



The Marian

St Mary's College Seymour

www.smseymour.catholic.edu.au

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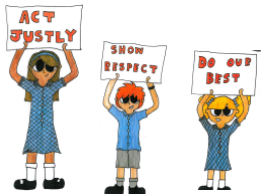
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No.16

Term 4 Week 3 of 11

30/10/20



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.

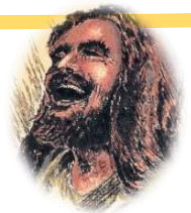


St Mary's College Seymour is a **Child Safe School**. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.

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,

Covid-19 has required the College calendar to have 360-degree flexibility during 2021. Next week a decision will be made on the type of graduation Year 10 will have on the 30th November. Kindergarten and Year 7 Transition programs also require changes to accommodate Covid-19 restrictions. There have been and are so many stories of families who cannot visit critically ill relatives who live interstate; grandparents who have not seen new grandchildren; delayed specialist medical appointments and the general disruption to daily life. But compared to many other countries, Australia is in an excellent position to move forward. Some medical experts predict a third wave – perhaps this is inevitable until there is a confirmed vaccine. Third wave or not Australia will be far better prepared. Our College will do its best to honour the wonderful contribution of Year 10 and provide for our Year 6 students a rite of passage to end the primary years of education.

Chromebooks Year 3-6



During remote learning there was an investigation continuing into 2021 with one to one devices for Year 3-6 students. With the 33% increase in the sale price per device; the College Wireless Network needing to be updated across all buildings and further research required into the curriculum and learning benefits for students, there will not be a one to one device implementation for Year 3-6 in 2021. Classes will continue with sets of Chromebook that are shared. It is also important that parents provide feedback on any one to one device program that could be introduced into the primary classrooms.

Secondary Mentor Program



The College has considered over the past four years moving to a Mentor model for homeroom pastoral care. College staff have in the past visited St Augustine's Kyabram and this year Sacred Heart College Yarrawonga and Marian College Myrtleford were also consulted on their Colleges Mentor programs. Secondary staff are keen to begin a House Mentor program to provide closer pastoral links for parents and enhance more staff involvement in mentoring a House group of students. Mrs Moore the Director of College Wellbeing (2021) will provide families with more information on the Mentor

program before the conclusion of Term Four. The mentor program of pastoral care is very popular in Catholic secondary schools and has moved beyond the traditional homeroom teacher model. The Mentor model of pastoral care is an exciting opportunity to develop a model unique to St Mary's so that our students develop closer links to their younger peers and easier communications channels for parents.

Parent Engagement Coordinator

In 2021 Mrs Evans will take on the role of Parent Engagement Coordinator. This position will support College initiatives to engage parents in student learning, especially with the 2021-2023 Strategic Intent, *'Improving Reading Outcomes for all Students.'* Cath is looking forward to the opportunity to involve parents, to connect the home to the classroom and provide programs and workshops. This role is about engagement and that can be in many ways including deepening the understanding of the Colleges' Catholic identity through liturgy; opportunities for parent reflection and supporting the parents in the College and Parish sacramental program.

P&F AGM

The P&F will have their AGM on the 11th November. They have sent out information to all families with an invitation to consider joining the committee. Catholic School P&F's were introduced back in the late 1960's. Moving forward to 2021 P&F's still play a pivotal role in Catholic Schools, building social connections as well as fundraising for specific projects where parents in consultation with the staff see the need. Our St Mary's P&F have set as a goal to upgrade the College Oval. The catch cry is to *Bring Mercy (the oval) Back*, this is what our P&F want to achieve so all students and the Seymour community can enjoy the oval.

I take my hat off to the P&F during a year that has been so difficult to do anything. Covid-19 put the handbrake on many ideas and annual events, yet the P&F were able to do the Mother's Day Stall from a shop in town. Karen Glenn our long serving President is handing the baton onto other parents but will stay involved to support the handover.

Monday is a Student Free Day. Staff will be working remotely on professional development for assessment and data analysis. The Melbourne Cup will be void of the roar of the crowd as those magnificent horses enter the straight.

Stay well and good luck if you have a horse in the great race.

