In last week’s Marian I wrote about Advent and how it has its own special mood and atmosphere. This week our Advent thoughts turn to Joy! In our classrooms, the students and staff use the Advent Wreath as the central focus of our prayer.

Prayer For The Advent Wreath

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people. He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us. He is the Saviour of us all.

O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light two (purple) advent candles and the third (pink) of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ’s promise of salvation. May He come quickly and not delay. We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

During this Advent season the College community will be gathering in the gardens on Monday mornings throughout the Advent season…

Prep – Year 7 Orientation Day
Last Tuesday we held Orientation Day and the mild weather meant that everyone could enjoy their new experience without it being too hot. This was especially appreciated by the families of those whose children were spending their first full day at school!

It was wonderful to visit all the classrooms and witness the students and staff all getting used to their class for 2017. Seeing them all confidently engaging with one another and their teachers was a sign of all the great planning and preparation that has gone into this important day. Thanks to all our staff who ensured such a great day.

This week the Year 7 and Year 8 students stepped up a level to spend the week in their new class for 2017. The aims during this important week are to meet new teachers, adjust to the expectations at this new level and to feel comfortable and confident about making a smooth transition in 2017. Thank you to the students and staff for putting a lot into this week and establishing these key outcomes. For parents, if you have any concern or question please do not hesitate to contact the College for some assistance.

Over the past weeks I have been informing families about staffing changes. This week I wish to thank and acknowledge each of the staff who are leaving SMC at the end of the year.

Mrs Carol Gurnett is retiring after many years of service to education. She is well regarded for her work in literacy intervention for young learners particularly as a Reading Recovery teacher. Carol has been very unwell this past year, which has brought on her retirement, and I wish to thank her for her vital contribution to the College and for making such a huge difference in the lives of so many young students.

Mr Daniel Evans has been teaching at SMC for 2 years and has decided to travel the world. Daniel will arrive in England just after Christmas and has secured a teaching job in London beginning 3rd January. Thanks for your contribution to SMC and we hope it’s a wonderful adventure Daniel!

Mrs Maree Findlay has been teaching at SMC for 12 years and has taught across the College in both primary and secondary roles. During most of this time Maree has been the College Literacy leader and brought about huge success and growth in student outcomes. We are sad that Maree is moving on but we wish her every success at St Mel’s in Shepparton beginning next year.

Mrs Rachel Leben has been teaching Humanities part time for a semester in Year 7 and has done a fabulous job. Best wishes Rachel and thank you from us all.

Mrs Heather McCall will be retiring at the end of the year mainly due to health issues. Heather has been a PE/Science teacher at SMC for 17 years and will be greatly missed by the students and her colleagues. Her expertise in both these areas is not easy to replace. Thank you Heather.

This year I approached Mrs Barbara Radford to take on the role of Student Services leader in Term II. Although retired at the time, Barbara accepted the challenge and has been a ‘lifesaver’ for us these past three terms. We’re all so appreciative of her great knowledge, skills and generosity throughout this time. Thank you, Barb.

Reports are being finalised for 2016. This year, reports will be distributed tomorrow, Friday 9th December for students in Prep – Year 8.
All students with overdue library books will not be able to collect their reports until all books are returned or accounted for. The Odyssey magazine will be distributed next week when it arrives from the printers.

Upon receiving your child’s report you may wish to speak with a teacher. Please make direct contact with your child’s teacher before Wednesday 14th December.

Before collecting their reports students need to ensure that they have returned all Library books and resources. Parents are also requested to confirm that payments of fees have been finalised and lap top payments are up to date. This request is being made to ensure that the College is able to prepare and plan for 2017. If you have any concerns about fees or lap top payments please contact the College Business Manager Mrs Meryl Connell.

Peter Kelly
principal@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Christmas Raffle
Thank you to all who supported the raffle. The funds raised, including donations, was $600.00. This will go towards repair and updating of the lights in our Lady’s chapel.

TJHC welcomes new Victorian laws to protect children
New proposed laws in Victoria which will create a new duty of care allowing an organisation to be held liable for child abuse committed by an individual associated with the organisation have been welcomed by the Catholic Church’s Truth Justice and Healing Council.

