A warm welcome is extended to everyone at the commencement of the 2016 school year. An extra special welcome is extended all new students especially the Preps, the Year 7 students and new staff. Already staff and students have been back at school for a week and much has happened.


Year 1-3 Jessica Dahiya, Lucas Warren.

Year 5-7 Carter Grant, Matilda MacColl, Samantha Fuller, Logan Kaak, Baxter Reid, Maggie McSpeerin, Isabella Hutchins, Chekayla Coyle, Bonnie Neicho, Francina Oti, Casey Grant, Dominic Plessey, Jake Haywood, Jack Chetcuti, Emily Adams, Tennyson Connie.

Year 8-9 Finley MacColl, Ewan McCloy, Joshua Dorado, Mackenzie Spencer.

Welcome Mrs Jarna Egan who will be working as a learning support officer and to Miss Elizabeth Fuhrmeister who will be teaching in Junior Primary (JP-F) this year.

School commenced last week for all staff on Wednesday 27th January. It was our first day back together for all staff and we spent considerable time reflecting on the College Vision Statement and what it means to us. During our meeting time last Wednesday staff took time in groups ‘breaking open’ each statement within the Vision to identify the key strengths and challenges for us.

The Vision Statement was revised about 6 years ago through a process that involved staff, students and parents. It reflects all of our hopes, dreams and intentions for the students, families and staff at St Mary’s College. This year we have committed to making a special effort to ensure the Vision Statement is clearly visible and known to all. We hope that it will remind us of our heritage and tradition and inform us of our core purpose and intent.
From our Vision we have set our Mission for 2016, which we have titled Be the Face of Mercy. It couldn’t be a more fitting title when you consider that we are a ‘Mercy’ school having been founded by the Sisters of Mercy. In addition to this, we are inspired by Pope Francis’ declaration that this be the Year of Mercy.

Following a review last year of our Assessment and Reporting practices there will be some new changes that we hope will improve information sharing between staff, students and parents/carers. Next Tuesday evening staff will hold a Parent Information Evening meeting to explain the changes.

The principal and leadership team will update you on a range of important school matters followed by an opportunity to meet with teachers over a cuppa.

Information will include:

- Communication: Sharing contact details to ensure good lines of communication throughout the year;
- Reporting Requirements: Interim reports, P/T interviews, Mid-year and End of year reports;
- Year Level expectations – How teachers and parents can work together to help students to achieve their best;

The Parent Information Evening will be held in the M/P Hall
at 7.00 Tuesday 9th February.
Students are not required to attend.

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Sun Smart Policy / Snake Protocol

On our return to school this year the talk has been more about the rain than the heat but we are all well aware that summer is far from over and that having safe practices for working in the heat are a priority. Our Sun Smart Policy is revised each year. It covers five main areas (shade, clothing, hats, hydrating, sunscreen). Students have an opportunity during these coming weeks to discuss the importance of safety protocols relating to working in the heat especially the requirement to wear a hat and sunscreen outdoors and to hydrate regularly.

On extremely hot days staff ensure that the students (especially the younger students) are monitored closely and playing indoors at lunchtime is encouraged, by opening one of the JP classrooms. Our Sun Smart Policy is available on the College website for parents to read.

Snake Protocol - due to our location we experience the occasional snake sighting. No two sightings are ever the same but it is important for us all to follow some basic safety rules.

In all classes teachers have spoken to the students about this important matter and reinforced that in the event of any snake sighting students and staff must firstly make sure they are safe before ensuring the safety of others. The next immediate step is to get a teacher who will implement the necessary action outlined in our Snake Protocol which is also available on our website.

Mr Peter Kelly
Recently Monsignor Toms announced to the Parish that he will be retiring in late February after 20 years service as Parish Priest of St Mary's Seymour. The Parish is organising a Farewell Lunch for Mons Toms on Sunday 7th February at 12.00noon. Tickets may be purchased for this ($10 per person) through the Parish.

St Mary's College will hold a Farewell Liturgy and Presentation for Mons on Tuesday 9th February at 10.20am in the College Multi-Purpose Hall. A morning tea will follow in the Hall.
Welcome back to all families and a special welcome to those new to the College.

Families should have received a Fee Information Pack in the mail at the end of last year. If you did not receive the pack or have any questions relating to fees and levies, payment options or Conveyance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the College.

**FEE DUE DATES**
Please be aware of the due dates for fees and levies. Some of these have been altered since last year so I do urge all families to make a note of the new due dates. These due dates will also be outlined on the fee statements which were distributed this week.

- The balance of VET/VCE charges (Yr 10 only) and Laptop instalments for Years 8-10 are due by 1st March.
- Curriculum Levies and Secondary Levies are all due for payment by 1st June.
- The next Laptop instalment will be due for Year 8 & 9 students on 1st September.
- All remaining levies and charges are due in full by 31st October unless alternative arrangements have been arranged by contacting me personally at the College.

We encourage the electronic delivery of fee statements. This saves paper, mailing charges and ensures the statement gets to the right person on time. If we have a fee payer's email address on record, we will send statements electronically. If you have changed your email address recently, please send your new details to accounts@smseymour.catholic.edu.au. Please note that fee statements have been sent out this week.

**CAMPS SPORTS EXCURSION FUND CSEF**
The Victorian Government provides this fund to assist eligible families with the costs of camps, sports and excursions.

To be eligible for the fund, a parent of a student attending a Victorian school must be the holder of an eligible Centrelink Health Care card or Pensioner Concession card as at the first day of Term two or Term three.

The amounts payable are $125 for a primary student and $225 for a secondary student. The funds are received at the College and go directly towards the payment of the excursion/camp levy.

