



The Marian

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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.8

Term 2

22 April 2021

Term Two is underway!

How good was the weather over Easter! God usually delights us with beautiful Autumn days over the Easter long weekend and 2021 did not disappoint with sunny days that could have been mistaken for the heart of summer. I hope you found time to rest and recharge over Easter - at home, up on a river bank or on the road driving across the magnificent green landscape.

F-12 Pathway Committee

By now parents and the wider community are aware of the formation of the **F-12 Pathway Committee** and the appointment of **Mr Tony O'Byrne** (Project Manager). Tony's knowledge and experience in Catholic education will be invaluable for the committee's Terms of Reference. The committee: *Rev Fr Eugene Ashkar PP; Andrew Graham (Advisory Board Chair); Felicity Melville (College Business Manager); Genevieve Gordon (College Deputy Principal Operations); Andrea Richards (College SIMON & Data Analysis Leader); Chris Bence (MACS Regional Leadership Secondary Consultant) and I* will meet with Tony on Tuesday 11th May at 4.00pm. Kelda Gilmore (Advisory Board Deputy Chair) will provide background support for the committee. A site Master Plan will be completed by ROAM Architects in alignment with a F-12 Vision for the College and be included within the Terms of Reference. The College community will be updated on the progress of the committee's progress during Term Two and Three. The committee does not underestimate the enormity of what will be required in a submission to the Melbourne Archdiocesan Catholic Schools (MACS) Executive Director Mr Jim Miles. The committee takes their responsibility seriously knowing they represent so many families in Seymour and regionally who long for their children to have the Year 12 Catholic educational pathway at St Mary's.

Staff Spirituality Professional Learning Day

Ange Virgona a leader in Faith Formation will guide staff on Monday 26th April in a journey of the 'Light'. Light is central to the 2021 College theme. The day will focus on the charisms Mercy and Padua (Franciscans) and how staff connection to the House charisms strengthens student understandings and connections. *There is no school for students on Monday.* All staff will be attending the day. If need be please email or phone the Office.

State Swimming Championships

Best wishes to our Swimming squad (individual and relays) who are representing St Mary's at the Victorian Schools State Swimming Championships held at Albert Park Centre, Melbourne today and Monday. The livestream link is attached for parents if you would like to follow our primary students in their events for Monday 26th April. <https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/Pages/SSVTV.aspx>

Secondary Program - Thursday, 22 April

Ollie Kingston competed in four 50m individual events (Breastroke; Butterfly; Freestyle and Backstroke). The 12-14yr boys (Ollie Kingston, Jabe Brown, Isaac Smith and Hugh Murphy) competed in the medley relay event.

Primary Program - Monday, 26 April

Marcus Kingston is swimming in event 84 (50 Backstroke) at approximately 10.55am. The 9/10yr boys (Finn Melville, Harvey Smith, Lachie Kingston and Levi Brown) relay team is swimming at approximately 11.50am (event 132).

Representing St Mary's at any level is an honour and our secondary classes watched the live stream today to cheer our boys on!

Telstra and NBN

Apologies for any frustration when trying to contact the Office. The College has been experiencing connectivity issues for some time. The connectivity issues have been caused by external faults and not within the College grounds. NBN and Telstra will be at the College on Monday to check IT connections into the College. If you are unable to make contact using the landline number, please contact the Office on 0467 227 265.

Wi-Fi Upgrade

The College Wi-Fi system underwent a full upgrade during the term break. The system was unable to cope with the increase in devices and internet traffic. 46 new wireless access points have been installed across the College. The new building will have the same system included. Thank you to Tyler Thomson (Nettek) for the many hours he spent above and beyond his work day to ensure the system was ready for students and staff to begin Term Two.

Security Upgrade.

The College locking system has required upgrading. This work was also completed over the break.

Lest We Forget

My dad (Kevin) who is 92 tried to enlist for the Second World War...he was told 'you're too young son, go home.' My Uncle Ken served in the Middle East and Borneo and never the same he was. Most families have a story to tell. Remembrance is not about glorification but to be thankful for the generosity of spirit and sacrifice given by so many past Australians who gave up so much both abroad and at home so that we have the wonderful lifestyle we experience daily. This Friday we have an ANZAC ceremony in the Hall and there will be College representatives participating at the ANZAC Dawn and Morning Services.



This term the College Sacramental program begins with the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday 30th April. Year 7 are currently on Camp up in the high country at Marysville – cool days and colder nights! National NAPLAN testing is held in May for students in Years 3,5,7 and 9 and the College is preparing for the rollout of the ICON platform for MACS schools. This is a significant change for all schools and at St Mary's we will begin with the Finance and Administration components of the ICON platform. Tuesday 27th April we welcome representatives of the nearby Pioneer Park committee to speak to staff about the possibilities of St Marys' assisting with the upkeep of this historic Seymour site.

