



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.13

Term 2

4 June 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Brother Athanasius and that (now) Future Shock

My former University lecturer Christian Brother Athanasius (Athy) McGlade was passionate about teaching Shakespeare and desired for his students to have the same love of literature. On one occasion, Brother Athy diverged and gave every student in his English tutorial a copy of Alvin Toffler's best seller, *A Future Shock*. Toffler was an American writer (1928-2016) and known for his predictions of the digital and communication revolutions and the world's reliance on technology. Through his writings, Toffler tried to make sense of the impact of new technologies on social change. Toffler's best sellers, *Future Shock* and *Third Wave* had critics accusing him of taking an impractical view of the future – how Toffler's critics were wrong! Toffler predicted the way of life we experience now and some of his predictions are now regarded as central to the way we live – even more so during times of Covid.

I doubt that anyone could have realised how insightful Toffler's foretelling of changes to the way society operates (e.g. working from home) would become a common practice. Toffler highlighted the influence the techno age would have on the way we socialise, communicate and view the world. Toffler commented that in western society we are generally accustomed to the home being our castle; the place that we would communicate from and work from – a place that is almost self-sufficient. Toffler's predictions were right in that we can do most things from home. Society advances so quickly it may be difficult to know what the next 'Future Shock' or 'Fourth Wave' will be like. Then again, our way of life has certainly had to deal with a current wave of change.

Our students are the parents of the future and will live in a world that is vastly different from the world we live in today. Let us hope the parents of the future embrace the old and the new as once Brother Athy challenged his former students to do. Where is Brother Athy now? He passed away in 2013 just short of his 99th birthday. At the time Brother Athy was still teaching Shakespeare to Year 12 students at St. Patrick's College, Strathfield and using a computer!

Below is an extract from the '*Brother who broke all the Moulds*' written in 2013 by famous Australian Author Thomas Keneally on the great Brother Athy McGlade who was always ahead of his time. Teachers inspire, and encourage their students to dream of what is possible. Brother Athy was of the highest order!

'When one thinks of James 'Jimmy' Athanasius McGlade, who died at the age of 98, one must cast aside every stereotype of the teacher, let alone of the Christian Brother. Jimmy McGlade broke all the moulds. He was, for generations of boys and then of tertiary students, one of the most compassionate, enthusiastic and cultivated human beings any of us would meet in a lifetime. He was born in Melbourne and attended St Kevin's Christian Brothers College.

Brother Athy elevated us by teaching in a more sophisticated manner. He ruled by enthusiasm rather than fear. As a young brother, he taught primary school for short periods and then completed a Bachelor of Arts at Sydney University. One of his enterprises was to write and publish sets of physics and chemistry notes that were used in Catholic and State schools across the country. But the classroom was all, and his favourite home for that purpose was St Patrick's College at Strathfield, where he would spend 23 years as a teacher before becoming provincial of Eastern Australia and New Guinea for the Christian Brothers in 1968.

When Jimmy became Provincial in 1968 he would remain in that post for 12 years. He proved to be a reformer at a time when fewer men were presenting themselves to become brothers. Jimmy tolerated long hair but tended to criticise beards. At the end of his term as provincial in 1978, he asked to teach at Mount St Mary's Teachers College just a short walk from St Patrick's, and ultimately to become part of the Australian Catholic University. The Australian Catholic

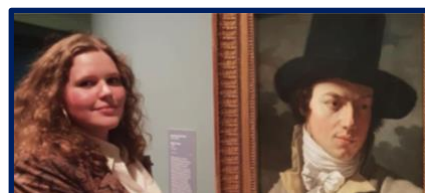
University's Art gallery was named in his honour and he was created a Fellow of the university. He was nominated for and received the MBE.

He had mentioned to me in 1952, when I was 16, his interest in a particular group of Irish political prisoners, the Young Irelanders, transported to Van Diemen's Land during the Irish Famine. He was particularly interested in Thomas Francis Meagher, "Meagher of the sword", who escaped to the US and became a Union general in the Civil War. When I published something about the Young Irelanders in a non-fiction work in the late 1990s, he wrote to me: "Well, young Keneally, I'm pleased to see that at last you've finished your homework."

