Where has the year gone! During these past days I have been reflecting on all the amazing experiences and events throughout 2015. I am constantly amazed by the growth and development of our students and the tremendous school spirit that exists in our community. What a wonderful year it has been! I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their contributions to life of St Mary's College.

Wishing everyone a happy and holy Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

**Orientation Day**

Last Tuesday we held Orientation day and I thoroughly enjoyed visiting the students in their new classroom settings. 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 it was such a great day.

**Christmas Carols Night**

Congratulations to all who participated in the Seymour Carols Night held last Sunday evening. As usual the College Choir performed magnificently. A special congratulations goes to Ashlyn Graham who sang a solo on the night. Thank you again to Mrs Kerry Hogan who leads and supports all members of the Choir. Thank you Kerry for the fabulous singing and performances throughout the year.
Reports are almost finalised. Parents are advised that **Secondary Reports** will be available for collection from **9.00am** on **Tuesday 15th December**. **Primary Reports** will be handed out during the afternoon homeroom on **Monday 14th December**.

**Please note:** If they are not collected they will remain at the College until the commencement of the 2016 School Year.

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**Timetable Changes**

Next year the College timetable will be changing! We will still be starting at **8.45am** and finishing at **3.15pm** but our recess and lunch breaks will be changing. This will allow for longer periods of learning in the morning and shorter afternoons. Secondary students will also be making a shift to a 10 day (2 week) timetable. No doubt, it will take some time for staff and students to adjust to the new timetable so we’ll be providing extra reminders early next year to support everyone through these changes.

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**Prep – 6 Final Assembly and P – 2 Christmas Play**

We’re all looking forward to our final gathering for the Year Prep – Year 6 Final Assembly and Christmas Play at **2.15pm** on **Tuesday 15th December**. Please come along and join us for this special event.

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**Student Leadership**

**Community**

Katelyn Barrow, Rylee George

Harrison Greeno, Ella Horton

Samuel Galofaro, Jonty Mann, Courtney Jones, Abby Potts - Padua House

Nicholas Quigg, Imogen Cafasso, Shanai Johnson, Michael Quine - McAuley House

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**The Season of Advent – Week 3**

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

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Mr Peter Kelly
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:**

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<th>Year</th>
<th>SP-G</th>
<th>SP-K</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amity Hare</td>
<td>Abbey Cook</td>
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<td>Charlotte Reid</td>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>SP-M</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eden Cater</td>
<td>Jaiden Donovan, Lara Martin</td>
<td>Isabelle Quine</td>
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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Isabel MacDonald</td>
<td>Kate Ellis</td>
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**College Dux - Academic Excellence:**

Courtney Aldous

**Mother Maurice Ryan Citizenship Award:**

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Polly Duff</td>
<td>Temisha Griffiths</td>
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<td>Alanah O’Connell</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Denby Gardner</td>
<td>Alyssa Heath</td>
<td>Rylee George</td>
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<td>Sophie Moore</td>
<td>Emily Treble</td>
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<th>Year</th>
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<td>Billy Bowe</td>
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**McEwen Community Award:**

Yr. 10 Georgia Engel

**Vocational & Education Training Award:**

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Victoria Mosbey, Gavin Whitfort</td>
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**School Based Apprenticeship:**

Mia Gillett

**Mitchell Shire Award:**

Junior Secondary: Madison Pearce
Middle Secondary: Billy Bowe

**The Staff Achievement Award:**

Lachlann Pollard

**Seymour Health - Community Award:**

Bronte Tipping & Emily Messore

**Seymour Goulburn Lions Club Encouragement Award:**

Yr. 6: Darcy Gleeson

**Seymour Lions Inc. The Lion Marian Rojewski Community Award:**

Yr. 6: Polly Duff

**Seymour & District Art Society Inc. Award:**

Lilyan Stark

**The Christine Murphy Award:**

Libby Dawson

**Outstanding Sportsperson Award:**

Primary: Ruby Martin, Matthew Whitfort
Junior Sec. Ally Black, Hudson Kaak
Middle Sec. Madeline Moore, Connor McCloy

