



The Marian



Newsletter No. 6
Term 2 | 5 May 2023

www.smseymour.catholic.edu.au | facebook.com/stmarysseymour | <https://pam.smseymour.catholic.edu.au>

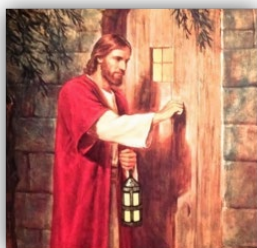
St Mary's College Seymour is a Child Safe School. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children.



Dear Parents and Carers,

Easter

What is it then for us to “knock at the door” of resurrection this year? Will God open it for us? For sure. “He is not here” in the tomb; instead, he is alive with us and alongside us. Sarah Coakley University of Cambridge



Grace was in the air Wednesday evening 26th April. To be with our students when they received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and in the evening, liturgy was a privilege. I am not sure about ranking the sacraments, but Reconciliation must be right up there. As mentioned to the families after certificates were presented, if the children can take the word “forgiveness” into their teenage and adult lives, they will make the world a better place and live generally very happy lives. They will be able to let go of ego and pride and show compassion to others and self. Forgiveness can be easier to receive than to give. Fr. Eugene was great with the kids both at the sacrament and in the evening. He made the

children feel relaxed and welcome. It was Fr. Eugene’s, and our joy to be with the children and to know grace filled the church in the day and evening. Thank you to Mrs Gough, Mrs Evans and Mrs Holt for the excellent preparation of the children and bringing joy and happiness to the celebration of the sacrament.

The Passing of the Dawn

The breaking of dawn is a special time as it announces the awakening of the new day. This year’s ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Seymour Hospital Memorial Garden Cenotaph was powerful in every sense of the word. It began with the bag piper playing in the hospital gardens silhouetted in the light of the approaching dawn. There was a large crowd gathered to pay their respects and our St. Mary’s College Captains (Bella Hargreaves and Caleb Baumann) spoke with poise and sincerity, leaving a lasting impression on the gathering so much so that the College received wonderful feedback on our Captains.



Lord God

Bless St Mary's College.

Let your life be our example to follow.

Through the gifts we receive from you, we will love and serve one another with gentleness and compassion.

Mary Our Mother, pray for us Catherine McAuley and St Anthony of Padua, pray for us. Amen

The 10.00am Service in Anzac Avenue was attended by people of all ages with a large contingent of past service men and women with family representatives and members of Armed Forces from the Puckapunyal Army Base. Our primary leaders were excellent as young College representatives in placing the wreath and standing proudly alongside the College crest during the service.

War is not to be glorified or celebrated. War is to be remembered for the sacrifice so many gave. The speech by Collingwood Captain Darcy Moore after the ANZAC Day match was a pertinent reflection of the Australian conscience in honouring the fallen and their families. It was Pope Francis who said let us respect the past, live in the present and look forward to the future. The future is what we all make it!

Welcome Oliver

St Mary's welcomes Oliver Lubeck for the remainder of 2023 as the AFL Sportsready Trainee. Oliver is no stranger to St Mary's and will know many families and students. Oliver is an impressive young man – sincere; enjoys life; works hard and he will be a very good role model, particularly for the boys. Oliver will assist teachers in PE and work closely with our College Sports Coordinator Courtney Aldous. Oliver was given a 'baptism of fire' in his first week, joining Year 7 students and staff on the Grampians Camp.

Stage 0

In consultation with ROAM Architects and Sebastian Russell from MACS Capital Program Delivery Infrastructure Services and Capital Delivery team, the College is seeking expressions of interest to complete works on the Administration building: adding three meeting rooms; enlarging the Health Centre; providing an archives room and enlarging office space. Currently the College has one designated meeting space, which is not appropriate. The Health Centre needs to cater for the return of Year 12 and its current design does not meet future requirements for a growing student population. Another primary classroom is included in Stage 0 moving from the outdated portable classrooms. Stage 0 has been costed and the project will be determined by pricing, which in the current economic climate is tenuous.

