



The Marian

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<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.28

Term 4

14 October 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Some students felt they needed the weekend to collect their thoughts before returning onsite next week. Other students are very happy but generally it is noticeable that Covid-19 fatigue is very real for students, staff and parents.

We have all been through much since March 2021 and perhaps the final few months of this year will be the hardest climb of all as our minds and way of life undertake more readjustments with the layers of information and government changes.

St Mary's 2022 Planning in a Post COVID-19 World

2020 and 2021 have been disruptive years for home and family life, the workplace and in education. From the beginning of Term Three the College Executive has been working through how best to support students in 2022 considering the increase in enrolments, the stop and start issues required for remote learning/onsite supervision since March 2021 and long-term planning for the possibility of a return to Year 12. Whilst the support to be provided will be important, we must not discount the resilience of our students to move forward once life is back on course in a post Covid-19 world, a world that I have no doubt will regain its normality.

The following is an update of continued planning and staffing for 2022. Our primary focus and starting point for decision making has been – *what is best for the students.*

Primary Classes

In 2022 primary classes will be in their year level cohorts continuing to provide wellbeing and learning positives for students with greater connectivity to their year level peers.

FA	FB	1A	1B	2A	2B	3A	3B	4A	4B	5A	5B	6A	6B
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Post Covid-19 Literacy and Numeracy Support 2022

Reading skills are critical for lifelong learning. To be a competent reader opens the window to the mind and to many lifelong opportunities. Next year the College will incorporate the MiniLit (Year 1 & 2) and MacqLit (Year 3-10) programs both providing structured small group interventions for improving reading skills. Mrs Louise Reed will join our staff as the MultiLit teacher focusing on teaching both MiniLit and MacqLit. Both programs lead on from InitialLit.

Numeracy will be supported in 2022 with Mr Keating returning to teach extension Mathematics from Year 5 to Year 10. Mrs Jan Engel will continue with the GRIN program in secondary, supporting students with Mathematics intervention.

The Victorian State government funded *Tutor program* may continue in 2022. If so, the College will continue supporting students with literacy and numeracy support where it is best served.

Overall, the literacy and numeracy objective is to provide support for the common good of students across primary and secondary and to continue to improve learning outcomes.

College Library

Ms Christine Buhler will move to the role of College Teacher Librarian, a position Christine has previously held at St Mary's. Christine will be using a multi skilled approach for the library to be a centre of digital literacy, reading, information research and a study centre for students will continue to engage classroom learning with the library.

New Staff

As has been previously announced *Mrs Julia Wood* has been appointed the new 2022 College Director of Learning & Teaching. Julia is a highly regarded educator who is looking forward to returning to St Mary's as we seek to return to Year 12.

On behalf of the interview panel (Kelda Gilmore College Advisory Council Deputy Chair; Fr Eugene Ashkar Parish Priest; Genevieve Gordon Deputy Principal Operations and I) it is pleasing to provide families with some summary information of new staff joining our St Mary's College community in 2022 and we are excited for the passions, skills and new ideas they will bring when they join us as teachers and colleagues.

Mr Xavier Goring – English & Humanities

Xavier is an Australian Catholic University (Melbourne Campus) graduate having received the Dean's Commendation for the Faculty of Education & Arts. Xavier has been an external assessor for VCE Unit 2 & 1 Drama/Theatre Studies, a Senior Production Assistant at Forest College Burwood and completed practicums in secondary, specialising in 7-11 English, Drama and VCE Theatre Studies. Xavier has worked in different workplaces before undertaking his university studies and is excited to be joining St Mary's to begin his teaching vocation. Xavier's interests are theatre, travel, cooking, reading, the North Melbourne AFL club and golf. Xavier has extended family in Shepparton.

Mrs Amanda Hard - Technologies

Amanda is currently teaching at Yea High School. Amanda has a wide array of experiences in five previous schools including St Mary's from 2001-2012. Amanda is VCAL and VET accredited and is qualified to teach 7-12 Design Technologies and Arts Subjects. Amanda currently holds curriculum leadership positions, coordinates VCAL and is the Acting Careers Coordinator. Amanda has two children at St Mary's in Padua 2: Sam Yr 8 and Millicent Yr 9. Amanda has a passion for community involvement and improving student outcomes. Amanda supports the Yea AFL & Netball Club and Yea Water Tigers and is involved in the Yea Wetlands Committee of Management.

