



# The Marian

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2021 College Theme

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



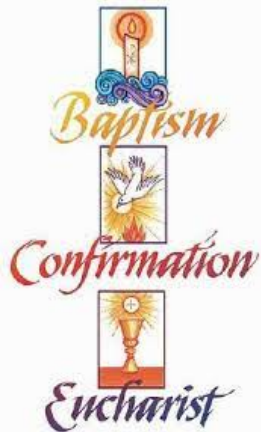
*St Mary's College Seymour is a Child Safe School. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.*

Newsletter No.15

Term 2

17 June 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,



## First Eucharist

Due to Covid restrictions the celebration of First Eucharist was received in smaller family gatherings over two weeks. During each Mass Father Ashkar spoke of the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism; Eucharist and Confirmation. At the Sacrament of Baptism, we gathered around the altar with Christ; at Eucharist we receive Christ and at the Sacrament of Confirmation candidates are blessed to not only receive the Gifts of the Spirit but to go out and show through their words and actions that they are participants in Christian values.

Thank you to Mrs Gough (Director of Faith & Mission), Mrs Evans (Parent Engagement Coordinator) and staff for the support and preparation of the students. Thank you to Fr Ashkar for his leadership and support of the candidates through his relaxed and gentle conversations. The students thoroughly enjoy Fr Ashkar's presence at St Mary's and he is very vocal in his belief that our students have the opportunity to receive a complete Catholic education.

[Fr Ashkar and the College welcome parent enquiries for the Sacrament of Baptism.](#)

## Master Plan

Rod Allan of ROAM Architects spoke at the College Advisory Board meeting this week to discuss the Master Plan. All Catholic Schools in the Melbourne Archdiocese are required to have a Master Plan to provide strategic direction for future development. The Master Plan process allows for:

- The College to listen to many voices, the students, the teachers and the community.
- A document which can inform the College and give it direction regarding development.
- Allows the College to imagine a vision for the future, identifying opportunities/projects and to prioritise those projects according to the needs of the College.
- An expression of the College's vision.
- An exploration in opportunities.

ROAM will visit the College next week to meet with student groups and some staff groups followed by further consultations in Term Three with the timeline to include:

- Review Existing Conditions Consultation - staff, teachers, community
- Masterplan Concepts
- Option Analysis
- Cost Plan A
- Masterplan Endorsement
- Issue Final Document

## F-12 Pathway Committee Update

Project Manager Tony O'Byrne has been gathering data on current and future demographic statistics. Early in Term Three there will be visits to other Catholic Country Colleges of similar size to St Mary's to discuss their journey in progressing to Year 11-12. ROAM Architects will meet with the committee to ensure the Master Plan is aligned with the Pathway committee's vision.

## Enrolment Interviews

Enrolments for 2022 are underway. Every child brings a different story. There is the first child beginning and at the other end the last child off to 'big school.' Foundation 2022 will graduate in 2034 and whilst the world will change as the years progress, the Mercy values at St Mary's will remain strong and constant.

*Hope looks for the good in people instead of harping on the worst.*

*Hope opens doors where despair closed them.*

*Hope discovers what can be done instead of grumbling about what cannot.*

*Hope draws power from a deep trust in God and the basic goodness of human nature.*

*Hope "lights a candle" instead of "cursing the darkness."*

*Hope regards problems, small or large as opportunities.*

*Hope cherishes no illusions, nor does it yield to cynicism.*

*Hope sets big goals and is not frustrated by repeated difficulties or setbacks.*

*Hope puts up with modest gains, realising that "the longest journey starts with one step."*

*Hope accepts misunderstandings as the price for serving the greater good of others.*

*Hope is a good loser because it has divine assurance of final victory.*

May 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)

## 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.

### Verification Reports

Last week we sent out correspondence in relation to Verification Reports. The Reports were sent home with students this week. It is important for the College to maintain correct information. If there is information to be updated, medical information and contact details can be updated via Operoo, All other details can be noted on the form and returned to the College with your child. If you don't have an Operoo account set up please contact the office for assistance.

### Contacting the Office

We will be trialling changes to our telephone menu to include the following selections; Absentees, Enrolments, Accounts, Primary and Secondary Pastoral Coordinators and the Deputy Principal Operations. Please continue to contact your classroom teacher in the first instance if you have any concerns regarding your child.