Open Evening

The MACS 2030 vision for Catholic Education is Forming Lives to Enrich the World. To begin the Enrolments 2024 the College held an Open Evening on Thursday 4th May from 4.30pm to 7.00pm with tours every half hour. Tours were led by senior student leaders (our students are our greatest advertisement for St Mary's) and accompanied by a staff member. A BBQ was held for our visitors.

Year 7 returned from their Grampians camp today. Over the next fortnight we have the Yr. 9 Careers Day Out in Shepparton, Cross Country, College Advisory Council meeting, Mother's Day Breakfast; Elephant Ed leading secondary students in making decisions for healthy and positive relationships; Yr. 3/4 Swimming program; Secondary taster afternoons and Kinder visits.

Staff Development Day

Friday 16th June is led by MACS staff in preparation for the 2023 College Review.

There is no school for F-10 on this day.

Best wishes for the weekend as we gradually receive hints from the weather of the coming winter cold.



Wayne Smith

Principal, St Mary's College Seymour

DipEd (ACU) DipREd (ACU) BEd (ACU) GradCertEdAdmin (Edith Cowan) GradDipREd (ACU) MEdAdmin (Charles Sturt) MTheoStudies (BBITAITE)



Welcome back for Term Two.

We have had a busy start to Term Two with our St. Mary's College Anzac Liturgy being held on our first day back at school. I would just like to begin with acknowledging all our students, from those that participated at the service, and to those who sat respectfully and attentively throughout the service. A credit to themselves and our teaching staff.

Our liturgy speaker this year was Warrant Officer Class Two Robert Archer who gave us a short insight of those that served WW1 from this area and read a poem "The Silent Ranks".

We had quite a few Defence students participate in our service as well as Defence family members. I would like to thank all the Defence families that participated and joined us for this special day.

Mr Smith gave a short talk on our school involvement for the Seymour RSL Dawn Service and the 10.00am Service.

Matthew Dudfield played "The Last Post" on his bugle and Mr Allen led us in "The Australian National Anthem". We are so lucky to have these two talented people.

Our school captains Bella Hargreaves and Caleb Baumann spoke beautifully at the Dawn Service and also laid a wreath with Mr Smith and myself in support. What great ambassadors for St. Mary's College.

At the 10.00am service our Primary Captains Harvey Smith and Lilly Fanning along with Mr Smith laid a wreath. Also in support were Olivia Hamilton Year 7 leader, Baxter Loweke Year 8 leader, Felix Muscovich Year 9 leader, Olivia Cleave Primary McAuley captain, Logan Shearer Primary McAuley captain, Finn Melville Primary Padua captain, Marion Sellars Primary Padua captain and Mr Xavier Goring.

St. Mary's College Anzac Liturgy would never be able to go ahead without the help and involvement of Mrs Gough, teachers, staff members and families. Thank you all for your amazing support. **Janice Kerriis**



AFL - St Kilda Tickets

St Kilda Football Club are proud supporters of Soldier On and are offering you the opportunity to obtain **FREE** tickets to their home games in Melbourne throughout April!

Limited Tickets available so please register your interest at your earliest advising your game preference.

- **ROUND 11 - St Kilda vs Hawthorn**
SAT, 27 MAY at 1.45pm at Marvel Stadium
- **ROUND 15 - St Kilda vs Brisbane**
FRI, 23 JUNE at 7.50pm at Marvel Stadium



Activities for Victoria 2023

SOLDIER ON



SOLDIER ON MELBOURNE FACEBOOK GROUP

Keep up to date on all our activities, events and veteran information along with any last minute spots available on our Soldier On Melbourne FB Group.

To register or find out more please email activities@soldieron.org.au
All of our support services are **FREE** to veterans and their families!



Work Experience is fast approaching. Completed arrangement forms are due by Friday 26th May.

If students are having difficulty finding a suitable placement, they can make an appointment with me to discuss further options.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you or your child require any assistance or have any questions.

Can You Help?

We are currently seeking expressions of interest from families and/or community members who own their own business and would be willing to take on a student for 5 days of Work Experience.

In 2023 our Year 10 Work Experience week is 19-23 June. We are hopeful that this could become an opportunity to create an annual register of placements for future students.

