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ST. MARY'S COLLEGE SEYMOUR

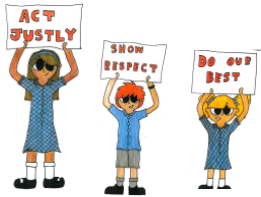
www.smseymour.catholic.edu.au
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No. 15

Term 4 Week 2 of 11

16/10/20



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.

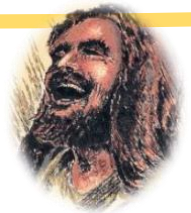


St Mary's College Seymour is a **Child Safe School**. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

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,

Positions of Leadership Appointments

In Term Three 2019 the College underwent the mandatory Catholic Education Melbourne (CEM) School Improvement Framework Review. This three yearly cycle review was led by CEM engaged educational consultant, Jan Hayes. Jan provided recommendations on various areas of the College operations including leadership domain. In Term One 2020 the CEM Learning Diversity Team Leader, Catherine Henbest completed a 360-degree Review of the College Learning Diversity program and operations, providing an excellent set of recommendations. During 2019 College staff indicated the need to strengthen line management and develop better understandings of duty statements. With a new 2021-2023 Strategic Intent, 'Improving reading outcomes for all students' Chris Bence and Snjezana Singh from Catholic Education Melbourne were invited to advise and support a process to renew the Positions of Leadership for the next stage of the College's Strategic Plan.

After recent internal interviews the following Positions of Leadership have been finalised for 2021-2023. The interview panels included a combination of Fr Eugene Ashkar (Parish Priest); Mr Andrew Graham; (Chairperson College Board); Ms Kelda Gilmore (College Board Member); Mr Chris Bence (CEM Northern Regional Leadership Consultant); Mrs Snjezana Singh (CEM Northern Learning Consultant School Effectiveness) and Mr Wayne Smith (Principal and Chair). On behalf of the panel and staff our best wishes and congratulations to the staff appointed to leadership positions. My sincere thanks to the panel who have been generous with their time, particularly Chris and Snjezana from Catholic Education Melbourne who are very keen to see St Mary's continue to flourish in this northern region of the archdiocese.

These staff appointments are for a three-year term, which is standard for Catholic Education Melbourne Schools and join with Mrs Genevieve Gordon, Deputy Principal Operations and Mrs Claire Kelly, Learning Diversity Leader as the College embraces our strategic literacy priority.

Director of Learning & Teaching: Mrs Christine Buhler.

Christine is looking forward to leading the Curriculum Team and continuing the development of best practices in teaching pedagogies. Christine has a very knowledgeable curriculum acumen and wants St Mary's to return to F-12 so that our students have a complete Catholic educational pathway.

Director of Wellbeing: Mrs Allison Moore.

Allison is looking forward to leading, learning and walking with the Wellbeing Team; deepening her professional growth on student need. Allison is determined to see St Mary's return to F-12 so that younger and older students share in the holistic nature of our Catholic Colleges' belief in the importance of pastoral care formation.

Data Analysis & SIMON Leader: Mrs Andrea Richards.

This is a newly created position, which will focus on data tracking of student performance and providing staff with evidenced based data. Andrea brings a wealth of workplace knowledge and experience to this new position, a position that many schools are creating for evidence-based approaches to improving student outcomes and will contribute to the College's Strategic Plan - *"Improving reading outcomes for all students."* Andrea's postgraduate studies in Information Technology will benefit this role, as will her keenness to develop ways of presenting data that is easy to interpret and therefore provides individual and cohort information that provides evidence-based results to inform and support differentiated learning and tracking student progress.

Numeracy Leader: Mr Darcy McLean.

Darcy is keen to develop his L&T leadership skills and views this important role as a wonderful way to deepen his own knowledge, learn from others and strengthen his understanding and knowledge of numeracy in the classroom. Darcy will work with staff; showcasing student achievement; analysing numeracy performance and linking numeracy with 'Improving Reading Outcomes for All Students.'

Primary Literacy Leader: Mrs Kerrie Pearce.

