



The Marian

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<https://pam.smseymour.catholic.edu.au>



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. 18

Term 4

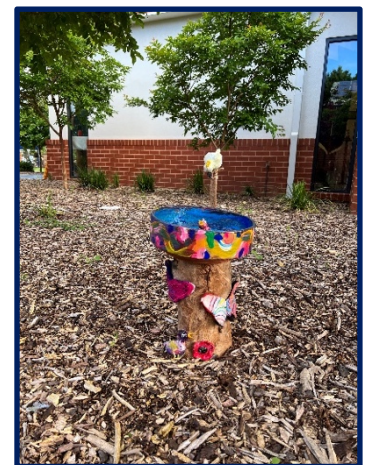
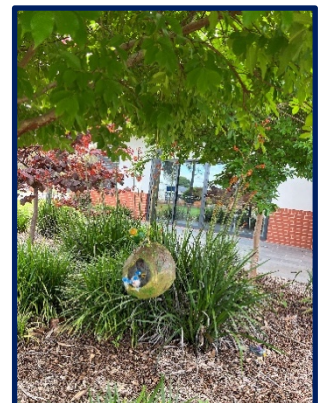
18 November 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The term has passed by ever so quickly. Perhaps the same can be said for 2022 with the beginning of the year moving out of Covid and over recent months and continuing on, across the Eastern States there is the flood crisis. In the last Marian I mentioned all *'Australian States are in the midst of a teacher shortage'*. Teacher shortage is a reality that all schools are challenged with. The State Government offers State School teachers attractive financial incentives to move, the non-government system cannot afford such a luxury, yet both systems are struggling to attract teaching staff.

Over the past weeks the College has been advertising positions. Soon there will be announcements to the College community of new 2023 teaching and non-teaching staff joining St Mary's. We have been successful in appointing some excellent candidates for positions in 2023 and will be re advertising for positions not filled. There are city and rural schools who have not received one application after multiple advertisements. Teaching has its moments, but the profession is a joy to behold and receiving parent support is always appreciated and valued.

Remembrance Day and Garden Art



Thank you to Mrs Kerris for all the organisation for Remembrance Day and to Ms Yardley our creative and colourful primary Art teacher for the creative displays appearing in our gardens. Bringing the world of art and colour to our College gardens puts smiles on faces! Our student representatives were very impressive in representing our College at both the Army Base and the Hospital Cenotaph and St Mary's front lawns were a blanket of Poppies. Our students attended a College Remembrance Service with Mr Dudfield playing the Last Post and Mr Allen leading the National Anthem. Respect and silence were very present.

Wellbeing

In 2023 Mrs Mac (Hanlon) and Mr Goring will be the inaugural Secondary Wellbeing House Leaders for McAuley and Padua. Naomi and Xavier will meet regularly with House Mentors and with their Houses enabling students to develop a strong connection to their House developing consistent routines and expectations. The College will be advertising for a counsellor to begin in 2023. Since 2021 this position has been difficult to fill considering the current climate of societal mental health demands. The College have met with La Trobe University to discuss the possibility of developing a partnership for regular placement of Allied Health students and undergraduate students studying teaching. In 2023 parents will receive a flow chart of Line Management for student wellbeing communications.

College Review 2023

All MACS schools are reviewed every 4 years. St Mary's will be reviewed Monday 28th -Tuesday 29th August. The reviewer is Mary Lovelock, former Assistant Director Ballarat Diocese and has worked for Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority and the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools.

Yea Bus Run

Letters have gone to current families who travel from Yea to inform them the College will run a direct route from Yea in 2023 for students attending St Mary's secondary. Seymour Coaches will be contracted for the run and have been excellent in the dialogue that has taken place to get to a contractual stage. This run will ease the travel time for students who catch the bus from Yea. Any passenger enquiries to catch the bus will be considered on application.

Enrolments 2023

Current enrolments suggest the College will be approximately 530 plus students to begin 2023. This is an increase of 60 students since the beginning of 2022.

