



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.31

Term 4

11 November

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Children and the Media

A young student told me recently, "Mr Smith, I like Squid Games." I do not watch Squid Games but thought I'd ask my Year 10 Faith Ed class what they thought about a younger peer watching the Netflix show. Year 10 collectively said that younger student is out of their depth and offered the following advice on younger students watching programs such as Squid Games or playing online games that are not age appropriate. Year 10 commented that watching age-inappropriate media in their view will lead to:

"not knowing the difference between what is real and what is fiction."

"affecting their judgement."

"developing anger issues and they will increase."

"developing bad manners and bad habits."

"losing perspective of what is wrong and what is right."

"hard to set boundaries and not a good idea for children to watch a show like that".

I reminded Year 10 that this same advice may hold them in good stead if they ever become parents. Certainly, food for thought from our senior students.



Volumes of research inform us that children who watch inappropriate media can develop issues that have adverse effects on their behaviour and relationships. The Australian Council of Children and the Media (ACCM) is Australia's peak body representing children's interests as digital and screen media users. ACCM provide information, tools and resources to empower families to nurture their children in a safe and stimulating environment, while being a voice for evidence-based policy and practice at the societal level. ACCM states that, "Violence in the

media is all pervasive, and difficult to avoid. Frequently the violence is glamorised, and violent solutions offer the way to be powerful." The Australian Psychological Society states that, "For at least 20 years there has been a consensus amongst most of the psychological research community that violence on television contributes to aggressive behaviour, to anxiety about becoming a victim and to callousness with respect to the impact of violence on others."

Evidence of violence affecting behaviour is not new. The American Academy of Paediatrics, American Psychological Association and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry stated back in 2000 that:

- Children who see or are exposed to regular violence are more likely to view violence as an effective way of settling conflicts and will assume violent behaviour as acceptable.
- Viewing violence can lead to emotional desensitisation towards violence in real life.
- Entertainment violence feeds a perception that the world is a violent and mean place. Viewing violence increases fear of becoming a victim of violence, with a resultant increase in self-protective behaviours and a mistrust of others.
- Viewing violence may lead to real life violence. Children exposed to violent programming at a young age have a higher tendency for violent and aggressive behaviour later in life than children who are not so exposed.

There is more than 50 years of solid evidence-based research informing society that media violence can impact the young, particularly at the 7 to 8-year age level.

ACCM advise parents to:

1. Minimise exposure to programs and products which feature glamorise violence.
2. Use the classification system to avoid programs/products classified M or MA15+, AV or R. These are all only recommended for persons over the age of 15 years.

3. Minimise exposure to news programs for children under 11 or 12. These children are unlikely to understand that “it isn’t likely to happen to you” as they don’t understand probability.
4. Look at for program classifications – be guided by the classification. Sample the many nonviolent programs on the ABC.
5. Be a media educator: express your views, and discuss program content, eg talk to children about what would happen if they did those violent things at home.

One does not need to lengthy research to know that children who consistently watch violence on TV will copy cap that behaviour on the playground. The best advice I received as a parent was that there is a program rating for a reason. Younger student minds can be easily influenced by what they watch or the online games they play.

COVID-19 Restrictions

In consideration of the latest CECV COVID-19 Operational Guidelines update along with consultation with our College Nurse (Nurse Brooke), College Executive, College Wellbeing Team and the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS), St Mary’s will continue to prioritise Essential visits on site. The Flying into Foundation and Year 7 Information Evenings, which were to be held on Tuesday 16th November as on-site events will now be a pre-recorded video emailed to all families and not an attended in person event.

Maintaining a minimal approach to visitors on site will minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission and to ensure the safety of all and lessen the risk of a possible College closure and or adults requiring self-isolation. If staff were required to isolate it could lead to College shutdown due to lack of staffing levels. For two years we have all navigated a Covid world and we can look forward to 2022 being the year of renewal.



St Mary’s College Wall of Fame

A Wall of Fame committee has been formed by staff. The committee intends to seek nominations each year to highlight current and former students who have achieved at a very high level. A wall will be dedicated to the framed recognition with a brief description of the achievement. The committee will meet again in Term 1 2022 to finalise the Wall of Fame Nomination Criteria and release information to the College community.



Parish Car Park is Open

The Parish Car Park is now open. Parents can use the car park during College hours. Please be aware that the car park will be closed for parish events. Please follow the signage and be mindful to accompany younger children to and from a vehicle.

