



# 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. 19

Term 4

2 December 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

*"We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us".*

## A simple act of kindness

When new families enrol at St Mary's depending on the students age, they are told a story, a true story about a young lady who made one significant decision that led to a snowballing affect far beyond what she could ever have imagined.

This young lady was left a lot of money by an elderly couple she assisted. She did not know they were wealthy, not that she would have cared. She did not help them for any monetary gain.

When the elderly couple died, their Will was left to the young lady – a lot of money.

Imagine having that wealth back then - never work again; beautiful house; buy what she wanted; attend what she wanted and servants galore.....not quite!

She saw a need that caused her sleepless nights. She struggled with having such wealth yet living amongst poverty.



A decision was made, her heart was filled with joy. All the money – every cent went into a building that would welcome with open arms the ill, the helpless and the homeless. Who would have thought that decision would lead to Mercy Hospitals and Mercy Schools being establishes across the world.

I tell each family that it only takes one decision and what was a **simple act of kindness** by that young lady to build that building, changed lives and brought joy to many hearts.

Catherine McAuley (that young lady) founded the Sisters of Mercy and St Mary's College Seymour honours and lives the Mercy values both in **heart and in mind**.



**A Catherine McCauley moment.....**today Year 6 went to a nearby home to assist an elderly lady clean up her yard due to the flood damage. She cannot manage on her own and so Mrs Brock (**heart and mind**) organised both Year 6 classes to be **shining lamps**.

### From Mr Harding:

*"I could not have been prouder to be a part of the St Mary's Community today. Not only did all our students get in and do what was required (getting their hands dirty), many understood the importance of the task to support this lady. This was such a valuable experience for them. They saw their actions directly have an effect on a*

*member of our town. The lady was almost in tears at points due to the overwhelming feeling of support. Before we left the College Mrs Brock and I spoke about wearing the College crest on their chest with pride, and that they did. Thanks to Jennine for organising such a worthwhile event."*



We say often to our St Mary's students, it only takes a **simple act of kindness** to change a person day and fill a **heart with joy**.



Year 10 received an enthusiastic goodbye as they began the 'Final Walk' at 3:00pm on Friday 25th November. The guard of honour began with Mr Dudfield entertaining the crowd with the trumpet in preparation for the entrance of the Class of 2022.

We thank Year 10 students for their service to St Mary's and may they look forward to the excitement of their final years of school education.

We welcomed 58 students into Year 7 on Thursday for their transition visit, with more enrolment enquiries to be completed. 26 new Year 7 students met their St Mary's peers in preparation for 2023.

### **Staffing Appointments 2023**

In 2023 St Mary's will welcome new teaching and non-teaching staff.

#### ***Daily Organiser***

Yvonne Maxwell (Daily Organiser). Yvonne is excited to be joining St Mary's and will begin in December to have some preparation time before the close of the College year to learn systems and processes.

#### ***Enrolment Registrar***

Andrea Webster (Enrolment Registrar). Andrea's role will oversee all areas of enrolment processes and timelining and build relationships with external providers such as kindergartens. Andrea is looking forward to building the marketing side of the role along with working with the transition team. Andrea will begin in the new year.

#### ***Secondary Teaching Positions***

Jasmine Francis (PE/Humanities) is currently employed at Pimlico State High School Townsville where she is teaching 11/12 Ancient History & Community Studies: 10 Humanities & 8 HPE. Jasmine completed her secondary education at Mary Mackillop College, Brisbane and has coached sporting teams.

Joanne Kamp (Science/Mathematics). Joanne has 24 years of teaching experience in VCE Biology/General & Further Mathematics; 5-10 General Science and 7-10 General Mathematics. Joanne is a House Coordinator at Mentone Grammar having been in this role since 2009.

Wendy Brentnall (Music). Wendy like Mr Dudfield, is a very accomplished musician having skills across a range of musical instruments. Wendy is an author of musical texts; has worked in various schools teaching instrumental classes and is currently teaching at the Benalla F-12 College.

