



The Marian



Newsletter No. 12
Term 3 | 11th August 2023

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Cynicism and its first cousin negativism are usually a refuge for the faint hearted.

"A young boy and his grandfather were leading a donkey down a road. Someone laughed at them for being stupid and not riding the donkey.

So, the grandfather rode the donkey until someone criticised him for making the boy walk.

Then the boy rode the donkey until someone criticised him for lack of respect for elders.

Finally, both the boy and grandfather rode the donkey until someone criticised them for being cruel to animals."

Releasing the Angel: Saluting all who Strive to Teach Chris Gleeson sj.

Saint Mary of the Cross

Friday 8th August was the Feast Day of **St Mary Mackillop of the Cross**, Australia's first Saint. Mary understood very well cynicism and negativity when she was faced with opposition from those who tried to place restraints on her taking Catholic education to rural areas when she formed Australia's first Religious Order in 1868, the Sisters of St. Joseph. To her credit Mary was steadfast in her beliefs for the children she cared for and her loyalty to Catholic education is unsurpassed through her work and the legacy she left in rural Australia.



Mary Mackillop was an exceptional person, and the Mary Mackillop Museum in Penola SA is well worth the visit. Without the desire, the dogged determination of women like Mary Mackillop, rural Australia would have had only a sprinkle of Catholic Schools from state to state. It was the remarkable and courageous Sisters of St. Joseph who started the Motor Mission where they would drive to country towns and to the far outback who like my wife's Aunty (Sr Christina) lived on sheep stations and in remote towns to provide a Catholic education for families.

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

Venerable Catherine McAuley

The Sisters of St Joseph like the Sisters of Mercy understood their mission and more importantly walked in the footsteps of Christ. Their legacy is our responsibility. At St Mary's we take their legacy seriously in preparing young people for their future lives.

The legacy of the Mercy nuns is embedded in our St Mary's College values:

- Compassion:** *responding to vulnerability with care and concern*
- Justice:** *seeking fair and equitable outcomes for all*
- Respect:** *treating all whom we meet with joy and kindness*
- Hospitality:** *offering welcome and comfort*
- Service:** *dedicated to proclaiming God's love through word and deed*
- Courage:** *willing to speak up and speak out in response to injustice*



Perhaps all six values can be summed up in one word, **kindness**. Our students know that one kind act can change a day or even perhaps someone's life for the better. Kindness costs nothing but a monetary price cannot be put on the benefits of kindness or the legacy it leaves. Saint Mary Mackillop of the Cross and Venerable (process to sainthood) Catherine McAuley were two great and outstanding women. Their courage and kindness ensured Catholic education has a deserving presence in the fabric of Australian life, particularly in the country towns where Mercy Hospitals and Catholic schools were staffed and led by the nuns. They were both proud and committed disciples of Christ.

Strategic Planning and Enrolment Growth

Enrolments are increasing at St Mary's. Back in 2019/2020 MACS modelling suggested that the secondary will increase to 313 students by 2041. At the present time 2024 for secondary will begin with 290 students and when Year 12 begins in 2025 this growth will continue to increase. In 2019 St Mary's College was 390 students. In 2024 the College will be closer to 570 students. It requires a village to build a school and educate students in the Catholic Christian tradition. It takes the sum of the whole to ensure our College develops and moves forward.

At the rate of increase waiting lists will need to be considered to cope with the growing enrolment demand. Growth requires development and the following four areas are ongoing, requiring many hours of planning and meetings.

Master Planning

All MACS schools are required to have a Master Plan and is essential when applying for capital works funding. A four-stage plan has been developed. ROAM Architects completed the Master Plan Framework in 2022 in conjunction with the building of the new Primary Learning Centre (PLC).

Stage 0 will add a primary classroom to the current primary block and three meeting rooms to the Administration Centre. Further expansion will be required on the Administration Centre building as the College size increases. The successful tender for Stage 0 will be announced before the end of Term Three with work planned to begin in Term Four.

