

# The Marian

[www.smseymour.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smseymour.catholic.edu.au)

[facebook.com/stmarysseymour](https://facebook.com/stmarysseymour)

<https://pam.smseymour.catholic.edu.au>

2021 College Theme

***“Let our words and actions  
be shining lights for others”***



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

Newsletter No.4

Term 1

4 March 2021

## Dear Parents and Guardians

### What Really Matters?

The term is at the half way mark and our new students have settled well into the life of St Mary's. Parents want the best for their children as do our College staff. Having been through the same experience as a parent in wanting the best for our four children, there is an anticipation that a primary and secondary Catholic education will prepare students for the building blocks to the future; various career paths; future relationships; getting along with people who do not think as they do; the expectations that an adult world puts on young adults; rules and more rules and the 'mess' and 'joys' of life.

Speaking from personal experience what does matter is what my children stand for and how they respect others. How they cope with tough times and how their characters develop within the context of family life and the ethos influence where they were educated. What really matters are that they are comfortable in navigating the tough times with a resilience and self-belief that leads to personal enlightenment or a new and enhanced view of their world. As a parent, as a father that's what really matters to me and I want the same for all the students I walk the journey with. Yes, a good education has its place, as does forming respectful and caring sons and daughters. Knowing how to treat others with dignity is a genuine attribute that will be admired regardless of any vocational pathway. More so than perhaps ever before the respect given by students to each other is a non-negotiable at St Mary's and indeed must always be in society. Our College believes that we all lead on the front foot to give our students, our children the best possible example. If we have high expectations, children in primary and secondary learn very quickly.

**Hugh van Cuylenburg, Co-Founder and Presenter of *The Resilience Project*** said, 'less is more'. Hugh says an addiction to IT and alike does not help the cause in seeking happiness and balance. Hugh says that 'true happiness is always found in giving, empathy and mindfulness'. St Mary's promotes and does focus on all three in different ways. More to the point Hugh said that changing one's mindset can be difficult but once achieved there is a sense of liberation for the person and their ability to build positive emotional cognitive capacity. All the above perhaps can be best summed up with that famous line, 'it takes a village to raise a child.'

Our students who represented at the recent Swimming Championships could not be faltered in their behaviour and manners. During the walk around for the Building inspection on Tuesday the comment came from Rod & Amanda (architects), 'what friendly and well-mannered children.' Our students know they are loved and cared for albeit through the important lens of tough love.



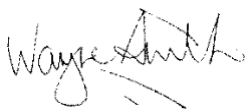
The Athletics Carnival is upon us this coming Wednesday. House Spirit is building between McAuley & Padua.



[A reminder that on Tuesday 9 March there is no school for students F-10.](#) Staff are attending a professional learning day led by Emina McLean a research member of La Trobe University's Science of Language and Reading (SOLAR) Lab. Emina's background is in speech-language pathology, education, child and adolescent psychiatry, and public health. She is an adjunct lecturer in language and literacy at La Trobe University, and a literacy specialist at a Victorian Primary School with a focus on assessment, instruction and intervention. Emina also works as a professional learning provider and coach in schools across Australia.

It is good to welcome back Mrs Morris and Mrs Robinson both returning to St Mary's in good health. If you are on the roads over the Labour Day long weekend, go gently.

Let our actions and words be shining lights for others.



**Wayne Smith**

**Principal, St Mary's College Seymour**

DipEd (ACU) DipRED (ACU) BEd (ACU) GradCertEdAdmin (Edith Cowan)

GradDipRED (ACU) MEdAdmin (Charles Sturt) MTheoSudies (BBITAITE)

*PS Two weeks ago my Principal's article was about Fr Kevin Barry Cotter a wonderful priest who lives on his five acres in the mountains at Adelong up near Tumut in NSW. Fr KBC always finished a conversation with the words, 'go gently, now'. Father KBC, last Friday evening went gently in his sleep to God.*

## *Deputy Principal Operations*

The weeks are always busy and Term One is flying bye. Beyond the academics, the activities and opportunities that are afforded to the students of our College form the holistic education we aspire to deliver. We are focused on developing and addressing the physical, emotional, social, psychological and spiritual needs of our students.

Over the past two weeks I have had the chance to assist at both Primary and Secondary swimming events. Congratulations to students who progressed to events beyond our College Carnival. I witnessed several of our students win races or place in their events but the highlight of my observations was the behaviour of one of our Year 7 students. Oliver Kingston's performances in the pool were outstanding, his swimming technique captivating but it was the humble way in which he went about his business and his level of sportsmanship that stood out. At the conclusion of a race Oliver could be seen leaning across the lane rope shaking a competitor's hand, recognising and acknowledging their effort.