Child Safety Policy Development Committee
In the new year, a short term committee is being sought to assist the parish in drafting child safety policy for this parish. Parents and parishioners are invited to consider joining this committee and supplying their names and contact details to either the school or the parish. Further details of the times and frequency of the meetings to be arranged after consultation with nominated members.

Christmas and New Year Mass Times
As both will fall on Sundays this year, all Mass times remain the same with these inclusions. Christmas: Vigil Mass will be preceded with Carols at 5:15pm and be a Midnight Mass at St Mary’s. Confession times have been extended to include Confessions after Tuesday to Friday Masses (9:30-10:00am) in the week leading up to Christmas. Confession will be available 5:00-5:50pm prior to the Vigil Mass and 8:00-8:30am Tallarook Christmas day. New Year: 7:00-7:30pm Friday 30/12, 8:00-8:30am 1/1/17 Tallarook, Thursday and Friday 9:30-10:00am 29-30/12 St Mary’s.

Carols 5:15pm
Vigil Mass 6:00pm
Christmas Day 8:30am (Tallarook), 10:00am Seymour
New Year’s Eve 9.00am, Evening Vigil 6:00pm
New Year’s Day 8:30pm (Tallarook), 10:00am Seymour

May God bless you and keep you always.

Fr Eugene Ashkar (and of course Fonzie)
The College staff believe it is important to acknowledge student achievements. Consequently student awards are a regular feature of our assemblies.

At the Primary level, awards, recognising contributions made in a wide range of aspects of school life, are presented at the Monday afternoon assemblies.

As Secondary students are expected to apply themselves for much longer periods of time, acknowledgment of their achievements occurs less frequently.

Accordingly the following awards were presented at last week’s End of Year Liturgy:

**Academic Achievement:**

| SP-A | Arabella Carlin |
| SP-G | Courtney Jones |
| SP-K | William Weeks |
| 7M | Baxter Reid |
| 8F | Eden Cater |
| 9A | Willem Eager |

**Mother Maurice Ryan Citizenship Award:**

| SP-A | Nevyn Godwin |
| SP-G | Tristan Whitfield |
| SP-K | Trystan Matthews |
| 7M | Alannah O’Connell |
| 8F | Josiah Stopp |
| 9A | Samuel Tang |
| 10H | Abby Potts |

**Outstanding Sportsperson Award:**

Primary: Samara Younger, William Weeks
Junior Sec. Ally Black, Matthew Whitford
Middle Sec. Hudson Kaak, Victoria Parsons

**Monsignor Anthony K Toms Science Award:**

Junior Secondary: Lara Conroy
Middle Secondary: Isabel MacDonald

**The Best All-rounder Award:**

Isabel MacDonald

**The Performing Arts Awards**

Primary: Ashlyn Graham
Junior Sec. Erin Lawrence
Middle Sec. Katelyn Barrow

**Kwong-Lee Dow (Melbourne Uni) Award**

Isabel McDonald, Ataija Parker

**Creative Arts Awards**

| SP-G | Tenisha Raymond |
| SP-M | Samantha Fuller |
| 7M | Akira Sims |
| 8F | Erin Lawrence |
| 9A | Madison Pearce |

**College Captains 2017:**

Ebony Marshall & Keegan Grant
YEAR 8 (2017) LAPTOP PROGRAM
The Laptop roll out session for the 2017 Year 8 Laptop Program was held on Tuesday 6th December. Thank you to all who attended. If you were unable to attend please make contact with ICT Manager Mr David Cater to collect your child’s laptop.

YEAR 7 (2017) LAPTOP PROGRAM
Families are reminded that the introductory session for the 2017 Year 7 Laptop Program will be held on Wednesday 1st February 2017 at 7.00pm in the Science Wing. The laptops will be available for collection on this night. This introductory session, which include an e-Smart presentation is compulsory for parents and students.