Many of us remember Jimmy as a gifted coach of athletics, rugby league and cricket. His cricket teams were superb and invincible. In athletics he produced champions, as well as a number of Olympic and Commonwealth Games runners. Jimmy was throughout a man who clearly kept his faith. A permanent presence around St Patrick's Strathfield and the Catholic University in his aged years, he was beloved by primary school children as much as by graduate students. To these latter he once declared: "The vowels are the music of our language." But he was a man who heard the music everywhere.....Thomas Keneally, former student and author.

Congratulations to former St Mary's College student Georgia Comte on receiving the 2021 Hansen PhD scholarship in History at the University of Melbourne.

Let our actions and words be shining lights for others



Best wishes

Wayne Smith

Principal, St Mary's College Seymour

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

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

Director of Learning and Teaching

Semester One Reporting and Communication

Parent questions -

How is my child progressing with their learning?

How do teachers make decisions about the quality and quantity of my child's work?

How can I help?

Teacher questions -

What does VCAA expect to be shown on Student reports?

What do parents want to know?

How can I communicate this information effectively?

The SIMON reporting system is designed to support communication and meet all of the above expectations. The Primary Semester report template has been redesigned to be easier to read and to be more informative about student achievement.

The Secondary Semester report is a cumulative document that collates the assessment task feedback comments and results on to the one document. Continuous feedback comments and results have been available via PAM (Parent Access Module) as they are handed in and marked by subject teachers.

With the week of remote and Flexible learning just held, the process will be put back by one week. Reports will be available to parents/carers on Wednesday 14th July and Parent teacher meetings will be offered on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st July. These 15 minute meetings will also include PSG meetings for students who require them.

Teachers and students are working hard to meet the expectations of the assessment and feedback process. The year 10 students practice exams remain in place for week 8 between 15th and 18th of June. Preparation is underway and the results will be an indication of what students need to focus on for Semester 2.



Ms Christine Buhler

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Business Manager



Fees and Levies

Curriculum Levies (Primary and Secondary) are now overdue. These levies were due on 1 June. Please arrange for payments to be made as soon as possible using our updated bank details. Further reminders will be sent to families over the coming weeks. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Mrs Stacia Read, Business Assistant at the College if you need to discuss any fee related matters.

If you have not been receiving your statement or require another copy, please contact the College. Fee statements are issued following the end of each calendar month.

College Bank Details - Important Update

As previously advised, the College's bank account details have changed. Please ensure you check any saved bank details you have set-up for College payments and update where required.

The College bank details are now:

Account Name: St Mary's College General Account
BSB: 083 347
Account No: 839 989 790

These details are also provided on the fee statements, as well as in the College Fee Information package which is located on the College website. The College Fee Information package for 2021 was emailed to families in November 2020.

Please ensure you quote your family account number, identified on the fee statement, and your surname as the reference when making any payments

The previous bank account (NAB) is no longer active. You may incur charges from your bank if you attempt to make payments to our old bank account.

Those with direct debit in place, set up via the College, do not need to take any action.

Mrs Felicity Melville

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Office Manager



Attendance - It is important to advise the College Office if your child will be absent from school, late to school or leaving early. Parents are able to add a Parent Notified Absence, with the following being options; All Day, Leaving Early, Arriving Late and Partial. The notification is then available for both teaching and office staff and will save parents time in particular when picking up to go to appointments.

Note: Students must still sign in/out at the office when arriving late or leaving early.

Mrs Gail Strahan

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Secondary Pastoral Care Coordinator



Last week I had the opportunity to take a small group of Year 10 students to the Resilience Across the Mitchell Shire (RAMS) program. The theme this time was Empathy and the morning session was presented by Dogs Connect. There has been much research done lately of how the interactions between dogs and their owners can translate into positive inter-personal relationships for people. The dogs, Sunny and Jack, were adorable and we learnt that even though they are usually calm and well-behaved there are instances when they react badly to a situation due to their autonomic nervous system (ANS). We then related this to times when we react inappropriately to a situation because we jump to conclusions or make judgements not based on fact but based on assumptions.

'Empathy' is a skill we can all learn so that we can understand a person's feelings, rather than reacting or judging someone. We don't have to understand everything they are going through but we can be present and let them know they are not alone. When we show empathy we 'walk with' the other person.



I was impressed by the way our students and those from other schools within the shire participated and responded to the day.

