



The Marian

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2022 College Theme

'Act with Courage, be strong in your faith'

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

Newsletter No. 17

Term 4

4 November 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Year 9 had a wonderful time down in Tasmania for the inaugural Year 9 Camp. These students have seen little in the way of excursion opportunities since the start of Covid-19 in 2020 and welcomed the opportunity to visit the historical and unique places of the South Island. Year 9 were impressive ambassadors for the College and the respect they showed at Port Arthur's Memorial Garden was a statement of their developing maturity and leadership potential.

P&F Association

Congratulations to the P&F Association for providing some light relief in holding the 'Bogan Bingo' Night. There were visitors both local and from interstate who attended the evening, all were impressed with the St Mary's community's spirit. The event raised around \$20 000. Fr Eugene and staff members were well dressed for the spirit of the occasion. A night with a lot of laughter and it was very much appreciated to take minds away from the flood devastation.

Teaching

All Australian States are in the midst of a teacher shortage. Why? Some of the reasons: younger generations not choosing the career pathway, lifestyle, paperwork, and government compliance taking away from the core passion of teaching, government and societies expecting schools to 'fix' all matter of social issues, lack of support from home and media negativity. Covid-19 has also played its part. Federal Education Minister Jason Clare yesterday stated, "there is a shortage of teachers right across the country. Federal education department research shows there will be a high school teacher shortfall of about 4,000 by 2025." Teaching is a humble and vitally important profession. A society that does not value teachers and education at large, does so at its own peril. To be with my colleagues at the Information Evenings last night and observe and listen to their passion and wisdom made me feel proud of who I work alongside.

Vale Sr Mary

Sr Mary Dennett rsm a former Sacred Heart College Principal has passed away. Listening to Mrs Spencer talk about her teaching mentor the more I came to realise this woman of Catherine McAuley and a former College Principal was an exceptional person.

My last conversation with Sr Mary was to inform her about Year 11 and 12 returning, "Wayne, I cannot talk for long. I guess you know by now I am dying so it is important I get plenty of rest. I am so pleased for Seymour that Year 12 is returning. They did the wrong by Seymour to close that part of the College and it is the right thing to bring it back. God Bless."

Sr Mary Dennett showed grace, humility, and passion in educating young people, particularly young women. It was Sr Mary Wickham rsm, who wrote, '[there will always be voices in this place](#)'. The voice of Sr Mary and the nuns who graced the walkways and classrooms of St Mary's and Sacred Heart College will always be a presence at St Mary's. St. Mary's will be represented at Sr Mary's funeral on Tuesday 8th November.

*Eternal rest grant unto Sr Mary, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon her.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen*

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



Year 10 Exams

Year 10 exams for core subjects will take place from Friday 17th - Wednesday 23rd November. All year 10 students have been provided with a revision booklet that provides information about the topics that will be covered by each specific subject. The students have also been given revision planning resources and mind maps to help them organise their time.

Exams provide our students with the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the content that they have covered over Semester Two, but they can also be a point of stress. Taking an exam is a skill, and as our year 10's move into their senior education pathways, it is vital that they have as much opportunity to practise exam technique as possible. Our Year 10 students have had the opportunity to take part in study skills and time management sessions, which were run by Elevate Education earlier in the school year. These provided a wealth of resources, tips and hints as to how to approach this time of the year.

In order to help at home some of the following tips and advice can be valuable:

- Put the exam timetable in a central place - this helps to be organised for the day.
- Provide a quiet place for study if possible.
- Discuss work hours with your child and their employer - often shifts can be managed cooperatively at this time of year.
- Make sure rest and recovery time is built into the revision schedule.
- Manage time on devices.
- Encourage your child to get as much sleep as possible.
- Encourage a good breakfast the morning of the exam.
- Be prepared with the correct stationery and resources for the exam.

Moving towards the end of the year

We are rapidly approaching the end of the academic year and our students' thoughts are already moving to 2023. The end of the academic year provides our students with the opportunity to consolidate the learning that has been taking place throughout this year. The PAM portal and subject teachers for our secondary students, and your child's class teacher in primary are key in discussion for the learning which is taking place and for keeping updated with any assessments that are due.

VCE and VCE/VM 2024 Update

Our 2024 subject offering is finalised and Ms McLaughlin is leading the VCE and VCE/VM team in completing the necessary compliance and paperwork with the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority and the Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools. We are excited about the range of different subjects that will be offered to our students in 2024 and look forward to sharing this at the start of 2023.

Mrs Julia Wood

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End of Year Dates

Secondary End of Year – Friday 9th December

Primary End of Year – Friday 16th December

3-6 Coordinator



TAG award winners this week:

5/6: Thom, Grace, Jack, Mason, Laura

3/4: Hudson, Jasper, Amelia, Livani, Issabella, Summer, Billie

Students from 3-6 attended the 'Train Like a Vixen' program last Wednesday. It was a fantastic day with St Mary's students enjoying the fantastic facilities. We spent the day being led through training drills by members of the Vixens team. We finished the day off with a game of Netball where the students could show off the skills they have learned. It was a great day with much fun had by staff and students.

The 3-4 students continue to participate in their swimming program. It is fantastic to see all students getting in and giving it a go. We all know what an important life skill swimming is. Thank you to all parents for getting students ready and prepared for their swimming lessons.

Students have been wearing their hats astutely in 3-6. With the cold weather it can be easy to forget, with the weather warming up over the coming weeks it is vital we have our safety devices on!