**Monsignor Anthony K Toms Science Award:**

Middle Secondary: Courtney Aldous
Junior Secondary: Isabella Aldous

**The Best All-rounder Award:**

Courtney Aldous

**The Performing Arts Awards**

Madeline Moore

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

Georgia Engel, Courtney Aldous

**Creative Arts Awards**

SP-G: Lara Robinson, SP-K Akira Sims
SP-M: Mia Thomson

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<td>Ben Postill</td>
<td>Hannah Postill</td>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>Ataija Parker</td>
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**College Captains 2016:**

Isabel MacDonald & Joshua Boyer
Dear families,

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on 2015. It has been a wonderful, busy and exciting year, with many great things happening within the community of St Mary’s College.

Within Religious Education, we have had many highlights. The school year opened with the whole gathering for our Opening College Mass. Monsignor Toms inducted our Year 10 Leaders and all classes were involved in the Mass. It was a wonderful way to begin 2015 and with our theme of ‘Time to Connect’ at the centre of everything we had planned for the year, we made a really meaningful beginning to the year.

Throughout the year, different classes celebrated and participated in reflection days, sacramental programs, prayer services, and attended Mass with the Parish.

The whole College participated in special liturgies such as Prayer in the Quad, Lenten services, Sorry Day, Mission Week, Feast Day, Advent and many other prayers for those in our local and global community.

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful and inspiring work of Mrs. Rochelle Gough, our Religious Education Leader in Faith. Rochelle has been responsible for all the beautiful and meaningful liturgies and prayers we have celebrated throughout the year. Thank you Rochelle so much for all your great leadership, support and vision. Many thanks to Monsignor Toms and Fr Paul, who have shared Parish Priest duties this year. Both have been a wonderful support to Rochelle and I, and the whole College Community.

Within the community sphere – it’s been another very busy year!!! Welcome BBQ and Socials, Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea, Father’s Day Breakfast, Grandparents Day, Feast Day, Musical afternoon, Staff v Students Volleyball Match, Year 10 Graduation, Whole College Assemblies and parent/student evenings and showcases.

Thank you so much to all of our families, students and staff for the wonderful support over the year. A special thanks to the Community Team - Mrs Jennine Brock, Mrs Tanya Oakley and Mr Brian O’Dwyer for all their enthusiasm for building community at St Mary’s.

Final Primary Prayer and Christmas Play
On the final day of the school year for our primary students, we will be holding a simple prayer celebration. This will include singing of Christmas Carols and a Nativity Play from JP-S and JP-P. Come and join us at 2:15pm in the M/P Hall on Tuesday 15th December.

Mary the Mother of Jesus
Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Peace. We light it and the Candle of Hope again as we remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfill all of God’s promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him.

We light the Candle of Joy to remind us that when Jesus is born in us we have joy and that through him there will be everlasting joy on earth.

Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.
I wish all of our families a safe, happy and holy Christmas. Have fantastic holidays and we look forward to seeing you again in 2016. Every best wish to those families who are moving on to other schools or moving house.

Thank you to everyone  
Merry Christmas  
Mrs Catherine Evans  
Email: catherine.evans@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

The Learning & Teaching focus for 2015…  
Confidence and Engagement = Success

Congratulations to all students on their achievements this year!  
You have all grown in so many ways! Physically, academically, socially and in the ownership of your belonging to St Mary’s College community.

Student Forum
Special thanks go to the Class Captains for being involved and contributing to the student forum this year. You all commented at our final meeting that it was a great experience and you had increased in confidence within this leadership role. Some activities that the group participated in were: the College review, revision of the homework policy, developing a role description for class captains, delivering the Habits of Mind message to classmates, promoting events for the community team, suggestions for Numeracy Week activities, reminders about becoming more sustainable in the classroom, and finally the support for the Mitchell Shire Youth - Cyber Tattoo Initiative! I look forward to continuing the development of young leaders again next year and welcome your contributions. Good luck to those class captains who are moving to new schools next year!