Benchmarking Quality Practice in Career Development Programs

Kerry Brookes from The Australian Centre for Careers Education completed a College Careers Benchmarking Report. The cost of the audit is subsidised by MACS who encourage all schools with VCE to undertake the benchmarking audit. A St Mary's Careers Service Action Plan will be written for 2023 in preparation for 2024.

PLC Landscaping

Landscaping will begin in January alongside the Primary Learning Centre. As part of the landscaping the peppercorn trees will be replaced with established trees. The peppercorn trees are hollowing out, a haven for ant nests and attract the wasps.

Fencing

The original contractors who erected the fencing along the railway line and McIntyre Street will fence the creek and the College from the parish. The Church and hall will also be fenced off - this is a MACS and VRQA requirement.

Multi-Purpose Hall

A 6-metre fan with funding support from the P&F will be attached on the hall ceiling. The fan will take the sting off those hot and suffocating summer days.

Night-time Visitors

The College had some visitors (trespassers) this week. The Canteen was broken into with some contents stolen. The Seymour Police Crimes Unit are investigating.

Next Thursday 24th November we farewell Year 10 with a College Mass and Morning Team for the Year 10 students and parents. On Friday 25th November Year 10 will gather for a final luncheon together before taking the 'Final Walk'. Staff and all students will form a guard of honour from the hall to the High Street entrance in honour of Year 10 to thank them for their years of service to St Mary's College.

Let us be thankful for what we have and may we all see the beauty of each tree in the woods, rather than allowing things that will not cause our worlds to crumble..... dominate. Our students need and deserve to see those trees as much as we need too.

Best wishes



Wayne Smith

Principal, St Mary's College Seymour

DipEd (ACU) DipRED (ACU) BEEd (ACU) GradCertEdAdmin (Edith Cowan)
GradDipRed (ACU) MEdAdmin (Charles Sturt) MTheoSudies (BBITAITE)

End of Year Dates

Secondary End of Year –

Friday 9th December

Primary End of Year –

Friday 16th December

Deputy Principal Operations



Year 10 Final Week

Our Year 10 students complete their time at St Mary's College this coming Friday the 25th of November. Today they commenced a four-day period of exams with the VCE General Maths and Health & PE exam taking place, exams will conclude on Wednesday 23rd of November. On behalf of the staff and students we are all very proud of the Year 10 class of 2022 and extend our best wishes as they celebrate the conclusion of their education at St Mary's College. The next two years of your educational journey will pass by quickly, remember always the phrase 'carpe diem', seize the day. Whether your pathway post St Mary's College is VCE, the VCE Vocational Major or an apprenticeship, that moment is now, grab the opportunity with two hands and make every effort count.

Year 10 Farewell Program Format

Thursday 24th November

10.00am Farewell Mass (Wearing Full Summer uniform).

11.15am Morning Tea for Year 10 Students, their Parents and Families and Staff in the College Multipurpose Hall.

2.00pm Final Assembly.

Friday 25th November

12.00pm Year 10 arrive at the Multi-Purpose Hall for lunch with their peers and teachers

3.00 pm The Final Walk: Year 10 walk through a Guard of Honour to the High Street Entrance This a College tradition (a rite of passage) that began in 2019. The College students and staff form a guard of honour to farewell the Class of 2022.

Friday 9th December

All Year 10 students return for the College Awards Presentation wearing full Summer uniform.

Student Leadership

At St Mary's College we believe it is important for students to experience leadership opportunities. Through leadership students learn:

- the art of building relationships within a team
- to define their own identity
- achieve tasks effectively

At today's College assembly several Year 9 students stepped forward and presented themselves as candidates for leadership positions in 2023. The candidates spoke about 'giving back to the College', 'being an inspiration and role model for younger students' and amongst other things 'aspiring to demonstrate our mercy values of compassion, justice, respect, hospitality, service and courage in daily interactions'. We are proud of the way the students presented and know that we have student leaders committed to driving high expectations and aspirations amongst our community as we transition back to Year 11 and 12. Congratulations to the candidates who today showed great courage and seized the opportunity to step beyond their comfort zone, these students will grow as individuals as a result of the experience.

