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ST. MARY'S COLLEGE SEYMOUR

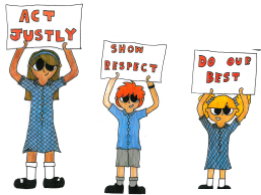
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No. 6

Term 2 Week 3 of 11

01/05/20



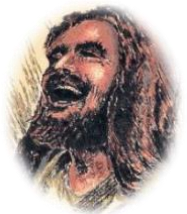
St. Mary's College Vision Statement

*A welcoming Catholic community that respects our heritage and looks to a sustainable future.
We inspire learning excellence, resilience and service to others.*



From the Principal

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'.



Dear Parents and Guardians,



The Heavy Lifting.....

There has been a lot of heavy lifting going on over the past five weeks! In the present moment in time across all works of life, at workplaces and in homes we are all doing our best to cope with change and the 'new normal.'

We are all within our rights to be a little miffed at what the world is dishing out to us at present, but then again is life all that bad? Of course if you are juggling work (or the lack of it), children and the list goes on, as well as dealing with social distancing and other restrictions it can be all seem too much. Add in the differing views of politicians, media conversations and alike - it can seem overwhelming. Then there is the news! The news is rarely about joy. Joy does not sell but doom and gloom is so often prime time. On the way to school this week I was listening to ABCAM and the presenter was speaking to 'a leading' psychologist who had just completed a study of remote learning. *The study found that there are students who thrive and there are who students struggle with remote learning.* Two things came to mind in response to the commentary. Firstly, it must have been a very quick study and secondly, sometimes 'research studies' state the obvious.

My observations of remote learning to this point *are that there are students who thrive and there are who students struggle.* But above all else both teachers and parents are going above and beyond to provide normality, supporting learning where possible and expecting students to do some work. Our St Mary's College community (staff, parents and students) can hold our heads high and with good grace for the way we are handling the current events of life.

As a staff we have ensured that we honour the criteria of expectation for Onsite Attendance. It would be easier to 'lock the gates' but we know that some students need to be at school for very valid reasons and that we have a responsibility to the common good in a time of crisis. Our staff are coming to school supervising students whilst still teaching their

classes remotely. The energy required to do both simultaneously is a clear and explicit statement that teaching is more than a job, it is a vocation. Our (you) parents are also honouring the process for the Onsite Attendance Supervision Criteria, which is critical to enable teaching of remote learning and says much for the respect you give to the staff in understanding the pressure they are also experiencing. By this you also show the seriousness for and the respect that Covid-19 needs to be given. In time things will get back to normal but in the here and now I hope all levels of government remain resolute in setting in place measures to continuing the flattening of the curve and not allow us to become complacent. We do not need to parallel Singapore experience where stricter measures have had to be re-introduced.

We have much to thank all levels of government for in the way they are handling Covid-19. At local, state and national levels there have been wise heads who have led our country on a pathway that has enabled minimal deaths (sadly) and time for health services to be prepared. If I get annoyed at how my way of life is affected, I need to glance at the pictures of the northern Indian school as a reminder of resilience that are integral in the words, gratitude, empathy and mindfulness.

The latest (29/4/2020) statement from Catholic Education Commission Victoria

"The CECV is following the advice of the Chief Health Officer and working with the Victorian Department of Education and Training on developing a statewide process for all schools to transition back to in-person teaching, and will provide an update once an approach has been agreed."



Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness

Over the past two weeks in my morning email to secondary students they have been reading the daily short chapters of a true story (I was told in 2016) about a boy who has a beautiful soul. This boy lived in northern India, one of many students whose bed was on the footpaths in the surrounding village streets and alleyways. This boy had little more than the clothes on his back and his school shoes were cut open so he could fit his growing feet into the shoes. Hugh, a teacher from Melbourne was volunteering at the school and was astonished at how these kids were so happy. Hugh said of the little boy, *"he is the happiest person I have ever met."* Why was this boy so happy? One reason was that he slept under cardboard each night and he struck gold by finding a vacant spot under a shop awning to protect against the cold nights and if it rained, which was rarely.



The pictures show the school (circled) and the playground. These boys have a very good understanding of the word, *resilience*. Hugh returned to Australia and began the Resilience Project for the specific purpose, *'To teach positive mental health strategies to help people become more happy.'* Hugh found the acronym **GEM** was alive and well in the hearts and minds of the children at that Northern Indian School..... **Gratitude Empathy Mindfulness.**

Best wishes
Stay well and stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Wayne Smith'.

