



Pastoral Care



St Martins is a Christ-centred school and our focus as teachers and staff of the College is to direct all we do to help our students realise their special gifts and talents, and to fulfil their educational and spiritual potential. An education at St Martins Lutheran College provides students with opportunities to grow in confidence and to develop values within a Christian community.

Each year at St Martins we nominate a theme, which guides and informs our thinking about the way our College operates. For example, our theme was “*STAND FIRM; show your SPIRIT*” in 2018. This theme or idea can be interpreted in many different ways and introduced across different areas within the school. Our St Martins Spirit is made up of 6 core values of our St Martins Community; Respect, Hope, Faith, Compassion, Encouragement and Growth.

At St Martins Lutheran College, staff are committed to caring for the personal and social well-being of our students, through the provision of targeted programs and activities in the area of pastoral care. We understand that a school community, where students feel connected and valued and have positive relationships with staff, is linked to improved social and emotional well-being for students and ultimately leads to better academic performance. We believe that communication between caregivers and the school is in the best interest of students, and we strive to do our very best to keep caregivers informed of their child’s progress at school.

Junior School:

Social Skills Programs – A number of short term programs are offered by different staff targeting varying issues across a number of year levels. Teachers in the junior school also integrate the “My Life Rulz” program into their curriculum. This program looks at the idea of rules to help students build resilience, problem solve and develop and maintain relationships. The program “What’s The Buzz” is implemented in the early years for small groups to fine tune social skills and social resilience.

Buddy Program – This school based program provides an opportunity for students in the junior school to develop relationships with students in other year levels. Older students are encouraged to act as supports for the younger students if they need help at school, and the program also helps younger students to be less apprehensive about entering into higher year levels. Buddy classes meet together twice per term, and the teachers of both classes co-ordinate activities for the students during these sessions.

PALS (Partner Assisted Learning Scheme) Program – Trained volunteers spend time each week with students who are identified with social and/or academic difficulties. The aim is for students to feel valued by developing relationships with and gaining support from an adult outside of their family. Students are referred to the program, and will engage in a whole range of activities with their “PAL” from craft to cooking to practising reading and writing skills. The program is co-ordinated by the Learning Support Unit.

Extended Learning – Students across the school are encouraged to problem solve and extend their thinking through every day teaching & learning tasks.

Story Dogs – The Story Dogs program mission is to: **Make reading fun for children so they become confident lifelong readers.**

When children read to a dog, the outcomes are amazing!

- non-judgemental setting
- children's focus improves
- literacy skills increase
- children's confidence soar

The accepting, loving nature of dogs gives this program its magic and helps children relax, open up, try harder and have fun while reading to a friendly, calm dog. Here at St Martins we are lucky enough to have 2 dogs, Ben and Charlie that visit us. Both love being around children and both are great listeners. Each Tuesday they come into school with their owners Chris and Des Schwarz (who own Ben), and Mrs Elliott (our library manager who owns Charlie).

Boandik Buddies – This program provides an opportunity for students to interact with residents from Boandik Lodge Crouch Street. Students in Years 3 & 5 visit the residents during their lunch break every third week of the school term. This program is co-ordinated by Mrs Brenda May.

Kindy Buddies – St Martins has a wonderful friendship with St Martins Kindy. Once a term interested children from Year 2 spend their lunch at the Kindy playing, chatting, creating and singing with the Kindy children. Great little friendships are formed, often making transition to school from St Martins Kindy even more exciting.

Lunchtime activities – Monday-Thursday students are able to attend the Flexible Learning Room to participate in structured and supervised activities, such as lego making, craft and board games. Students of any age can attend, though it is mostly frequented by Junior School age students. This program is offered to provide options for those students who may be having difficulty managing yard play at break times, as well as for those who may be feeling socially isolated.

St Martins Spirit Awards – Student leaders and staff both on duty and in class acknowledge the efforts of students as they live out school values by issuing a St Martins Spirit Card. These cards are shared at the Junior School assembly for all to celebrate.