Vicki Hinks (Humanities/RE). Vicki is currently the Dean of Wellbeing at Mercedes College Perth. From 2017-20 Vicki was Head of Inclusive Education at Mercedes College. Vicki has taught Humanities/Geography 7-12; English & RE and Bahasa Indonesian up to Year 8 and Literacy Intervention Year 1 to 12.

F-2 students, staff and parents visited the Melbourne Zoo today. There were plenty of smiles and happy faces as the coaches parted from McIntyre Street. Thanks to Stuart, Daniel and the Team at Seymour Coaches who our College relies on for excursion transport. In 2023 a direct bus route from Yea will begin for our secondary students.

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)

### **End of Year Dates**

**Secondary – Friday 9<sup>th</sup>**

**December**

**Primary – Friday 16<sup>th</sup>**

**December**



# Director of Faith and Mission



At Advent and Christmas, we celebrate the birth of our Lord, we give praise and thanks, we reconnect with family and friends, and we think about our life and faith as Catholics. How can we celebrate the season in meaningful and positive ways, in line with Catholic doctrine and social teachings?

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent, (from Latin *adventus*, "coming"), is the four-week period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. Advent also directs our hearts and minds to what we can do for others as we prepare for Christmas. It started last the Sunday and ends on the fourth Sunday before 25 December.

Throughout the weeks of Advent, we are invited to prepare ourselves and renew our commitment to others and our relationship with our God. We might be encouraged to seize the day and make the time to be with those we love now, rather than wait for the big Christmas gathering. We might make good, relationships that have not been nourished or reach out to those in our lives whom we need to walk more closely with. We may commit to spending more time connecting with God or seeking him in all we meet and in everything we experience.

Our College has had the tradition over the last 12 years to choose a student to 'light' our large Advent candles out the front of the Mercy Centre. The candles and the purple draped cross, at the High St. entrance, are a reminder to the community that we have moved into the season of Advent. This week the Year 2 students were in charge of lighting our first candle- the candle of HOPE.

At the start of each week of Advent our students are involved in an Advent prayer, and the lighting of a candle in a wreath.

In some classrooms, students have been making Advent Calendars. In Year 4 the students have thought about things they can do in readiness for Christmas – acts of kindness. They have written them onto paper chains, which they will slowly work through over the next 4 weeks.



## Community

Our Year 7 Faith classes have been preparing our St Vinnies Christmas Appeal baskets for classrooms, as part of their 'putting their faith into action task.' They are working in teams to create a classroom poster, slide show, basket poster and emails to the homeroom teachers to be used in the class's weekly newsletters.



invite you to give as much as you are able. The baskets will be in classes from Monday for a 2-week period. Any in date non-perishable items, toiletries or Christmas decorations, will be gratefully accepted and passed onto those families, nominated by St Vinnies.

Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who is doing it tough this Christmas, and give them hope for a better future.

We thank you in anticipation.

**Mrs Rochelle Gough**

[rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au](mailto:rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au)

## Digital Art



Students in Year 9 and 10 Digital and Traditional Art have been enjoying making a Digital Alphabet. Including the human form!!

## 3-6 Coordinator



The year 6 students are looking to finish the year in style. They have been busy keeping Pioneer Park in tip top shape and have also spent time at a resident's garden in High Street. They are beginning to develop an understanding of the importance of community service, and the little effort it takes to affect people in a big way. They headed down High Street and raked, dug, scrubbed and cleaned their way through a garden. The resident was clearly thankful and I was impressed with the respect and commitment our students showed.



### TAG awards:

3/4: Montana, Abbie, Amelia, Kai, Isabel, Amber, Lachlan, Jasper, Macey, Aiden, Dustin, Jake.

5/6: Amelia, Lachlan, Summer, Lachlan K, Sienna, Alishika, Piper.





## Excursion to the Melbourne Zoo

On Monday 28th November, Year 3 students travelled to the Melbourne Zoo as part of their Science focused Inquiry unit on Living Things. The children had been working hard to learn as much as they could about animals and their characteristics as well as investigating what were the most appropriate enrichment activities for each animal. It was a fabulous day! Perfect weather and wonderful behaviour. The children gained a great deal from their STEM Challenge lessons about how to create enrichment activities for animals in a Zoo.

