

Dear Parents and Families,

My wife (Chris Keogh) and I have moved to a town that we have passed so many times over the years either going down or up the Hume and now Seymour is our home. Seymour is similar in size to other towns we have lived in and is certainly as friendly! The following is a summary of my time in education and of my family, so that you hopefully get a snap shot of my history.

I am an Albury boy at heart. Born and bred. Chris is from a farm on the Jingellic Road near Holbrook. We first met in Sydney and from there our family journey began. Chris works in palliative care and will be working with Goulburn Valley Health in the area of Palliative Care. We have 4 children: Lauren; Isaac; Beth and Molly and all four are hard workers, having found their way in chosen careers.

Our family years were north of the border (Sydney; Young; Cootamundra; Temora; Pambula Beach; Wagga) and for the past 6 years at Safety Beach on the Mornington Peninsula. My leadership experience in Catholic education has been a privilege in the roles as classroom teacher; Religious Education Coordinator; Deputy Principal and Principal. I have been blessed to have had 22 years experience in schools very similar to St Mary's.

Chris' parents are no longer on the farm and her father (Jim Keogh deceased) was like most farmers, a supreme optimist. Jimmy always inspired his children (all 7) to be the best they can be. Jimmy always saw the good in others. I am one of 4 children and my parents, siblings and their families live up at Albury. My father is a quiet man but when he speaks his words are wise. Dad is now 90 and has seen a lot of change. He spent his youth in the Murray and visiting family at Shepparton; Numurkah and Henty. A welder by trade and a kinder man one would not meet. As an ex professional bike rider he still is incredibly disciplined about what he eats and drinks. Chris' mother is in care at Holbrook and my mother is busy trying to remind her husband that he needs to understand it is not ideal to climb a ladder onto the roof to clean the evaporative cooler.

When I became a principal in 2000 I took 'Romero's Prayer' as my leadership creed. The prayer continues to inspire me over the journey and always challenges me to be the best I can be. I have included Romero's Prayer and you might glean an idea of where I am coming from especially in knowing that we all stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us – the many Sisters of Mercy; parish priests; lay staff and families who have given to St Mary's.

Romero's Prayer

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us. No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the Church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything. This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

It takes a village to raise a child. In Catholic education it requires parents as the first educators of their child to set the standards for the young people we welcome daily through the gates of St Mary's. It takes the home and school; the College Board and P&F; the parish and us all to be united in what we want to achieve as a community and for every student child in our care. Even in this short time, I have sensed the strong spirit, pride and attachment that staff, students and parents have to St Mary's. P-10 schools are special places!

Sporting blood is strong in my family. Professional cycling; an Aunty who won more than her share of Tennis Grand Slams and a son who never gave up his dream of going from the bush to play AFL. All great but it is in education that is and always will be the key to opening the doors to new opportunities in life. Lifelong learning empowers people to never give up on their dreams. A high achievement bar is a prerequisite to future success regardless of whatever career or vocational pathways that is taken. My wife and I are lifelong learners and we wanted the same for our own children because no one is ever too old to dream of what they can achieve. Hence, I believe in every student being a *Carpe Diem student, one who 'seizes the day'*, always setting the achievement bar high knowing that at the end of the day even if goals have to change, there is satisfaction of knowing the hard yards have been done for other opportunities to come along.

Catholic education is the best education. A holistic education is critical for the formation of every student at St Mary's. What then is the greatest thing we (it takes a village to raise a child) collectively can do for the students of St Mary's? *To nurture a personal relationship with Christ.* If we do this with sincerity, our students, your sons and or daughters will be able to cope with the good and tough times of life and will use their god given gifts and talents. A personal relationship with Christ will lead our students to making a real difference in the lives of others.

Beginning the Week for Staff We had two engaging days that covered many important protocols of daily College life and the overall theme of the two days was reflected in the importance of being consistent and how the 'walk and talk' with a student can be the very thing that makes their day. After the PD days I was left in no doubt that St Mary's is for the students and about the students. The collegiality and care that staff show to each other is to be admired and no doubt will reflect in the students' peer to peer relationships.