Kerrie is currently studying a literacy course at ACU, which will lead into a Master's degree. Kerrie since 2017 has been the Literacy/Reading Recovery support for teachers and is looking forward, with the curriculum team to develop consistent and accountable learning practices informed by evidence-based data for individual literacy improvement, especially for our younger students. With the Strategic Intent 2021-2023 'Improving Reading Outcomes for all Students', this role will focus on and action that belief.

Secondary Literacy Leader: Mrs Lorna Hooper.

Lorna is keen to use her Masters and Bachelor Degrees in Library and Information Science to benefit her passion to embed a love of literacy across the curriculum. Lorna believes students learn to read through many different mediums and not only in books. Lorna is looking forward to working closely with the curriculum team so that the primary and secondary students and teachers compliment the sharing; learning and role modelling of good literacy practices. Lorna is also passionate for secondary students to be lifelong learners and will give priority to the 2021-2023 Strategic Intent to be our focus.

Primary Pastoral Care Coordinator: Mrs Anne Spencer.

Anne brings a wealth of experience since beginning in the F-4 role in 2012 and this experience will be important as the role embraces F-6. Anne is relentless in her support of families and wanting the best for students in our care and in their responsible decision making, both of which require behaviour management, staff and parent consultation and addressing particular needs.

Secondary Pastoral Care Coordinator: Mrs Angela Molinaro.

Angela wants to promote student voice in pastoral care needs. Angela values pastoral care being for, and about the students so that all students understand College expectations and likewise, we support these challenging teenage years within the digital nature of their lives. Angela is keen to ensure positive staff and student relationships continue to be a strength at St Mary's.

Daily Organiser. Mr Leigh Krammer.

Leigh will work closely with Mrs Gordon in College daily planning, a role he has held in the past.

Parents & Friends Meeting

The P&F met on Wednesday evening. The AGM will be held on the 11th of November. Karen Glen will be standing down as President. Karen has been the president for a long time and her drive and energy has been the flag bearer for the P&F. From the meeting:

- Parent involvement – connecting younger parents to the P&F.
- A Dads/Fathers Club – working bees & building connections.
- Garden Club. – Mr Allen is keen to see this happen to support the Garden of Assisi so that it also becomes a garden of community and a garden of learning for our students.
- A Parent Contact for each year level.

The P&F will be sending a letter to parents in regard to the AGM.

Covid-19's best friend is complacency. Nevertheless, Australia is now in a far better position than many European countries who now must prepare for Winter.

We now have all students back at St Mary's.

Stay well and the weeks ahead will bring more relief.

Best Wishes.



Wayne Smith

Principal

DipEd (ACU) DipREd (ACU) BEd (ACU) Grad Cert EdAdmin (Edith Cowan)

GradDipREd (ACU) MEd Admin (Charles Sturt) MTheoSudies (BBITAITE)



Business Manager

from the Business Manager ...

Families are reminded that the due date for the payment of all fees and levies is Saturday 31st October. Thank you to all those families who have been making regular payments or have already paid their fees in full.

All families, particularly those families who are leaving the College at the end of the school year, are requested to contact me at the College by Friday 23rd October if they need to discuss alternative payment arrangements.

It is also a good time for those families who have direct debit or direct deposit arrangements in place to review their payment instalment amounts in order to meet their commitment in 2020 and into 2021. Information regarding the fees and levies for next year will be emailed to all families in December, but if you require any assistance before then regarding fee payment calculations please feel free to ask.

If you wish to discuss any matter relating to Fees and Levies, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Stacia Read at the College on 5792 2611.



Mrs Felicity Melville

accounts@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Careers and Pathways



Pathways

Welcome back!

It's been great seeing our students back onsite.

Career and Pathway interviews/conversations are available to students in both Years 9 and 10 to discuss future pathways and career directions etc.



Now is the time that Year 9 students consider and decide on their elective subjects for 2021. If students wish to enrol in a VET course in 2021 this must be organised by the end of October and a meeting must be arranged to discuss this before an enrolment can be submitted.

I am available on Mondays for any careers and pathways related meetings.

Bookings can be made through the College Careers website:

<https://careers.smseymour.catholic.edu.au/appointment-booking>

I look forward to chatting with students face to face.