Curriculum Team
Once again a new structure was implemented this year for our curriculum leaders, a team with fourteen members has its challenges and we have worked together more efficiently over the year. As the Australian Curriculum has developed and changed we have also been keeping pace with these changes. The final implementation phase will happen into 2016. Thanks to all leaders, Andrew Allen, Jennine Brock, David Carter, Karen Dalrymple, Catherine Evans, Maree Findlay,
Gary Hawkey, Martin Keating, Hayley Milner, Angela Molinaro, Brian O’Dwyer, Kerrie Pearce and Andrea Williams. You have all been a very professional and supportive team, your expertise in each learning area is fantastic!

**Student Reports** Prep to Year Six students will be given their reports on **Monday** to take home. **Secondary Students’ Reports** will be available for collection from **Tuesday 15th – Thursday 17th December**.

Next year, we will be changing the structure of our assessment, feedback and reporting system. You will have the opportunity to come to an information session early in the first term, followed by an interim report by midterm, and if necessary a follow up meeting with the teacher. Dates will be on the calendar for the start of 2016.

**REMININDER:** P-6 have their Stationery Requirements levied and provided in the classrooms. The secondary student Stationery List was listed in issue no. 37 of The Marian and has been uploaded to the College website (follow the News & Events Tab, The Marian then click on the more button).

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**Best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a happy, safe and relaxing holiday break to you all!**

Mrs Christine Buhler
Email: christine.buhler@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

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**... from The Business Manager**

Dear Parents

In previous years, I have sent a Fee and Levy Package home to families by post at the end of January. With the aim of giving families a clearer understanding of their fee obligations for next year, I will instead be emailing the packages within the next few days. I will also re-send the package by email again later in January.

Please note that the package contains at least one form (the Payment Instalment Form) which needs to be completed and returned to the College in the new year. I urge all parents to take the time to read the contents of the package and if they have any concerns or questions please contact me. Fee statements will be generated and sent home by February.

Mrs Meryl Connell

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**...from the Deputy Principal**

**Student Wellbeing**

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Another year passes and it is again another year where we can reflect on the amazing work our staff do in the area of wellbeing.

Creating a safe environment where students are able to positively interact and develop healthy social and emotional skills is essential. It is certainly what we, as educators at St Mary’s College, strive for. Attending the Graduation Mass and dinner for our Year 10’s absolutely confirmed that our teachers are successful in producing graduates that are respectful, caring and well prepared for the next stage in their lives.

Our Level Co-ordinators have again had a very busy year working with students, parents and teachers to ensure our students are supported and can do their best. The behind the scenes work that these co-ordinators do is extraordinary and
essential to the day-to-day running of the school. A big thank you to Anne Spencer (Prep to 4), Zine Dovara (5-7) and Mary Tampion (8-10) for your efforts and for the support you provide me. I would also like to recognize the amazing work that our Learning Support Officers (teacher aides), led by Rhonda Tallnash, do within our College. The level of support they provide all our students and in turn our teachers is critical and greatly appreciated.

As we move into 2016 there are a number of initiatives that the Wellbeing team are planning. It is important to never take our eye off the ball to ensure we are keeping our approach fresh and relevant. One exciting initiative will be the introduction of a ‘Wellbeing Week’ where we will further strengthen the wellbeing of our College community through a range of fun and informative activities. I am particularly looking forward to this initiative and you can expect our wellbeing team to be putting the call out to our parents to get involved.

‘Wellbeing Words of Wisdom’...
Inspirational Quotes from A-Z

Perserverance is failing 19 times and succeeding the 20th.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all parents and students a very safe, happy and holy Christmas. This week I have been deep into the toy catalogues with my two boys Sam and Ben as they write their letters to Santa!!

It is truly a time for family. Looking forward to seeing you all in 2016.