**Mrs Gail Strahan**

office@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

# Deputy Principal Operations



## Resilience

'Your lives are about to change forever' were the words spoken by my Mum to my husband Brett and I, when we revealed we were expecting a child. I couldn't fully appreciate or understand her comment until the day our children were born. The day our twins arrived I remember feeling completely overwhelmed by an instant sense of responsibility. In that moment, together with my husband, I was responsible for providing for, ensuring the safety of and protecting my children. What I have learnt in my years as a parent (nine years) and as an educator (15 years) is that our greatest responsibility lies in teaching and supporting children and young people to navigate the strains of daily life. We are doing children and young people a disservice if we simply act to eliminate problems for them. Teaching and promoting resilience is crucial.

Resilience is a child or young person's ability to cope with the ups and downs and bounce back from the challenges they encounter. No one is immune to challenges or hardships, therefore resilience is a necessity throughout life from childhood to adulthood.

Kids Helpline use the analogy of a plane to describe resilience.

"One way of explaining the concept of resilience is to imagine a plane encountering turbulence mid-flight. The turbulence, or poor weather, represents adversity. Different planes will respond to poor weather conditions in different ways, in the same way different children respond to the same adversity in different ways. The ability of the plane to get through the poor weather and reach its destination depends on:



- **the pilot** (the child)
- **the co-pilot** (the child's family, friends, teachers and health professionals)
- **the type of plane** (the child's individual characteristics such as age and temperament)
- **the equipment available** to the pilot, co-pilots and ground crew
- **the severity** and duration of the poor weather.

Paediatrician and human development expert Dr. Kenneth Ginsberg identified 7 integral and interrelated components that promote resilience:

**1. Competence** – is the ability to know how to handle stressful situations effectively. It requires having the skills to face challenges, and having had the opportunity to practice using these skills so that one feels *competent* in dealing with situations.

**2. Confidence** – is the belief in one's own abilities and is rooted in competence. Children gain confidence by being able to demonstrate their competence in real situations.

**3. Connection** – children with close ties to friends, family and community groups are likely to have a stronger sense of security and sense of belonging. These children are more likely to have strong values and are less likely to seek out alternative destructive behaviours.

**4. Character** – children with "character" enjoy a strong sense of self-worth and confidence. They are in touch with their values and are comfortable sticking to them. They can demonstrate a caring attitude towards others. They have a strong sense of right and wrong and are prepared to make wise choices and contribute to the world. Our groups aim to strengthen character through enhancing self-esteem with our strengths-based work, and by teaching skills of empathy and caring for others.

**5. Contribution** – if children can experience personally contributing to the world, they can learn the powerful lesson that the world is a better place because they are in it. Hearing the thank you's and appreciation when your child contributes, will increase their willingness to take actions and make choices that improve the world, thereby enhancing their own competence, character, and sense of connection.

**6. Coping** – children who have a wide repertoire of coping skills (social skills, stress reduction skills) are able to cope more effectively and are better prepared to overcome life's challenges.

**7. Control** – when children realise that they have control over their decisions and actions, they are more likely to know how to make choices in a way that they can bounce back from life's challenges.

## Uniform - Hair

Trends for hair come and go, according to the College Uniform Policy the following rules apply to *all* students.

- Hair is to be clean, tidy and tied back away from eyes, including long fringes for both girls and boys.
- Below the collar length hair must be tied back off the shoulders for both girls and boys.
- Hair attire (ribbons, scrunchies, headband) must be in St. Mary's College colours (blue/yellow).
- Extreme haircuts or styles are not permitted, this includes but is not limited to hair styles such as dreadlocks, mohawks, shaven heads, unnatural hair colours such as pinks purples, greens etc. Please note these are examples only and do not form an exhaustive list. No beads in hair.
- The College reserves the right to determine what is extreme hair fashion or an extreme hairstyle. For further guidance please speak with the Pastoral Leader/Director Wellbeing.
- **Number 2 haircut is the minimum. No shaved or pattern cuts.**
- Hair may be dyed in *one natural* hair shade. No coloured hair or highlights/tips permitted.

### Mrs Genevieve Gordon

genevieve.gordon@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

## Director of Learning and Teaching

A few more days left in this semester!

As we all view and anticipate the finish line, let's be mindful of keeping to our College expectations and Tag.

The entire community is waiting for a well-deserved holiday break, but there are a few things to finalise in this next week.

All teachers are busy finishing student reports. Secondary students are being given many opportunities to submit work and complete outstanding tasks. Year 10 students have completed their mid-year exams and we wish them well as they participate in work experience next week.

Let's rest a little before we embark on the adventures and investigations of Term 3.

Keep in mind Parent Teacher meetings to be held Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd July 3:30-6:30pm. More information and booking process next week.



### Ms Christine Buhler

christine.buhler@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

## Careers and Pathways

Year 10 Work Experience is next week - **21-25 June 2021**

Congratulations to all students who have used their initiative and worked hard to secure a Work Experience placement for next week.