Best wishes and let our actions and words be shining lights for others.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wayne Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wayne Smith

Principal, St Mary's College Seymour

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

Deputy Principal Operations



Busy is the normal at St Mary's College and Term Two will be no different.

Year 7 Camp



Fifty-One Year 7 students and six staff members headed off to camp Marysville on Wednesday. We thank Mrs Angela Molinaro, Mrs Allison Moore, Mrs Rochelle Gough, Mrs Jacqueline Cullum, Miss Kaylee Jones and Mr Andrew Allen for joining the students on this event. Students will be participating in cycling, canoeing, cooking, bush walking and climbing activities. We look forward to a full report upon their return. The students were very excited on Tuesday. We wish them well, stay warm.

Anzac Day

Representing our College to remember, recognise and show gratitude for the service and sacrifice of members of the Australian Defence Force our College Captains Oliver Bree, Jordyn Beattie, Domink Ciantar and Lucy Duff will join Mr Smith and I at the various Anzac Day ceremonies in Seymour on Sunday. Friday afternoon, our Year 6-10 College Leaders along with students from Defence Force families will join Mrs Catherine Evans and Emma Marrinan (Defence Force Mentor) to assist in placing white crosses outside the Seymour Memorial Hospital gates in preparation for the dawn service.

Sir William Deane, Governor- General of Australia on Anzac Day 1999 wrote:

'Anzac is not merely about loss. It is about courage, and endurance, and duty, and love of country, and mateship, and good humour and the survival of a sense of self-worth and decency in the face of dreadful odds.'

The traits of the Anzacs are carried close to the heart of many Australians. If we display even the smallest amounts of these Anzac traits and incorporate them into our daily lives, our schools, our communities and our nation would be a better place. Reflecting upon our College motto 'Let our words and actions be shining lights for others', there could be no better example of this than our Anzac's

Lest we forget.

The Online World

Over the coming weeks the College will be sharing information with our community regarding the online safety and behaviour of young people. The website of the e Safety Commissioner is a reputable resource and information is available at <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice/good-habits-start-young>. The statistics below show that very few young people are immune to participating in or the impact of inappropriate online communication. It is the reality of the online and connected world that our children are growing up in. As parents, and adult role models, we have a responsibility to educate ourselves and our children and be proactive in having discussions around the internet and online behaviour. We are doing our children a disservice if we ignore the conversation. St Mary's College views the education of our students about the online world as paramount and teaching them specific technical, personal and social skills to interact positively online is our goal.

According to eSafety research

**One in five young Australians
aged 8 to 17 years** reported being
socially excluded, threatened or
abused online.



1 in 5 young people
(15% of kids,
24% of teens)
also admitted to behaving
in a negative way to a peer
online – such as name
calling, deliberately
excluding them, or
spreading lies or rumours.



of these had had a
negative online
experience themselves

Mrs Genevieve Gordon

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Director of Learning and Teaching



What a different space and place we are in now, compared to this time last year!

Teaching staff were able to dig deep and explore learning and teaching from a completely different perspective. We could never have anticipated what we needed to do, and yet what an amazing variety of skills were added to the ***teacher's and student's toolbox for learning***. There are many things that we developed and are continuing to use and value now.

Term 2 Getting into the rhythm of learning!

Term 1 is all about settling in, building routines and expectations. Term 2 is really developing learning progression, building on strengths and tackling challenges that come with the outcomes for the year. Developing goals and working towards achieving them.

Many teams and leaders are working hard to implement the Tutor Program, Interventions in Literacy and Numeracy and undertake the planning and activities to engage in incursions and excursions for 2021.

May 11th - 21st NAPLAN testing window

NAPLAN is on the horizon and will take place in May, parents of students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will receive an Information sheet from ACARA. This will be distributed to students early next week.

Semester One Student Reports

Primary feedback and reporting to parents via SIMON and PAM is being reviewed and we look forward to introducing a more informative structure for the end of semester reports.

The secondary report format will remain the same!

Ms Christine Buhler

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Director of Faith and Mission



The Anzac spirit was born from the landings of Gallipoli and many other campaigns which involved our Australian soldiers. Over a century later, young Australians continue to be captivated by this same spirit of endurance, courage, ingenuity, good humour, and mateship. Anzac Day appears to stand the test of time. The Spirit of the Anzac continues to whisper through generations of Australians reminding them to stop, reflect and honour the fallen.