Mr Sean O’Brien

…from St. Mary’s Parish

Dear friends,

I really would appreciate your help. Tonight about 44,000 people under 24 years of age are homeless in Australia. To bring greater awareness and to offer support to our young people in their many serious needs, a small group of us are taking on a Christmas Challenge.

We will be riding our bikes from Mansfield to Tallarook (121 km) on Monday, 21st December 2015 along the greatvictorianrailtrail.com.au. May I kindly ask you, your family and friends to generously sponsor us. All donations go directly to a marvellous local youth support service - thebridge.org.au.

Direct deposits can be made as follows:

BSB 633 000, Acc No. 1160 97577,
Acc Name - The Bridge Youth Service Inc, Reference/Description - RIDE FOR YOUTH.

On behalf of every young person in need - THANK YOU.

God bless,
Fr Paul

frpaulnewton@gmail.com
Presbytery: 5792 1064,
Mobile: 0418 294 847
Reminder:

Extend After School Care at St Mary’s College

(Primary Campus)

Have you heard the good news?
Extend is delighted to deliver an After School Care service to commence Term 1, 2016 (subject to government licensing and approval). We are thrilled to begin a new partnership with the school community and look forward to delivering a quality 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.

QUESTIONS?
Check out the FAQs on our website which contains useful information for new parents.

PARENT PORTAL: extend.com.au

Positions Available

After School Care Positions Available
Co-ordinator and Assistant

Extend is the leading quality provider in Before and After School Care and School Holiday Programs. We have an exciting opportunity available for a Co-ordinator and multiple Assistants at our new After School Care service at St Mary’s College, Seymour. Co-ordinator must be available Monday to Friday and Assistants at least 3 afternoons per week.

Additional paid administration time is available for Co-ordinators.

Applicants must be studying or have completed relevant Children’s Services or Teaching Qualifications.

To apply, please email your cover letter and resume to hr@extend.com.au or contact Head Office on 1300 366 437.

To learn more about this role please visit www.extend.com.au
Thank you to students, staff and parents for another great year for me at St. Mary’s College.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I look forward to teaching in 2016

Neil Lemmon - Music Teacher

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**Intensive Swimming**

WEEK 04/01/16 TO 08/01/16 inclusive

Swim school address:
1030 King Parrot Creek Rd, Strath Creek, 3658

Contact:
Adrianne Anglin mobile 0417550652

LOOK US UP ON FACEBOOK:
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Strath-Creek-Swim-School/142973595781987?ref=hl

“The Strath Creek Swim School Aims to help students develop in the areas of water confidence, water awareness, safety, and, physical fitness.

Teachers are all Austswim qualified holding Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety and Infant Aquatics qualifications. Teachers also hold current level 2 first aid and working with children and police checks.”
Lucas Quilty (7W) and his Shetland Pony ‘Sam’ won the Shetland Steeplechase at the Royal Melbourne Show during the last school holidays. Lucas and Sam trained for months to prepare for the race. Lucas was required to ride Sam over 3 sets of hay-bale jumps, around an arena. He won two heats and then won the final race. Lucas was awarded a trophy and $250 in prize money. **Well done Lucas and Sam!**

Congratulations to **Charlie D’Orria** and **Rogan Puppa** (JP-C) who were both awarded orange belts last Saturday at their martial arts school in Melbourne.

*What a fantastic effort from both boys.*

Congratulations also to **Evelyn Krammer** (JP-C) who received an art award at this year’s Seymour Show.

*Great effort Evelyn!!*

Dana West (SP-M) was awarded runner up for best dressed junior girls at the recent Kilmore Turf Cup.

Congratulations to **Charlie Morton** (9A) who has been accepted into the Victorian College of the Arts.

*Well done and best of luck Charlie.*

Jonathan Moore (SP-G) and Regan Gardner (SP-K) have been selected in the McPherson Shield Cricket side. Regan is also super swimmer and has represented Seymour Sharks at State Level.

*Congratulations to both boys!!*