



The Marian



Newsletter No. 10
Term 3 | 14th July 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,

Welcome back to what is sure to be another busy term. Teachers have been commenting on the positive way students have returned to school. Our classrooms are calm, and students have settled quickly into their learning. *When we last heard from Mr Smith he was headed to Milos, Greece and was trying to find his bags amongst the 3000 items of lost property at Athens Airport.*

Pope Francis once said

"Journeying is an art because if we're always in a hurry,
we get tired and don't arrive at our journey's goal, if we stop,
we don't go forward and we also miss the goal.

Journeying is precisely the art of looking toward the horizon,
thinking where you want to go but also enduring the fatigue of the journey,
which is sometimes difficult. There are dark days, even days when we fail, even days when we fall, but
always think of this: Don't be afraid of failures.

Don't be afraid of falling. What matters in the art of journeying isn't not falling but not staying down.
Get up right away and continue going forward.

This is what's beautiful: This is working every day, this is journeying as humans. But also, it's bad walking alone: It's bad and boring. Walking in community, with friends, with those who love us, that helps us. It helps us to arrive precisely at that goal, that 'there where' we're supposed to arrive."

F-12 Pathway

St Mary's College has been on a journey since Term 4 2020 (some would say since 1988) to have senior secondary classes, Year 11 and 12 reinstated. For the past three years members of our College community have worked tirelessly, leaving no stone unturned, looking toward the horizon and our ultimate goal of acknowledging and celebrating Year 12 graduates at the conclusion of the 2025 school year. Last night for the first time in 36 years our College held a VCE parent information evening. Our work to prepare for VCE has been somewhat like preparing a spectacular outfit, last night the individual threads came together to showcase our result. As Deputy Principal Operations of our wonderful College I cannot be any prouder of our team. A team that includes a cast of many; Father Ashkar, Wayne Smith, Tony O'Byrne, Chris Bence (MACs), Col Mackin (MACs), Andrew Graham (College Advisory Council), Rod Allan and Amanda Robinson (ROAM Architects) to the roles that our staff have played.

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

Every role from those teachers who have been developing Unit 1 & 2 curriculum plans for the past 12 months and will shortly commence the process again to prepare Unit 3 & 4 plans through to staff who performed administrative tasks. We wouldn't be where we are today without every member of the team.

*Sacred Heart College Seymour 1987
Year 12*



Staffing

At the end of Term 2 secondary Art teacher, Emma-Jane Kelly accepted a position to teach at McAuley College Bendigo. We extend our best wishes to Emma-Jane and thank her for her contribution to St Mary's. Mrs Kerrie Aldous, Mr Rick Callow and Mrs Allison Moore are teaching Art classes in Semester Two and we thank them for their professional adaptability.

We welcome Ms Edwina Bull and Mrs Alison Pharoah who will be teaching Year 4A on alternate Tuesdays and every Friday respectively whilst Mrs Gough is on long service leave.

AFL trainee Oliver Lubeck is on leave and we welcome back our inaugural AFL trainee Chloe Locke who will be assisting in Physical Education classes in Oliver's absence.

Fencing

Fencing contractors L & J Webb completed an extension of the fencing from the PLC Centre to down beside the Parish Hall. There are now gates to the entrance of the school between the Multipurpose Hall and the units on McIntyre Street. All gates, including the Crawford St gate at the pedestrian crossing, will be open of a morning prior to school and closed of an evening. The gates near the Multipurpose Hall will remain open into the evening until Our Patch after school care finishes so that parents can collect their children.

Two of the gates, those entering the College grounds from the church and parish area are pool style latches that can be opened by parents. If for any reason you are visiting and staying on College grounds we ask that you sign in at the College office.

Uniform

Having received recent feedback from students, boys from Year 5-10 are now permitted and have the choice of wearing the grey tailored shorts during winter. If wearing the shorts students are still required to wear a long sleeve blue shirt, the College jumper and tie.