There is more to be gained from the sports experience than a winning record. Sport is a great way to teach children many important values that will help them in all areas of life. Values such as respect, discipline, time management, patience, determination and good sportsmanship. Some principles that parents can model, whether as participants or spectators, to encourage good sportsmanship include:

- If you lose don't make up excuses.
- If you win, don't rub it in.
- Learn from mistakes and get back in the game.
- Always do your best.
- If someone else makes a mistake, remain encouraging and avoid criticizing.
- Show respect for yourself, your team and the officials.



Oliver will be competing in six events at the State Swimming Championships. The highest level of competition for someone Oliver's age. Congratulations Ollie, qualifying to swim in the championships is a huge achievement alone. We will all be cheering you on from Seymour.

## New Staff

### Claire Kelly



Claire joins us in the role of Learning Diversity Leader. Claire began teaching in Sydney, before moving to Melbourne and then to a farm near Kilmore. She has loved teaching students from Prep to adults and most ages in between. Her passion is literacy because it allows people to express who they are and to understand each other better ... and that *has* to make the world a better place! Claire's current claim to fame, in her own words, is being the handball/2-square/downball (depending on where you're from) champion at St Mary's (she states that it is unconfirmed... but quite likely!). Claire looks forward to meeting everyone and extends her thanks for the great welcome.

### Kirra Rowe



Kirra comes to St Mary's from One Tree Puckapunyal Kindergarten where she was an Early Childhood Teacher. Kirra has completed a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood & Primary) and a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care, in 2021 she is teaching in Year 2.

### Seejal Sunilkumar



Seejal completed a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Physiology and Developmental Biology along with a Master of Primary and Secondary Teaching. Seejal is teaching Maths and Science across Year 7 and Year 8, she is also a House Mentor Teacher.

### Kaylee Jones



Kaylee spent time in 2020 working as a Casual Relief Teacher (CRT) at St Mary's and Melton Catholic Regional College. Kaylee studied a Masters of Teaching (Secondary) and a Bachelor of Exercise Science. In 2021 Kaylee is teaching Science across Year 7 and Year 8, Physical Education across Year 8 and Year 10 and she is teaching into the Physical Education program across Foundation to Year 2. Kaylee is a House Mentor Teacher and is also assisting Mrs Mary Tampion with College Sports Coordination.

### Emma Marrinan



Emma will be working in the role of Defence School Mentor. Emma is from a Defence family, and over her own postings, has previously held the position of Defence School Mentor in multiple locations. In Townsville at St Clare's Catholic School and in Canberra at Harrison School, now she is excited to be back in the role here at St Mary's College. Defence school Mentors support Defence families, ensure the social emotional wellbeing of Defence students and raise awareness of the unique needs of these families.

## Photo Day: Thursday 11 March

A reminder to our families that College photos are scheduled to take place during the school day on Thursday 11 March 2021. The College will use the services of Arthur Reed Photos who offer value packages and simplified ordering processes for our families. Registration details for school photos were included in last week's Marian.

All students are expected to wear their full Summer Uniform (no PE uniform allowed). Female students are required to wear white coloured socks and male students grey coloured socks. Any student who is determined by College staff to not meet the uniform requirements will not have their individual photo taken and will not be included in the Class (Primary) or House Mentor (Secondary) photographs. Photos taken on the day will be used by the College for student ID Cards and the College Yearbook, along with other administration purposes.

**Mrs Genevieve Gordon**

[genevieve.gordon@smseymour.catholic.edu.au](mailto:genevieve.gordon@smseymour.catholic.edu.au)



## *Director of Learning and Teaching*



### **Year 10 Information Night**

On Tuesday 16 March at 7pm we are holding an information night for our current Year 10 students and parents. The following items will be addressed so that all will have a successful 2021 in your last year at St Mary's College.

Agenda items and presenters will cover the following topics -

- Learning and Teaching - expectations, processes, school work and assessment tasks.
- Wellbeing - attendance, work life balance, healthy habits, strategies for wellbeing.
- Careers - work experience, year 11 and 12 pathways, Career interviews, subject selections and transition to a new school.
- General Information – Awards Ceremony, end of year celebration
- Questions & Answer

**Ms Christine Buhler**

[christine.buhler@smseymour.catholic.edu.au](mailto:christine.buhler@smseymour.catholic.edu.au)

## *Secondary Pastoral Care Coordinator*



### **Apologies**

Last week I incorrectly stated that Padua house was named after St Christopher of Padua instead of St Anthony of Padua.