Yesterday the second Southern Ranges Round Robin was conducted. Our students participated in football, netball and badminton with mixed success. Congratulations to our Year 8 netball girls' team who won the grand final! Also congratulations to the Year 7 girls badminton team who were undefeated. Well done to all students for their fantastic participation in these events. Luckily the rain came just as we were finishing our activities.

Other activities that have been happening across the school include lunch time activities lead by staff and students. A big thank you to Year 10 students Mia and Kayla, who are giving up their Wednesday lunchtimes to coach a group of secondary girls in dance. We wait with excitement for their final production.

Please also remember that we offer after school tuition on Thursday after school for literacy and numeracy coaching. Staff are on hand to help students. These sessions are well attended and offer great support in a relaxed atmosphere.



Ms Angela Molinaro

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Primary Literacy Leader

A few weeks ago primary classrooms participated in National Simultaneous Storytime. Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around the country. This year's text was Give me some space! by Philip Bunting. The students really enjoyed the story and completing some space theme activities.



Mrs Kerrie Pearce

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Careers and Pathways

Year 10 Work Experience is just around the corner - 21-25 June 2021

During this term, I have been meeting with Year 10 students individually to discuss and plan how to secure a Work Experience placement. Some students now have a placement secured and others are well on their way to making contact with employers/businesses to request a placement and to get the relevant documents delivered and completed.

If your child still hasn't discussed Work Experience with you, now's a great time to bring it up and check to see if they require any extra support to find a suitable employer or with making contact etc. [Click here for more Work Experience information](#)

All documents are due ASAP, so please encourage your child if they are having difficulty making contact with an employer or securing a suitable workplace, to make a time to meet with me again either via Google Meet this week or at the latest face to face next week.

Bookings can be made via this link <https://careers.smseymour.catholic.edu.au/appointment-booking>

I'm always here to help in any way I can, so please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

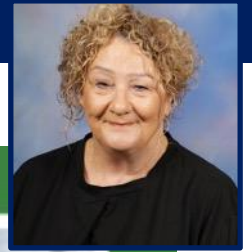


Mrs Tanya Oakley

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Sports Coordinator

Here is a collage from the various Cross Country events that have taken place this term.
Congratulations to all participants and Age Champions



Mrs Mary Tampion
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Autism

Autism is a condition that affects how a person thinks, feels, interacts with others, and experiences their environment. It is experienced lifelong - autism starts when a person is born and stays with them throughout their life. No two autistic people experience autism in exactly the same way. In fact, autism is described as a 'spectrum'.



<https://www.autismspectrum.org.au/about-autism/what-is-autism>

Autistic people can display a diverse range of characteristics in their strengths, social interactions, and interests, just like the diversity that is found in the whole of the human population. Thinking of the autism spectrum as being more like a constellation than a straight line helps us to understand the experience of people with autism.

While no two autistic people are the same, there are some great lessons to be learned about supporting autistic young people, from listening to the voices of autistic people themselves.

As parents we feel an overwhelming desire to know about our child's day, that comes from a great place – love and a desire to protect. Sometimes *all* children, but especially those with autism, might find our questions too much after a long day at school. Here are some insights from the **ICAN Network** website.

<https://icannetwork.online/>

(**ICAN Network** also has a Facebook page and is on Twitter if you'd like to have a look).

When my parents ask questions about something I really love -- rather than 'How was your day?' 'How was your exam?' 'Who did you eat lunch with today?' -- I am more likely to open up.

AUTISTIC INSIGHTS
FROM I CAN MENTORS & MENTEES



Give your child space to share their thoughts on their own terms. You will learn a lot this way. Promise not to overreact. Promise not to get offended. And then keep those promises.

AUTISTIC INSIGHTS
FROM I CAN MENTORS & MENTEES



One of the best ways to support your child's mental well being is to understand that they will most likely keep returning to their special interest area in their out of school time. Respect that.

AUTISTIC INSIGHTS
FROM I CAN MENTORS & MENTEES



I always needed reset time after school. My parents & family were very social and thought there was something wrong with me or I got into trouble for being rude. But I really just needed to be in a quiet place so the volume could be turned down in my brain.