Best Wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Smith'.

Wayne Smith
Principal

DipEd (ACU) DipREd (ACU) BEd (ACU) Grad Cert EdAdmin (Edith Cowan)
GradDipREd (ACU) MEd Admin (Charles Sturt) MTheoStudies (BBITAITE)



Learning & Teaching



from the Deputy Principal ...

It's wonderful to be operating once again as an F-10 school!

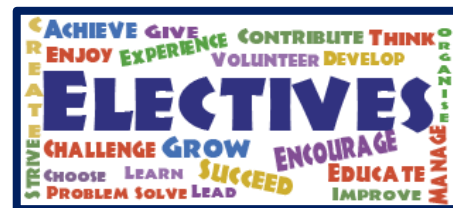
Teachers are assessing student's knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare learning activities to ensure that students' progress and remain focussed for the rest of the year. It is very important that students engage with, and take responsibility for their work right to the end of the year. Student reports and progress against the achievement standards will be done as late as possible to allow students maximum learning time.

Year 10 students are on their pathway beyond St Mary's! Most have chosen their school and subjects for 2021. We will celebrate and recognise their achievements at the presentation of awards later in the year.

Students in Year 8 have been introduced to Year 9 subject selections for 2021.

Mrs Rowland has visited homeroom today to present and discuss elective subjects for Year 9.

This is a very exciting time as students will now begin to choose some of their own subjects. This gives students an opportunity to explore their education pathways and interest areas.



An information booklet has been emailed to all parents, it contains all the information for parents and your child to make an informed decision regarding Year 9 educational pathway for 2021 and the St Mary's Assessment and Attendance Policies and Procedures. Parents are asked to have a conversation with their child and sign the subject selection form and return to school by next Wednesday November 4.

Mrs Christine Buhler

christine.buhler@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Business Manager



from the Business Manager ...

Families are reminded that the due date for the payment of all fees and levies is tomorrow, 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 ASAP 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



Counsellor's Corner



from the Counsellor.....



Over the past 2 weeks Mrs Heveren, Mrs Giannarelli and I have been working hard to get our Seasons for Growth program underway. We are pleased to advise that we have started the program and are very grateful we have this opportunity to get to know some of our student cohort in more depth. This program aims to provide our students with the time and space required to unpack some of the experiences of loss they have endured. A huge thank you to Mrs Heveren and Mrs Giannarelli for their amazing work in setting up the Seasons for Growth room. It looks amazing!

As for our larger student cohort... how wonderful it is to see them all back on campus. This year has been a trying time, yet the resilience, determination and grit of our students has paid tribute to our school prayer. You are all shining lamps who provide the light so bright I bet you could see it from space!



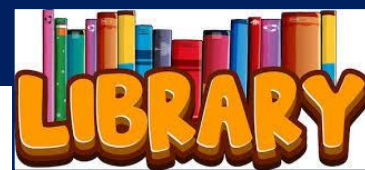
Wishing you all a wonderful Term 4.

Mrs Melinda Nuttall

melinda.nuttall@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



From the Library



Hi everyone,

First of all, a big thank you to everyone who supported the Scholastic Book Club this year. One more Book Club Issue to go, Issue 8 coming soon! Book Club 7 has been ordered and should be back late next week.

Friendly reminders:

On Monday, Tuesday and Friday the Library opens at 8:30am, please come in and browse, borrow and relax before the start of class.

Check out all the new books, titles include: Dog Man, Ninja Kid, Real Pigeons Bad guys, Enola Holmes, The World's Worst Parents & many more.

Now that we're back there are many overdue books, notes will go out soon if you've forgotten. We understand it's been a while so, please have a good look and return any Library Books you have had for a while.

You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax, all you need is a book. - Dr Seuss.

Mrs Linda Heveren

linda.heveren@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Careers and Pathways



Pathways

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.