Our leadership candidates were:



Liesl Rayner



Coco Wessels



Finn Hargreaves



Annie Dignam



Bella Hargreaves



Chloe Butterworth



Caleb Baumann



Zac Brown



Andrew Bree



Daniel McLean



Isaac Smith



Ethan Fisher



Sam Charles

Carpark Safety

Parking around the College grounds is a daily necessity, but it also raises a number of safety and traffic issues that must be well managed. Please note parking is prohibited directly in front of the church and parish gift shop. This area has a high volume of students passing by and using it as a thoroughfare to make their way to Crawford or Station St. Parents are kindly asked to park in the designated parish carpark or on Crawford St. Our students and your child/children's safety are our priority in making this request.

Mrs Genevieve Gordon

genevieve.gordon@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Director of Faith and Mission

Remembrance Day

Last Friday we celebrated a reverent and moving Remembrance Day liturgy. Over 450 red poppies were put into the ground around the front of the school- Thank you to Janice Kerris and her group of ladies, who spent a Sunday afternoon knitting and preparing the poppies so every staff member and student could contribute to the 'SMC Flanders Field'!



Prayer for Remembrance Day

*God our Father,
your Son Jesus gave up His life to free us from the power of sin and death. He showed us that the greatest love is in giving up one's life for others. Today we remember those who fought and died for our freedom. We ask you to bless and console them together with their families. Help us to understand to sacrifices they made in leaving their loved ones to face the horrors of war. May we never forget their generosity. May your Holy Spirit give us the courage to resist evil in all its forms and show us how to be peacemakers through prayer and action, lest we forget those who fought, suffered, and died that we may might have the freedom and peace we enjoy today.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Mrs Rochelle Gough

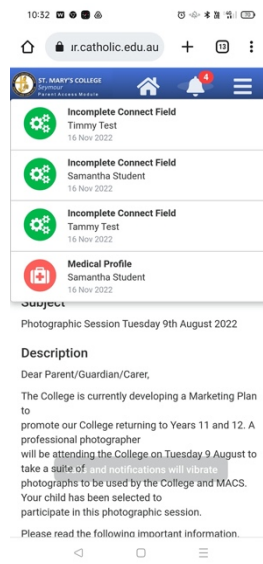
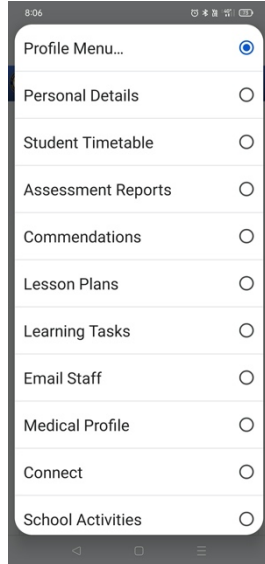
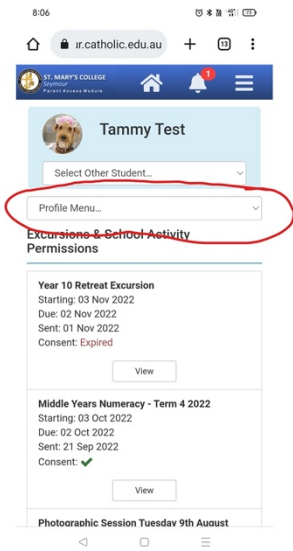
rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Data Analyst



PAM – Simplifying Communications

The Parent Access Module of SIMON is a simple way to quickly communicate with St Mary's or for St Mary's to communicate to parents. Our world is increasingly mobile, and the majority of parents use a mobile phone to connect to PAM (pam.smseymour.catholic.edu.au). Menus in PAM on the mobile are a little more compact viewing than on a computer. To look for particular menu areas in SIMON firstly select the student, underneath this area is the PROFILE MENU. Clicking on this will bring up a list of options and areas to view. Select the relevant radio button and you will get the specific menu and information you require.



This week you will receive a notification to update your permission for the school to use photos and recorded images of your child. This is completed in a new area opened to parents titled Connect.

