



The Marian



Newsletter No. 7
Term 2 | 19 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,

MACS have contacted the Victorian State Education Department to pass on our system's thoughts, prayers and offers of assistance to Exford Primary School following this week's bus crash. Every day across rural Victoria there are hundreds of school buses in operation. May God bless students and drivers on morning and afternoon school bus routes and at this time the children, parents and staff of Exford Primary.

Vale Philomena (Mina) Skidmore

Former St Mary's teacher Philomena Skidmore passed away on Mother's Day. Mina was fondly remembered as the College's vibrant Italian and Liturgical Dance teacher. A lady and teacher who lived the Mercy Values in her heart.

Mrs Mary (Mother) Tampion reflects on her memories of Mina who taught with Mary at St Mary's and Sacred Heart (then the secondary College) back in the 80's and 90's:

'Mina was a much loved, hardworking and loyal member of St Mary's College staff. Her passion and skills as a seamstress saw her spending endless hours creating beautiful Liturgical Dance dresses for the many students over the years who were privileged enough to be a part of her Liturgical dance groups. To be a liturgical dancer was a big commitment as well from the students and parents as they were expected to be present for all rehearsals (in and out of school hours and holidays) and to realise it was a prayerful dance experience as well. Mina often made new dresses to fit the growing students for a special occasion!

Mina spent endless hours (both in and out of school hours) preparing and practising these groups to perform and be a major part of all College major religious celebrations plus Parish Easter and Christmas Eve masses. You always had to be early to secure a seat at the Christmas Eve Family Mass as the Church would be jam packed with extended family members coming along to celebrate and of course watch their children perform in such a prayerful, respectful and creative way.

As a parent I can remember how excited my own girls would be, preparing and getting ready for the celebrations with certain mums creating braids and preparing the students.

Mina in her own quiet way was responsible for many family members coming along to masses and participating along with their children. The Liturgical Dance celebrations brought many people along to the Parish and College masses.

Mrs Tampion

all ma per la grazia di dio andiamo noi
'There but of the grace of God go we'

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

College Advisory Council

With St Mary's returning to Year 12 it is an appropriate time to renew the College Advisory Council and invite Expressions of Interest from parents to join the Council. Following the 2023 College review in Term Three the next School Improvement Plan (SIP) will be developed. The SIP is an excellent time to begin a new four-year cycle with Year 11 returning in 2024. Current Advisory Council members are: Andrew Graham (Chair); Kelda Gilmore (Vice Chair & Parent); Fr Eugene Ashkar (PP); Cameron Clydesdale (Parent); Felicity Melville (Director Business and Compliance Services); Anne Spencer (staff); Genevieve Gordon (Deputy Principal Operations); Wayne Smith (Principal).



If you would like to find out more and or are interested in joining the College Advisory Council please send an email to principal@smseymour.catholic.edu.au You will receive notification of your email and will be contacted by Advisory Council Chair Andrew Graham or Vice Chair Kelda Gilmore.



The Council meets monthly face to face or via an online googlemeet depending on what is convenient for members. St Mary's is moving into the future with the MACS 2030 Strategic Plan Forming Lives to Enrich the World. The following information provides a general overview of the role of the Council.

Role of the School Advisory Council - Advisory in nature

The College Advisory Council provides a forum for discussion and discernment, where parent/guardian voice inform and support the decisions for the good of the College and parish where the wellbeing and outcomes for students is paramount. The College Advisory Council is not the governing body of the College, while a vital forum for parent and community voice, it is not a forum for individual parent advocacy or special interest representation and does not become involved in the day-to-day management of the College.

Council Structure - Members of the School Advisory Council

Serving on the College Advisory Council of a Catholic school is a form of ministry. It is a response to the call to support the local Catholic parish and College community. Members share their skills and talents for the common good. A well-functioning council provides rich sources of wisdom and insight as well as a means of strengthening community links and potential for partnerships. School Advisory Councils seeks to be inclusive of all community members and will demonstrate a genuine commitment to gender equity, cultural diversity and requisite skill sets.

Conditions of Appointment

The period of appointment for council members is generally a term of three years ending on the conclusion of the third year following their appointment, with the option of being reappointed for a total of three consecutive terms.