The spirit of Catholic education operates alongside the ideals inspired by the Anzacs. However, Catholic service is more than facing our foes with grit and courage. Jesus sets forward a greater challenge; to love our enemies and do good to those who hate us. This radical love implores us to go against our natural instinct to survive and to place the needs of others ahead of our own.

Tomorrow we acknowledge ANZAC DAY with a prayer service and talk from MAJOR MATTHEW SULLIVAN from the Combat Arms Training Centre, Puckapunyal. It gives our students and families an opportunity to commemorate the day together, embraced by the Anzac spirit. In anticipation I thank particularly Emma Marrinan, our College Defence School Mentor, Ally Yardley, our creative art teacher, and the Year 9 History class for their help in preparing this year's ANZAC liturgy. You do not want to miss this one! (Friday 23rd: 10:15 in Multi-Purpose Hall and all are welcome!)

Next week, our first Sacrament – *Reconciliation* – will be celebrated on Friday 30th April, between 10-11:30 in the Parish church. This year, due to our high numbers, Father Ashkar has been able to get another priest to help him administer the sacrament. Parents are most welcome to attend. Unfortunately, we are unable to give exact times for each student.

On Wednesday 28th April, ALL students who are receiving a Sacrament in 2021 will take part in a reflection day, in preparation of receiving their sacraments. This will take place from 8:45 – 12.20, and then students will return to normal classes. Our day will start by attending the 9am parish mass, once again it would be great to have parents in attendance if they are able. Students will then be involved in activities about 'their' sacrament and a shared recess snack. Students are encouraged to bring something small to share, nothing that needs heating, for our shared recess.

Mrs Rochelle Gough

rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

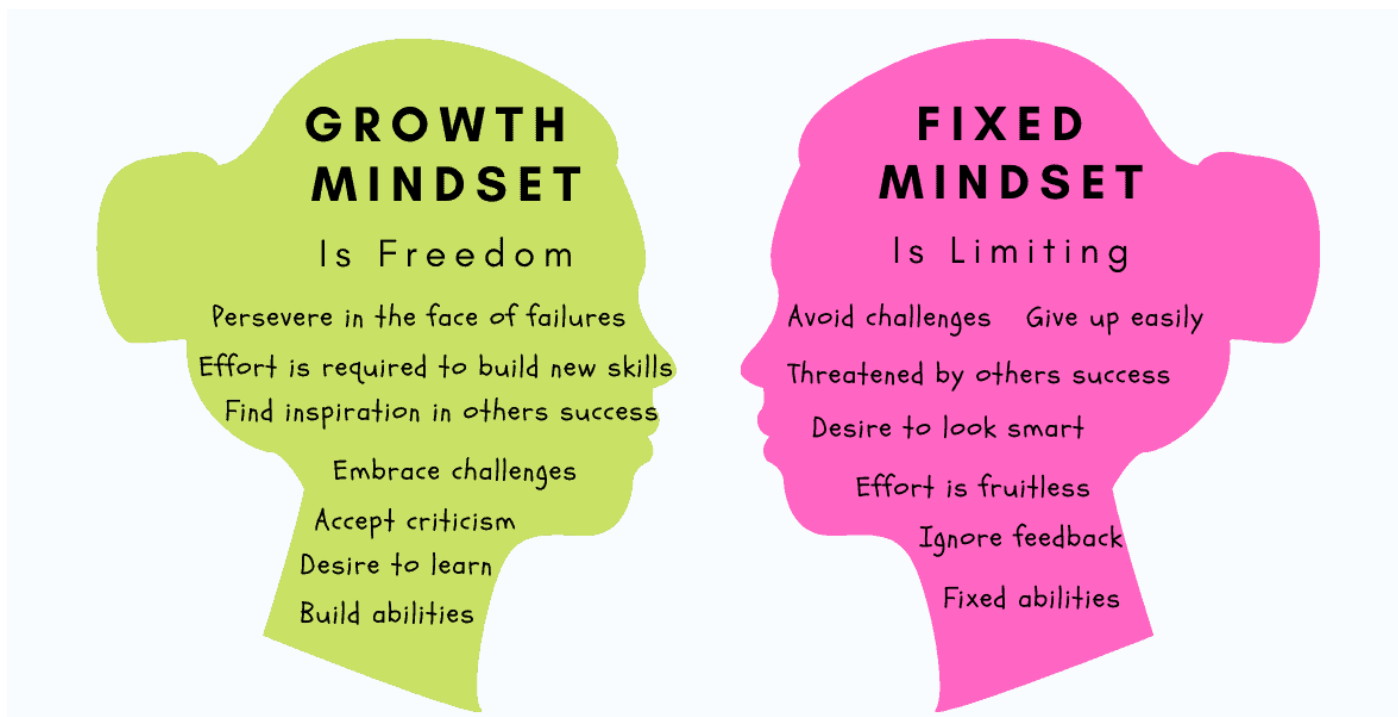
College Counsellor

Have you spoken to your child about Growth Mindset?