Mrs Tanya Oakley

tanya.oakley@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



From the Library



Welcome Back Everyone

The Library is open again. Hooray!!

Class borrowing days are on Monday, Tuesday and Friday this term.

Starting from 9th of October the Library is open from 8:30 am till 3:30pm on the days above.

Yes, we are open at lunch time, 1:25 - 2:00, it's the place to meet new friends, browse, study, chat, play games, relax, oh and read books!

Please make sure you pack up before you leave the Library.



Book Club

Book Club is back, bumper issue for Christmas please return your orders by **26th of October**.

Please let me know, if we don't have a book/series that you would like to read. And of books you would like to recommend to other students.

Always happy to help you find a book you'll enjoy!

Mrs Linda Heveren

linda.heveren@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



RETURNING TO ONSITE LEARNING – WELLBEING

Adapted from: Parent zone

After months of remote learning and a range of COVID19 restrictions, children will be returning to school routines, classrooms, classmates, teachers, expectations and, in some cases, even new school settings.

Amid the anticipation and excitement many children are feeling, for some, leaving the home learning routine and environment may create anxiety for a range of reasons including: the ongoing uncertainty of COVID19; social distancing and hygiene measures in place; family circumstances related to health; grief associated with a recent loss; or economic circumstances.

To prepare and support students' return to onsite learning and the school/classroom environment, consider the following tips:

1. Talk to your children about how they feel

- It is important to encourage children to discuss their feelings about returning to school.
- If they feel anxious or worried, help them understand this is perfectly normal, and that you and their teachers are there to support them.
- Although difficult, try not to share any anxiety you may be feeling with your children.
- Bear in mind that your child may be returning to a pre-existing issue from before remote learning – for example, a relationship issue, or difficulty with school work or staff – or they may be preparing for the transition to secondary school.
- Try to give them a non-judgemental and supportive place to share any worries. Younger children, in particular, may not always have the words to express their feelings, so try to find a way of bringing up the conversation without putting pressure on them – for instance when you're playing with them or going for a walk. This can help them to open up naturally and identify what they're worried about.

2. Pack right, pack light

- Your school will have been in touch to let you know what your child should and shouldn't bring on their return. E.g. bring an individual water bottle.
- Make sure you have checked with your school about what they need in order to make your child's day easier.

3. Support children to understand the school procedures

- Your school will also have been in touch to explain various procedures in place – such as entry points, break times and hand washing routines.
- If you haven't received this information or are unsure you should contact your school office.
- It will be important for your child to understand social distancing and hygiene rules and, importantly, why they are in place.
- Read school communications with your child and make sure they are prepared and know what to expect when they arrive at school.

4. Familiarise yourself with school procedures

- You'll need to know where and when to drop children off and pick them up, as well as what parts of the school you can access.
- If your child travels to/from school independently, including on public transport, you should talk to your child about getting to and from school, including observing the directions of Victoria's Chief Health Officer (ie. social distancing, group gatherings).
- Your child will be expecting you at the end of the day so make sure you, or whoever is collecting them, are there in the right place at the right time.
- If your child travels home independently, make sure you, or another carer, is there to welcome them home and check-in about their day.

5. End of day emotions

- For younger children in particular, a school day can require a lot of self-regulation or compressed behaviour, which can lead to tired and emotional outbursts later on in the day.
- Given the length of remote learning and new school safety procedures in place, these emotions may be hard to cope with when they return home.
- It is a good idea to keep this in mind, and allow some time for 'letting off steam' by encouraging children to unwind and play outdoors.

6. Stay informed

- Given the long absence from school, there may be a period of readjustment.
- Discuss and affirm familiar routines and school expectations regarding uniform, grooming, attendance and participation to help your child reconnect with their school community.
- There may be fresh challenges for your child, from working with new classmates and teachers, to coping with their work and school expectations / 'rules'.
- Try to stay informed about how they are getting on – but if you are concerned, contact the school office about speaking to the class teacher.

7. Sleep and rest

- Your children may have been getting used to some unusual hours during the remote learning period and that may have extended into the school holidays.
- Make sure children are getting a good night's sleep for their return to school.
- It might mean introducing some earlier bedtimes than they have had recently and limiting screen time.
- A good night's rest will help them cope with the return to school and the new routines they will be adapting to.