For any students who live outside of the Seymour township and their parents/guardians find it difficult to visit the uniform shop during the day, next Friday the 21st of July Mrs Gordon will walk students who need to visit Outback Uniforms to the shop during lunch time.

Best wishes to all students and families for the term ahead.

Regards,



Genevieve Gordon
Deputy Principal of Operations

Director of Teaching and Learning



Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent teacher interviews to review your child's Semester One report will be held on **Tuesday 18th** and **25th July** between 3.30 - 6.00pm.

~ Both online and in person appointments will be available ~

Bookings can be made via the PAM portal from Friday 14th July. We look forward to seeing you.

VCE and VCE/VM Information Night and Subject Selection

Our first VCE and VCE/VM information night was held last night (Thursday 13th) giving valuable information to parents, carers and students about the forthcoming VCE process.

VCE and VCE/VM subject selections will take place on **Monday 24th July**. Students will have the opportunity to discuss their preferences with staff during the day. Students and parents/carers will then be required to make an appointment for that afternoon/ evening to discuss the choices in further detail at a subject selection interview. Appointments will be available for booking in PAM.

If you have any questions regarding the VCE process please do not hesitate to contact **Ms Simone McLaughlin (VCE Co-ordinator)** or myself at the College. **Mrs Tanya Oakley** is also available to discuss **VET pathways** as we move into Year 11 and 12.

Mrs Julia Wood

julia.wood@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

School Counsellor



Breakfast Club

We have had a great uptake with the Breakfast Club which is currently being held on **Monday, Tuesday** and **Friday** mornings from the school canteen.

All school aged children are welcome.
Breakfast Club is open from 8:30am - 8:55am



Tanya Begley

tanya.begley@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

2023 National NAIDOC Week 2nd – 9th July

National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth.

The theme for 2023 is 'For Our Elders'.

Across every generation, our Elders have played, and continue to play, an important role and hold a prominent place in our communities and families.

They are cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers, nurturers, advocates, teachers, survivors, leaders, hard workers and our loved ones.

Our loved ones who pick us up in our low moments and celebrate us in our high ones. Who cook us a feed to comfort us and pull us into line, when we need them to. They guide our generations and pave the way for us to take the paths we can take today.

Guidance, not only through generations of advocacy and activism, but in everyday life and how to place ourselves in the world. We draw strength from their knowledge and experience, in everything from land management, cultural knowledge to justice and human rights.

Across multiple sectors like health, education, the arts, politics and everything in between, they have set the many courses we follow.

The struggles of our Elders help to move us forward today. The equality we continue to fight for is found in their fight. Their tenacity and strength has carried the survival of our people.

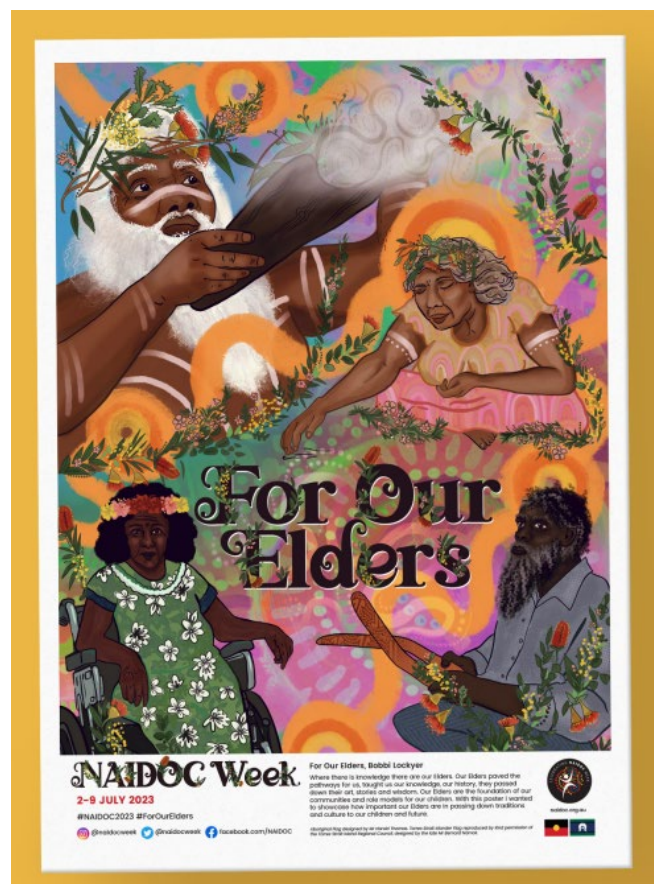
It is their influence and through their learnings that we must ensure that when it comes to future decision making for our people, there is nothing about us - without us.