A Growth Mindset is the understanding that abilities and understanding can be developed (Mindset Works, n.d.). Once we recognise this, our determination and motivation guide our behaviours in achieving the goals we set for ourselves. The Big Life Journal highlight some key areas for parents to explore with their children while developing their Growth Mindset.

- ☐ Talk to them about their brain and how it works
- ☐ Share amazing facts
- ☐ Celebrate mistakes
- ☐ Let them try and fail rather than not try at all. Thomas Edison stated when inventing the light bulb – "I have not failed, I have found 10, 000 ways that won't work"

There are two main mindsets we can navigate life with: growth and fixed. Having a growth mindset is essential for success. In this post, we explore how to develop the right mindset for improving your intelligence. – Professor Carol Dweck



Mrs Melinda Nuttall

melinda.nuttall@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Numeracy & Literacy Tutoring

Numeracy and Literacy Tutoring for students in Secondary (Years 7-10) on Thursdays 3.30-4.30.

At St Mary's College we are passionate about our students being partners with their teachers in their learning journeys. This is why we offer Numeracy and Literacy tutoring very Thursday afternoon during Term time.

If your child finds that their Maths, English, Humanities or Science homework takes them longer than it should or if they are experiencing specific challenges in numeracy or literacy, we encourage you to take advantage of the generous (and free) offer of our secondary teachers' time and expertise to assist your child to be more confident and self-directed in their own learning.

While we are aware that there are transport and pick-up difficulties that can present a challenge for many working parents, we hope that you can resolve these in order to enable your child to benefit from this opportunity that our college offers.

Our Library is also open during most Lunch times for students who would like help to complete outstanding work.

We welcome any questions you may have about our Numeracy and Literacy Tutoring for students in Secondary (Years 7-10) on Thursdays 3.30-4.30.

Darcy McLean
College Numeracy Leader

Lorna Hooper
Secondary Literacy Leader

Parent Engagement

Mother's Day 2021

Please save the date!!!



We are so looking forward to being able to welcome our mothers, grandmothers and special friends back to St Mary's for our annual Mother's Day Afternoon Tea.

We will be holding this special event on FRIDAY MAY 7th at 1.45pm

An email with further details and an Operoo form for catering purposes will be sent home early next week.



ANZAC LITURGY



We invite all of our families to our ANZAC liturgy on FRIDAY APRIL 23rd at 10.15am in the MPH

Yr. 9 History students have been busy preparing for this special occasion and will lead the ceremony. Our Defence families will be a part of the liturgy and parents are welcome to stay for a cuppa afterwards.

We look forward to seeing you there.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Next Friday, April 30th, we have 40 students ready to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare for this special occasion. All students receiving sacrament this year will participate in a Sharing Day on Wednesday April 28th. A note has gone home to these families- please email Rochelle or Cath if you did not receive this note



rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

catherine.evans@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Date for all of our sacraments this year are:

Reconciliation

Friday April 30th 10 am and 7pm for the Celebration Liturgy

Eucharist

Sunday June 6th 10am

Confirmation

Friday August 6th 7pm

Mrs Catherine Evans

catherine.evans@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Primary Pastoral Care Coordinator



Welcome back to Term 2. The weather begins to change this term and at times, the days will seem long particularly as they are getting cold and darker earlier. This makes school all the more important as a place of enjoyment, learning and camaraderie.

Anzac Day this Sunday envelops camaraderie. Listening to the Last Post, watching past and present soldiers walk by, hearing your own heartbeat in the silence and seeing the chill of your breath in the air. It is a commemoration that is difficult to match. Thank you Ms. Ally for assisting classes with making sensational wreaths for this year's Anzac Day Liturgy and display.



To brighten our term, Foundation-Year 4 will be participating in Taekwondo once a week beginning next Thursday. Taekwondo supports our curriculum in Health and PE. This will be new to most of our students so we are looking forward to seeing how students react to this activity. Those students that currently do taekwondo have nothing but good things to say about it such as it helps clear their mind and strengthens their body. We look forward to meeting Trent and his team from Brunswick next week.