AUTISTIC INSIGHTS
FROM I CAN MENTORS & MENTEES



Mrs Claire Kelly

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Counsellor's Corner

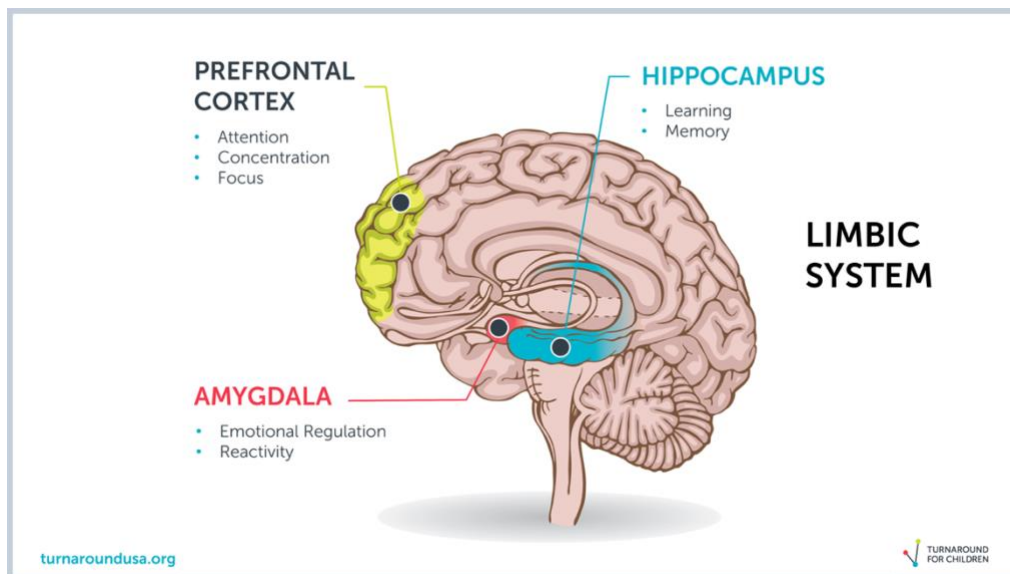


Executive function is a set of mental skills that include working memory, flexible thinking, and self-control. We use these skills every day to learn, work, and manage daily life. Trouble with executive function can make it hard to focus, follow directions, and handle emotions, among other things (Understood.org, n.d.).

Understood.org (n.d.) highlight three main areas of executive function. They are:

1. **Working memory**
2. **Cognitive memory (flexible thinking)**
3. **Inhibitory control (also including self-control)**

The set of skills that make up our three main areas of Executive Functioning continue to develop throughout a child's developmental phases (even up to their mid 20's) and is impacted by both biology and environment. The prefrontal cortex is the area of the brain which controls our Executive Functioning.



If you would like to learn more about supporting your child with Executive Functioning. Check out the below link:
<https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/child-learning-disabilities/executive-functioning-issues/executive-functioning-issues-strategies-you-can-try-at-home>

Mrs Melinda Nuttall

counsellor@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Defence School Mentor

The Puckapunyal & District Neighbourhood Centre (PDNC) The Puckapunyal & District Neighbourhood Centre is a safe, friendly and fun meeting place for the Pucka Community, offering a range of different activities and programs for different age groups. Open Monday – Friday on Labuan Street, Puckapunyal.

Website- www.puckacomunity.org.au

Email- Manager@puckacomunity.org.au

Facebook- www.facebook.com.au/thePDNC



Little Footsteps Occasional Care is for children aged 6 weeks -6 years and is open Monday to Friday 9:30am-2:30pm. For more information and bookings contact The Puckapunyal & District Neighbourhood Centre.

DCO Defence Family Helpline Support, local community information and advice is available for ADF families through the Defence Family Helpline. It operates 24-7 and is staffed by qualified human services professionals including social workers and psychologists. This is the best way to access DCO programs and services offered to help Defence families manage the military way of life. Phone-1800 624 608 or Email DefenceFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au

Mrs Emma Marrinan

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REMOTE LEARNING



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 2: 19/04 – 25/06

Term 3: 12/07 – 17/09

Term 4: 04/10 – 17/12

Term 2

Week 8	Fri 11 Jun	College Assembly 2:15pm in MPH
Week 9	Mon 14 Jun	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
	Tue 15-Fri 18	Year 10 Exam Week
Week 10	Mon 21-Fri 25	Year 10 Work Experience Week
	Fri Jun 25	Last Day Term 2

St Mary's College

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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