Stage 1

In March 2023 the College applied for a major building development through the *Australian Government Capital Grants Program (CGP)* – the construction of a VCE and Senior Learning Centre to extend on from the College Hall. This grant application is a significant project that will ensure VCE students have a well-resourced centre for the contemporary learning needs of senior education. The College will receive notification of the success of our Stage 1 application during Term Four.

Stage 2

The College will soon begin the process to apply to the *Victorian Non-Government Schools Capital Funding Program (VNGSCF)*. Stage 2 follows Stage 1 and is to demolish the secondary building and in its place build a

state-of-the-art double story Secondary Learning Centre.

Like most things in life, it requires money hence Stage 1 and 2 are dependent on government funding grants and there are no guarantees. Both Stage 1 and Stage 2 applications will be judged by committees on the merit of the applications within set criteria. Stage 0 is a College self-funded project.

A Wing Well Travelled My Son

In 13 years, I have rarely if at all written about my son, so please pardon my indulgence. I usually leave the media commentary in the hands of the media and to the merit of social media keyboard warriors. Isaac *Issie* Smith was the country boy who bled for Carlton, was drafted by the Hawks and eventually the Cats got their man. I have read many beautiful messages about Isaac's retirement announcement surprising many considering he is still at the top of his game. Isaac has had an extraordinary AFL Career. A mature age recruit to be drafted in the first round and then have the success he has achieved is testament to his humility, skill, mental strength and commitment. Isaac is not one to look for glory or attention. He often says, "it's only a game." There are no tickets on Isaac.

Isaac has always believed that it was his job to play in a way that allowed his teammates to be the stars on the ground. In Isaac's mind to make other teammates look better than him meant the team was the winner not the individual.

Geelong wanted Isaac to play on, but Isaac and Candice have a young family and there is little more for Isaac to achieve on the hallowed MCG.

Isaac's story is a lesson for any aspiring young sportsman or sportswomen who want to live their sporting dream... never give up on your dream. Isaac is a humble person, a man of integrity, a loving husband, devoted dad, supportive of his sisters and appreciative of what mum and dad sacrificed in those younger years.

For 13 years before each of Isaac's games I prayed for three things:

1. *Isaac not to get injured.*
2. *For Isaac to play to the best of his ability.*
3. *That Isaac would show the enjoyment and fun of playing in a team and display good sportsmanship.*

Thankyou God for granting all three wishes and may he have 7 games left... very unlikely!



May the weekend be kind to us all.

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)



Secondary Reporting

This semester the information included on reports for our students in the secondary sector will be changing.

Assessment tasks will now be reported with only the task and score achieved. You will still see an overview of the course, the Victorian Curriculum progression and the St Mary's College 'Approaches to Learning.' This supports St Mary's move to providing ongoing feedback regarding student progress and attainment.

We therefore encourage you to regularly check PAM for feedback on class and assessment tasks.

Year 9 Pathways Preparation

Over the last two weeks our Year 9 students have received a variety of information regarding VET opportunities for 2024. VET courses take place on a Wednesday and are facilitated by a variety of local providers. Year 9 have also been fortunate enough to work with local providers from GoTafe and the LLEN to support these decisions.

Information regarding VET courses for 2024 can be found via the St Mary's College careers page. Applications for expressions of interest for these VET courses are now open and many courses are highly sought after. Please ensure that expressions of interest for VET courses are submitted as soon as possible via the link supplied by Mrs Oakley. If you have any questions regarding VET courses please contact us at the College.

Elevate Education Term 3 Parent Support Webinars

Elevate Education are providing a variety of Parent Support Webinars throughout Term 3.

Take a look...

<https://get.elevatecoaching.info/au/register>

Mrs Julia Wood

julia.wood@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

elevate
education

Term 3 Parent Support Series

Free Parent Webinars

Click here to Register

Join us and Elevate Education for **FREE** 60-minute webinars designed to help you overcome specific challenges that you and your child might be facing across the term!

