



ST. MARY'S COLLEGE SEYMOUR

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Friday 11th September 2020

COVID-19 Update No.19



*Gracious God, give us ears
to hear, eyes to see, hearts
to love, and hands to act;
so that 'we are shining
lamps, giving light to all
around us'.*

Awareness.
Social distancing.
Face masks 12 years and over.
Enter College grounds only if essential.
The safest place is at home.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we prepare for the final week of term (a different term it has been) how brave our students and you have been to cope with all that has been placed upon you over the past few months. Thank you again for the way you have honoured the Onsite Supervision guidelines. There is no doubt for families and staff this has been a struggle at times but together as one College community we have pushed through. We all have a story to tell during the times of Covid-19. Not seeing family members especially grandparents; perhaps the sadness of losing a loved one and not being able to give them a deserving farewell or possibly employment issues. Covid-19 fatigue is real yet life will get back to where it was as we are reminded in the YouTube clip below that the world is truly a beautiful creation of God.

This morning I was on a webinar meeting with the Mitchell Shire to discuss the Shire Life Stage Community Development Plan followed by a webinar with the Shire Early Years Team on future Shire initiatives with the roll out of a 2022 three-year-old funded Kindergarten program. The Life Stage session provided data on population growth; liveability gaps; demographics and the impact of Covid-19 and the realisation from both State and Federal governments of the Shires growth rate and the impact growth has on service need. The Shire believes in Seymour becoming a regional hub.

CECV Covid-19 Update for Term Four

Throughout the time of remote learning CECV have provided all Victorian Catholic Schools with Operational Updates. The following information is the latest provided with the Term Four Operations Guidelines still to arrive:

Week 1 Term 4, 5–9 October

- Remote and flexible learning will continue for all students.
- Onsite supervision arrangement guidelines apply.

Week 2 Term 4, 12–16 October

All students return to full-time onsite schooling by Friday 16 October. More information to follow.

RUOK?.....Sometimes.

Sister Catherine Shelton rsj provides food for thought about RUOK.

'Sometimes RUOK is just the right question to ask. Sometimes it may not be helpful. Do I feel ok? If I'm feeling fine, yes is an easy answer, though I may wonder why you would need to ask me that. Maybe I'm unconsciously giving out signals that are of concern to you. I may recognize or interpret your question simply as the 'social noise' that is often part of a casual greeting and respond accordingly. If I'm feeling sad, angry, depressed or upset, I may have one of several responses. I may feel immensely relieved that you have noticed. Now I feel free to talk.

On the other hand, if I don't want to reveal to you or anyone what is going on inside me, the question backs me into a corner. I may deny that anything's wrong. It's possible I don't know myself what is going on and have no words to describe it. Even if I do, I won't necessarily want to talk yet, talk at all, or talk to you. Please stay open to the possibility that I may initiate conversation with you at another time or seek out someone else.



Relationship plays a big part in all this. It's good to consider whether you are the right person to initiate a conversation if you see someone struggling. Whether you are family, friend or colleague, do make sure you remain supportive, genuinely caring and non-judgmental in your attitude. Let go of the illusion that you can fix another person's problems, while not underestimating the power of your compassion and goodwill to make a difference, even if your efforts are not perfect.' Our world has come a long way in being more aware of mental health issues and how a simple conversation make change or save a life.

Term Three Reports

Wednesday 16th September is a day for parents to virtually meet with teachers to discuss the term's remote learning achievements. Assessment and Reporting are essential opportunities to discuss learning outcomes.

During remote learning our College leader of Faith and Mission, Mrs Gough frequently emailed prayers and video clips for staff to use in homerooms and during Pastoral Care sessions. For this week's prayer Rochelle commented, *"In this Season of Creation, we are encouraged to take time to look at God's world and appreciate everything in it."*

Creator of Life,

*At Your word, the Earth brought forth plants yielding seed and trees of every kind bearing fruit.
The rivers, mountains, minerals, seas and forests sustained life. The eyes of all looked to You to satisfy the
needs of every living thing.*

*And throughout time the Earth has sustained life. Through the planetary cycles of days and seasons,
renewal and growth, you open your hand to give creatures our food in the proper time.*

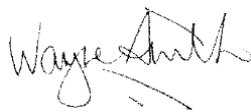
And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of creation.

In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus

Amen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=auSo1MyWf8g>

Stay well, best wishes and thankyou JC for such a beautiful world



Wayne Smith

Principal

DipEd (ACU) DipREd (ACU) Bed (ACU) GradCertEdAdmin (Edith Cowan)

GradDipRE (ACU) MEdAdmin (Charles Sturt) MTheoStudies (BBITAITE)

Learning and Teaching

All student Interim Reports for Term 3 2020 have been released and are available in PAM.

Parent teacher bookings can be made for Wednesday 16th September in PAM and along with your booking time you will see a meeting link. Instructions on how to use the meeting link to join the teacher for the Virtual Meeting are available here: [Virtual Parent Teacher Interview Help Document](#)

Bookings will close on Tuesday 15th September at 5 pm, so that teachers can be prepared for their day.