Congratulations Charlotte!

Charlotte Lynch from 3B has written her first book. I was privileged to read Charlotte’s story:

Why I Love School

I love school because:

You can hang out with your friends.

We have a wonderful School nurse.

We have wonderful teachers.

Of my favourite subjects: Religion, Art, Music, Inquiry, Maths, English and Indonesian.

We have wonderful areas like Area A B C D E.

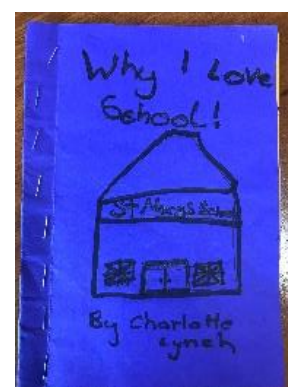
We have amazing equipment.

We have a beautiful uniform.

You can learn new things.

You can eat fruit snacks whenever.

And St Mary’s loves having you, Charlotte. Well done on your first of many books!



Best wishes to the Year 9 students who have put their names forward for a 2022 Student Leadership position. Speeches will be recorded this year with Year 3-9 voting online. It takes courage to stand for a leadership position and we have a wonderful group of nominees.

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)
MTheoStudies (BBITAITE)

Director of Learning and Teaching



Year 9/10 Handbook for 2022

All students currently in years 8 and 9 met with Mrs Gordon and myself yesterday to be presented with their Handbook for next year. They are asked to bring it home and discuss their subject selections with their parents and to ask you to sign the return form. They were also asked to keep the handbook in a safe place for you all to refer to often as it has useful information and guidelines for Curriculum and assessment procedures. If you have any questions, please contact us.

Preparation for Semester 2 Reporting - Progression of Learning

All teachers in all subject areas are in the process of moderation and assessment. This is where we look at what the school has done, the work that has been presented to students during this difficult semester. We look at the student work to look for evidence of the student's ability to demonstrate their learning against the curriculum standards for the year of schooling.

In some cases - we will not have covered enough curriculum for the student to have made progression so the point will remain unchanged.

In some cases - the student has not completed enough work to show learning so again the point will remain unchanged.

Semester Reports will be available from December 1st.

Ms Christine Buhler

christine.buhler@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Director of Faith and Mission



A time to be grateful

When all the students returned a couple of weeks ago, we held a College prayer, where students thought about what they were thankful for. They brought their written ideas out to a central prayer space and added them to the prayer cross.

Here are some of things the students, the students wrote:

- We are thankful to be alive
- Thankful to be alive
- Thankful to be back playing with friends
- I am thankful for music
- I am grateful for the support from families, friends and teachers
- Thankful for human connection
- We are thankful for our food
- I am grateful for our lives and everything God gave us
- Thankful for returning on site
- Thankful for homes
- Thankful for teachers I am thankful for money
- Thankful for Dan Andrews
- Thankful for the availability of masks and sanitiser
- I am thankful for footy, pets and nature
- Family, friends, music, food, school and online shopping!
- Grateful for each other
- Bikes and camping

Thanksgiving has always been central to Catholic faith. We have many opportunities and celebrations in our life and faith to say thank you. Where communities are strong and happy, lively celebrations will follow. This is true of families who always find ways of marking birthdays, excursions and big feasts with celebration. It is also true of parishes and schools, where people enjoy being together, whether it is gathering after Mass

for a cuppa, working bees on the church and the school, gathering with the rest of the town community to cook, organise, and enjoy one another's company at football matches, or cooking sausages together at Bunnings or helping out at the Mother's Day stall. Thankfulness is often built into the messy ways in which people come together as community and as church.

For Christians our joy and gratitude flow from gratitude to God for the deeply felt gift of life and of the world into which he has invited us, and for the extraordinary gift of joining and giving life to us through Jesus. The focal point for being grateful and being drawn into joy is Sunday Mass. As a community we remember and are joined to Christ as he gives himself to us in sharing the Eucharist. As the Sunday eucharist becomes part of our lives, it can sustain us in the hard times where life is tragic and seems thankless. We are drawn to gratitude and joy in our living, which in turn prepare us to celebrate the death of people whom we love and to reckon with our own mortality.

Noticing our blessings helps us to live fully and to appreciate the gift of being invited into such a beautiful world.