Junior School Yard Behaviour Agreement – Class rules are set up at the beginning of each school year and the role of the teacher within the classroom is to support and guide students to follow these rules. However, at play times we expect students to be independent and make positive choices about their behaviour and interactions with others. The yard behaviour agreement acknowledges the importance of students, their families and the school sharing the same values and messages about interactions with others. We encourage families to discuss ideas at home which will assist to build an understanding of what positive behaviour looks like, as well as ways to manage conflict in a positive way. Yard duty staff also try to assist students to resolve problems themselves rather than relying on adults to always do this for them.

Active after school activities – Each term, different sporting/leisure activities are offered for students from Foundation to Year 7. Students must nominate their interest and are then allocated into sessions. Activities are free and occur on Wednesday afternoons straight after school. Supervision is provided by activity leaders and Junior School Sports Co-ordinator.

Buddy Bench – In 2015 we introduced a wooden bench to our Junior School playground area. The purpose of the bench is to offer a space for students to sit at times when they need some assistance from their peers. They may be feeling upset or sad, or may not be able to find their friends to play. Students have been educated about the bench and are aware that if they see someone sitting on the bench, we would like them to show care and compassion and speak with that person about what is happening for them.

Foundation Orientation – Parents of students beginning Foundation are invited to attend a session with Principal Alan Connah and Head of Junior School Mrs Robyn Teakle. Information is provided regarding how the junior school works, what to expect in that first year. Relevant staff members are introduced and there is an opportunity for parents to ask questions. It is hoped that this process assists to encourage communication and to begin establishing those important relationships between parents and the school.

Foundation students attend three sessions at school, prior to beginning their schooling at St Martins. These sessions generally occur on a Tuesday, and increase in the length of time students are at school. Students leave at recess time for the first session, then lunch time for the second session and for their final session they remain at school for the entire day. This provides students and the teachers with an opportunity to get to know one another, and importantly for students to get used to their new school environment and routines.

Middle/Senior School:

Extended Homeroom – Middle and senior school students meet in homeroom groups each morning with extended homeroom sessions held on Tuesdays & Thursdays. The purpose of the extended homeroom is to allow students to get to know one another better as well as to develop better relationships with their homeroom teacher, so that they might feel more able to seek support from this person should they require it. It is also intended that teachers utilise this time to engage in activities which focus on resilience building for students.

Vetamorphus – is a National Christian Leadership and Development Program. Students in Year 11 are given a choice to either participate in Christian Studies or to take part in the Vetamorphus program. The program involves three retreats, peer group study as well as private study and the group is facilitated by Mr Jason Buckland. Vetamorphus students receive a Certificate 3 in Christian Ministry and Theology following completion of the program and receive points which count toward their SACE.

Vertical Homegroups – Homegroups from Years 10-12 are structured by House, each of the 4 Houses have two homegroups (8 homegroups in total), with around 20 students per homegroup. The advantages of this homegroup structure are:

- Peer support - younger students have access to the experience of older students, both academically and socially. It is an opportunity to expand friendships or working relationships in a way that reflects workplaces and the community.
- Opportunities to be a leader and collaborator within the homegroup, which might not be so easy to find in a year level homegroup. This can be especially good for Year 12 students who may be looking for evidence of that to use in applications and resumes as they leave school.
- The Year 10s entering SACE see how it works from the 11s and 12s and learn strategies to use (and perhaps some to avoid).
- Homegroup teachers will get to know their classes better over time, providing a good opportunity for pastoral care and a consistent point of contact for parents over time.

Year 12 Retreat – The purpose of the retreat is for students to have an opportunity to reflect on their journey to get to this point in their lives, to prepare for the year ahead, to have fun and bond with their peers and to consider the role of spirituality in their lives. There is a focus on study skills and organisation as well as support networks and when and where to access help should they require it. The retreat is held in the first few weeks of the school year and involves students spending a couple of days away from home.

Year level camps – Each year level through middle and senior school participates in one camp per year.