Ms Andrea Richards

andrea.richards@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

F-2 Coordinator



Let me begin with an apology for not having news in our Marian last fortnight. The deadline snuck past me so I'll aim to make up for it this fortnight.

Our students participated in a moving Remembrance Day liturgy, beautifully prepared by Mrs Gough. We have displays on our outside walls commemorating our soldiers who have served, and are currently serving our country. We have also been as busy as always with awards, gardening, swimming and even a science experiment.



Year 2, as part of their Earth Sciences unit, made ice-cream to demonstrate how we use earth's resources in everyday life. Creating a mixture of cocoa (or vanilla essence), cream and castor sugar and placing it all into a zip lock bag. It was then shaken within another zip lock bag containing ice and rock salt. Students enjoyed eating it as a post lunch treat. It was such a fabulous experiment! Everyone took a recipe page home and I am looking forward to seeing their results.

Year 2B enjoyed gardening with Mr Allen and Year 8 students. It is always a time of discovery. Each time we go to the garden, we find something new. Thanks Mr Allen, we are loving heading out to pick weeds, see growth or sample food.

We have had so many TAG Awards in recent weeks and they are all deserving recipients. Congratulations to everyone and keep up the good work! Well done to Isaac K, Vincent, Callum, Alyssa, Shaun, Kaylee, Macey, Maya, Jill and Montana...and Sienna, Tyler, Henry, Adeline, Amelia H and Taylor.

Even more awards have been happening in Junior Primary. We recently introduced our Kindness Raffle. A student can be nominated for an act of kindness to another student, teacher, visitor or the environment or any other kind reason. The tickets are placed all together and names are drawn. This week's recipients are Adele H and Lachlan L. Well done. Keep those acts of kindness happening!



F-2 had a fabulous time swimming. They were tired but were enthusiastic throughout the week. Thank you, parents, for all the work behind the scenes. It really does take a village...



Rosey has been very busy in the office foyer greeting parents and visitors to our school. So, this week Baby Rosey had the opportunity to go for a few days with a Foundation student and is delighted to be spending time with Amelia H. The smile on Amelia's face melted my heart. It really is the small things



Foundation 2023 students had their first 'big' transition morning and it was a huge success. Kids were happy to leave their parents for the 90 minutes and had plenty to tell them on their return. There was plenty of drawing, building, hammering, playing, making and creating to do. Miss Head and Mrs Charles did a super job setting up and everyone got to know each other a little bit better. We look forward to seeing everyone again soon.



We have some wonderful events coming up... this Friday we have the first of two AFL Skill sessions and boy oh boy are the kids excited! This will be followed up with a second session next Friday. We have our excursion to Melbourne Zoo on Thursday 1st December and the Year 2 Sleepover (which also includes Foundation and Year 1 for part of it) and an incursion from Wildlife Xplore with their native animals on December 7.

It is a jam packed 4 weeks and we can't wait!

Stay well and take care

Mrs Anne Spencer

anne.spencer@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Year 4 Healesville Sanctuary Excursion

All of the staff at Healesville Sanctuary were really lovely and we learned lots of interesting facts about all the animals. The Zoo Keepers take good care of all the animals and get to release animals back into nature.

We saw a bronze statue of a toilet roll and when we asked the Zoo Keeper about it, we talked about how trees are too important to chop down for toilet paper. This is because trees provide a home for wildlife, it helps keep our air clean and helps stop erosion.

My favourite part of the day was going to the Australian Wildlife Health Centre and watching vets operate on a Tasmanian Devil. I learned that if a diseased Tasmanian Devil fights another, it will pass on the disease.

There were lots of interesting facts about all the animals – it was great. The koalas and kangaroos were cute and we saw and heard so many different types of birds. We got to see Zoo Keepers feeding echidnas and it was cool to see wallabies up close.

I really enjoyed walking through the light hail when we did our workshop with the teachers. It was amazing getting to hold different animals' skulls. I got to touch and feel the skull and teeth of a wombat, dingo and platypus. The platypus was tiny and the dingo had lots of sharp teeth – like a dog!

There were so many cool places to stop and play. Even though it was mostly rainy we did get time to stop and play at some them. I would like to go back and explore more as the day went so fast!