May our St. Mary's year be blessed with good health and the joy of community. May we all enjoy those buzz moments at home and at school when students young and old do those little things that mean so much. We also wish our new staff all the joy in their journey as new members of the St. Mary's community and may they nurture a love of learning in the hearts and minds of their students. Likewise, for our new students and families, as you journey in a special place and space called Catholic education in the Mercy tradition – *more on the Sisters of Mercy in Week Two of the Marian!*

Pope Francis is a wonderful and wise man and may our College community keep close to our hearts his words, "We all are called to use our gifts."

Chris and I are very grateful for the welcome we received from Peter; Father Eugene; the leadership team and the staff, which is a reminder of the goodness of country hospitality.

Best wishes for 2019. Wayne Smith, Principal

PS Our newest and youngest students met Rosey the Wombat on Thursday. Rosey lives in my Office and keeps an eye on the Infant students from near and afar. Rosey the Wombat also accepts that not everyone follows the mighty Blues and Hawks!

Welcome to all new students:

Prep: Willow Bradshaw, Eli Bertram, Alba Bruce, Sebastian Croft-Papi, Atticus Densworth, Yenuli Dissanayake, Charlotte Gibson, Montanna Gross, Amelia Handford, Summer Hoefchen, Jax Holden, Harper Kaarsberg, Fletcher Kingston, Llorente Savanah, Jack Lomax, Isabella Manderson, Laila Mazurek, Ella McLean, Ivy Millard, Alexis Nichols, Livani Palmer, Ava Pearce, Jake Rohde, Ruby Rutherford, Noah Shearer, Jaycee Smith, Laquisha Solomon, Ned Solomon, Ellie Taylor, Harper Tootell, Ellie Towt, Issabella Wood, Jessica Woods Year 1: Sulivan Clydesdale, Jonathan Duna. Year 3: Remy Clydesdale, Piper Doyle. Year 4: Evie Bennett, Dimitrios Corocher, Amelia Duna, Ryan McCarthy. Year 6: Lainey Doyle, Lewis Lorenzo. Year 7: Hayden Clarke, Elijah Cross, Benjamin Perry, Tobias Rayner, Ely Reid, Tahlia Russell, Ronan Sullivan, Aiden Toby. Year 8: Dominik Ciantar. Year 9: Imogen Cafasso, Harrison Wilson.



A warm welcome is also extended to our new staff who have joined us for 2019. We welcome:-

Naomi Hanlon will be teaching MPH Donna Osborne will be teaching SPO 4 days a week with Rochelle Gough teaching 1 day Alison Yardley will be teaching JPW 2 days a week with Shae Williams teaching 3 days Andrea Richards is teaching Wood Work Tanya Sleeman will be relieving Kerry Hogan for Performing Arts Michelle Jones has been appointed as an LSO

St Mary's College Vision and Mission

Our Vision	A welcoming Catholic community that respects our heritage and looks to a sustainable future. We inspire learning excellence, resilience and service to others.
Our Mission	Let us all come together in our common call to serve and protect the gift of God's creation.
Our Values	Our values are enacted in the College community through our College Tag- Act Justly Show Respect Do Our Best <i>Mr Wayne Smith</i>

principal@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



from the... Business Manager

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. 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 7-9 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.

Our preferred method of payment is by Direct Debit (application forms available at the College) or EFT (bank details and reference number are provided on your fee statement).

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 <u>accounts@smseymour.catholic.edu.au</u>. Please note that fee statements have been sent out last week so if you did not receive your statement please contact me at the College.

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, **Veterans Affairs** Card or **Pensioner Concession** card as at the first day of Term One or Term Two.

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.