Lunchtime groups – Each week on Monday Mrs McDonnell and Mrs Quintel offer lunchtime group for all middle and senior school students. The group works on activities such as craft inspired by their favourite books and movies, building positive relationships as well as an informal catch up time.

Peer Support Program – The Peer Support Program involves Year 11 students working with Year 8s. All Year 11s are involved in a 2-day leadership training workshop. From that, teams of willing Year 11 students use structured sessions with all Year 8s to develop skills in resilience, relationship-building, enhancing self-esteem and to improve the well-being of students. The Program runs across a school term and is delivered in extended homegroup times. Year 11 Leaders also attend a day of the Year 8 camp in order to build relationships and rapport with their Year 8 groups.

Across the school:

Service Learning – One of the ‘side effects’ of strong values is the desire to serve others. Locally, Year 10 students help out at Meals on Wheels, while SRC Fundraising supports local charities. We are also embarking on a service learning trip to Indonesia being mentors in a primary school. This trip will be open to Year 10 and 11 students.

Learning Enrichment – This is a service provided across the junior, middle and senior areas of the school, for students who experience barriers to their learning. Such barriers may include physical, intellectual, social, emotional, behavioural or interrupted schooling. It is a flexible program, which is tailored as much as possible to individual student needs, and works to assist students to become as independent as possible in their learning.

HPV (Human Powered Vehicles) – Students in Year 4 onwards can participate in HPV activities. Students practice on Wednesday after school in the car park, and older students have the opportunity to participate in national competitions. This is a great opportunity for students to represent St Martins, have fun with friends and get fit at the same time. The HPV program is co-ordinated by Mrs Bridie Wilson with assistance from other staff and parents.

Support for Indigenous Students – Students who identify as Indigenous from Foundation to Year 12 meet regularly together and discuss issues which are relevant to them. Ideas and activities are generally student lead, and therefore provides them with a sense of ownership of the group. Students also engage in activities and excursions outside of the school. The group is co-ordinated by Mrs Allison McDonnell.

Friday Worship service – Each Friday morning from 9am, the school conducts a whole of school Worship service. Parents/guardians and extended family and friends are welcome to attend these services and stay for morning tea provided by the school afterwards.

Devotions – Devotions or prayer times are held once per week, in junior, middle and senior year levels. Staff also participate in a morning devotion each day prior to the school day beginning. These devotion times are a wonderful opportunity for staff and students to get together, to consider our Christian values and interactions with others as well as to give thanks to God for our blessings.

SRC – Students from Year 3 to Year 12 have the opportunity to nominate for the Student Representative Council. If elected by their peers, students are expected to attend regular meetings and to advocate for the needs of the student body. Students are taught leadership skills and are expected to model these behaviours to others.

Singing & Music – Music and singing both enhance our school community and allow avenues for those talented in music to explore options. We have a number of choirs starting with Junior Choir in Years 2/3, Festival Choir in Year 5 and then a Senior Choir and Jazz Choir in Middle and Senior School. These choirs have a number of opportunities to perform throughout the year at various venues.

St Martins also creates opportunities for instrumental talents with a Beginner Band for Year 4 and above and a Step 2 Band for students beyond their first year experience within a band. The Step 2 Band is a concert band who take up various performance opportunities including Eisteddfods.

If you would like further information about any of the programs listed or require help for yourself or your child, please contact any of the following:

Mr Alan Connah - Principal

Mrs Robyn Teakle – Deputy Principal and Head of Junior School

Mr Damian Bradley - Head of Middle School

Jayne Fulton - Head of Senior School

Mrs Brenda May – Junior School Learning Enrichment Co-ordinator
(works part-time: Monday – Thursday)

Ms Leanne Forbes – Middle and Senior School Learning Enrichment Co-ordinator

Mrs Jane Savage – School Counsellor

Please also refer to the St Martins Lutheran College website: www.stmartins.sa.edu.au





**“Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another,
as in God Christ forgave you.”**

Ephesians 4:32

**“They may not remember what you said,
but they will remember how you made them feel.”**

Author unknown