Staffing

Whilst St Mary's has been luckier than many schools with staffing, we are often at stretching point. The priority to cover classes, excursions and other important student learning initiatives is a constant challenge at the present time. Individual professional development is being kept to a bare minimum to ensure classes are covered.



Trixie

Fr Eugene's well-loved companion, Trixie left this world yesterday after being hit by a car in Crawford Street. Trixie became well known to many students who enjoyed seeing Fr Eugene and Trixie together around the College grounds. Trixie brought joy to our students and to Fr Eugene!

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.

The College Open Evening was a terrific night organised by Mrs Webster (Enrolment Registrar). On Thursday evening the first 'Taster Session' was held for students from other schools who want to experience what St Mary's offers. Mrs Hard and Mr Allen led an enthusiastic cooking class. At taster sessions students will experience a variety of activities.

Autumn is hanging on and we will still have a few warm days to come before winter takes hold.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Wayne Smith'.

Wayne Smith

Principal, St Mary's College Seymour

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

Mother's Day



Mother's Day has been celebrated in Australia on the second Sunday of May since 1924. But Catholics have been celebrating a sort of Mother's Day since the first few centuries of the Church, the fourth Sunday of Lent traditionally was a time to return to your mother church (home parish) and leave an offering.

Those who practised this custom were said to have gone "a mothering" and soon it became known as "Mothering Sunday". As the popularity of 'Mothering Sunday' grew, it became a day when domestic servants were given leave to be with families. The day became one of the few times a year where a grown family could gather, as working families often had conflicting schedules. Once the tradition became a day for family reunion, with a reference to mothers in the name, it naturally evolved to include all mothers within the celebration. For children, the long walk back home became a time for picking flowers for mum, and this would grow to the tradition of giving gifts of all sorts to mothers.

In the Catholic tradition, the month of May is dedicated to Mary – a woman chosen by God to be Mother to us all. Her example teaches us faith, obedience, humility and most of all, how to love.

Last Sunday we celebrated and honoured our mothers and mother figures in our lives, including stepmothers, relatives, guardians, close family friends and those who are to become mothers. Let us also remember to honour our Heavenly Mother as well!

Lord Jesus Christ, You chose to put yourself -tiny, needy and helpless, into the nurturing and watchful hands of a human mother. Since then. every act of mothering, both physical and spiritual, in every time and every corner of the world follows Mary's example. Inspired by Mary we too honour our mothers and mother figures today. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers and nurturers. Let their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, honour them always with a profound respect. Amen

Thank you to all who attended our first Mother's Day Breakfast. It was such a pleasure to see, once again, a huge crowd gathered together in honour of all mothers and mother figures from our community.

McAuley Feast Day



On Wednesday all McAuley House students gathered in the church to remember and give thanks for the life of Catherine McAuley and the group of women she organized to become known as the Sisters of Mercy. Catherine opened a house in Dublin, Ireland offering a safe place for women and children. She and her team of helpers did a lot of things to help other people:

- They cared for children who had no parents
- They cared for young women who had no-where to live
- They set up a school for poor children
- They cared for people who were sick and dying

Over the last 196 years, the Mercy Order has spread around the world. Today there are Sisters of Mercy in over 40 countries, all continuing to work in the spirit and example of Catherine McAuley.

We are also gathered this week to remember that the Sisters of Mercy were the first teachers in our school on the 15th May 1900. They came here, from Mansfield, 123 years ago so the families in this area could give their children a Catholic education. One of the special gifts these Sisters brought with them was the spirit of mercy –compassion, deep caring for others. They were excited to come here and share their gifts with the people of Seymour and surrounding towns.



Mrs Rochelle Gough

rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Data Analyst

MACS - Digital Ambition Consultation

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) is developing a Digital Ambition and is seeking input into the ambition from school communities across the Archdiocese of Melbourne, of which St Mary's College is part of.

The MACS Digital Ambition is a statement of how we will enable our MACS 2030 Strategy through a contemporary technology experience for all. Importantly, it will set out how we will provide students, staff, and whole school communities with safe, simple, intuitive, and innovative digital experiences.