Mr Matthew Dudfield - Music

Matthew is currently a Music teacher at McAuley College, Bendigo since 2019 after moving from Tasmania. Previously Matthew taught primary school Music programs for 16 years in Tasmanian schools. Matthew has also taught music privately since 1998. Matthew has an excellent resume of musical talent: Various Bands & Orchestras – Youth; University; City & Australia. Matthew has performed music for approximately 72 Musicals and has been the Musical Director of 28. Matthew plays an array of instruments and has worked in a variety of schools and Colleges. Matthew is a very gifted musician and is looking forward to joining St Mary's to teach music and encourage more students to take up musical opportunities.

Miss Courtney Aldous – Mathematics/Science/PE

Courtney is a former St Mary's student and keen netballer playing and coaching at the Seymour AFL Netball Club. Courtney is a former Dux of Seymour College and was the highest achiever in Physics, Psychology and Physical Education. Courtney is an avid sportswoman and thrilled to begin her teaching career at St Mary's. Courtney is an excellent role model for all students particularly young women through her balanced approach to all that she does, particularly in her application to classroom teaching. This year Courtney has fulfilled the role as a tutor and is currently replacing Mr Martin Keating. Courtney is a graduate of Australia Catholic University (Melbourne Campus).

Mr Frank Rowland – Science/Mathematics

Frank is a mature age graduate, currently working as the STEM Laboratory Technician at St Columba's Catholic Girls College and a former Bio Chemist at The Alfred Hospital. He has for some years tutored Year 12 VCE Chemistry students. Frank is married with adult children, has a sister in Kilmore, nephew in Wandong and enjoys camping up on the Murray. He is involved in coaching Junior AFL and Cricket teams at the Pascoe Vale AFL and Netball Club.

Mrs Louise Reed - Primary

Louise is an experienced primary teacher across all year levels whose expertise is in literacy support implementing programs and staff development. Louise's passion is the Science of Reading particularly within the area of explicit instruction and phonics. Louise has worked in five primary schools with the past five years focusing on literacy and numeracy intervention. Louise is an avid Richmond AFL supporter.

Miss Jade Osborne – Primary

Jade is no stranger to St Mary's having previously completed a Swinburne University placement in Foundation and on staff as a tutor. Jade is a former Assumption College student and has a wide breadth of experience working with children including School Readiness Coordinator, Student Support Tutor and currently with the Mitchell Shire as an Administration Support Officer implementing various children's programs. Jade completed a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood & Primary Education) at Swinburne University of Technology. Jade represented Assumption College at World Youth Day at Rio in 2013 and is keen to nurture the love of the faith with her students. Jade is recently engaged, enjoys learning the guitar and is interested in robotics

Miss Aleisha Rogers - Primary

Aleisha is a graduate of Latrobe University (Bachelor of Early Childhood & Primary Education) and former Assumption College Kilmore student. Aleisha recently completed her final placement at Our Lady of the Way, Wallan. Since 2017 Aleisha has tutored primary aged children in mathematics and literacy. Aleisha's interests are dance, athletics, netball and the Collingwood AFL Club.

Mrs Elyse Charles - Primary

Elyse is currently teaching at Kelso State Primary School, Queensland having been a Teacher Aide from 2015 to 16 and has taught Foundation students from 2017 – 2020 and a 2/3 multi-age class from 2021 to the present time. Elyse has completed a Bachelor of Primary Education at Australian Catholic University (Brisbane); a Graduate Certificate in Middle School Mathematics and a Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training. Previous to teaching, Elyse was a Flight Attendant with QantasLink and a Trainer and Assessor for Qantas in Aviation Medicine and Security. Elyse and husband Darran are moving in the Defence Force to Puckapunyal and their two children William (11) and Abigail (9) will be enrolling at St Mary's. Elyse has developed a school kitchen garden, participated in the school P&C, been a Diocesan representative for Southern Cross College P&F and is the Vice President of the Townsville Gymnastics Association.

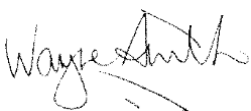
College Counsellor

Mel Nuttall the College Counsellor will conclude her employment at St Mary's at the conclusion of the College year due to a new Defence Force posting. As College Counsellor Mel has initiated the introduction of Wellbeing programs for primary and secondary students and is looking forward to returning home to the sunny north after two years of a COVID-19 Victoria. We wish Mel, Timothy and children Alice (5/6C); Marcus (4B) and Mia-Grace (10A) all the best in their final weeks in Victoria.