We pay our respects to the Elders we've lost and to those who continue fighting for us across all our Nations and we pay homage to them.

In 2023, how will you celebrate For Our Elders?
naidoc.org.au

The 2023 National NAIDOC Week Poster, 'For Our Elders', designed by Ngarluma, Kariyarra, Nyulnyul and Yawuru artist Bobbi Lockyer.

Mrs Claire Kelly
claire.kelly@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Administration Matters

Early Leave Reminder:

Announcements will not be made during class time and we ask that if you know you will be collecting your child early to please notify the office either by phone 57922611 or via email: office@smseymour.catholic.edu.au prior to **recess** or **lunch** to avoid further interruptions. Announcements occur 5 minutes prior to recess (11.50am) and 5 minutes prior to lunch (1.20pm). We thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Also... when emailing your child's teacher regarding an absence, please cc the Office in:- office@smseymour.catholic.edu.au. That way we can assist the class teacher during their busy day with absentee accuracy.

Town Service Bus Fare Price Increase...

The Department of Transport have raised the fares for bus travel on 1st July.

Fares are now **\$1.30** per student, per trip. (up from \$1.20) for town service farepaying travellers.

Drivers have been advised to allow a small grace period for families to receive the news and start paying the new fares.

Interim Bus Travel (Adhoc Form) ...

When travelling on a friend's bus, be sure to contact the College Office for the appropriate bus form.



Lost & Found ...

Please ensure that your child's items are clearly labelled.

If we had a \$1 for every unlabelled jumper or drink bottle handed in at the Office, we would fill a project compassion box in no time at all !!!

We also have snack/lunch containers, jewellery items etc handed in.

**Label it or lose it...
we would rather return it.**

Please encourage students to visit the Office and give a description of any lost items.

Parents and Friends Association

Second hand Uniform Shop

The P&F would like to thank **Casey** (and her mum **Colleen**) for their amazing efforts in the second-hand uniform shop. We are very grateful for their support. *Winter and summer uniforms available in all sizes.* The uniform shop is open during Office hours. Be sure to pop in and have a browse.

Our Focus This Term

This term the P&F's focus will be on the **Father's Day Stall** and some **small sustainability projects**.



We welcome and encourage parents to join us for our next meeting, **Monday 17th July at 5.30pm** in the **PLC**. We would love to welcome some new faces.

Steph Liddell, P & F Family Liaison

Careers

Work Experience 2023

The last week of Term 2 saw our Year 10 students undertake 5 days of Work Experience. Placements were arranged both locally and far and wide.



A huge congratulations to all participating students for their organisation of placements and their dedication to making the most of the opportunities given to them.

Feedback from all employers has been excellent and students should be proud of how well they represented themselves and the College.

I would like to acknowledge all employers who accommodated our students. This can be time consuming, and we sincerely appreciate the sacrifice that it takes to host a student in the workplace for 5 days.

Thanks go to...