My sincere apologies for the oversight.

**Ms Angela Molinaro**

[angela.molinaro@smseymour.catholic.edu.au](mailto:angela.molinaro@smseymour.catholic.edu.au)

## *Robotics*

Here are some pics of the Year 4 first of four Robotics Incursions through the Mitchell Shire. There was lots of excited chatter and fun whilst exploring the Edison Robots today.



# Agriculture Studies

This year's Ag Studies students recently picked the first crop of tomatoes for the season.

Planted by last year's Ag Studies class, the tomatoes have thrived in our raised beds and look like delivering a bumper crop this year. Our first light pick resulted in over 8 kilograms of class 1 Roma tomatoes. Our plan is to use the main crop in a sharing day at school.

The tomatoes picked last week were used to support our current Ag Studies topic of 'Waste in Australian Agriculture'. Students have been studying where waste occurs and what farmers are doing to mitigate and even value add to produce that would otherwise be wasted.

The tomatoes were weighed and juiced and the waste was collected. Students proposed various uses for the seed and pulp before sampling the fresh juice.



Agriculture & Horticulture Studies was fortunate this week to be given two large buckets of shiraz grapes. These came from vines grown by teacher Andrea Richards. Agriculture & Horticulture Studies students were very enthusiastic about first crushing the grapes using potato mashers then extracting the juice using a fruit press. The fresh juice was sampled and found to be very sweet with strong fruit flavours. We then transferred the juice to the fermenter and added yeast to begin the fermentation process. We hope to bottle the wine in about two weeks before putting it aside for several months to allow the harsh acids present in new wine to soften and mellow.

While students will not be able to sample the finished product, they enjoyed the opportunity to learn about wine production and the basics of fermentation. Seymour is very fortunate to be home to several outstanding wineries and gaining insights into this key agricultural sector was a valuable experience for the Agriculture & Horticulture Studies students.



**Mr Andrew Allen**

[andrew.allen@smseymour.catholic.edu.au](mailto:andrew.allen@smseymour.catholic.edu.au)



# Learning Diversity Leader

## Personalised Learning Plans



Personalised Learning Plans for those students who require them will be emailed this week.

1. Please read the plan
2. Sign the Operoo notice that accompanies the PLP (electronically) if you wish to give your consent to the plan that your child's teacher/s have mapped out.

If the adjustments are to occur at most times, on most days, you'll be asked to attend a Program Support Group Meeting (PSG) at school, or a virtual meeting if that's more convenient for you. Bookings will be open for these meetings next week via PAM.

The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria provides a document that summarises the purpose and work of the PSG that is readily available to parents via the link below:

[Parent Guide to Program Support Groups](#)

Please contact your child's teacher or Claire Kelly (Learning Diversity Leader) if you require more information.



**CODE Read Network** is an organisation that provides evidence-based advice about Dyslexia for parents/other adults who want to understand dyslexia and get help.

Each year Code Read holds a virtual walk/ run/ swim/ ride in March to raise awareness of Dyslexia in the community and its impact on learning. The cost of entering helps the organisation to provide free resources.

Our introduction of InitialLit in Foundation to Year 2 this year (a systematic synthetic phonics program based on the science of reading) furthers St Mary's College commitment to using evidence-based teaching practices to teach reading and support all students' learning.

Some of our great St Mary's staff are joining the Code Read walk this year and will be hitting the walking/riding/running tracks in March...look out for a photo in the coming weeks!



**Our motivation is to advertise that Dyslexia exists in our community, that we understand its impact on learning, and furthermore, that we want to support learners who are dyslexic.**

If you would like to join our Code Read team, please sign up using the link below

<https://codereadnetwork.org/get-involved/equal-write-to-read-virtual-run/>

**Mrs Claire Kelly**

[claire.kelly@smseymour.catholic.edu.au](mailto:claire.kelly@smseymour.catholic.edu.au)



# Sports Coordinator



## Swimming 2021

Congratulations to all those students who competed in our Primary District Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 24 February. All swimmers displayed outstanding sportsmanship and participation and were a credit to our College.

St Mary's swimming team were rewarded with both the **Handicap** and **Overall Points Aggregate** shields. A fantastic effort and results for all our swimmers on the day.