To ensure our Digital Ambition is aligned with the needs of our school communities, MACS is inviting and encouraging you to participate in this consultation process by:



- Reviewing the Digital Ambition Draft for Consultation. [Link](#)
- Providing feedback to the targeted questions via a quick online survey. This link will remain open until Friday 26 May. [Survey Link](#)
- Attend online 'drop-in' sessions where the MACS team will be happy to answer any questions directly. There is a dedicated session for parents and families on Monday 22 May 2023 - 7:00 –8:00pm. [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Ms Andrea Richards
andrea.richards@smseymour/catholic.edu.au

3-6 Pastoral Care Coordinator

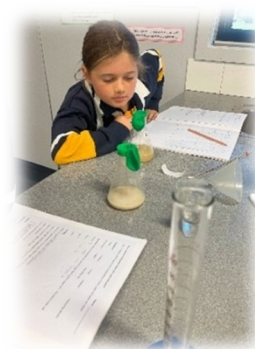
PBL:

This week our focus has been under the school value of RESPECT. Actively caring for our environment has been our goal from our positive behaviour framework. Students have been busy telling us all the great ways they look after the built and natural environment particularly here at school.



Year 5/6 - Science: Biology

Our work in the Science room is always met with enthusiasm. This term we are investigating the growth and survival of living things and how they are affected by the conditions of their environment. The students are conducting experiments to explore what conditions best suit the growth of yeast. They have used a combination of sugar, water and warmth.



Year 5/6 – Taekwondo:

Taekwondo has seen our students gain confidence in punches, strikes and kicks. We have seen an improvement in discipline, strength, speed and accurate techniques. Students are practising offensive and defensive positions.



Wheely Wednesday:

Our 3 and 4 students have been wheely excited about Wednesdays. Both year levels have been flying the flag for Padua and McAuley recently. We love how eager the students are to get active during lunchtimes. I would like to particularly congratulate the students on how they have been very safety conscious. Also this would not be possible without the staff who give up lunchtimes to help. Also a big thanks to the Secondary leaders who come and man checkpoints.



Year 4 - Get out of my House using Multiplication facts



Year 3 - Maths

The Year 3s are working on number patterns in Math and were building visual patterns with Unifix blocks. Through building they were able to experiment with different number patterns and even ascending and descending patterns. The only issue was holding our creations up if they got too long!

Year 3 - Science

In Science, the Year 3s were learning about the speed of light and got to experiment with holographic prismatic glasses to see the way light travels through rainbow lenses! It was very awesome to see!

A message from the Primary Captains: Harvey Smith & Lilly Fanning

In term 1, we had swimming students attend the School Sports Victoria State Swimming Championships. The under 12's boys and under 11's girls both competed separately in a freestyle relay in term 2. The year 5's in the u11's girls relay were Grace Ellis, Ava and Izzy Gordan, and Charlotte Lynch. In the u12's boys there was, Harvey Smith, Levi Brown, Lachlan Kingston and Finn Melville. Both u12's and 11's both came 7th which is a really good accomplishment!



During our hectic week 4, the school participated in District Cross Country against Avenel Primary, Puckapunyal Primary and Seymour College, we proudly brought home a win for St Mary's for Cross Country with a score of 80 points!

Starting next week, Primary captains and teachers will be starting a downball competition for grades 3-6 where each grade will compete for a big prize. There will be a year three, four, five and six competition and the winner of those grades will face off in a match, The winner of year three and four will play each other and year five and six winners will play each other! We are very excited for this competition to start and may the best person win!

Fortnightly Riddle:

Read the riddle. If you think you can solve it, tell Mr Harding at school to go in the prize draw. This draw will be drawn on the 26th of May. Make sure you keep your answer to yourself because only the first 20 students will be eligible to enter.

What can you put in a bucket to make it lighter?



Mr Ed Harding

edward.harding@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Enrolment Registrar



On Thursday 4th May, our College held an Open Evening for prospective families to tour and meet our staff. Our student leaders and staff did a fabulous job showcasing our College. It was wonderful to see and meet so many new students and families, on what was a successful evening.



Enrolments for 2024 are now open...