Wayne Smith
Principal

DipEd(ACU) DipRed(ACU) BEd(ACU) GradCertEdAdmin(Edith Cowan)
GradDipREd(ACU) MEdAdmin(Charles Sturt) MTheoStudies(BBITAITE)

Mr Wayne Smith
principal@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



from the *Business Manager*



The College wishes to pass on its sincere thanks to the Addelston Estate for their recent and very generous donation to our College.

A representative of Addelston Estate made contact with us to express a desire to make a financial contribution to our College and our students' learning. The timing of this call was a blessing, as the College was preparing resources to support our students for at home learning.

Many of our primary students did not have a device which was compatible with the programs needed to undertake learning at home. Part of the plan to support those students without an appropriate device was to roll out our classroom Chromebooks to these students for the period of at home learning. The number of students requiring a device was high. In excess of

100. The classroom Chromebooks on hand would not meet the numbers, and as a result, the College felt it necessary to purchase additional Chromebooks so that all students would have the necessary learning resources available to them. The donation from Addelston Estate supported the purchase of 10 of the new Chromebooks.

We are so fortunate to receive community contributions such as this. How wonderful it is for us, that others think of our College and our students. The donation from Addelston Estate will directly support our students. The Chromebooks will be an essential tool in assisting our students with their learning at home, during these unprecedented times, and on their return to the classroom where the Chromebooks are used daily for research tasks, preparing documents in different formats and for various curriculum activities.

We are truly grateful 😊

<https://www.facebook.com/Addelston/>

Mrs Felicity Melville

accounts@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



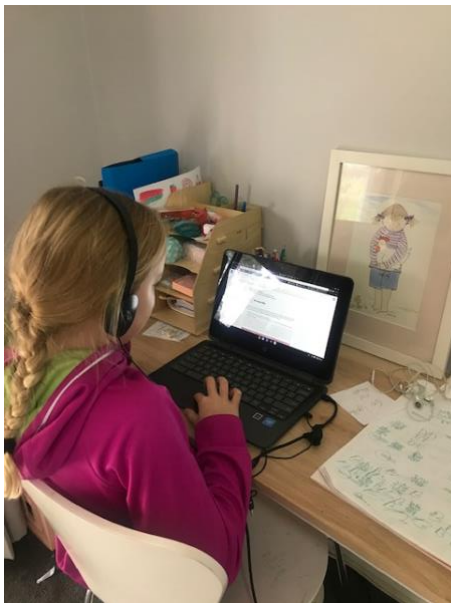
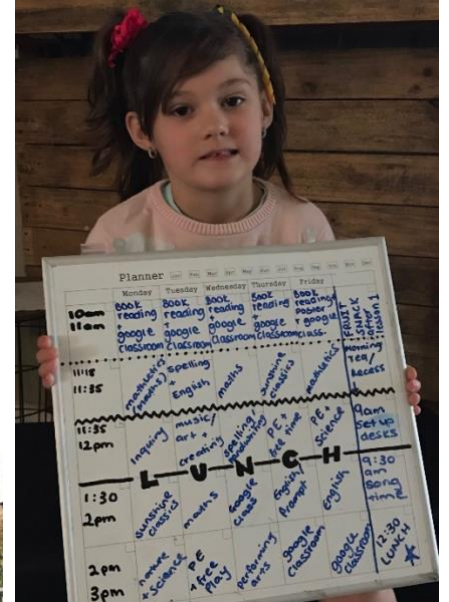
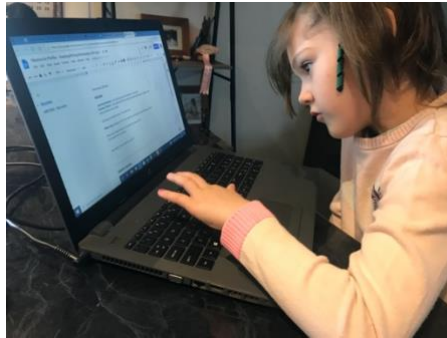
**Wishing
Mr Smith
a very
Happy
Birthday**



F - 4 News

from the Level Co-ordinator

Lots of engaged home learners this week.
Keep up the great work!



Mrs Anne Spencer
anne.spencer@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Counsellor's Corner

from the Counsellor.....