Ms Zine Dovara

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Year 8-10 News

from the Level Co-ordinator ...



WELCOME BACK

Term Four Focus: 'Improve My Time Management Skills'



SMART GOALS

This term is going to be a great one with all our students back in classes and eager to get on with their learning. It was such a wonderful sight seeing all our students arriving at school on Monday. Walking in to Welcome Banners and the sound of trumpets and whistles blowing by some teachers and students, there was much laughter and happy greetings with friends, that made it so obvious that we are all so excited to be back!

For our Year 10 students this day was so significant for them as they will finish their education here at St Mary's on Thursday November 26th.....not long to go at all!

For all students in Years 8 – 10:

Now is the time to be motivated about your learning and continue applying those SMART goals, that you set for yourselves earlier this year, into practice.

My best advice to all of you at this stage of the year is don't become complacent about your learning and aim at improving your TIME MANAGEMENT SKILLS both in class and at home. The REMOTE LEARNING experience has been a positive in students becoming more responsible at managing their time both in and out of classes. Well done to all of you in getting through these challenging times with remote Learning.

Our Year 9 students are in the process of being prepared for and applying for College Leadership positions in 2021. Good luck to all of those students who are applying and we look forward to hearing all of your speeches and the wonderful qualities you will bring to Leadership in our college.

So WELCOME BACK EVERYONE....

Please feel free to contact your child's homeroom teacher or level coordinator if you have any concerns or queries regarding their wellbeing or education.



Mrs Mary Tampion

mary.tampion@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Religion and Community



The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through repenting, repairing, and rejoicing together. During the Season of Creation, over September, we join all Christian families in prayer and action for our common home.

This year, amid crises that have shaken our world, we're awakened to the urgent need to heal our relationships with creation and each other. During the Season of Creation this year, we enter a time of restoration and hope, a jubilee for our Earth, that requires radically new ways of living with creation.

In in-depth discussions in the Year 9 Faith Education classes, students were able to name the injustices of the world and show the world how to love each other and creation. Students wrote 'Creation Prayers', acknowledging aspects of the Earth they love, injustices and actions they could take to help heal the world given to us by Creator God.

Thanking God for Creation Prayers

There are so much things I love about life, I love waking up early to watch the sun rise, I love the morning wind, I enjoy sitting on the hill and watching the sunset, I love having mates being family to me and being out in the warmth of the paddocks by the sun. I have also realized that the things that you enjoy or love the most are the small things in life that are usually the things you will remember. Adam

Gracious God,

We thank you for our beautiful Earth that you have given us. We thank you for all of the resources it supplies us with. Each form of life is just important as each other. We work together and rely on each other to keep our world safe. Thank you again for our beautiful blue sky, our dark starry nights, our raging ocean, our beautiful land, the forever burning sun, the pale silver moon and all of your creatures who roam this amazing world. We now celebrate the season of creation which involves praying for the environment and is a season of reflection and restoration. **Kayla**

God's creation is beyond amazing. Everything about it is just so beautiful. The way the world works is just incredible. I love enjoying spring strolls through fields of wildflowers, lazy summer days by the beach or pool, autumn's rich colours and smells, winter wonderlands and snow sports, mountain vistas and wide-open spaces, dense forests and underwater worlds. God is the one who made all this possible. Montanna

Gracious God,

I pray to you for the wellbeing of our Earth. Only you would know the full extent of the damage we have done to it. I pray for the people around the world who have suffered because of environmental damage.