In Term 3 we'll cover:

1. Motivation
- 2nd August @6:30 (AEST)
2. Technology & Focus
- 16th August @6:30 (AEST)
3. Note Making
- 30th August @6:30 (AEST)
4. Exam Room Skills
- 13th Sept. @6:30 (AEST)

Positive Behaviour For Learning

At St Mary's College we are continuing to refresh our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) across all year levels. Within the PBL framework there is an understanding that we cannot assume that:



- students know the expectations and appropriate ways to behave in different settings.
- students will not learn appropriate behaviour's quickly and effectively without consistent practice and modelling.

Therefore, we need to explicitly teach expectations and appropriate behaviour as explicitly as we teach academic skills. Research says that for a student to learn something new, it needs to be repeated on average 8 times.

For a student to unlearn an old behaviour and replace it with a new one it needs to be repeated on average 28 times. When PBL is implemented well, teachers and students have more time to focus on relationships and classroom instruction.

Routines are a behaviour prevention strategy to allow for calmer classrooms. All classrooms at St Mary's College have the same routines for lining up, entering classrooms, exiting classrooms outside and moving around the school. The routines are presented on slides and are displayed on a PBL wall within the classroom.



Staff are continuing to encourage students to show the **College values** of Respect, Excellence, and Integrity. These values have been used to create PBL Behaviour Matrix which is also displayed in classrooms.

The Behaviour Matrix has the three school values listed down the side, with areas in the school and how students can demonstrate positive behaviour in these places. Behaviours are explicitly taught through social stories and repetition.

Each fortnight for the term, a value along with a behaviour that demonstrates the value, is being recognized through an acknowledgement ticket system.

Students are acknowledged by a staff member who:-

1. States the value
2. States the expected Behaviour (from the Matrix) then hands the student an acknowledgement ticket.

Tickets are then posted in the PBL letter boxes. Three acknowledgement tickets are drawn F-2 and 3-6 and four are drawn from 7-10. These students then choose a lunch item and drink from the canteen.

Mrs Allison Moore

allison.moore@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Book Week 2023!

Book Week celebrations have begun!

The **Book Fair** opened on Monday and will finish this coming **Monday, 14th August**. Sales are open before and after school, as well as during lunchtime in the Reading Cave.



Upcoming events/details for Weeks 6 & 7:

- ⇒ **Book Hat Parade** – Friday 25th August (*Time to be confirmed*): Please note this is a change from the past couple of years. A big thank you to Mr Callow who will work with classes in Art over the coming weeks for the students to make their hats in Art lessons.
- ⇒ **Writing Competition** - Students are invited to write a short writing piece using the theme 'inspire' from this year's Book Week theme 'Read, Grow, Inspire'.
- ⇒ **F-6 students** will have a library lesson with Mrs Hooper and Mrs Heveren looking at one of this year's **short-listed books** in more detail.
- ⇒ **Reading Challenge** - Students in F-6 will bring home a reading challenge. They are invited to read in as many places around the home as they can and tick these off on their sheet. These are to be returned to the classroom teacher. All students who return their challenge will be placed into a prize draw.
- ⇒ **Colouring Competition** - Winners announced at the hat parade.
- ⇒ **Secondary Challenge Quiz** - P5, Friday 25th in house mentor groups.

Mrs Pearce, Mrs Hooper and Mrs Heveren

Defence Mentor



In the last two weeks **Foundation – Year 4 Defence Kids Club** have held two activities. Week one we had a fun, informal free choice day with **board games, colouring or 3D shapes**. This gave me a good opportunity to sit with individuals and have a quick game or help out with their chosen activity.

Two of our Defence students that help-out with Foundation – Year 4 activities asked if they could suggest activities for our Foundation – Year 4 group. Both girls have come up with some great ideas and input and I truly appreciate the lists they presented to me. Thank you to **Leane** and **Harmony** for your efforts and great ideas. Week two, one of these activities, a **drawing competition** was held on Tuesday 8th. We held two sections, Foundation – Year 2, and Year 3 - 4. Each defence student was also able to invite two friends. The works of art were then judged by staff, and after a very tough decision I would like to congratulate Foundation – Year 2 Winner: **Sarah** 2A, Runner Up **Freya** 2B. Year 3 -4 Winner: **Alex** 3A, Runner Up **Charlotte** 4A. Well done to everyone that participated.