Confirmation

Friday 19th November, 2021

6pm - Year 6

7pm - Year 7, 8

COVID restrictions will apply. (QR Code and double vaccination certificate)

Mrs Rochelle Gough

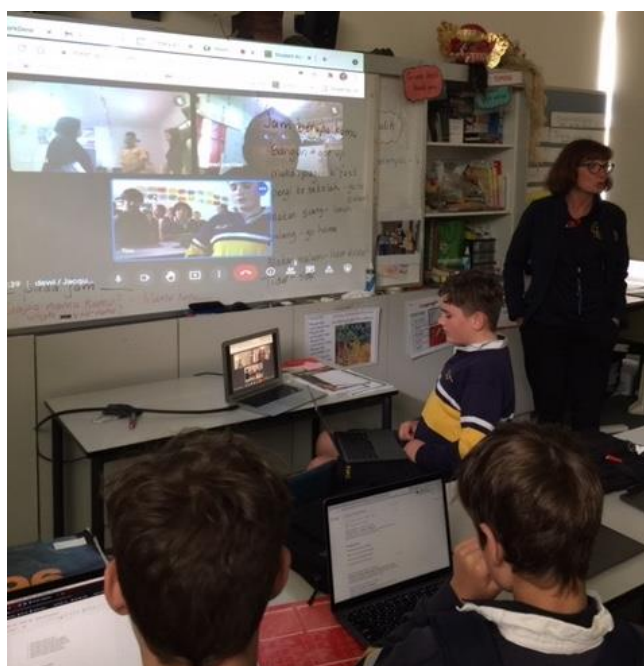
rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Indonesian

Hai Semua,

This Term Year 7 have been learning about Time and Daily Routines. Today in 7A were lucky enough to have the opportunity to have a Google meet with our partner school SMPN20 in Singkawang. They introduced themselves and spoke about their daily routine in Indonesian while our partner school's English class replied in English. It was a great experience for them which everyone enjoyed.

Bu Cullum



Mrs Jacqueline Cullum

jacqueline.cullum@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Business Manager



New College Administration System

The College is in the process of transitioning the current College administration system to a centralised and consolidated system called ICON, which encompasses student/enrolment data, finance and HR. This change will see some of the College's current administrative processes move to a shared services arrangement. The implementation of ICON is in accordance with MACS requirements and strategic direction.

The transition is well underway with a lot of work being undertaken during the pre-preparation and migration phases. The project is currently in the "black out" period. The "black out" period means administration staff do not have access to an operational system, as data up to 21 October 2021 is being prepared and reviewed by MACS staff for transfer to the new system. As a result, staff are using a manual system and recording details in spreadsheets, i.e. fee payments, enrolments, student detail changes etc.

If there are any ICON process changes which may impact parents/guardians, you will be informed once information is provided to the College.

Fee Statement availability during the transition between systems

Fee statements would normally be sent to families following the end of each calendar month. This will not be able to occur until after the system goes live and the manual data is inputted into the new system during live training. For fees, this will be after 24 November 2021. If you require confirmation of your fee account balance during this period, please contact Stacia Read at the College on 5792 2611 or via accounts@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Please be reminded that the **due date for the final payment of all fees and levies was 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:	St Mary's College General Account
BSB:	083 347
Account No.	839 989 790

For current payments, please remember to use your statement account number and surname as the payment reference when paying via EFT.

Contact will soon be made with those families who have an outstanding account balance to discuss payment plan options. If you need to discuss alternative payment arrangements, please make contact with myself or Stacia at the College office as soon as possible.

Mrs Felicity Melville

felicity.melville@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Parent Engagement



Due to the popular response to the *Krispy Kreme* fundraiser last year the St Mary's College Parents and Friends Association has managed to secure another offering for our families and friends.

Please find a *Krispy Kreme* order form attached to this newsletter.

Please ensure that all *Krispy Kreme* orders and payments are returned to the College Office on or before 15 November 2021. The College now has the option of EFTPOS facilities for P&F payments. **DO NOT use the College's general fee account when making P&F fundraising payments.**

Collection will occur on Saturday, 4 December 2021 at a time and venue yet to be determined. We will keep you updated as restrictions ease and options become available. If you are unable to collect on this date, please contact Regina Schaefer on 0420 415 368 to make alternative arrangements.

Funds raised by the Parents and Friends Association will contribute to the regeneration of the College Oval - *Bring Mercy Back*.

Thank you for your continued support.