Parents must submit an application to the school by 29th February. Application forms are available at the College Office and a form is also available on our website - just follow the newsletter prompts.

Please contact me at the College if you have any questions regarding the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund.

**CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE**
This allowance is payable to those families who reside more than 4.8kms from the College or nearest free bus service. Families who wish to claim this allowance for the first time are asked to contact the College Office for an application form. Those families who received Conveyance Allowance last year need not re-apply. Please note, however, that a new form must be completed if there has been a change of address or if there has been a change in circumstances which may affect the payment of this allowance. Please return applications to the College by 13th February. Thank you.

**CAREMONKEY**
Thank you to all those families who have returned profiles for their students.
We do ask for patience whilst we implement this new system. There may be a double up with excursion forms being sent via CareMonkey and also by hardcopy until we are confident we have captured all students.

If you return permission forms by CareMonkey you do not need to return a paper form as well.

I do encourage any families who have not yet provided their profiles to do so as soon as possible so that we have up to date emergency and medical information for your child at all times.

Mrs Meryl Connell
Last week we started our year on a wonderful note with our whole College Assembly on Friday afternoon.

→ We met our new Prep students who were especially welcomed by the Year 10 students.

The College assembly was very well led by our 2016 College Captains: Isabel MacDonald and Joshua Boyer. They made a wonderful start to the school year showing respectful and thoughtful leadership. →

A highlight of the assembly was a special award made to Lachlan Taylor (Yr 8) by Steph Ryan, Member for Euroa. Lachlan received the Inaugural Weary Dunlop Award for showing persistence and perseverance at school and in his life outside the school community. Lachlan and his parents will attend an afternoon tea at Parliament House later this term to receive his award for Steph Ryan, congratulations Lachlan from us all!

On the first morning we held a morning tea for all parents, particularly our new parents and families. Mr. Kelly introduced Karen Glen, President of the P&F as well as the Deputy Principals and Meryl Connell, our Business Manager. We plan to hold another morning tea in a few weeks time to meet some more of the College staff. More details of dates and times will be sent home next week.

Today we held our Opening School Mass and Induction of College Leaders. Photos and a full report next week.

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. The day before is Shrove or Pancake Tuesday. As we will be very busy in the morning celebrating Monsignor Toms’ wonderful ministry with us, we are planning to have our pancakes at lunch.

Lenten Project Compassion
Caritas Australia’s annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal brings thousands of Australians together in solidarity with the world’s poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

The Caritas theme this year is ‘Learning More Creating Change’, which also melds well with our College mission of, ‘Be the face of Mercy’. If we learn about those who are suffering and become the face of Mercy by trying to help, we will create change!

Shrove Tuesday: The SRC will be running our first Caritas fundraising College event. Pancakes will be on sale at lunchtime.

Each pancake will cost $1. All students will be encouraged to take part in this fundraiser.

Please read The Marian next week to hear all about the Year of Mercy and how the College community will participate in the season of Lent and support the wonderful work of Project Compassion.

Mrs Catherine Evans
ST. MARY’S COLLEGE
90 High Street, SEYMOUR, TELEPHONE: (03) 5792 2611 FACSIMILE: (03) 5792 4091
PO BOX 269, SEYMOUR VICTORIA 3661
Office Hours: 8.15am-4.30pm

ST. MARY’S PARISH SEYMOUR ~ ST. JOSEPH’S TALLAROOK
Parish Priest: Monsignor Anthony K Toms
PO BOX 100, SEYMOUR, VICTORIA 3661 TELEPHONE: (03) 5792 1064 FACSIMILE (03) 5792 4390
MASS TIMES: St. Mary’s: SAT 7.00pm, SUN 10.00am; St. Joseph’s: SUN 8.30am

DATES TO REMEMBER
8th – 12th February 2015
(Week 3 of 8)

Friday 5th Feb. College Swimming Carnival
(Yr.3-10) – Seymour Outdoor Pool

Tuesday 9th Feb. Monsignor Farewell Liturgy &
Presentation (10.20am)

Parent Information Night (7.00pm)

Wed. 10th Feb. Ash Wednesday
– Mass (9.00am)

CANTEEN ROSTER
Helpers Needed!
8th – 12th February

Friday 5th Feb. Lynne Morgan
Monday 8th Feb. Noisha Reid
Tuesday 9th Feb. Siobhan Thornberry
Wed. 10th Feb. Volunteer Required
Thursday 10th Feb. Jodie Parchemanka
Friday 11th Feb. Kerry Hogan

Volunteer Roster Replies:
Please return ASAP

Extend After School Care at St Mary’s College (Primary Campus)

Welcome back!

We hope you have had a fantastic summer holiday and are looking forward to the exciting opportunities that 2016 will bring.

Just to let you know that Extend will have a representative attend the Family Night BBQ in February who will be able to answer any questions you have about our service.

Enrol now for After School Care
Enrolling is quick and easy! Simply enrol and set up your account online at extend.com.au. Please note – all children must be enrolled before attending.

Operating hours and fees: commencing Term 1, 2016
After School Care: 3.15pm – 6.00pm

$25.00 permanent, $30.00 casual
*YOU PAY BETWEEN: $7.63 - $12.50 for a permanent booking

Emergency on-the-day bookings incur an additional $5 fee, which is no more than $2.50 after fee relief.

*Child Care Benefits and the non-income tested 50% Child Care Rebate of up to $7500 apply for eligible families. Fees are per child per session.

Fee Relief – the facts
Fact 1: The Child Care Rebate (CCR) is NOT income tested! We encourage you to apply!
Fact 2: 50% is the minimum reduction you may receive in your fees. Further benefits may apply to you.

Read further information and estimate your out of pocket expense at extend.com.au.

PARENT PORTAL: extend.com.au