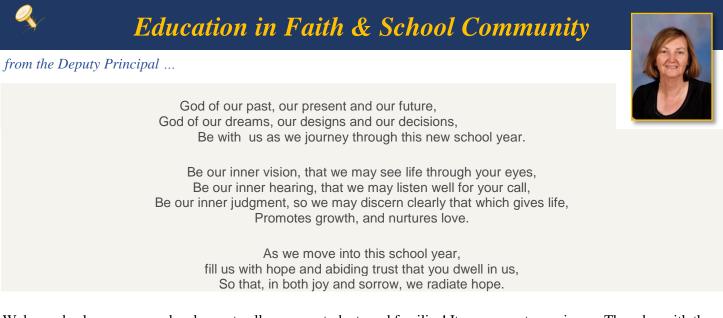
We ask that parents <u>submit their application</u> to the school by **22nd February**. However, parents who received CSEF at the school in 2018 do not need to complete an application form in 2019, providing there has been no change in their family circumstances. Application forms are available at the College office and a form is also available with this newsletter. Please contact Mrs Stacia Read 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 <u>more than 4.8 kms</u> from the College or <u>nearest free bus service</u>. 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 <u>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</u>. Please return applications to the College by 8th February. Thank you.

CAREMONKEY Thank you to all those families who have returned profiles for their students. 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

accounts@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Welcome back everyone and welcome to all our new students and families! It was a great morning on Thursday with the Foundation Students coming for their first day with their families, our new students being welcomed to St Mary's and to see all of our students back for 2019. It was a wonderful opportunity to chat, catch up and meet new people with a cuppa afterwards. There will be lots of opportunities throughout the year to help build relationships in our community.

We welcome our new Principal and staff members and hope that they have also had a great first week at St Mary's.

We look forward to supporting our Parents and Friends group as they plan fun events for our students and school community. Keep an eye on the Marian and our Facebook page for ways to be involved.

We invite all families to our First Whole College assembly to be held on Friday 1st Feb at 2.30pm in the MPH. This first assembly is an opportunity to come together as a College, introduce new staff and find about the events in the next few

weeks. The official assembly to welcome our new Prep students will be held in the coming weeks. Parents will be notified of the date and time next week.

The Opening School Mass is next Friday, 8th Feb at 9am in the church. We hope all families can join us for this very special Mass. College leaders, Class captains and SRC representatives will all be presented with their badges.

Our Sports carnivals are in the next few weeks (Swimming Carnival Friday 15th Feb and Athletics Carnival Friday 1st Mar) as we quickly become immersed in a busy time of the year.

I would like to introduce (or re-introduce) our community and Religious education teams.

Mrs. Rochelle Gough, Mrs. Jennine Brock, Mrs. Tanya Oakley and I are the members of the Community team while Rochelle and I work together to lead Religious Education in our school.

If you have any questions about our Faith and community events, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

Parents and Friends This is an early notification about our first P&F event for the year. This year, we have decided to hold a Color Run for the first time. The date is Friday 15th Mar and for this first time, the Colour Run will be held during school hours. It will be a great way to celebrate our school community and raise funds for the school at the same time. Friday 15th Mar begins Catholic Education Week and also Learning Areas week. More details will follow each week about the Colour Run but please see the attached flyer and letter which explains more about the day.

Please keep an eye on the **Marian and facebook page for upcoming events**. 2019 promises to be a wonderful year, full of learning and faith opportunities as well as building community and relationships.

May we ask God's blessings on our school community.

Mrs Catherine Evans catherine.evans@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



from the Deputy Principal ...



Welcome back to a new school year. I would like to especially welcome all our new families and, together with our existing families. It is with great pleasure and privilege that I am now Deputy Principal- Wellbeing for St. Mary's College. Mr. O'Brien has moved onto Notre Dame in Shepparton and we wish him every success in his future career endeavours.

We are fortunate to have such a dedicated staff at St Mary's College. I am fortunate in my role as Deputy Principal of Wellbeing to be supported by such an experienced team. This Wellbeing Team consists of our three year level coordinators along with our Student Services co-ordinator Miss Catherine Hurst. Each member spends an enormous amount of time and planning to ensure every child's wellbeing needs are being met. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the wellbeing of your child then you can contact the class/homeroom teacher, the year level co-ordinator or myself.