Applications can be completed online at:

<https://www.smseymour.catholic.edu.au/enrolment-information/application-form/>

We will begin our first round of interviews at the end of May, start of June. We understand enrolling in a new school can be a big decision, so we have allowed for a second week of interviews in August for those who may still be deciding.

Naturally, there may be further questions you may have, and we would be delighted to assist in any way possible. Private tours can be arranged if you would like to visit our College during school times.



Bookings for **Taking Off Transitions (Primary)** and **Taster Sessions (Secondary)** will be open online from Wednesday, 10 May 2023. These sessions are a great opportunity for students to take part in activities in our College environment and to meet other students from their prospective year level.



More information is available via the booking link:

<https://www.smseymour.catholic.edu.au/enrolment-information/event-registration/>

Mrs Andrea Webster

andrea.webster@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

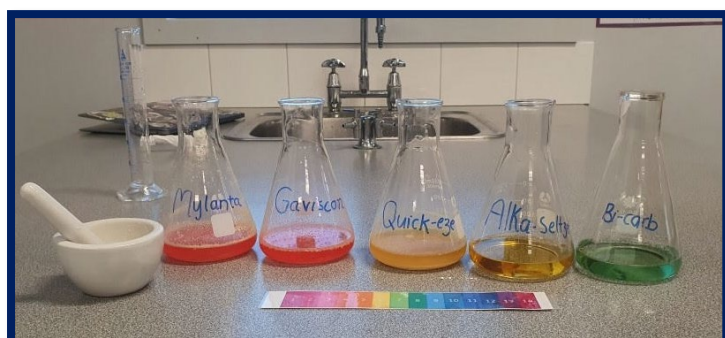
Year 9 Science - Chemistry

Year 9 students are currently studying the properties, and everyday examples, of acids and bases in science and using the pH scale used to measure how acidic or basic a substance is. They have conducted several experiments, beginning with making their own acid/base indicator out of red cabbage to determine which House at Hogwarts stole the potions Acidus and Basidus.



Other practicals undertaken were to test common household substances for their respective pH value using Universal indicator. Students tested the effectiveness of various antacid tablets on the market to combat heartburn in their study of neutralisation reactions. Students also looked at the role and impact of acids and bases in agriculture with respect to the pH of soil, the maintenance of pools and fish tanks as well as treatment of stinging nettle, bee, wasp and jellyfish stings.

Joanne Kamp - Science Teacher



Defence School Mentor

Defence Kids Club

Foundation – Year 4 were very excited to make bracelets last week for Mother's Day, or for a special person in their life. So many colours, bead shapes and imagination were used to create some unique bracelets which were then put into small, decorated boxes. I hope all recipients had a great day last Sunday and enjoyed your special day.



On Tuesday May 16th I was able to help at the district primary cross country held at Seymour Racecourse. It was such a special day watching students compete, some winning or getting places, while being cheered on by attending parents, family and friends. Well done to the all the students who competed and a special mention to Logan Jack who came second in the 9 & under boys.

Defence Kids Hangout and Hot Chocolate mornings have been well attended. Hot chocolate mornings are a very good way to start the day with a warm drink and a chat amongst friends. Kids Hangout during Wednesday lunchtime provide a warm room and a space to come and spend time listening to music, playing games, or drawing while being with friends.

Australian Military Wives Choir – The choir welcomes women and girls who have a significant relationship with an Australian Defence Force member or foreign defence force member stationed in Australia. This includes partners, daughters, mothers and sisters. If you can't get an in-person choir you can sing virtually with the AMWChoir online. Further information can be found at <https://www.amchoir.com/>



Vet Connect – Families with Soldier On

A family weekend program that aims to bring veteran families together providing opportunities for family social connections, developing new and improved relationship skills, and working towards future goals.

Puckapunyal – September 2023
Sale – September 2023
Wodonga – November 2023

Scan the QR code to register your expression of interest.
This program is supported by the Victorian Government



Mrs Janice Kerris

janice.kerris@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Music Program



Exciting times in music land at St Mary's College. The choir is progressing very nicely and performed beautifully at the Mother's Day breakfast. Lessons commenced in Term Two for singing, keyboard and band, with full band rehearsals commencing very soon. Andrew Chinn we be visiting the school on Friday May 26 to run singing and movement workshops to all Primary classes, ending the day with a performance after lunch of all songs learnt in the workshops. We have secured two major performance opportunities for our senior Primary classes to attend free of charge. The first is an opera performance at the Melbourne Arts Centre on June 22 for Years 3 and 4.