Payment of the first instalment of $230 is also due at or preferably prior to this session to avoid cash handling on the night. If payment is made by EFT, payment must be received in the College bank account by Friday 27th January 2017.

The College bank details are as follows:
BSB: 083-890  Account No: 629 211 120  Reference: LTOP (Surname)

Payments may also be made by cash or cheque at the College.

All new families, and returning families, are advised that payments can be made any time from now and throughout December and January for the Year 7 laptops. Please ensure you reference your payment, as indicated above, if paying by EFT. Payments may also be made by cash or cheque at the College.

NEW FAMILIES JOINING THE COLLEGE IN 2017
At St Mary’s College we take the health and safety of our students very seriously. As such in 2016 we adopted a new health and safety application named CareMonkey. CareMonkey is an innovative parent controlled electronic medical form for schools, clubs and other groups with a duty of care.

We use the CareMonkey app in the best interest of the children whilst also reducing the burden on parents to fill out the same information on multiple forms throughout the year.

Users can use a PC, laptop, tablet or smartphone to enter the details including:

- emergency contacts
- medical contacts
- medical checklist including asthma, allergies, seizures, diabetes
- notes and other care instructions from parents
- health and ambulance insurance details
- and more…

As a parent/guardian you will receive an invitation to join CareMonkey and enter details for your child/children. By following the instructions you can create your own free CareMonkey account and control all data about your child/children.

The CareMonkey system stores the information on your behalf and you will be able to grant (or deny) access to your data with our school. You are also able to share this data with any other group or individual you choose (eg. Your child’s grandparents, their child-minder, their sports club, etc). From the schools perspective, this information will only be visible by the relevant staff for your child and will be managed in accordance with the Privacy Act.

You don’t need to do anything until you receive the email requesting the information. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions. You can also visit the CareMonkey website for more information: www.caremonkey.com

UNNAMED DEPOSIT
The College has received a direct deposit with a reference GMCU on the 5th December 2016 but no school fee account reference number or name attached. The deposit is for a substantial amount so please contact Mrs Stacia Read, or myself, at the College if you believe this could be your transaction. Thank you.

REMEMBER: P-6 have their Stationery Requirements levied and provided in the classrooms. The secondary student Stationery List was listed in issue no. 38 of The Marian and has been uploaded to the College website site (follow the news & Events Tab, ‘The Marian’ then click on the more button).

Mrs Meryl Connell
As we head towards Christmas...
It is always a time to reflect, consider and acknowledge one’s year.

In my roles, I have the privilege of interacting with so many wonderful people that make my life much richer. I am able to have daily interactions with parents who care about their child’s wellbeing and education. I can have some tough and distressing conversations about a student and still manage to support and be supported, by the family. I have been incredibly busy and wondering how to get through it all, when a student will start recognizing words, make a new friend or write their name for the first time and that moment is like a moment in time ... priceless!! That is my reward for any effort put in. I have been privileged to be a part of families’ darkest time, their achievements and successes and their everyday life. All in all, I have one of the greatest jobs in the world! I have wonderful parents and grandparents that enjoy being involved in our school. I work with amazing colleagues that make everyday a pleasure to be here and I have a family, with whom I couldn’t imagine spending Christmas with anyone else.

Take care everyone over the holidays and on the roads if you are travelling. Remember what Christmas is really about and be kind to yourself. Enjoy the simple things and I look forward to seeing everyone in 2017.

Orientation Day
What a cracker of a day! The sun was shining, the kids were smiling and the teachers were well prepared and ready. Every classroom was settled and engaged from the get-go. We welcomed to Mrs Julia Perry to Prep. It was great to have Julia here for the day and we look forward to spending more time with her in 2017. We also welcomed back Mrs Lisa Creak. It doesn’t seem that long ago she left us and today was just like old times. Mrs Kerrie Pearce was a great support to teachers today. Kerrie is preparing for her new role of Reading Recovery Teacher next year. I also moved today into my new role in MP. It was a great first day and an insight into what next year might look like. Thank you to our Learning Support Officers. They make a huge difference in the running of our classrooms and their support was greatly appreciated today.