Whilst we all try and find a balance in our lives during COVID-19 restrictions it is important we don't forget that our students are also trying to find their new normal. So this is a shout out to all our students! Thanks for showing us how resilient you can be. Thanks for sharing some of your special moments with us. Thanks for trying your best in such a trying time and most importantly, thanks for being you! We, as a school community are very proud of you all. Adaptability helps us build resilience. When working with young people we often talk about the 3 C's of life:

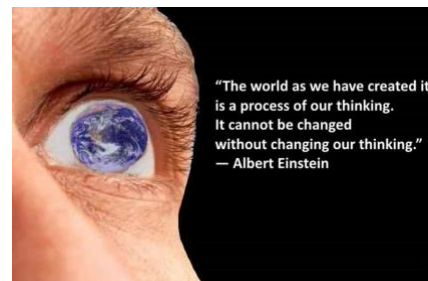
Choices, Chances, Changes

*You must make a **choice***

*To take a **chance***

*Or your life will never **change***

Our growth happens when we step outside our comfort zone.



Mrs Melinda Nuttall

melinda.nuttall@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

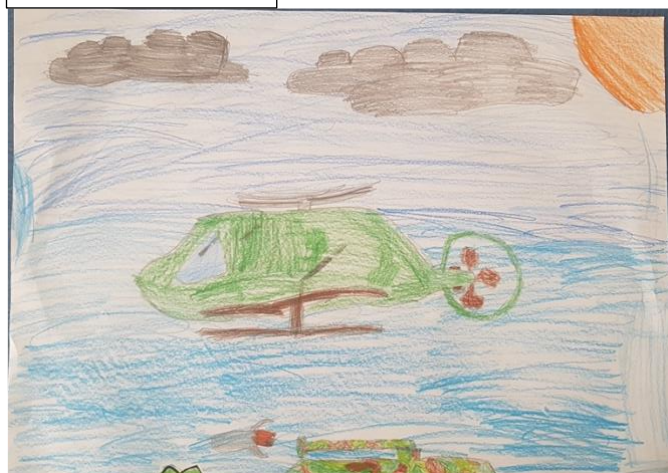


Defence Mentor News

Thank you for those who have sent in their wonderful entries for the ANZAC day comps. I love seeing and reading all your wonderful work. Please remember there is still time to enter. All entries due by 3pm on Monday May 5th.



Chloe Ash 5/6B



Lachlan Ash 3/4B



Yenuli Dissanayake 1/2D

Mrs Melinda Nuttall

melinda.nuttall@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Anzac Day

Remote Learning





From the Office

School photos are now ready to view and order online.

School Photos 2020 – St Mary's College Seymour

Annual school photos have been taken.

To be able to view the images of your child and order photos, you will need to register online.

1. Go to <https://order.arphotos.com.au>
2. Enter the 2020 image code for your child (*from their personalised flyer, which was sent home on photo day*)
3. Fill in your email and mobile details

That's it! You'll be notified by email/SMS when 2020 images are ready to view and purchase.

In the webshop you can view photos and customize your photo package; Choose ANY layout, ANY image plus purchase digital image downloads.

Even if you registered last year, you still need to register again this year to link your child's images for the current year with your details.

Once registered, please wait for notification that 2020 images are online to view before making your purchase.

To be notified when images are ready to view – Register Online Now.

In the case of separated families, the Unique code can be used more than once and no prior personal or order details will be visible to the other party.

If any families have any issues with the registration or ordering process, please contact the customer service team directly for assistance, 03 5243 4390

Please contact Tanya Oakley in the College office if you need any assistance or to retrieve your child's unique code tanya.oakley@smseymour.catholic.edu.au or phone 5792 2611



Mother's Day Gift Stall

St Mary's P&F will be running a COVID-19 friendly Mother's Day Stall this year in a revised format.

The stall will be occurring from **6 Tallarook Street in Seymour** and will be open:

10:00am – 2:00pm Saturday 2nd May

3:00pm – 5:30pm Friday 8th May

10:00am – 2:00pm Saturday 9th May

Parents are required to bring their children to the shop and wait outside, the children will enter with their **own bags** and make their purchases.

Due to COVID-19 a limited number of people will be allowed in the shop at all times and hand sanitizer will be provided for the children to use as soon as they enter the shop.

Any question or concerns please call Karen Glen on 0409-790932.

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) 9412 8406 / 0455 123 509

Mass Times: St Mary's - SAT 6:00pm, SUN 10:00am;
St Joseph's - SUN 8:30am

Please be aware both Churches are closed due to Covid-19. Daily and Weekly Masses are available online.