Work experience is the short-term placement of secondary school students, generally in Year 10, with employers to provide insights into the industry and the workplace in which they are located.

It provides students with the valuable opportunity to:

- develop employability skills
- explore possible career options
- understand employer expectations
- increase their self-understanding, maturity, independence and self-confidence.

Students are placed with employers primarily to observe and learn – not to undertake activities which require extensive training or expertise.

If you or someone you know are able to accommodate a student for this week, or if you would like more information about the program, please contact me by email or via the College office 57922611

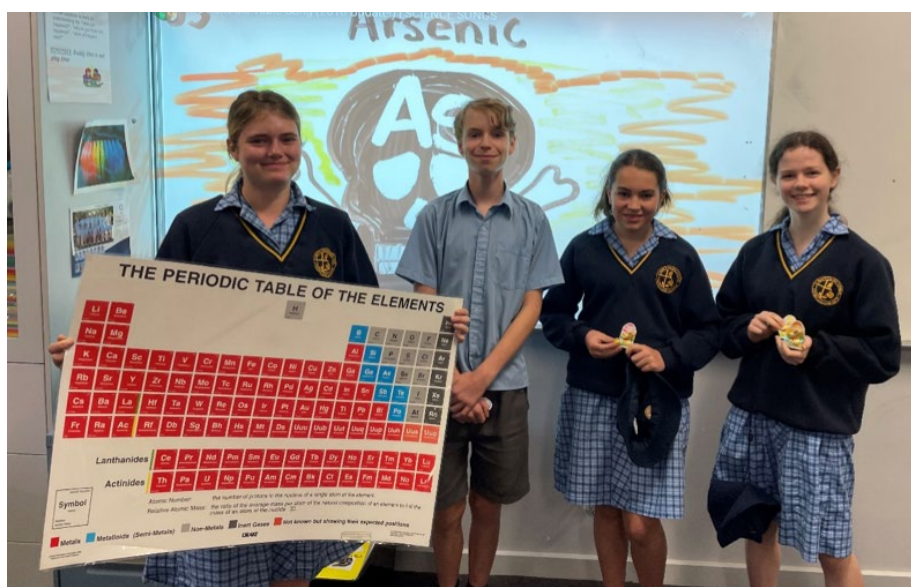
We would be very appreciative of any support you can offer.

Tanya Oakley

Secondary Science

Year 8 Chemistry

This term Year 8 have been studying chemistry. Some students went the extra mile and learned all 118 elements off by heart ready for our end of term Periodic Table Challenge. Congratulations to all involved, especially Cheyenne Newsome for her perfect rendition.

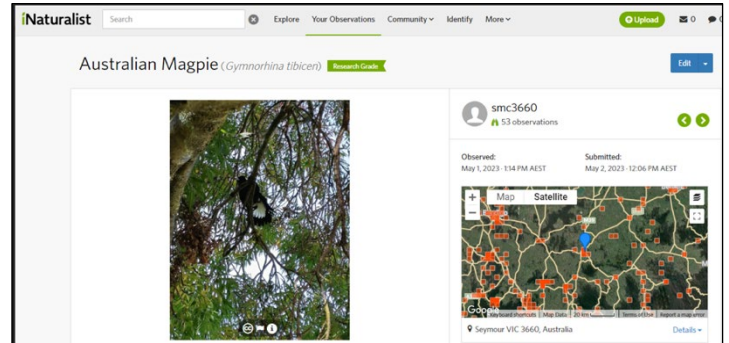


Secondary Science cont...

City Nature Challenge 2023

St Mary's students were invited by Mitchell Shire Council to participate in the City Nature Challenge 2023. The CNC is an annual four-day bioblitz, which originated in the US and is now a global collaboration. Our Year 7 students were happy to have first-hand experience of being amateur taxonomists, as part of their Classification and Ecosystems topic.

