income	\$230,878	7%
Total Gross Income	\$3,467,456	100%