The co-ordinators are:	Prep to 4:	Mrs Anne Spencer
	Year 5-7:	Mr: Andrew Allen
	Year 8-10:	Mrs Mary Tampion

Just a few reminders as we begin the new year As a whole college community Prep-10, we take pride in wearing our college uniform correctly and staff are consistent in having high expectations for ALL students to be in the correct uniform each day. Please ensure your child wears the correct uniform and only wears sports uniform on the allocated sport day. Procedures are in place to ensure we all keep the high standard of pride in our appearance.

Please remember that this term ALL students require a blue broad brimmed hat. A hat that has been drawn on or altered by a student will not be acceptable, so I ask that you check your child's hat and have a conversation with them about ensuring they respect their uniform and appearance.

Staff will also be monitoring mobile phone usage during school hours

The First Weeks of School Every child reacts differently to this next big step in their lives. Remember that most children will be experiencing some change - after all they'll be learning, playing and interacting with new people and

getting used to a whole new environment - it will take them some time to settle in. Sometimes they might be really excited and looking forward to going to school or they may be showing signs of not wanting to go or even just taking school as just a part of their daily routine. This is normal. Some things you can do to help your child adjust to school include:

Ensure they have a healthy breakfast each day, as this is their energy to get through the day.

Aim to get out of the house on time in a calm, relaxed manner to set up a positive tone for their day. To help you achieve this, try giving your child some simple tasks the night before, especially our primary age kids. Having their breakfast items our ready, collecting their hat, planner, sunscreen and drink bottle and putting them into their school bag. Please ensure they have something to eat for snack time and lunch times, as some kids still need that guidance from you to help them pack what they need each day for school. They will get the hang of it, and it'll be one less thing you'll have to do.

Make time to chat to your child about what they did at school that day. This will give you a good idea of what they enjoy doing and how they are getting on in their new environment. Remember, your child's emotional reaction to going to school may vary a lot, especially during the first few weeks.

Develop a bedtime routine so your child can wind down at the end of the day and get a good night's sleep - children aged five need around 10 to 11 hours sleep a night. Secondary kids also need quality sleep time and 'switched off' from all digital devices at least 2 hours before going to bed.

Remember if they are happy and enjoying school, that's a real achievement. You know your child best. If you have any questions about how they are settling in at school, please contact the classroom teacher or the appropriate co-ordinator.

Secondary School vaccinations in 2019 (From the Mitchell Shire) The Secondary School Vaccine Program offers free vaccines to Year 7 and 10 students. These vaccines provide protection against:

- Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) one dose for year 7 students
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) two doses for year 7 students
- Meningococcal A,C,W,Y one dose for year 10 students

Parents/guardians of year 7 and 10 students should look out for the vaccine consent card booklet coming home from school with your child. You need to read the information, complete and return the card regardless of whether your child is being vaccinated at school.

The Mitchell Shire Council immunisation service may contact you about the Secondary School Vaccine Program. Schools are authorised to provide basic parent/guardian contact details to local councils for this purpose. Contact the school by 18 February 2019 if you do not want your contact details given to the Mitchell Shire Council immunisation service.

To learn more about the Secondary School Vaccine Program, the vaccines, the diseases they protect against, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination, go to www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Additionally, the Commonwealth government is funding vaccinations for all children under 20 years of age who missed any scheduled vaccines, including a catch up program for Meningococcal ACWY vaccine for adolescents aged 15-19 years of age who have not already received the vaccine in school. If students have missed vaccines, either in childhood or adolescence, and require catch-up vaccines, they should speak with their immunisation provider. (ie. local council or GP).

I am always happy to have a chat with you, but ask that you please contact the homeroom teacher first as the initial person who has a relationship with your child and the matter can be discussed in partnership.

We look forward to the year ahead and working in partnership together to ensure we engage, encourage and motivate your child, to live out our College TAG, Act Justly, Show Respect and Do Our Best.

Many Thanks

Ms Zine Dovara zine.dovara@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Learning & Teaching

from the Deputy Principal ...

Welcome to another year of learning opportunities at St Mary's College!

What a relief to start with a cooler day after the heat of the last month! The most exciting thing you can do to have a great year is find out as much as possible, so come along next week!