Rebecca Scollen



Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation

Months after the flooding Coles reopened their doors on Friday the 21st of April. St Mary's was very blessed and appreciative to be invited as special guests and to receive a cheque of \$5000 from Coles to kickstart our vegetable garden. Coles is a sponsor of the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation (SAKGF) which we re-joined this year. Together as educators the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Gardens Foundation, Coles and St Mary's have combined to inform our youth about the positive health benefits, the feeling of joy and wellbeing from the growing, producing, cooking, and eating of healthy food. This is a benefit for our whole community.

We look forward to extending our relationship with Coles in Seymour. Events such as local visits to investigate the running of a store, Industry visits to see where the fresh products come from, initiatives such as "Explore a farm" and "Women in leadership" to look at. As well we look forward to our students gaining part time employment and participating in work experience at Coles.

At St Mary's we have an existing fruit and vegetable garden and a medicinal Indigenous Garden. This vegetable garden is called The Garden of Assisi after our patron Saint Francis. St Francis was known for his strong connection to the earth. This garden will now have an existing fence relocated to extend its size – nearly double in fact. With our Indigenous Garden, we are now planning to develop it further with edible Indigenous plants to complement our medicinal plants. St Mary's has an established worm composting system incorporating food waste from both our Primary and Secondary school.



Our junior school buddy system with the year 10s carries into the vegetable garden, making positive interactions grow throughout the school.

All of these projects will now be extended and increase in need with St. Mary's - returning to a VCE level. The VCE-VM subjects will utilise all these programs starting next year. An Agriculture study is currently being researched and this money may also be a starting block to that.

The money gratefully received will initially enhance these existing subjects.

St Mary's College genuinely appreciates this generous donation. We sincerely thank both the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation and Coles. To Coles in Seymour, it is lovely to see your doors open again, and we look forward to working with you. Thank you.

Mrs Amanda Hard
Visual Arts/Technology Teacher



Reconciliation

Last week our Year 3 students celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Father Ashkar. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the sacraments of healing and restoration. It celebrates the endless forgiving mercy of God and the change of heart of all those who turn back to God. It celebrates too all the efforts at restoring peace within our lives with family, friends and others.

A shared lunch and then an evening liturgy with families and friends finished off the celebrations. Congratulations to all students; your parents should be very proud of the way you conducted yourselves throughout the preparation and in the church.

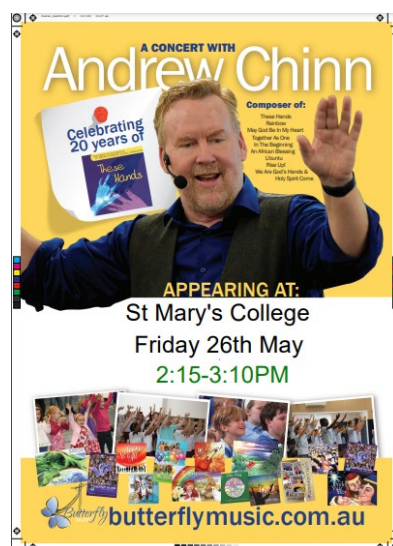
Thank you to Miss Jade and Mrs Evans for preparing our students and to Father Ashkar for being our spiritual guide.

Jake Rohde	Willow Doyle
Jack Lomax	Isaiah Purdon
William A	Alexis Purcell
Harper Kaarsberg	Rocco Sartori
Blake Winnell	Rafferty Clydesdale
Abby Wheeler	Sky Aquino
Ella D'Andrea	Atassha Day
Brock Inness	Oliver Liddell
Chelsea Prorok	Lachlan Stokes
Harrison Hustler	Violet Byers
Shaun Pulvera	James Harman
Alexis Demavibas	Holly Sherwood
Ruby Cox	



Andrew Chinn workshops and concerts

On **Friday 26 May**, Australian religious songwriter and singer Andrew Chinn, will be visiting our school to share his songs with our children. Andrew's songs, such as "These Hands", "Rainbow", "An African Blessing" and "Rise Up!" are used in classrooms and liturgies around Australia, New Zealand, USA and Canada. The concert will take place in the **Multi Purpose Hall** at **2:15pm**. All students will present the songs they learned with Andrew. We look forward to seeing you there!



Faith and Mission cont...