P-2 End of Year Excursion
Prep-Year 2 will be heading off on their End of Year Excursion next Thursday 15th December. You will receive notification of the day on CareMonkey in the next few days. Everyone will be travelling by bus to Kidstown in Shepparton where the Grade 2’s will leave to go Oz Ten Pin Bowling. It is a great place to see kids use their stores of energy and demonstrate their skill of sharing, tolerating and negotiating, just to name a few.

It’s A Boy
Congratulations to Megan Cox and her partner, Matthew, on the safe arrival of their new baby boy – little brother for Noah Wemyss MP-B and Jack.

Until next time, continue to ACT JUSTLY, SHOW RESPECT and DO OUR BEST.

Mrs Anne Spencer: P-4 Co-ordinator
Our Positive Behaviour Goal for this term has been:

‘Fly High … reach for the stars’

Well what another fantastic year in our Middle School 5-7. We have celebrated many wonderful events as a level and it all comes to another end. We wish everyone well and continued success.

We would like to thank all students for being well mannered and respectful. It has been a pleasure teaching them and we look forward to seeing them progress through to 2017 as more confident, mature and well-mannered young ladies and gentlemen.

As we come to the end of another successful year, we would like to congratulate all our award winners in all facets of school life, such as Academic, TAG/Citizenship and Creative Arts. Our winners were presented with these awards last Friday at our College assembly.

Our Orientation Day on Tuesday 6th December was filled with much excitement and activity. Our students experienced a range of tasks associated with being in the next level of schooling, as well as meeting new friends and teachers. This day ran smoothly due to such a wonderful group of colleagues that support and encourage one another. As special thanks to Mr Evans for being our HOTDOG MAN and our support staff. What a wonderful team effort!

A reminder that our Senior Primary classes will be participating in their end of year picnic day on Friday 16th December at school and our Year 7’s will be going to Bounce in Shepparton tomorrow Friday 9th December. Please ensure your child is wearing appropriate casual, comfortable clothes for this activity. They will need to bring their own lunch and water bottle. They can have maximum $10 to spend.

Another reminder is that we are preparing for the season of Christmas through Advent. Once again we donate to St. Vincent de Paul and would appreciate every child to donate a food item and a toy. This is our opportunity to ‘make a difference’ to the lives of those less fortunate than us.

I would like to thank all the Year 5-7 staff for their ongoing care and commitment to the children and looking after their wellbeing and learning. We thank Mrs Allison Moore for all her efforts this year in SP-A and welcome her back to Year 7 as homeroom teacher with Mrs Mel Hutchinson as her assistant. Mrs Angela Molinaro will be our other Year 7 Homeroom teacher with Mrs Kath Kovacic as her assistant. Our Senior Primary homeroom teachers will be Mr Krammer, Miss Milner, Mrs Gough and myself in SP-G.

On behalf of the Year 5-7 Team, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and families for their continued support and participation in the learning and wellbeing of their children. We look forward to working in partnership once again in 2017 and wish you all a safe and happy festive season and holiday. God Bless.

Ms Zine Dovara: 5-7 Level Co-ordinator
Congratulations to all our Year Ten students who graduated on Friday November 25th after celebrating their final mass led by Father Eugene Ashkar. All students were dressed up splendidly and the dinner and awards ceremony was a fantastic occasion for all students and their families. Special thanks to Mrs Catherine Evans and Mrs Rochelle Gough who worked closely with the students planning their mass. It was a beautiful ceremony and all of our students participated in a respectful and meaningful manner. The highlight of the Mass for all of us was the magnificent solo performance by Abby Potts. What a beautiful voice!!!

Thank you to our homeroom teachers Mr Gary Hawkey and Mr Brian O’Dwyer for your endless care and support you have displayed all year for these wonderful young people and Mrs Tanya Oakley in your role of Careers Practitioner and for all your work with the Graduation.

The Photo Booth was a huge success as you can see from some of the photos and many parents were back and forth for fun shots more than the students!