Meanwhile, Year 5/6 will be participating in the Swimming Program each Thursday. This is a valuable part of the curriculum as it builds on previous years of swimming lessons and the confidence of students when around any sort of water.

We are also very excited to announce the birth of two new prospective St Mary's students - congratulations to Nic and Stephanie Liddell, Oliver (Year 1), Paddy (Foundation) and Eddie on the birth of their baby brother Samuel.

Also congratulations to Tony and Christine Hyde and Darragh (Foundation) on the birth of their son Tadhg.

Mrs Anne Spencer

anne.spencer@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Defence School Mentor



Welcome back for term 2, I hope everyone had a nice relaxing Easter break. I'm looking forward to our ANZAC liturgy this Friday at 10:15am in the multi-purpose hall, hope to see many of you afterwards for a cuppa and Anzac biscuit. This term I will continue to be at the school Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and can be contacted via email or through the college office. If you have any questions or require more information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Deployment/parental absence- If a member of your family is going away for an extended period for an exercise or deployment, please feel free to reach out and let me know via email so I can provide extra support during what can sometimes be a challenging time

DCO Education Assistance Scheme- Defence recognises that some children may experience disruption to their education due to posting. To help overcome immediate educational difficulties, Defence students may be eligible to receive reimbursement for up to 14 weeks of face to face or web-based tutoring fees for each approved subject. This applies within 18 months of starting a new school in a new posting location. For more information on how to apply refer to the DCO website or contact the Defence Family Helpline 1800 624 608.

DCO Defence Family Helpline- Support, local community information and advice is available for ADF families through the Defence Family Helpline.

Phone-1800 624 608 or Email- DefenceFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au

Mrs Emma Marrinan

emma.marrinan@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Community Notices

Mitchell Shire's Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025



We want to hear from you...

We are developing Mitchell Shire's Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 and we would love your input to capture your thoughts, feelings and experiences about health and wellbeing in Mitchell Shire.

So take part today at <https://engagingmitchellshire.com/health-and-wellbeing-plan>

Survey closes 9am, Monday 10 May 2021.

For further information, please contact Council on (03) 5734 6200



Tuning in to

Teens

A six session program for parents
of 10 -16 year olds

How do I talk to my teen and get them to listen?

- Help prevent behaviour problems in your teen?
- How can I teach my teen to deal with conflict?
- How do I help my teen cope with and understand their emotions?
- What can I do to better understand my teen?

Do you want to know how? Fridays 10am-12noon starting 23 April-28 May 2021, FamilyCare 64 High St Seymour

Call FamilyCare Central Intake 1800 161 306 to register or [register online here](#)

This workshop is for parents and/or carers in the Goulburn Region (Greater Shepparton, Moira, Strathbogie, Mitchell & Murrindindi).

DRUMBEAT

for Kids

Discovering Relationships Using Music, Beliefs, Emotions, Attitudes and Thoughts



Harnessing Hope

Outside support for inside healing

Join us for eight weeks of drumming and fun. The program can help your child in the following ways:

- Improve their mental wellbeing
- Increase their self-esteem
- Reduce their stress levels
- Build their communication and teamwork skills.

This DRUMBEAT program is targeted for children who have experienced unhealthy relationships or experienced or been exposed to family violence. Covid-19 safety precautions are expected and in place. Sessions: Term 2 5th May – 23rd June; Wednesday 4-5pm. Location: Wallan (address provided following referral and registration). For more information, call FamilyCare on 1800 161 306.



Community Movie Night Saturday 1st May, Free Entry! Doors open 6.30pm to 7pm movie start. Venue: Seymour Uniting Church 11-13 Crawford St. Snacks including pop corn and drinks available for purchase.

For more information contact: Community Outreach Worker Michael: 0458 742 362 Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/186497658092560>



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 2

Week 1	Mon 19 Apr	First Day Term 2
	Wed 21-Fri 23	Year 7 Marysville Camp
Week 2	Mon 26 Apr	School Closure Day – Staff Professional Development
	Tue 27 April	Students return
	Wed 28 April	Yrs 3&4 Eucharist Candidates attending Parish Mass 9am-10am
	Fri 30 Apr	Reconciliation Sacrament 10-11.30am in the Church Reconciliation Liturgy 7pm in the Church
Week 3	Wed 5 May	Yrs F-2 Eucharist Candidates Mass – in the Church 9am-10am
	Fri 7 May	Mother's Day Afternoon Tea 2pm-3.15pm
Week 4	Mon 10 May	Cross Country Yrs 3-10
	Wed 12 May	2022 Enrolments Information Evening 7-8pm
	Fri 14 May	College Assembly 2.15-3.15pm

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