The second is a circus performance, also at the Melbourne Arts Centre on September 12 for Years 5 and 6. Keep an eye and ear out for choir and band performances throughout the year.

Mrs Wendy Brentnall

Music Teacher

wendy.brentnall@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Mr Matthew Dudfield

Music Teacher

matthew.dudfield@smseymour.catholicedu.au



From The Library



The great news from the Library in Term 2 is that our learning and recreation space is growing!

The library has been overwhelmed by the generosity of our school community. Our stock of games has grown to almost 10 times its original size!



Parents, friends and staff members have donated board games and challenges to entertain every age, gender and interest. There will be plenty of diversions for the wet weather lunchtimes to come in winter. Our students are truly blessed to be members of such a responsive community. So, as we enjoy the last of the gorgeous autumn weather we are rolling a variety of games each Lunchtime on Mondays and Tuesdays.

There will also be a Storytime for Prep to Grade 2 on Tuesdays at Lunchtime. Of course, this is not 'exclusive', everyone is welcome and we encourage teachers and students to be guest readers.

The library has also 'expanded' its range of magazines and newspapers. We have 'Teen Breathe', 'Frankie', 'Dirt Bike', 'Horse' and 'Fishing' for the Secondaries and 'National Geographic for Kids', 'K-Zone', 'Total Girl', 'Horse' and 'Smash'.

We're also trialling the range of weekend newspapers including The Age, Herald Sun and the Australian. Secondary students who prefer shorter articles now have a choice of reading material while enjoying their fortnightly Library period.

On Wednesdays students have been creating their own Knitting Nancies with recycled cardboard cylinders and paddle pop sticks. Who would have thought that discarded wool and recycled materials could have been so entertaining or even that French Knitting would live on to be a hit in this 'Digital Age'?

Movie Thursdays will really kick off once the weather outside becomes less inviting. There is a huge range of 'Family Friendly' documentaries and movies on the college's Clickview subscription, so there will be something for everyone.

Computer Time at Lunchtime each Friday draws in a diverse bunch of gamers, chess players and artists.

We are so pleased to be offering this expanded service to the students at our college. Keep those ideas coming to help us improve our services and resources.

Linda Heveren & Lorna Hooper



Congratulations Jackson

Jackson Hurley, a Year 9 Student at St Mary's, travelled to Geelong Archers on the 25th March to compete in National Field Championships in the Under 18 Division. There participants are told what targets they were on, and a briefing



was given to all competitors, before then being told their groups and which Judge to go to for their targets. The competition entails competitors shooting at different targets, of different shapes, from varying distances, with the use of a compound bow. Jackson came 2nd, with a score of 287 on the Saturday and 310 on the Sunday, going home with the silver medal. This is an excellent achievement, well done Jackson!



Miss Jasmine Francis
Secondary Humanities and HPE Teacher

Community News

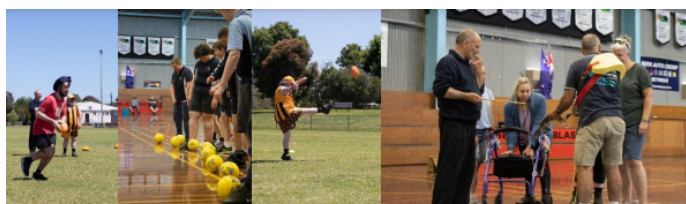
A Helmet On Your Handlebars Won't Save Your Life

A person riding a bike is 34 times more likely than vehicle occupants to be seriously injured in a crash. Wearing a bicycle helmet while riding reduces your risk of head injuries in a crash by up to 60%. However, if your helmet is on your handlebars, it won't protect your head.

For more on bike safety visit:

<https://www.tac.vic.gov.au/road.../road-users/cycling-safety>





Active Inclusion Sport Days Come and Try Sessions

Every Monday from 15 May to Monday 26 June 2023

Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre
Pollard St, Seymour VIC 3660

Come along to **Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre** to try lots of different sports and find out what you like! This is a **FREE** inclusive sporting event.