St Mary's College Parents and Friends Association



Defence School Mentor

Remembrance Day

What a beautiful day we had to commemorate Remembrance Day at St Mary's. As a whole college we paused to remember the bravery and sacrifice of the men and women who lost their lives while serving Australia and its allies in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. Students participated in a prayer service in classrooms over the loudspeaker, led by our College leaders who did a wonderful job. Defence students attended the Seymour RSL service and laid a wreath on behalf of the school. We also created a display including our decorated High Street fence, a poppy garden which was made up of 240 knitted poppies and 25 wooden class poppies, one for each class/house mentor group. I hope our classes and school community got a chance to visit and enjoy the display. Lastly, the RSL Poppy Appeal stall was very successful, funds raised for the RSL will support veterans and their families in times of need. Thanks to all staff and students involved. **St Mary's Remembers!!!**



Mrs Emma Marrinan

emma.marrinan@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Teddy Bear Sleepover

Foundation Teddy Bear Sleepover

This week in Foundation the children brought along a special toy which slept at school on Tuesday night. The children made their toy a bed and enjoyed learning with their friend. During the night, when the boys and girls were at home asleep, their toys got up to mischief around the school. On Wednesday the children enjoyed a special teddy bear's picnic with their Year 10 buddies.



Foundation TAG Awards



College Nurse

Vaccination requirements for parents and carers attending schools

As per our latest Operational Guidelines 09/11/2021.

All visitors attending schools, including for drop off and pick up must adhere to physical distancing, density limits, face mask requirements and practise respiratory etiquette and good hand hygiene. All visitors are required to check in using the Victorian Government QR Code Service.



In addition, all visitors who enter school buildings must also have had at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by 29 November 2021 or have a valid medical exception with the following limited exceptions:

- when attending to administer medical treatment to their own child when the treatment cannot be administered by the school
- when attending to collect their child who is unwell and cannot leave the school building unaccompanied by their parent/carer.
- when attending for a momentary period that does not involve any sustained contact with staff or students, for example, to collect a completed art project or similar.

All visitors attending any event or activity inside a school building including, but not limited to tours, graduations, kindergarten transition, whole of school events are required to show evidence of vaccination.

Meetings and other discussions (such as Student Support Group meetings) with visitors who do not meet vaccination requirements should be held virtually.

Mrs Brooke Wessels

brooke.wessels@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Notices

Term 3

Week 7	Mon 15 - Fri 19 Nov	Year 10 Exam Week
	Fri 19 Nov	Confirmation -Year 6 – 6:00pm -Year 7&8 7:00pm

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 3: 12/07 – 17/09

Term 4: 04/10 – 10/12



MYS SUMMER SHOWBAGS

MYS has teamed up with local businesses to bring you our Summer Showbags, filled to the brim with exciting things to do in Mitchell Shire this summer, 2021.

CONTENTS INCLUDE:

- Vouchers and discounts for local businesses
- Mitchell Youth Services merchandise
- Art activities
- Games to play at home or with friends
- Fun things to do in Mitchell Shire
- Info on services available for you and so much more

WHO: People aged 12-24 who attend school/education or live in Mitchell Shire

COST: FREE





MYS SUMMER SHOWBAGS

WHEN AND WHERE:
Meet us at one of the below locations to snag your free showbag, don't forget, first in best dressed.

Broadford Youth Room - 152 High Street	Monday 22 November	3.30-6pm
Greater Beveridge Community Centre - Cnr Lithgow Street and Mandalay Circuit	Wednesday 24 November	3.30-6pm
Wallan Youth Room - 42 Bentinck Street	Thursday 25 November	3.30-6pm
Seymour Customer and Library Service Centre - 125 Anzac Avenue	Thursday 2 December	3.30-5pm
Kilmore Library and Customer Service Centre - 12 Sydney Street	Thursday 9 December	3.30-6pm

ELIGIBILITY:

- Young people aged 12 – 24 who live or go to school in Mitchell Shire (this includes young people who attend higher education within the shire)
- You will need to show proof that you attend school or live in Mitchell Shire to qualify for a showbag this can be done in the form of the following:
 - > Student ID Card
 - > Proof of residency such as driver's licence, bill or rates notice
- If you are a parent or guardian picking up a showbag on behalf of your child then you will need to show a student ID card or birth certificate as proof of your child's age.



For more information and a full list of terms and conditions please scan here or visit our website www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/youth-services

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