Thank you to Knuckles from Seymour Coaches for a safe bus ride there and back

### Some snapshots and reflections from Year 3 students after their excursion to Melbourne Zoo.

On Monday 28th November, I got to go to the Melbourne Zoo. When I got on the bus and sat down, I almost fell asleep and the rest of Year 3 were in like hyper recess mode! When we got to the zoo, we talked about what the day would be about and had a fruit snack. We got put into our groups. I was on the pink trail but my favourite animals I saw were the red panda, seals and the butterfly house. I loved Monday 28th November.

#### Willow B

I couldn't believe it! We were finally at the Lemur enclosure! After all the animals we had seen, we were finally there. I was looking at the lemurs then I saw a piece of paper- it said 5 adults and 4 babies. I suddenly realised it was talking about the lemurs. There were nine of them after all. They were amazing!

#### Laila M

I couldn't believe my eyes- they were huge, shaped like a boulder - it was a turtle! They were so cute, Then I read the sign about the turtle. It said they were 120 years old!! Turtles are amphibians. Their shells are protection from predators. They tuck themselves under their shells. Soon the predator of predators come and they think that the turtle is a rock. This is quite a smart solution. Their enclosure was massive. It had plants, grass, rocks of all sizes and a little pond!

#### Abbie R

I was in the pink group. My personal favourite animals were the elephants, penguins and the meerkats.

#### Jess W

I saw squirrel monkeys, elephants and a lot of happiness with the cute waddling and swimming penguins.

#### Jax H

At the butterfly house, we saw a lady with a butterfly on her head! Butterflies are amazing creatures that can survive a week with no mouth! I wish I had one as a pet as they are beautiful creatures. They can pollinate but they don't make honey. My favourite was the tiger butterfly. The blue was the colour of the sky. It was so beautiful; I don't know why.

#### Amelia H

### ZOOM meeting with Jess the Zoo Keeper

After our visit to the Melbourne Zoo, we then had a zoom meeting with Jess, a Zoo keeper from Canberra Zoo.

Jess went to school at Assumption College with Miss Jade and is a friend of Cameron, Mrs Evan's son.

We wrote lots of questions for Jess and then had a zoom meeting with her on Wednesday, Jess was fantastic! She answered so many questions and had a lot of great stories to tell - including being given a little bite from a lion and a crocodile!!!! Jess told us how she became a Zookeeper. She looks after rhinos, zebras and giraffes at Canberra Zoo. We loved hearing all about her day and she also told us about the enrichment activities she has for her animals. Did you know giraffes can play soccer? Thank you, Jess, so much for taking the time to talk to us. We really enjoyed it.



## Library

### Book Club

Book Club Issue 8, last one for the year, is out now! Please have your orders in by 2nd of December 2022.

A big thank you to everyone for supporting Scholastic Book Club this year as it helps fill our Library with heaps of great books for you to enjoy.

Happy holiday reading.



**Mrs Linda Heveren**

[linda.heveren@smseymour.catholic.edu.au](mailto:linda.heveren@smseymour.catholic.edu.au)

## Defence School Mentor

Our Year 7 Defence Students recently took part in a three-week school-based skate program run by Gnarly Neighbours which coincided with the Year 7 swimming program. It was a delight to see how the students skills and confidence grew over the course of the program. Jayden the founder of Gnarly Neighbours and his assistant Nathan deliver a fantastic program. All the students were so attentive and I was amazed at how quickly everyone was at becoming confident with their skate boards. One mum told me that her daughter even dusted off the skate board from the shed and was practising at home!





### Christmas at Funfields

Soldier On Melbourne are celebrating Christmas in style at the Funfields Theme Park in Whittlesea!

A day to come together to celebrate a year that was with all those new formed connections whilst having a blast on rides and enjoying the water park, a perfect end to 2022.

Entry and a BBQ lunch will be provided for a day field of fun and adventure. RSVP at your earliest to secure your registration!

\*Please Note: Parents/guardians must provide supervision of all children and young people throughout this activity!

**Date/Time: Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> DEC 2022 (10.30am – 5.00pm)**  
**Where: Funfields Theme Park, 2365 Plenty Road, Whittlesea**



During the next couple of weeks, we are winding down the year. I have already had lunch and bid farewell to the Year 10 defence students and will be doing the same in the coming weeks for any defence students posting out next year. We have had a good year and I wish all the students that are leaving the very best for the future and look forward to seeing those that are returning next year.