The positions of Gardens and Maintenance; Laboratory Technician; Defence School Mentor and College Psychologist or Counsellor are to be advertised.

A letter has been emailed home to all families today in reference to the staged return of year levels for Week 3 to clarify which year levels are on site next week.

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)

Director of Learning and Teaching

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parents, please have conversations with your child about their assessment tasks and teacher feedback. By having these conversations, you will be informed about how your child is working and progressing. You have access in PAM and your child has access in SIMON by getting together to have mini meetings at home, you will be prepared for the meeting with the teacher.

We are offering Google Meet Interviews in Week 3 on Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th October between 3.30pm and 6.00pm. Please take the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and participation in remote learning and to plan for this term. Let us work together to best support your child by having a conversation about what has worked well or what has been a challenge.

Bookings are open and can be made in PAM (Parent Assess Module).

For instructions, please click here [Booking and Accessing Parent Teacher Interviews via PAM](#)



Ms Christine Buhler

christine.buhler@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Director of Faith and Mission



By tradition, the Catholic Church dedicates each month of the year to certain devotions. The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. October includes the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). Here is a link that you might like to view to give you some understanding of this very special prayer ritual. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GDVIZO7cAtM>

As part of the Year 7 Faith Education classes, the students have been learning about the Catholic tradition of praying the Rosary. They have been learning about the 4 Mysteries and the decades of each. As part of remote learning, they also got creative to try and produce their own rosary beads out of items from home.



Mrs Rochelle Gough
rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Learning Diversity Leader



Positive Partnerships is running two **free interactive webinars** over the coming weeks that some families with children on the Autism spectrum may find useful. One is about assisting students to confidently return to onsite attendance (Primary and Secondary students) and the other will provide information about sensory processing.

Positive Partnerships

Working together with parents, carers and educators of school-aged children on the autism spectrum to provide current, relevant and evidence informed information through workshops and online resources.

<https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/workshops-online-learning/workshops>

The two flyers below include an overview of each webinar and details on how to register.

If none of the published dates work for your busy life, you will be able to find a recording of the webinars on the Positive Partnerships website at a later date.

**positive partnerships**
Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

FREE WEBINARS
SENSORY PROCESSING



Part 1 - Understanding sensory processing
Part 2 - Understanding sensory processing

We invite you to join us for a two-part interactive webinar series about sensory processing. The webinars will provide families and teachers with the opportunity to listen, share and learn with others who support individuals on the autism spectrum.

In part one of this two-part Understanding Sensory Processing webinar series, we will:

- explore sensory processing
- consider the differences diverse learners may experience with processing information from their senses
- identify how sensory processing differences may impact the daily lives of individuals and those around them.


In part two of this two-part Understanding Sensory Processing webinar series, we will:

- discuss the importance of understanding sensory processing differences
- review tools, strategies and resources that can assist individuals in meeting their sensory needs and engaging in their everyday activities.



PART 1 - UNDERSTANDING SENSORY PROCESSING
Thursday 4th November, 2021 - 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AEDT
Tuesday 9th November, 2021 - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM AEDT
PART 2 - UNDERSTANDING SENSORY PROCESSING
Monday 15th November, 2021 - 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AEDT
Wednesday 24 November, 2021 - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM AEDT
All of our webinars are free and participants that attend receive a certificate following the completion of the webinar.

These webinars are designed to complement one another and we encourage you to enrol in both Part 1 and Part 2. However, if you're unable to attend one of the sessions, the webinar recordings will also be shared on our website.

 To register for these webinars and find upcoming ones, visit [positivepartnerships.com.au](https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au)

**positive partnerships**
Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

FREE WEBINARS
RETURNING TO SCHOOL
ACT, NSW & VIC REGIONS



Returning to School - Secondary School Focus
Returning to School - Primary School Focus

Be part of an interactive hour where you will have the opportunity to listen, share and learn with families and school staff living and working in the ACT, NSW and VIC who support autistic students.

As COVID-19 restrictions begin to ease, schools across ACT, NSW, and Victoria are again preparing for students to return. For students on the autism spectrum, returning to school again may present challenges and opportunities.