Parent Teacher Student Meetings We are continually striving to provide activities and tasks for students to become independent, positive, confident and resilient learners. Student and parent engagement in learning this year will be supported through the use of the parent and student portals.

Monday 11th 3.30 – 8pm and Tuesday 12th Feb 3.30 -5.00pm.

Come along to meet your child's homeroom teacher and share important information about the expectations for this year of schooling.

At years P-4 the focus is for parents and teachers to get to know each other, establish expectations, understand school procedures and the role of home learning.

At years 5 -6 in addition to the above, parents and students understand the increasing independence required by the student. Becoming more accountable for themselves in more aspects of school life.

At years 7-10 in addition to the above, students share their own goals and learning needs with parents and teachers. They acknowledge the increasing responsibility for meeting learning timelines and that this requires effort. They learn to manage time and create a school / life balance. They will share their learning 'desktop' in the SIMON program with you!

It would be great to have 100% of families attend.

Existing families can login via PAM (Parent Access Module) to make a booking time.

New families will receive an email with information regarding PAM accounts in the next few days.

Exciting times ahead - looking forward to a great year in learning and teaching!

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

St Mary's College Seymour SCHOOL FUN RUN 2019



St Mary's College is excited to announce our 1st School Colour Fun Run Fundraiser on FRIDAY 15th MARCH 1.00pm - 2.30pm



Prizes for every student that raises over \$10.00. Students get to select their own prize and create their own fundraising page.

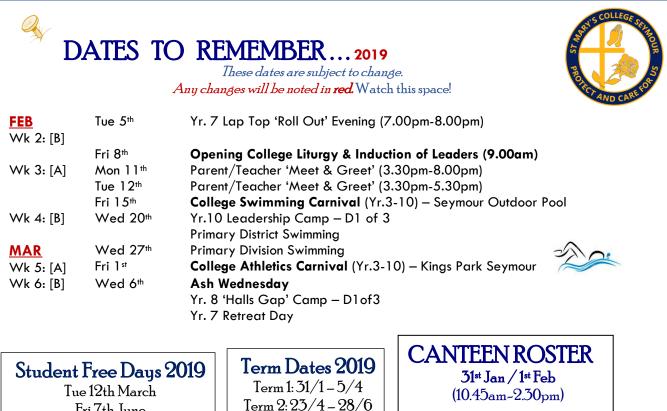
Students will have the opportunity to pre-order a sausage in bread for their lunch on the day.

Lots of Fun for the Whole Family !

Contact the College Office for more information 5792 2611



Come One - Come ALL! 90 High Street, Seymour



Fri 7th June Mon 12th August Mon 7th October $\begin{array}{l} Term \ 2:23/4 - 28/6 \\ Term \ 3:15/7 - 20/9 \\ Term \ 4:8/10 - 20/12 \end{array}$

Thu 31st Catherine Plessey Fri 1st Catherine Plessey

School Fun Run Colour Day

In our recent P & F meetings the members reviewed our fundraising and social events planning for 2019 . Next year in conjunction with the staff and students we plan to offer a Colour Run as a major fundraiser for the school. The date is anticipated to be in March and will also be our welcome to new students and their families. More information will be provided about the Colour Run Day once the new school year has commenced.

Log into your PAM Account and...

- Access your child's Semester 2 Report
- notify the College of Student Absences (instead of ringing the Absentee line) (To do this go to the top right of your screen and click on the symbol to access the Parent Notified Absent Tab)
- View the 'Live Parent Calendar'

Login issues/concerns with your PAM account... email: ictsupport@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

90 High Street, SEYMOUR TELEPHONE: (03) 5792 2611 PO BOX 269, SEYMOUR 3661 Office Hours: 8.15am-4.30pm

ST. MARY'S PARISH SEYMOUR ~ ST. JOSEPH'S TALLAROOK Parish Priest: Father Eugene Ashkar TELEPHONE: (03) 5792 1064 / 0455 123 509 MASS TIMES: St. Mary's: SAT 6.00pm, SUN 10.00am; St. Joseph's: SUN 8.30am