Girl Power: Girls Tech Day

[Amazon Web Services](#) - *Girls' Tech Day is going virtual this year! Join us on a magical and adventurous journey to explore Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Coding, Virtual Reality, Robotics, and more! This complimentary event will inspire and motivate girls and young women, ages 8-24, to develop and pursue their interests in technology.*

Speaker Sessions – *Learn about the experiences of students and women in technology.*

Interactive Coding Sessions – *Compose a melody, code virtual models to walk a runway, program an online robot, or build avatars using artificial intelligence.*

Fun with STEAM – *Create magic with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Mathematics), download the Girls' Tech Day playlist, and much more.*

*Activities are designed to go at your own pace. You can revisit as many times as you like. **

Sound Exciting? Register now!

Participants can join the event any time between November 14 – 28, 2020.

****Activities require an electronic device like a computer or mobile phone with Internet connection.***

When - Saturday, November 14, 2020 - Saturday, November 28, 2020

Mrs Tanya Oakley

tanya.oakley@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Literacy News



During Week 3, F-6 classes celebrated Book Week 2020 by doing a range of activities in their classrooms.

This years' theme was '**Curious Creatures, Wild Minds**'. Much fun was had celebrating our love of books and reading!



Mrs Kerrie Pearce

kerrie.pearce@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Year 8-10 News

Environmental Science

We're excited to announce that St Mary's College is one of 113 schools and youth organisations to receive a 2020 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grant. We're using our \$2,783.00 grant for our Native Healing Garden project.



The Native Healing garden aims to grow our school's biodiversity and expand indigenous medicines, knowledge to students in Year 7. The school will engage with the Taungurung Land and Water Council and have an Elder pass on knowledge about indigenous plants that have healing properties. Students will select a number of plant species and plan out the planting of these around the Whiteheads Creek boundary as well as in other selected spaces around the school.

The Victorian Government is funding these grants to provide young Victorians in schools, groups and communities an opportunity to participate in outdoor, hands-on, on-ground projects, and environmental learning activities that provide both environmental and educational outcomes, as well as health and social benefits.

The 7A Environmental Science class will implement the project after their project proposal was successful. Students in 7A presented a number of project proposals to Mr Smith last week, resulting in the above-mentioned project, The Native Healing Garden, and a second project Bee Hotels and Bird House Construction being selected for implementation.



Physical Education

In Year 10 Physical Education students are focusing on skill acquisition and the stages of progression when an individual learns a new skill. Year 10 students are discovering the vital role that a teacher or coach plays by providing practice opportunities, feedback and instruction that enable a skill to be mastered.

To gain practical experience, our Year 10 students are conducting sessions with our Year 3 & 4 students, coaching them in the performance of Fundamental Movement Skills (FMS). FMS are the building blocks for more complicated and sophisticated movements. The skills being taught by the Year 10 students include throwing, catching, overhand throw, two-hand side-arm strike, dodging, kicking and dribbling a basketball. To assist students in developing their skills our Year 10 students are also completing an online course developed by Sport Australia and the Australian Institute of Sport focused on Community Coaching General principles. The course covers topics such as the role and responsibilities expected of a coach, planning, safety, working with parents, communication, group management and inclusive coaching practices.



The Year 3 & 4 students and their teachers provided our Year 10 coaches with constructive and valuable feedback at the conclusion of the first session last Thursday. The Year 10 students were shocked to discover how complex the role of a coach is and are looking forward to improving their coaching performance over the next two sessions.

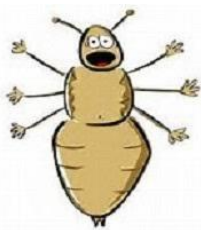
1/2D exploring the garden for minibeasts.

We found worms, centipedes, millipedes, beetles, 'good' fruit flies, spiders, bees and more. What fun!!





From the Office



Head Lice

Cases of head lice infestation are being reported in Primary classes. With the weekend upon us Parents are requested to check their child's hair, particularly if they are complaining of 'an itchy head' and if necessary, carry out the appropriate treatment. Your local Chemist will have the required lotion to deal with the infestation. To assist us further in the attempt to control the infestation, please inform the College Office of any re-occurrence.

Processes for leaving school early

A reminder that all students must notify their teacher and then go to sick bay if they are unwell and the office/first aid staff will follow up with parents if required.

Students emailing or texting their parents to ask to be picked them up is not acceptable, as the process needs to be documented appropriately.

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 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

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 540 264

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?