We invite you to join us as we:


- explore why students on the spectrum may need additional support
- share strategies to support students on the spectrum who have returned or are returning to school
- plan for home/school communication and collaboration during the transition back to school and beyond
- identify ways to support the mental health and wellbeing of students on the spectrum.

There will be separate sessions offered with a primary and secondary school focus.

PRIMARY SCHOOL FOCUS
Monday 11th October, 2021 - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (AEDT)
Thursday 14th October, 2021 - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (AEDT)

SECONDARY SCHOOL FOCUS
Monday 25th October, 2021 - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (AEDT)
Thursday 28th October, 2021 - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (AEDT)

All of our webinars are free and participants that attend receive a certificate following the completion of the webinar.

 To register for this webinar please click on your preferred date above or visit [positivepartnerships.com.au](https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au)

Mrs Claire Kelly
claire.kelly@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Business Manager



Fee Statements have now been sent to all families. We apologise for the delay in getting these sent out. There has been a significant amount of work required to process the COVID-19 2021 rebates against each student and to reapply the CSEF balances (where applicable).

The COVID-19 2021 rebates for excursions, incursions and camps were inputted over the weekend and the CSEF balances were reapplied to accounts over the course of Monday and Tuesday, with them being balanced and finalised on Wednesday.

Any remaining CSEF balances will be carried over to 2022 camp/excursion fees. If a student is leaving at the end of the year and they have a CSEF balance remaining this balance will be transferred to the new school.

The fee statements also include any payment receipts from the St Mary's bank account up to and including 13 October 2021.

Please be reminded that the **due date for the final payment of all fees and levies is 31 October 2021**. Once again, thank you to all those families who have been making regular payments throughout the year or have already paid their fees in full.

The College bank account details are:

Account name: S Mary's College General Account
BSB: 083 347
Account No. 839 989 790

Please remember to use your statement account number and surname as the payment reference when paying via EFT.

As previously advised, it is a good time for those families who have direct debit or direct deposit arrangements in place to review their payment instalment amounts in order to meet their commitment in 2021 and into 2022.

If you need to discuss alternative payment arrangements please contact me at the College by Thursday, 28 October 2021.

Mrs Felicity Melville

felicity.melville@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. Make sure to check out the Facebook page for information on the many Halloween activities happening this month.

Website- www.puckacomunity.org.au

Email- Manager@puckacomunity.org.au

Facebook- www.facebook.com.au/thePDNC



PMA Christmas Party

The PMA Christmas Party will be held on Saturday the 27th of November at the AAFCANS OVAL No 7 from 6:30pm. Come along and bring some loose change for lots of Covid-safe fun for all the family, including Entice Band, monster jumping castles, circus performers, face painting, food and drinks stalls and more. QR registration, a mask and an issued ticket are essential for entry. Tickets can be purchased (for free) by contacting the PDNC on 0437682534.

DMFS Member and Family Helpline

Support, local community information and advice is available for ADF families through the Member and 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 DMFS programs and services offered to help Defence families manage the military way of life. Phone-1800 624 608 or Email memberandfamilyhelpline@defence.gov.au

Mrs Emma Marrinan

emma.marrinan@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Get a COVID-19 vaccination at Seymour College

**By getting vaccinated you are helping to keep yourself,
your family and your community safe.**

Anyone aged 12 and over can get vaccinated at:

Seymour College

29-47 Stewart Street, Seymour

Saturday, 16 October (11am - 7pm)

How to get a COVID-19 vaccine at this venue

Bookings are preferred, walk-ins are available. To book, call the Coronavirus Hotline on: 1800 675 398 (tell the operator you want to book this clinic) or visit: portal.cvms.vic.gov.au.

This clinic is accessible for people of all abilities, including people with disabilities. For more information, visit:

coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-people-disability.

The clinic provides first and second dose Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccinations.



For more information

Scan the QR code to view a webinar
about COVID-19 vaccination.

coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine
1800 675 398 - 7 days 8am - 8pm



Department
of Health

Mrs Brooke Wessels

brooke.wessels@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



National Mental Health Month

National Mental Health Month is an initiative of the Mental Health Foundation Australia (MHFA) to advocate for and raise awareness of Australian mental health. It is an important time where the Australian community comes together to raise awareness and promote better mental health for all. Throughout this month, many events have been organised in each state of Australia aiming to attract and unite Australians of all ages and backgrounds to raise awareness and promote better mental health for all.