Caritas

During Lent we had numerous fundraising events. The result are as follows:

Caritas boxes that have already been returned \$450

Shrove Tuesday \$158

Wacky Wednesday \$317

Meat pie day \$684



An amazing effort! Just over \$1600 for Caritas and Project Compassion. Once again thank you for your generous and compassionate spirit.

If you still have a Caritas Box, with money could you please return it to the school office, as soon as possible.

McAuley Mass

All McAuley students will attend Mass at 9am on Wednesday 17th May.

Parents and families are more than welcome to join us!

Mrs Rochelle Gough

rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Director of Learning & Teaching



Return to Term Two 2023

It has been a busy start to Term Two, and it has been wonderful to see our students return with such energy and positivity. Across the College there has been focus and engagement in classrooms, with our teachers and learning support staff providing a variety of rich and detailed learning experiences.

Reporting Changes

Our Staff Professional Development Day at the start of Term Two focused on developing the reporting system that we currently have at St. Mary's College. Families will still receive a report twice in the academic year using the recognised five point scale, however the format of the report is undergoing significant change. Our staff have worked hard on streamlining the curriculum achievement information that is provided in the report to give an accurate picture of current attainment, progress and areas for development. Also included in this are the new St. Mary's College 'Approaches to Learning'.

The 'Approaches to Learning' incorporate the core values from our primary and secondary 'Positive Behaviour for Learning' matrix and will give a clear picture of how our students are undertaking their daily learning routines.

Families with students in primary classes will see these changes implemented for the Semester One 2023 Reports. Families with students in the secondary sector will see these changes for the Semester Two 2023 reports. Further information will be presented closer to the time, with family information sessions and examples provided.

Year 10 exams

Term Two will be an especially busy one for our Year 10 students. Week 7, 5th – 9th June will see them sitting the Semester One exams. These will take place on the Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday of that week. Students will be provided with a full breakdown of the exam requirements and a timetable of the week. Year 10 will also undertake study skills sessions prior to this week which will provide revision and note taking strategies. We would encourage students to start the revision process earlier rather than later and to speak regularly to their class teachers for support.

Mrs Julia Wood

julia.wood@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Welcome back to Term 2.

Our classes have been settling back into routine and you can see and hear the learning happening in each classroom. From Foundation practising their letters and learning new sounds and Year 1 & 2 each having experiments - Year 1 popping popcorn and Year 2 making Esky's (ice boxes) and demonstrating how to keep food safe using slices of apple, both as part of their Science units.

We commenced Taekwondo this week and our instructor George, has already made the comment that our students are among the top he has taught for respect, listening and enjoyment! We love hearing compliments like this.

Thursday's Open Evening was well patronised with many families taking the opportunity to look at our school and speak to staff about attending St Mary's College. It is always a wonderful experience speaking with prospective families about their hopes and dreams for their children. It is never too early to begin building positive relationships that support families and students throughout their education.

Today we celebrated being part of the Commonwealth by dressing up as royalty and enjoying the Coronation of King Charles III. Students made crowns, carriages, wands, teapots and cups and bunting. Each student made a crown to wear home and wrote about what they would do if they were King or Queen. (Photos to follow next edition).

Next week we have our Junior Cross Country Run, on Wednesday 10th May. Further details will follow in our family emails.

Save the date for Mother's Day Breakfast on Friday 12th. All families will have received an email with the details. We are looking forward to seeing mums, grandmas, nans and other special people in our students' lives.

Have a fabulous fortnight!

Mrs Anne Spencer

anne.spencer@smseymour.catholic.edu.au





PAM User Guide

During the Term 1 holiday period, a user guide for the updated PAM interface was released. It provides parents with details about how to navigate the Parent Access Module (PAM) that links to our school's Student Management System, SIMON.