The student's will be visited by me, their Mentor or their Home Group Mentor Teacher wherever possible. If a visit isn't possible a phone call will be made to the employer to ensure that the placement is running as expected and to check on the students' progress. Your persistence has paid off year 10. I wish you all a fantastic week, experiencing a taste of the world of work.

As always, I'm 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

tanya.oakley@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



# *Defence School Mentor*



## **Australian Military Wives Choir**

The choir welcomes women and girls who have a significant relationship with an Australian Defence Force member or foreign defence force member stationed in Australia. This includes partners, daughters, mothers and sisters. If you can't get to an in-person choir you can sing virtually with the AMWChoir online. Further information can be found <https://www.amwchoir.com/>

## **COVID-19**

With the global outbreak of COVID-19, many members of the Defence community are dealing with anxiety and uncertainty as well as significant changes in their day-to-day lives. Defence families affected by COVID-19 or struggling to cope can contact the all-hours. Defence Family Helpline on 1800 624 608 or see Coronavirus advice at <https://www.defence.gov.au/dco/coronavirus.asp>

## **Defence Community Organisation**

On July 1<sup>st</sup> Defence Community Organisation (DCO) will have a name change to Defence Member and Family Support (DMFS). The new name reflects their vision but there will be no changes to programs offered to ADF members and their families.

## **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](mailto:DefenceFamilyHelpline@defence.gov.au)

**Mrs Emma Marrinan**

[emma.marrinan@smseymour.catholic.edu.au](mailto:emma.marrinan@smseymour.catholic.edu.au)

# Director of Faith and Mission



**For us Catholics, the Eucharist belongs to us all. The sacrament is special.**

Receiving Holy Communion is an essential part of our Mass-going. When we gather together to celebrate the sacrament of the Eucharist in commemoration of the Last Supper, we are invited to partake of the body and blood of Christ. At this table the main ingredient is also love, the love of God for his people, which transforms the bread and wine through the mystery of transubstantiation.

At the table of the Lord, we are all equal. When we dine at Christ's table we become the invited guests, like the apostles, and what we receive is soul food—sacred nourishment for the journey of the week, sustaining and nurturing, for hungry people.

Part of the integrity of the Eucharist celebration comes from being a ritual that is practised and understood by the faithful all over the world. Then, sometimes special symbols and particular concerns of a group shape the liturgy in a meaningful way. While I'm old enough to remember kneeling at the altar rails and taking the Eucharist on the tongue, now we have the extra special opportunity to cradled the Lord in our hands, feeling even closer to His love.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have had four Eucharist celebrations. Even though it was disappointing we were not able to celebrate as a large group, the small intimate celebrations still felt extra special. As students received the Sacrament of the Eucharist over the past weeks, we continue to keep them and their families in our prayers.

## 4A

Heidi Banks  
Levi Brown  
Addison Stokes  
Amber Rix



## 4B

Reid Inness  
Lilly Fanning  
Finn Melville  
Wyatt Newsome  
Marion Sellars  
Anisa Smart  
Harvey Smith  
Amelia Henderson

## 5/6A

Piper Doyle  
Ava Jarvis  
Jed Puppa  
Kate Quillinan  
Jasper Radobuljac  
Jaydn Atherton.



## 5/6B

Benjamin Brown  
Olivia Hamilton  
Charli Egan  
Amelia Kovacic

## 5/6C

Matilda Barry  
Billy D'Orria  
Ella Jarvis  
Sienna Lynch  
Harrison Parker  
Mackenzie Pearce  
Chloe Thompson **8B**  
Coco Wessels **8C**  
Ella-Jade Hanson **7A**  
Ivan Kovacic **7C**



**Mrs Rochelle Gough**

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# Literacy

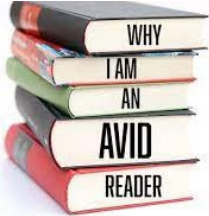


## Did you know that your school teachers and leaders are also strong readers?

Over the winter months we want to encourage you to snuggle down in a warm spot and read.



We have been snooping to get the best recommendations from the staff about their childhood favourites. These are also the stories that they read to their kids.

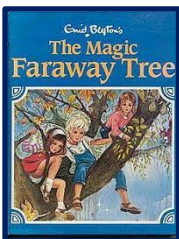


Every teacher at our school could tell you a story about a book that fired their imagination. Each one can remember a book that they went back to time and again. They can recall a series that they've shared and pushed on to others because the author was just so good. Over the next few months, we're going to feature the personal favourites of some of your teachers and College staff. We hope that you will discover a lifelong treasure in your reading over the June/July holidays.