Mr Ed Harding

edward.harding@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Indonesian



Berita dari Indonesia - News from Indonesia

We are very proud that our work with our Bridge Partner School, SMPN20 Sinkawang, has been acknowledged in this month's Asia Education Foundation Newsletter. The story highlights their school garden which is one of the projects that our partner school has funded using the money awarded in the Lighthouse Partnership Program grant. Our partner teachers were impressed with our school garden when they visited in May and we have shared information about growing and preparing food.



BRIDGE Program Australia-Indonesia

It takes a village to educate a child
In Singkawang, West Kalimantan, Indonesia, education transcends across countries and communities. BRIDGE school, SMPN 20 Singkawang and their partner school, St. Mary's College, Australia, have been collaborating on agrotourism. Projects were initially funded by the BRIDGE program and have been sustained by the two schools with support from the district government and National Education Office. BRIDGE schools, SMPN 16 and 17 and 20 of their students received scholarships from the local district and the National Office provided SMPN 20 with 15 laptops for their computer lab. BRIDGE teachers in West Kalimantan also shared their knowledge and experiences from the BRIDGE program to other teachers in the area, including the skills they gained from a cyber safety workshop.

The Asia Education Foundation works through Asia Link which is a major department of the University of Melbourne. For more information you can visit

<https://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/programmes/school-partnerships>.

Ms Angela Molinaro

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Defence School Mentor



Defence Kids Club

Foundation – Year 4 have been busy making ‘goofy’ Halloween Pumpkins. Thank you to Zara and Tobias who came to help out while Liesl was away on camp. Hopefully the sunny days will be here soon and we can get outside for some activities.

Defence Hangout

Year 5 – 10 held a Chess and Uno challenge on Wednesday Nov 2nd. Thank you to all the defence students and friends who came along and participated. There are some very good Chess and Uno players in our school and it was good to see them all having some friendly competition. Our Chess winner was Tom and second was Will. The Uno winner was Tobias and second was Cooper. Well done to all!

Preparations are underway to commemorate Remembrance Day on November 11th.

Weather permitting, I will be getting students to help with the decorations during the week at the front of The Mercy Centre. A big thank you to Ally Yardley who has once again been creative and added artwork to our display. Some of our students will be attending the RSL service at the Seymour Hospital Gates on November 11th while Rochelle Gough and I are planning a commemoration for our students at school. There will be more information in the next Marian.

Posting

That time of the year is fast approaching. If you haven’t already, please let me know if your family is leaving St. Mary’s College and I can support our defence students as best I can in preparation for the changes ahead.

Defence Community Hub

Defence Community Hub is an online resource for ADF members and their families to find information on their posting location. It is a Defence Housing Authority, Defence Community Organisation and Defence Families Australia collaboration supporting ADF Families throughout their Defence life. Browse locations throughout Australia at www.defencecommunityhub.org.au

Mrs Janice Kerris

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College Calendar

Term 4		
Week 6B	Mon 7 – Fri 11 Nov	Year 3 & 4 - Intensive Swimming Program
	Mon 7 Nov	Year 7 - Swimming - 8:55am
	Wed 9 Nov	Foundation – Year 2 attending Mass – 8:55am
	Thu 10 Nov	Year 7 - Zoo Excursion – 8:30am – 3:15pm
	Fri 11 November	Remembrance Day
Week 7A	Mon 14 Nov	Year 7 - Swimming - 8:55am
	Tue 15 Nov	Foundation Transition Session 9:00am – 10:30am
	Wed 16 Nov	Year 4 Healesville Sanctuary Excursion 8:30am – 3:15pm
	Wed 16 Nov	Year 3 - Attending Mass - 8:55am
	Fri 18 Nov	Year 10 Exams Commemnce
Week 8B	Mon 21-Wed 23 Nov	Year 10 Exams Continue
	Mon 21 Nov	Year 7 - Swimming - 8:55am
	Thu 24 Nov	Year 10 Farewell Mass 9:30am
	Thu 24 Nov	Year 10 Final Assembly 2:00pm
	Fri 25 Nov	Year 10 last day and farewell luncheon

End of Year Dates

Secondary End of Year – Friday 9th December

Primary End of Year – Friday 16th December

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

North Central Review

STATE ELECTION

CANDIDATES ★ FORUM ★

The North Central Review is hosting candidate forums in the lead-up to the November state election.

All lower house candidates in the seats of Yan Yean, Kalkallo and Euroa are invited to participate.

EUROA ELECTORATE

Date: Tuesday, November 8
(7.00 - 9.00pm)
Venue: Seymour Salvation Army Hall,
8-10 Victoria Street, Seymour.

TO REGISTER:
<https://bit.ly/3CKWPoa>



YAN YEAN & KALKALLO ELECTORATES

Date: Wednesday, November 9
(6.30-8.30pm)
Venue: Wallan Secondary College Auditorium,
100 Duke Street, Wallan.

TO REGISTER:
<https://bit.ly/3MFrgAW>



To submit a pre-registered question, register at the Eventbrite websites above or at <https://bit.ly/3gq1THf>.



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12 - 20 November

Tickets are now on sale for our November production of Annie. Our cast and crew have been hard at work rehearsing what is shaping up to be one of our biggest and best productions to date.

Despite the latest setbacks we're pushing forward and have a few busy weeks ahead of us as we polish up the production and get ready for opening night.

We've managed to salvage most of the costumes, props and sets needed for the production so it's all systems go.

We encourage everyone to come along, show your support and enjoy this feel-good, family-friendly musical. After some pretty challenging times, we all need a smile!

Seymour Community Arts Centre

- Saturday 12 November 7pm
- Sunday 13 November 1pm
- Saturday 19 November 1pm & 7pm
- Sunday 20 November 1pm
- All tickets \$25 - <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=950361&>

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