**Mrs Janice Kerris**

[janice.kerris@smseymour.catholic.edu.au](mailto:janice.kerris@smseymour.catholic.edu.au)



## Accounts

Families are now reminded that all fees are past due. Can you please make every effort to have these paid by the end of the term. Thank you to all those families who have been making regular payments 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

A/C No: 839 989 790

Please remember to use your statement account number and surname as the payment reference when paying via EFT. It is also 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 2022 and into 2023. Information regarding the fees and levies for 2023 will be emailed to all families in December 2022.

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact Lisa Cinquegrana at the College, (Select option 3 for the direct line to accounts).



**Mrs Lisa Cinquegrana**

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



# College Calendar

## Term 4

<b>Week 10B</b>	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
	<b>Fri 9 Dec</b>	<b>Year 7-9 Students Conclude</b>
		College Awards Ceremony 1:00pm-3:00pm
<b>Week 11A</b>	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
	<b>Fri 16 Dec</b>	<b>Foundation – Year 6 Students Conclude</b>
<b>Week 12B</b>	Tue 20 Dec	Staff Conclude

## Community

### FREE SWIM PASS AND SNACKS!

FOR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS!

Mitchell Youth Services are giving away free passes for 12-24 year olds who live, socialise or study in Mitchell Shire

You and three friends will receive entry into a Mitchell Leisure Services pool as well as snacks and a drink - all for FREE!



Interested? Pop your name in the draw to win here!

[tiny.cc/freeswimpassandsnacks](https://tiny.cc/freeswimpassandsnacks)



Mitchell Youth Services



@mitchellyouthservices



## BIG Summer Read

**Mitchell Shire Library Service.**

**Join. Borrow. Read. Win!**

If you are aged 0-18, join the BIG Summer Read for your chance to WIN!

All you need to do is read and log ten books using the Beanstack app.

The competition starts on 1 December 2022 and closes on 31 January 2023.

Pop into any Mitchell Shire Library branch from the 1st of December to pick up a FREE Summer Read calico bag with fun activities and goodies inside.

Registrations are open now online at <https://plv.beanstack.org/reader365>

Scan the QR code to register or you can pick up a reading log from **Thursday 1 December** at any Mitchell Shire Library branch.

Greater Beveridge Community Centre  
Corner Lithgow Street and Mandalay Circuit, Beveridge

Broadford Customer and Library Service Centre  
113 High Street, Broadford

Kilmore Customer and Library Service Centre  
12 Sydney Street, Kilmore

Seymour Customer and Library Service Centre  
125 Anzac Avenue, Seymour

Wallan Customer and Library Service Centre  
Wellington Square Shopping Centre  
12/81 High Street, Wallan

**Contact us:**  
t: (03) 5734 6451  
e: [libraries@mitchellshirevic.gov.au](mailto:libraries@mitchellshirevic.gov.au)  
w: [libraries.mitchellshirevic.gov.au](http://libraries.mitchellshirevic.gov.au)

**Read**

**MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL**

### GAMES DAY AT YOUTH ROOMS!

Looking for something to do over the Summer School Holidays?

If you're a young person aged 12-18 bring your friends and challenge our staff to a board game of your choice. Snacks provided.  
Cost: FREE

**When and Where:**

**Tuesday 17 January, 12-2 pm - Seymour Youth Room**  
Front Room of Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre, Chittick Park, Pollard Street, Seymour

**Wednesday 18 January, 12-2pm - Wallan Youth Room**  
42 Bentinck Street, Wallan

**Tuesday 24 January, 12-2pm - Broadford Youth Room**  
152 High Street, Broadford

**Wednesday 25 January, 12-2pm - Greater Beveridge Community Centre**  
Cnr Lithgow St and, Mandalay Cct, Beveridge



Mitchell Youth Services



mitchellyouthservices

Check out  
[tiny.cc/gamesdayatyouthrooms](https://tiny.cc/gamesdayatyouthrooms)  
For more info!