PAM is one of our key methods of communicating to Secondary parents about students' learning progress. Parents can view teacher feedback provided to students about assessment tasks. Additionally, it is used across the entire school for the following:

- Medical Records
- Academic Reporting
- Personalised Learning Plans
- Events, Excursion and Activity permissions
- Student information and student timetables
- Student Attendance
- Parent Teacher online bookings
- Requests via the Connect Field option
- Cocurricular event selection
- Student tasks and lesson plans (Secondary only)
- Emailing your child's teachers
- Communicating Parent Notified absences of students to the school
- A knowledge bank that contains key documents including policies and newsletters

To better understand the possibilities of communicating and keeping abreast of your child's progress at St Mary's we encourage you to take a look at the guide. Here is a link to the guide: [Parent Access Module Guide Version 1](#)

Parent Digest Email

In Term 1 of this year the Parent Digest was introduced which is a fortnightly overview of your Secondary student's attendance and task progress. We hope this has been a useful way to keep abreast of what your child is learning and to allow engagement on the task topics with your child.

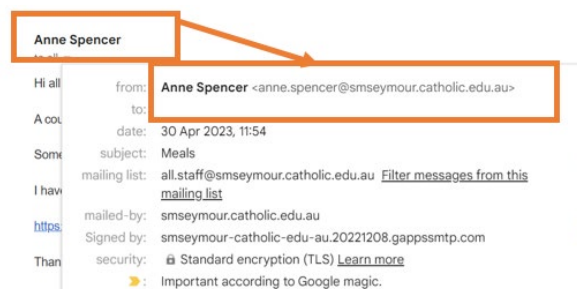
Email Services: not receiving emails from the school?

The ICT Team are still working with external support providers to find a solution for parents who are not receiving emails from the school. This is a known issue with Hotmail, Yahoo and Outlook email services. If you suspect that you are not receiving email communication, please contact the office and they will connect you with our ICT technician. This will allow the school to work more directly with any parents affected by limitations in the above-mentioned email services.

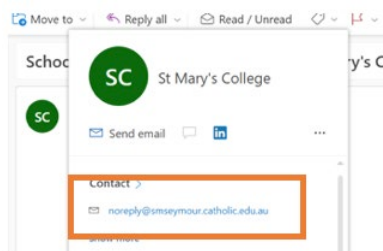
Hoax E-mails

Several parents have contacted the school to inform their child's teacher and the ICT team that they have been receiving hoax style emails. A hoax email may look as though it is sent from a staff member. The best way to check if the email is authentic is to view the entire email address. Each mail server will vary in the way that you can view the entire email address.

Google G-mail - Select the expand triangle found after the name and review the entire email address of the sender



Outlook Live - Hover over the name and a window will pop up with the full email address of the contact.



Data Analyst cont...

Yahoo - The full email address shows with the name of the sender

• Work Experience 2023



Tanya Oakley <tanya.oakley@smseymour.catholic.edu.au>
Test Mother Test

The school will be sending a short survey to parents through the PAM portal. You will notice a notification on PAM around 5.00pm on Friday. There are 4 questions to answer. We would appreciate if all parents could complete so we can ascertain the volume of the problem. Our ICT Team and MAC ICT teams will be working on this problem together. We are also requesting if a number of parents receiving the hoax emails may support us with testing and screen shots. This request is included in the PAM survey.

Ms Andrea Richards

andrea.richards@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Parents & Friends Association

The P&F will be holding a Mother's Day Stall next Friday 12th May.

Items will range from **\$2 to \$15**. It is recommended that each student brings a bag to safely take their gift/s home. Students will be able to purchase a maximum of two items and return at recess for any additional purchases.

We are seeking any donations for the stall up until Thursday 11th May. Donations can include food, plants, hand creams, etc. All food donations are required to be sealed with an ingredients list on them.

Thank you for your support.

Any other questions please feel free to contact Cath Evans at the College.

Megan Lomax - President



Dates to Remember

DATE	EVENT
3 - 5 May	Year 7 School Camp (Halls Gap)
10 May	Yr. 9 Careers Expo (Shepparton)
11 May	College Cross Country
12 May	Mother's Day Breakfast (8.00am)
12 May	Incursion: Elephant Ed (Yr. 7-10)
16 May	District Cross Country (Specific Primary Students)
16 May	Round Robin 2 (Secondary Students)
17 May	McAuley Mass (9.00am)

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

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www.familycare.net.au



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