Gorski Engineering – Somerton
Board Games and Battle Grounds – Seymour
Pro Turf Scapes – Seymour
St Joseph's Primary School – Nagambie
Royal Mail Hotel – Whittlesea
Victorian Fisheries Authority – Eildon
Black Snake Productions – East Warburton
CRD Engineering – Broadford
Yea Primary School
Progression Physiotherapy – Yea
Bespoke Hairdressing – Seymour
Millford Thoroughbreds – Avenel
Chuck E Electrical – Seymour
Seymour Health - (hosted 2 students)
Skippy Automotive – Seymour
- (hosted 2 students)
RACV City Club – Melbourne
The Hairy Corner Hairdressing – NSW
Yea Garden Centre
The Barn – Heathcote
St Augustine's College – Kyabram
Kilmore Leisure Centre
Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre
BKK Architects – Melbourne
Karingal Seymour
Mirin Farm – Yea
Wayne Merritt Builder – Avenel
Department of Defence – ACT
Walter & Eliza Hall Institute – Parkville
Seymour Technology
Parker Bros Earthmoving – Seymour
Puckapunyal Primary School
Avenel Primary School
Body Fit Training – Seymour
- (hosted 2 students)
Oak Mountain Healthcare – Seymour
Phoenix Automotive – Seymour
Kilmore District Health
Fullfitment Personal Training and Nutrition
Yea Uniting Early Learning
Scope - Seymour





VCE Subject Selection

Year 10 students received a copy of the VCE Handbook for 2024.

This week we held VCE information sessions for both students and their parents to explain the processes and procedures for making their subject selections for Year 11.

The final day for subject selections will be Monday 24th July. All students and a parent/guardian are required to attend an interview to discuss and submit their selections. These will be booked in the same way as Parent Teacher Interviews by a PAM link that will be provided. If you have any questions regarding this please contact me, Ms Simone McLaughlin or Mrs Julia Wood on 57922611.

Pathways for Year 9 students going into Year 10

Over the next few weeks Year 9 students will be given information regarding accelerated programs for 2024.

VCE Mathematics

In 2024, Year 10 students may be able to study VCE General Mathematics Units 1 & 2 (Year 11 subject) if they show a keen interest and strength in Mathematics. This will be subject to a discussion with teachers and parents and is not a guaranteed entry for all.

VET

Vocational Education and Training courses can be completed as part of a student's school studies. VCE VET courses are nationally recognised certificates that contribute to the completion of the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). These are offered at other local schools and Tafe providers both locally and in Shepparton, Melbourne and surrounding suburbs.

SBAT

School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships. A School-based Apprenticeship arrangement combines paid employment, one day per week as an apprentice or trainee, off-the-job vocational training (trade school or TAFE) and secondary school studies. Students must be **very** organised and will have a large workload both on and off the job. It is the student's responsibility to find a suitable employer. There are a wide variety of VET and SBAT courses available. Students will be given information regarding these in the coming weeks.

If a student is interested in one of these pathways, they will be interviewed for suitability. These options require a high level of organisation and dedication. Students that don't demonstrate these skills may not be accepted to participate.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require more information or would like to discuss these options further.

Mrs Tanya Oakley

tanya.oakley@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Defence Mentor

Welcome back and I hope you had a very good break and are refreshed for Term three.

St. Mary's **Defence Kids Club** is on a Tuesday lunchtime in Room 18.



Foundation to Year 4 Defence students can come along to enjoy fun activities alongside myself the DSM. They can bring along a friend to join in a variety of activities including games, arts and crafts.

Defence Hangout Year 5 – 10 is an opportunity for defence students to come along and enjoy themselves in a more relaxed setting. They can bring along a friend and just sit for a chat, play games, or listen to music.

To start the Term, Defence Kids Club Foundation – Year 4 have tried their hand at **Origami**. I am very grateful we had some of our senior students helping out on the day so each younger student could ask for help with their project, which I will say was much trickier than the "suitable for 3+ age" label on the packet. In the end, after perseverance and a smile there were some interesting animal shapes produced.