We pray that us humans have a change of heart, and find a way to stop harming the planet, stop poisoning the ground and sea with our trash, and that global warming is stopped and reversed before any more damage is done. **Grace**

God, we take Your fierce love for granted. It is more powerful and stronger than we could ever imagine. Help me, and others around me realise how beautiful the world You created is. Lord, put it into the minds of politicians and leaders that what we are doing is wrong. Let the people of the world realise our faults, and let us share what we have with one another, so that the fortunate may give, and the poor may receive. Jesus, fill their hearts with compassion for others and help us to realise and come to terms with our destruction, and what our greed and turning away from You have cost us. Please remind us in our hearts that people who are poor in wealth, but rich in spirit, live better than those with material wealth and little spirit. Please, Jesus, fill our hearts with thoughts of only You and make our longing one of compassion, to heal what has been hurt, and to present love in all situations. Brooke

To help God's creation we must realize what actions we are doing and how it is affecting and harming the world. From there we can start to change some of these contributing actions to save the beautiful environments and animal species in the world that are currently at risk. There are many things we can do in our everyday lives, we can pick up rubbish and stop littering, we need to reduce the amount of trees we are chopping down, we can use our cars less by using public transport or walking/riding etc. All of the little things count and will add up to make a large difference. We all have a responsibility to protect the world we have been given. **Gabriella**



Bell Times 2020

Supervision of students begins at 8:30am

Homeroom	8:45 – 8:55
Period 1	8:55 – 9:55
Period 2	9:55 – 10:55
Recess	10:55 – 11:20
Period 3	11:25 – 12:25
Period 4	12:25 – 1:25
Lunch	1:25 – 2:10
Period 5	2:15 – 3:15

Term Dates 2020

Term 4: 5/10 – 16/12

Term 4

Week 2	Friday 16 Oct	Last day to submit Colour Run Fundraising
Week 3	Mon 19 – Fri 23 Oct	Book Week
	Friday 23 Oct	AFL Public Holiday
Week 4		
Week 5	Mon 2 Nov	Staff Assessment and Data Analysis Planning – Pupil Free Day
	Tue 3 Nov	Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday
Week 6	Thu 11 Nov	Remembrance Day
Week 7		
Week 8	Fri 27 Nov	Last Day for Year 10 Students
Week 9		
Week 10	Fri 11 Dec	Last Day for Year 7-9 Students
Week 11	Wed 16 Dec	Last Day for Foundation-Year 6 Students
	Fri 18 Dec	Last Day for Staff

2021 Enrolments Closing Soon

Email: enrolments@smseymour.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 03 5792 2611

Download an enrolment form at
www.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) 9412 8406 / 0455 123 509

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



Tallarook Cricket Club

With junior cricket potentially starting mid-November we are looking for any interest from families that have children, both boys or girls wishing to play. Boys and Girls will play in the one side per age group provided we get the numbers required. The SDCA field U12s, U14s and U16s. To qualify for a particular age group a player must be under that age on the 1st September of the current year. If you're interested please either email secretary.tallarookcc@gmail.com with your Childs' name and age group or SMS Mark Manchester on 0428 540 364.

Safer Together - Bushfire and Emergency awareness:



While there's so much that's different about this year, the need to plan and prepare for fire season and emergency situations hasn't changed. There will continue to be a lot of focus on keeping COVID-safe, but Mitchell Shire Council is also keen to ensure that our community is focussing on staying safe in emergencies and making their homes safer leading into fire season.

1. Spring school holidays are the perfect time to kick-start fire season planning. Get the family out in the garden and:
 - Trim grass around property
 - Clear out and clean gutters on houses and sheds
 - Rake up dry grass, leaves, twigs and bark
 - Prune lower branches on shrubs and trees to separate them from surface fuels underneath
 - Cut back overhanging branches
2. Encourage kids and parents/caregivers to work together to prepare a household plan for emergencies – whether that be a power outage from a storm or reviewing / preparing a bushfire safety plan
<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-bushfireplan>
3. <https://www.redcross.org.au/prepare>
<https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready/floodsafe>
<https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready/stormsafe>
3. Encourage staff, parents/caregivers and older students to download the Vic Emergency app on their devices. More info from:
<https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
4. Check out the CFA website for lots of fun and engaging activities - colouring in sheets, mazes, word puzzles and more:
<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/kids-schools/activities>
5. Get out the wooden spoon.... and jump on board the Spoonville craze! This may already be taking off in your area, but perhaps your students can have some fun with creating their own Spoonville characters relating to bushfire and emergency service providers. Simply take a spoon (paper, wooden or plastic – anything on hand at home) and dress them as a fire fighter, police, SES or ambulance member. Perhaps there's a perfect spot to proudly display the village at your local CFA or at school?