Congratulations to the following students who achieved **District Age Champions** on the day, a wonderful achievement for these students and reward for their disciplined commitment to their training and sport. WELL DONE!!!

ISABEL GORDON – 9-year-old female

CODY DUNNE – 9-year-old male

LACHLAN KINGSTON – 10-year-old male

KYRA PEARCE – 12-year-old female

MARCUS KINGSTON – 12-year-old male





# Director of Faith and Mission

## Project Compassion 2021

Last week we raised \$278 for Caritas on our Crazy Sock Day.



Students have watched the stories of Jamila from Bangladesh and Margret from the Solomon Islands. Both women have worked through hardship but still living a life with joy, thanks to Caritas.



**WEEK 1**

**JAMILA  
BANGLADESH**

"For the first time in my life, in the camp, I felt cared for and accepted."



**WEEK 2**

**MARGRET  
SOLOMON ISLANDS**

"Water is always available now for drinking, washing, bathing, gardening."



**WEEK 3**

**OLIVA  
TANZANIA**

"Education has enabled me to come closer to my children."

The weekly stories make our students see real life situations but also see how their donations help to improve the life for others less fortunate

We are now in the third week of Lent with the Project Compassion story of Oliva, a 22-year-old woman from Tanzania. She did not have the opportunity to go to school and was embarrassed that she was unable to read, write or count.

As an adult, her business was losing money because she couldn't add up her money and give the right change to customers.

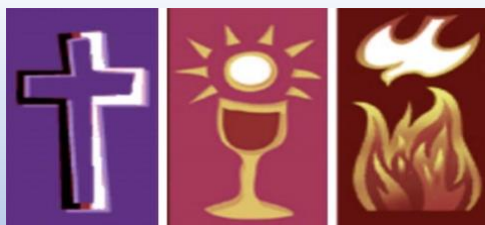
Then Oliva enrolled in Caritas Australia's literacy and numeracy classes. She also set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours, for free, because they were too shy to attend larger classes.

Oliva has now graduated, attendance at her classes are growing, her kiosk is thriving and she is helping her children with their homework. She aims to become a pastor and run for leadership in the next local election - to help her community to 'Be More.'

- Approximately 260 million children don't have the chance to go to school ([un.org](https://www.un.org/))

Watch a short film about Oliva's story [here](#).

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." Please support Project Compassion: [lent.caritas.org.au](https://lent.caritas.org.au)



**Joy of Sacraments**

**Tuesday March 23**

**7pm - 8:30pm**

**Special Guest Speaker; Pauline Cicutto**

All students and parents are invited to this special meeting that starts the Sacramental journey for our baptised Catholic Students. Keep an eye out for the Operoo form that has been sent home.

**Mrs Rochelle Gough**

[rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au](mailto:rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au)



MARCH 15

Meat-pie Monday  
(Pies \$2.50 each)

MARCH 26

Disco in MPH  
(Gold coin donation)

Go online **BEFORE**  
photo day to request  
a sibling photograph

Sibling Photographs will be taken by request at

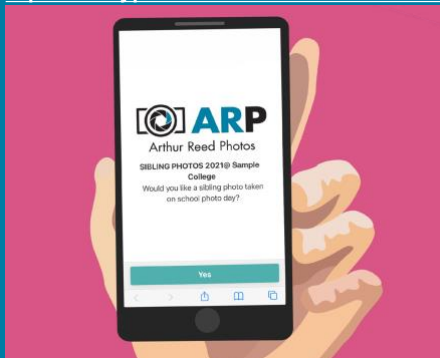
St Mary's College

Thursday 11th March, 2021

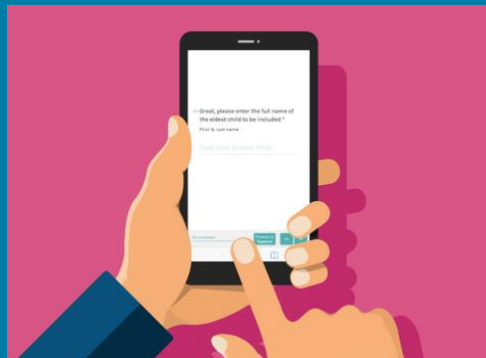
## SIBLING PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHS

*To request a sibling photo follow these 3 easy steps . . .*

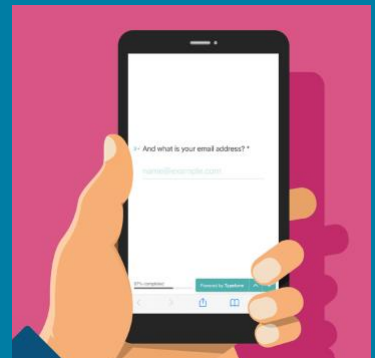
1. Grab your phone and go to  
[arphotos.typeform.com/ to/ JJWwSIUW](https://arphotos.typeform.com/to/JJWwSIUW)



2. Enter the name and class of the eldest sibling +  
details of all children to be included in the photo



3. Fill in your email address  
and submit.



Sibling Photograph requests **CLOSE AT MIDDAY ON THE DAY BEFORE PHOTO DAY**

Please make sure your children know they should present for a sibling photo on photo day

Arthur Reed Photos Pty. Ltd.  
A.B.N 48 528 494 590

Telephone: (03) 5243 4390 Enquiries: [customerservice@arphotos.com.au](mailto:customerservice@arphotos.com.au)

**Formal uniform is required for  
photo day!**  
**No sports/PE uniforms to be worn.**

# SCHOOL PHOTOS 2021 - Important Registration Information

*School Photographs will be taken at*

St Mary's College

Thursday 11th March, 2021

**There is no need to return any forms or payment to school before photo day**

**Flyers with Unique Image Codes will be issued to all students on or after photo day**

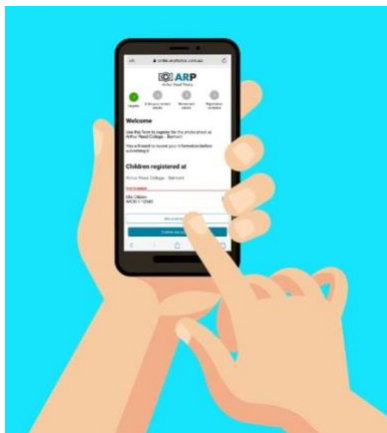
**When you receive the flyer with your child's 2021 image code**

***Follow these 3 simple steps -***

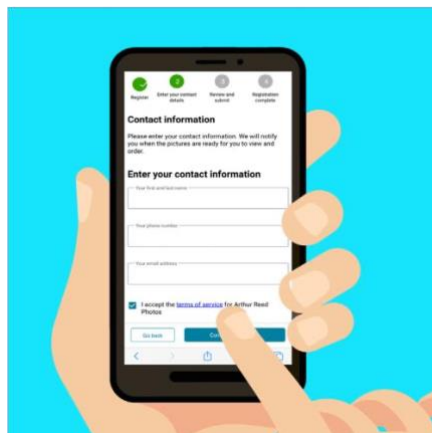
**1** Go to [order.arphotos.com.au](http://order.arphotos.com.au) and enter your child's **2021 image code**



**2** Tap on 'Add another child' to enter the image codes of any siblings



**3** Fill in your contact details & review before confirming your registration\*



\* This information will only be used for distribution of personal image codes and ordering details.

***That's it!***

**It's important to register each year to link your child's NEW images to your contact details**  
**When 2021 images are ready to view in our secure webshop you'll be notified by email and SMS**

**\*\*BEFORE ORDERING for 2021, please wait to receive notification that new images are online\*\***

**Order on any mobile device • Share the images with family & friends for FREE**

**Create a photo package with any layout + YOUR choice of images + Digital Downloads**



# Dates to Remember

## Bell Times 2021

*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 2021

**Term 1:** 28/01 – 01/04

**Term 2:** 19/04 – 25/06

**Term 3:** 12/07 – 17/09

**Term 4:** 04/10 – 17/12

## Term 1

Week 6	Fri 5 Mar	Round Robin Years 7-10
	Fri 5 Mar	Clean-Up For Schools Day Step Up To Clean Up
Week 7	<b>Mon 8 Mar</b>	<b>Labour Day Public Holiday</b>
	<b>Tue 9 Mar</b>	<b>School Closure Day - Staff Professional Development</b>
	Wed 10 Mar	College Athletics Carnival – Kings Park 9am
	<b>Thu 11 Mar</b>	<b>College Photo Day – Full School uniform no Sport/PE uniform</b>
Week 8	Mon 15 Mar	Meat Pie Monday \$2.50 per pie
Week 9	Tue 23 Mar	'Joy of Sacraments' 7pm – 8:30pm
Week 10	Thu 1 Apr	Easter Liturgy 11:30am
	<b>Thu 1 Apr</b>	<b>Last Day Term 1</b>

### Please note

**Book Fair has been postponed until Term 3. More details will be published closer to the date.**

## 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