Defence Hangout Year 5 – 10 started the term with a **Donut Day, hot chocolate and milo**. It is so good to see groups of students in a relaxed atmosphere, some listening to music, drawing, playing chess or card games.

The Puckapunyal & District Neighbourhood Centre (PDNC)

The Puckapunyal & District Neighbourhood Centre offers a range of different activities and programs, catering for different age groups.

Website: www.puckacommunity.org.au
Email: Manager@puckacommunity.org.au
Facebook: [www.facebook.com.au/the PDNC](https://www.facebook.com.au/the_PDNC)

Mrs Janice Kerris

janice.kerris@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Year 5/6 Science

Last term in Science, Year 5/6 students have been studying Biology: - *The growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of their environment.*

Students completed a number of tasks involving the living organism, yeast.

- Students:
- Taste tested yeast;
 - Experimented with the requirements of yeast;
 - Experimented with the temperature requirements of yeast;
 - Made bread as a final task, using the knowledge gained throughout the unit.

The bread making was a huge success and enjoyed by everyone!

Thankyou to Mrs Hard and her Year 7 and 8 students for their help and to Sophia our Lab Tech who helped out all day and washed sinks full of dishes.



Ms Andrea Williams

andrea.williams@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

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

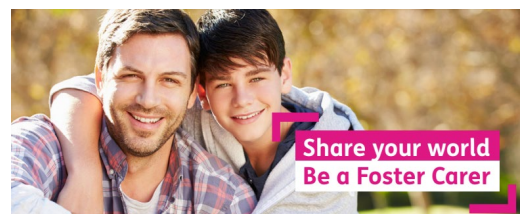
T (03) 9412 8406 / 0455 123 509

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

Dates To Remember

Date	Event
TERM 3	
Fri. 14 th July	Yr. 7-10 Incursion - Elephant Ed
Mon. 17 th	F-2 Swimming Program (<i>Depart College</i>): FB : 11.10am, 1A : 11.40am, 2B : 12.10pm, FA : 12.40pm, 1B : 1.10pm, 2A : 1.40pm:) Commencing Monday 17th July students in Foundation to Year 2 will be participating in a half hour swimming lesson at Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre every Monday and Wednesday. The program will conclude in Week 6 Wednesday 16th August.
Tuesday 18 th	Parent Teacher Interview (D1 of 2) - from 3:30pm - 6pm
Wed. 19 th	Year 7 Confirmation Candidates Foundation - Mini Transition (Fly into Physical Education) Enrolled & Prospective families 2024 (2:30pm - 3:30pm)
Turs. 20 th	Secondary Taster Session - Year 5&6 Enrolled & Prospective families 2024 (4:00pm - 5:00pm)
Tuesday 25 th	Parent Teacher Interview (Day 2 of 2) - from 3:30pm - 6pm
Friday 28 th	Confirmation – St Mary's Church (7.00pm)

Community Advertisement



Could you be a Foster Carer?

If you've ever thought about becoming a Foster Carer, now is the time!

We are seeking singles and couples to provide stable, nurturing homes for children in your local community.

To find out more scan the QR code or call Louise on **0437 262 194**.



LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS
lwb.org.au/foster-care

Our Patch

Welcome to Term 3

I hope everyone had a nice break.

We had some fun days during our Holiday Program.



OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

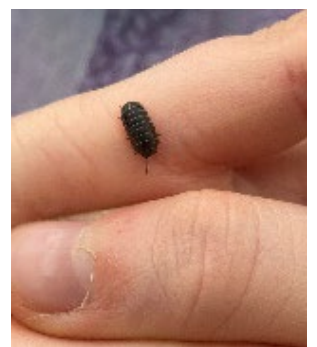


We have availabilities for After School Care
and Holiday Programs!
Contact us to find out more!



stmaryscollege@ourpatch.education
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Lynne Fulton (Patch Leader)

Ph: 0475 451 524

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