The National Mental Health Month 2021 Awareness Campaign theme is:

'Mental Health: Post Pandemic Recovery Challenges and Resilience'

This year's theme will focus on raising awareness about mental health in various industries. Every industry has faced and many are still facing, unprecedented challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With this theme in mind, we aim to extend our campaign even wider than previous years, with events planned to embrace many different community groups and people of all ages walking on the road to recovery and fostering resilience **#ResilienceAndRecovery**. (MHFA, 2021)

Ways you can help support your child

- * Listen and validate how your child is feeling
- * Reduce exposure to News updates on the pandemic and offer age-appropriate information
- * Connect as a family (i.e., go for a bike ride together, play a board game)
- * Routines help children and adolescents create a sense of safety. This is also supportive as your child/teen transitions back to onsite learning, post lockdown restrictions.
- * Be patient. Remember that children/teens often display their emotions through behaviour. It is our job as parents to bring peace to their storm!



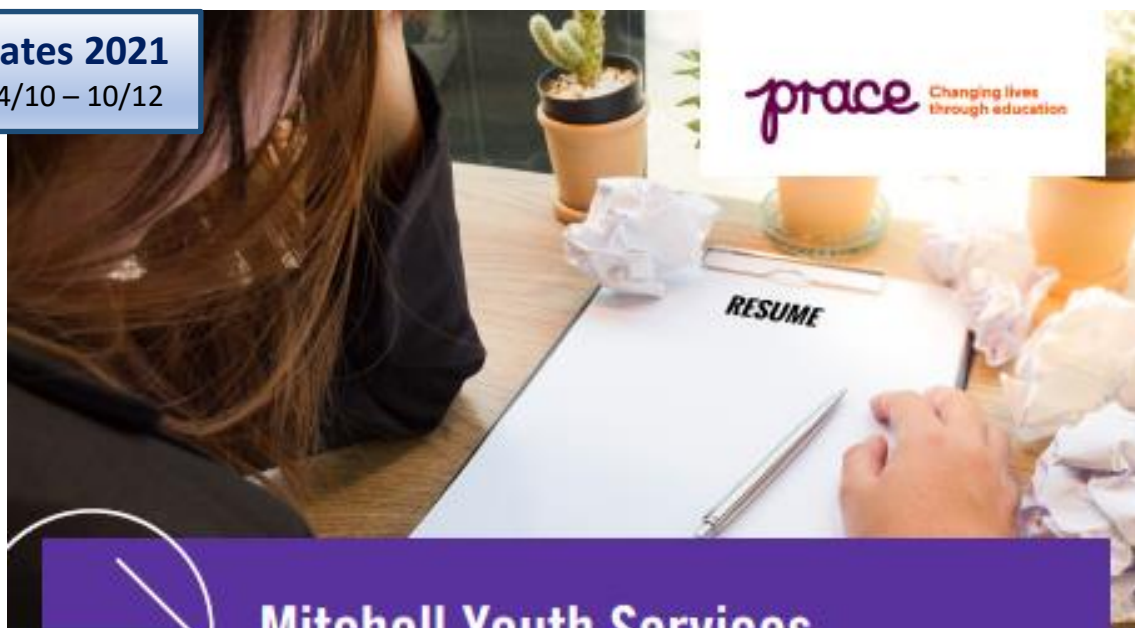
Mrs Melinda Nuttall

counsellor@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Notices

Term Dates 2021

Term 4: 04/10 – 10/12



Mitchell Youth Services. *1:1 Resume Writing Service*

*Are you a young person aged 15-24 looking to gain employment but aren't sure how to write a resume?
Then this workshop is for you!*

Prace are offering 1:1 supported sessions to support you in creating and polishing your resume, helping you to begin or continue your employment journey. You will leave the session with a professional, up to date and complete resume.

Who: Young people 15-24 with a connection to Mitchell Shire

Where: Wallan Youth Rooms- 42 Bentinck Street, Wallan or online

When: Every Thursday in November

Timeslots: 3.30-4.30pm or 4.30-5.30pm

Spots are limited. Book your spot now, to avoid missing out! To book contact Adriana Pugliese on 0457 892 893 or via email apugliese@prace.vic.edu.au.

Contact us:

t: (03) 5734 6200

e: youth@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

w: www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au



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