We watched the 'Spirit of the Sky' and saw a bird dance. We learnt all about birds.

We all had Marnie the Wedge-tailed-eagle fly over our heads and we went to see the emus. Their names were Drum and Blinky.

Defence School Mentor



Remembrance Day

What a wonderful school effort to bring our school to life with a fantastic display. There were 546 poppies placed in the lawn in front of the Mercy Centre, one for each student and staff, to create a sea of red colour. The front gates looked the part as well. Thank you to all the people who knitted poppies to add to our existing collection and to Miss Ally for her amazing artwork and woodwork.

Our College leaders and a few students accompanied by Mr Wayne Smith and Fr Eugene Ashkar attended the local RSL service at the Seymour Hospital Gates to lay a wreath on behalf of our school, while St Mary's also held a Remembrance Day Service in our school grounds. We will not forget the "The Last Post" played by Matthew Dudfield on his brand-new bugle, or Andrew Allen leading us to sing "The Australian National Anthem". The liturgy was led by Rochelle Gough with help from Janice to co-ordinate the day. Our Defence Students brought forward a family poppy to place in the lawn and our student readers read so well with pride and reverence.

RSL Poppy Appeal

Once again St. Mary's students and parents supported this great cause. Thanks to Defence students for helping with the stall which was a great success. It is a very worthy cause with all proceeds to go to the RSL to support families in need.



Mrs Janice Kerris

janice.kerris@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Science Department

The Science Department is preparing some activities for the end term and beyond. If you have any of the following at home that you are able to donate, please can students bring them to the science block at the beginning of the school day.



- Shoe box
- Soft drink bottle (500ml-2l), washed out and with lids
- Milk bottle lids
- Cardboard tubes (not toilet roll tubes please)
- Cereal boxes (nut free cereals only please)
- Wire coat hangers

Thank you for your support!

College Calendar

Term 4

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| 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 10:00am |
| | Thu 24 Nov | Year 10 Final Assembly 2:00pm |
| | Fri 25 Nov | Year 10 last day and farewell luncheon |
| Week 9A | Mon 28 Nov | Year 3 Zoo Excursion 8:00am-3:00pm |
| | Mon 28 Nov | Year 7 - Swimming - 8:55am |
| | Tue 29 Nov | Foundation Transition Session 9:00am-1:00pm |
| | Wed 30 Nov | Year 7 & 8 Attending Parish Mass 9:00am |
| | Thu 1 Dec | Year 7 2023 Transition Session 9:00am-11:00am |
| Week 10B | Mon 5 Dec | Year 7 - Swimming - 8:55am |
| | Wed 7 Dec | Foundation – Year 6 Attending Parish Mass |
| | Wed 7 Dec – Thu 8 Dec | Year 7-9 end of Year Activities |
| | Fri 9 Dec | Year 7-9 Students Conclude |
| | | College Awards Ceremony 1:00pm-3:00pm |
| Week 11A | Tue 13 Dec | State-wide Orientation Day 8:45am-3:15pm |
| | Fri 16 Dec | Primary Christmas Liturgy and Concert 11:30am-1:00pm |
| | Fri 16 Dec | Semester 2 Reports Released |
| | Fri 16 Dec | Foundation – Year 6 Students Conclude |

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 |

ff Conclude

RURBAN
KILMORE 2022

25TH NOVEMBER
4PM TO 10PM

26TH NOVEMBER
10AM TO 10PM

27TH NOVEMBER
10AM TO 2PM

MEET MINNIE MOUSE FROM DISNEY, BOB FROM THE MINIONS, PEPPA PIC OR SONIC THE WORLD'S FASTEST HEDGEHOG

CARNIVAL RIDES, FOOD TRUCKS, LIVE MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT, MARKET STALLS, FIREWORKS AND MUCH MORE!

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SEE YOU THERE!
HELD AT ASSUMPTION COLLEGE
KILMORE, 1 HOUR NORTH OF MELBOURNE
TICKETS NOW OPEN – RURBAN.COM.AU



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

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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