This week's featured Readers are:

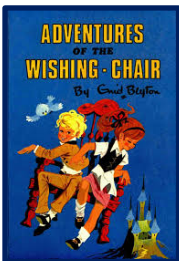
Mr Wayne Smith (Principal), Mrs Anne Spencer (Primary Pastoral Care Coordinator), Mrs Jennine Brock (Year 3 Teacher), Ms Andrea Williams (Secondary Science Teacher).

As kids, all of these teachers were massive Enid Blyton fans.



Mrs Spencer and Mrs Brock loved 'The Magic Faraway Tree' and Ms Williams added 'The Wishing Chair'.

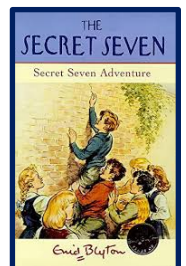
The Magic Faraway Tree is a children's novel by Enid Blyton, first published in 1943. The stories take place in an enchanted wood in which a gigantic magical tree grows – the eponymous 'Faraway Tree'. The tree is so tall that its topmost branches reach into the clouds and it is wide enough to contain small houses carved into its trunk. The wood and the tree are discovered by three children named Jo, Bessie and Fanny (later updated to Joe, Beth and Frannie), who move into a house nearby. They then go on adventures to the top of the tree.



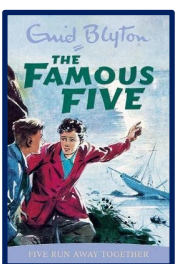
The *Adventures of the Wishing-Chair*, was Enid Blyton's first full-length novel and is set out as a series of short stories in Enid Blyton's Enchanted Lands.

Mr Smith followed - Enid Blyton's 'Secret Seven' series.

The Secret Seven or Secret Seven Society was a fictional group of child detectives created by Enid Blyton. The Secret Seven consists of Peter, Janet, Pam, Barbara, Jack, Colin and George.



As an adult, he now enjoys reading biographies and Australian literature by authors like David Malouf and Tim Winton.



Mrs Spencer also loved the adventurous, exciting and 'very English' adventures of the 'Famous Five.' series of children's adventure novels written by English author Enid Blyton. The first book, Five on a Treasure Island, was published in 1942. The novels feature the adventures of a group of young children – Julian, Dick, Anne and Georgina – and their dog Timmy.

Almost every teacher loved at least one story from Enid Blyton's world, whether it was Noddy and Big Ears or the boarding school world High Towers and the Sullivan Twins' school years at St Clair's.

Enid Blyton is an author from the 1945-1960s so some of her language can be a little old-fashioned. Her work as an author has been controversial but whatever your personal opinion of Enid Blyton, no one can deny the popularity of her stories. We all encourage you to try an Enid Blyton title from the College Library.

**Mrs Lorna Hooper**

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**Mrs Kerrie Pearce**

[kerrie.pearce@smseymour.catholic.edu.au](mailto:kerrie.pearce@smseymour.catholic.edu.au)

## Community Notices



Seymour Performers Workshop is excited to announce planning is underway for the 2021 production of ANNIE! The irrepressible comic strip heroine will take centre stage in Seymour this November in one of the world's best-loved musicals.

Auditions will be held on the 20th and 24th of June. We're looking for a large cast of performers of all ages

including girls ranging in ages 6 – 15 to play the orphans and, of course, the title role of Annie!

Our auditions will be conducted under COVID Safe conditions so it is very important people register their interest with us in advance.

Annie will be performed at the Seymour Community Arts Centre from the 13th – 21st of November.

For more information and to register your interest to audition please visit [www.spworkshop.org.au/annie](http://www.spworkshop.org.au/annie)

## Dates to Remember

<b>Bell Times 2021</b>	
<i>Supervision of students begins at 8:30am</i>	
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

<b>Term 2</b>		
Week 10	Mon 21-Fri 25	Year 10 Work Experience Week
	<b>Fri Jun 25</b>	<b>Last Day Term 2</b>
<b>Term 3</b>		
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>Mon Jul 12</b>	<b>First day Term 3 for Staff and students</b>
	Wed Jul 14	Year 3, 4 & Confirmation Candidates attending Parish Mass 9am
Week 2	Tue Jul 20	Parent Teacher Interviews 3:30-6:30pm
	Wed Jul 21	Parent Teacher Interviews 3:30-6:30pm
	Thu Jul 22	Year 9 Retreat - Courage To Care 8:45am-3pm
	Fri Jul 23	Whole College Assembly 2:15 in MPH

### 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