Our Year Nine students experienced a very smooth transition into Year Ten classes last week. I think the highlight for the majority of students was the shared locker rooms and the discovery of the ‘Harry Potter Cupboard’ beneath the stairs in the Mercy centre!

Their transition week culminated with the annual trip to Craigieburn Central on Friday December 2nd to the movies and a spot of Christmas shopping. All students were looking forward to this fun way of ending what has been a great school year.

Our Year Eight students started their transition week on Monday December 5th as Year 9s. They moved over into the Year 9 rooms and have experienced a taste of the good things to come next year, which included their first B4Ws day when they all walked around Seymour locating significant and historical landmarks. This day also included a shared lunch at Maccas. Their end of year will also finish with a day at the Craigieburn movies this Friday 9th December.

Thank you to all families for your continued interest and support in your child’s education this year.
As this is my final article for 2016, I finish off with this quote and thank all the students in Years 8, 9 and 10 for being such a fantastic and inspiring group of young people to work with.

I also thank all of our parents and guardians who have supported me in carrying out my role of level coordinator in partnership with you, to benefit the wellbeing and learning of all of your children.

On behalf of all staff in our Year 8 – 10 level, we wish you all a happy and safe summer holiday break (with lots of sun and swimming) and look forward to seeing you all again in 2017.

Merry Christmas to all our students and their families!

Mrs Mary Tampion: 8-10 Level Co-ordinator

...from the Deputy Principal

Education in Faith & School Community

Please support our Vinnies Christmas Appeal by contributing an item (food or small toy) for the baskets in each classroom.

Walk Through Bethlehem 2016

Walk Through Bethlehem, 2016 will be held at St Peter’s Primary School Epping on: Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd, Friday 23rd December. 9 pm – Midnight

A Walk Through Bethlehem is a living display of life in a small town at the time of the birth of Jesus. Bethlehem, in Epping will be populated by spinners, weavers, blacksmiths, carpenters, potters, bakers and people of other ancient crafts and trades. There are all types of domestic and farm animals tended by a large number of enthusiastic, young shepherds. As in Jesus’ time, the Romans are ever-present. Streets are patrolled by Centurions and guards watch over the palace of King Herod. The Three Kings from the East are there with their camels and gifts. The focal point of the production is the stable, in which Mary and Joseph await the arrival of their baby, Jesus.

To keep up to date with the latest from Bethlehem ‘LIKE’ our facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/walkthroughbethlehemeping

One item from each student and staff member can make a huge difference to a family’s Christmas. Baskets will be collected by St Vincent de Paul next Friday. Let’s be the heroes in someone’s life this Christmas. Thank you

Mrs Catherine Evans
catherine.evans@smseymour.catholic.edu.au
**DATES TO REMEMBER**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 9th Dec.</td>
<td>Yr.7 Day Out: ‘Go Jump’ Shepp.</td>
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<td>Yr.8 Day Out: Craigieburn Central</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Yr.7/8 End of School Year (3.15pm)</td>
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<td><strong>P-8 Reports Distributed</strong></td>
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<td>Yr.9-10 Reports available for collection from the College Office from 3.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 12th Dec.</td>
<td>Advent Prayer - Garden Area (8.45am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 13th Dec.</td>
<td>P-2 Excursion – Shepparton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 14th Dec.</td>
<td>P-6 End of School Year (3.15pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 19th Dec.</td>
<td>College Office Closes (4.00pm)</td>
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**CANTEEN ROSTER**

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<tr>
<td>Friday 9th Dec.</td>
<td>Karen Pearce</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 12th – 16th Dec.</td>
<td>Lynne Morgan</td>
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**Community Groups – Upcoming Events/Expressions of Interest**

- **Longwood Football Netball Club** - expressions of interest for the 2017 season - U/18 Footballers (phone Nathan: 0439 873 133); U/17 & U/16 Netballers (Jacqui: 0402 457 590 or Jamie: 0401 435 501).

- **Edwards Dance Studio** Annual Revue at Seymour Performing Arts Centre, Anglsea St Seymour - Saturday 10th December. Performances at 2:00 and 6:30. Tickets available at the door.