For people with disabilities – Maximum 25 people per session – please register

Monday 15 May	WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL	<u>Under 18</u>	2pm – 3pm	<u>All Ages</u>	3:30pm – 4:30pm
Monday 22 May	WHEELCHAIR RUGBY	<u>Under 18</u>	2pm – 3pm	<u>All Ages</u>	3:30pm – 4:30pm
Monday 29 May	AFL	<u>Under 18</u>	2pm – 3pm	<u>All Ages</u>	3:30pm – 4:30pm
Monday 5 June	SOCCER	<u>Under 18</u>	2pm – 3pm	<u>All Ages</u>	3:30pm – 4:30pm
Monday 19 June	SOCCER	<u>Under 18</u>	2pm – 3pm	<u>All Ages</u>	3:30pm – 4:30pm
Monday 26 June	SKATEBOARDING	<u>Under 18</u>	2pm – 3pm	<u>All Ages</u>	3:30pm – 4:30pm

*Green Shed Kings Park Seymour



This is a COVID-safe, all-ages, alcohol-free event. We aim to make this event accessible and inclusive to all of the community. If you would like to attend this event and have specific access needs, please contact Wendy Kelly (details below).

wendyk@nexusprimaryhealth.org.au
0488 541 439

Scan the QR code to register



Give life. Give blood in Seymour.

Woolworths Seymour Car Park
29 May to 2 June

Monday 29 May	2.45 pm – 6 pm
Tuesday 30 May	12.30 pm – 7.30 pm
Wednesday 31 May	1 pm – 7.30 pm
Thursday 1 June	9.30 am – 4.30 pm
Friday 2 June	7.45 am – 11.30 am

give blood

Before and After School Program

Welcome back to Term 2

We have been having fun since our successful Holiday Program. Some pictures of what we did during the Holiday Program.



Lots of Slime Bubbles



Our Friends Day out



So far, we have had ANZAC week where we had activities playing with army men. We were given lots of Woollies Which was a lot of fun.

Our Snow Globes



Last week was Mother's Day Week we made cards and made bath bombs which was a lot of fun. This week has been all about Ancient Egypt making Pyramids, mummies and more. Stay tuned over the next few we have Maths Week will be playing with time, measurement, and dice games.

The following week we will have some winter activities to welcome in winter. We are running a Karate program again this term with the fabulous guys from RYU SENSHI DOJOS on a Thursday night from 4 pm.

Come and Join in the Fun at Our Patch.

Lynne Fulton (Patch Leader)

T: 0475451524

www.ourpatch.education

ourpatch

Karate Thursdays

with Barry from Ryu Senshi Dojos

This specialist offering allows children to become fitter and stronger, develop more confidence, focus and discipline within a safe, fun and friendly environment.

**Commencing
Thursday, 4th of May**

4:00pm - 5:00pm
in the Patch Room at
St Mary's College - Seymour

**Included as part of After
School Care Program fee**

This program will run for 6 weeks

To register and book; visit www.ourpatch.education/before-and-after-school-care/ or call our Customer Care Team on 1300 018 310

Dates to Remember

DATE	EVENT
22 – 23 May	Year 3-4 Swimming
22 May	Year 10 Immunisation
25 May	Secondary Taster Sessions (Open to 5/6 prospective families) 4.00pm – 5.00pm
26 May	Andrew Chinn concerts & workshops (Primary)
26 May	Year 7 Excursion to Melbourne Zoo
26 May	Division Cross Country (Primary Reps)
26 May	ACK College Careers Expo Year 10 (9.00am-12.30pm)
29 May	Year 3-4 Swimming
31 May	Year 3-4 Swimming
29 May- 2 June	Enrolment Interviews 1 st Block (Primary)

St Mary's College

90 High Street, Seymour
PO Box 269, Seymour Vic 3661
T (03) 5792 2611

Office Hours 8:15am-4:30pm

St Mary's Parish Seymour - St Joseph's Tallarook

Parish Priest: Father Eugene Ashkar
T (03) 9412 8406 / 0455 123 509

Mass Times: St Mary's - SAT 6pm, SUN 10am
St Joseph's - SUN 8.30am