As posting orders are starting to come out, please let me know if your family will be leaving St. Mary's and I can support the students with preparation for the changes ahead. Please feel free to contact me either via the College Office or by email as I would love to hear where you are off to for the next posting.

Mrs Janice Kerris

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Year 10 Melbourne Holocaust Museum Excursion

On Friday 28th July the Year 10's went on an excursion to the Jewish Holocaust Museum in Melbourne. We were first taken into a briefing room where we spoke to one of the workers, Simon, about what we already know about the Holocaust. We went into detail about key dates, places and people involved in this event. We were then guided through to the downstairs part of the building to a room where we looked at different artefacts from that time. We all sat in different groups at different tables and looked at different artefacts and had to work out whether they were an example of propaganda, anti-Semitism, resistance, starvation and other key terms.

Afterwards, we were taken back upstairs, into the same briefing room and we were lucky enough to speak to a survivor of the Holocaust. His name is Andy Factor and he is 99 years old. We all asked him questions about where he was from, why he came to Australia, and how it felt for him during that time. It was a very informative day and all of the Year 10 students are grateful that they were able to be a part of this experience.

Leisl Rayner & Olivia Leary (10B)



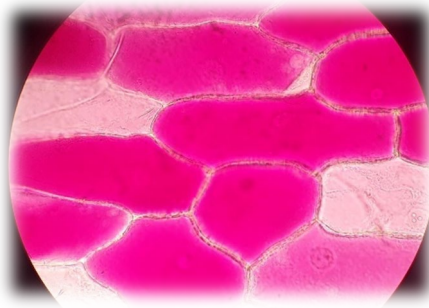
Ms. Simone McLaughlin

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Year 8 & Year 9 Science

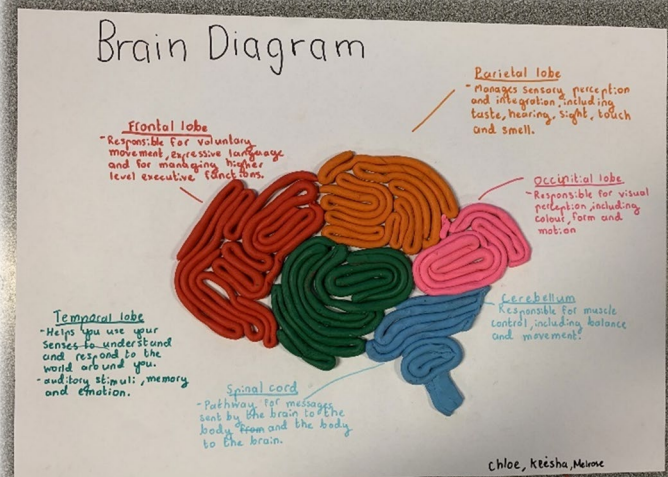
In the **Year 8 Biology unit**, students are using and learning about the microscope, preparing slides for viewing, and examining various types of cells that make up living organisms. They are investigating the similarities and differences between plant and animal cells, learning about the various organelles and their functions within the cell.

Here are some pictures taken through the lenses of the microscope of an **elodea leaf** and **red onion**, along with the some 'shrinky-cell' **key chain** made by students.



Year 9 students are learning about **homeostasis** – the maintenance of a constant internal environment despite changes to the external environment, and both the nervous and endocrine systems as methods body uses to communicate and coordinate the body as it responds to various stimuli. Students have been looking at the similarities and differences between these systems as well as positive and negative feedback mechanisms. They are studying the effects of hormones on various glands, the transmission of signals through nerves, neurotransmitters, effects of toxins and what happens when things can go awry.

Here are a couple of snaps of the students in action – trying to maintain Homer's fluid, glucose, and temperature levels as part of homeostasis or Homer-ostasis as it may be, and students modelling the brain and learning about the various lobes of the brain.



**Joanne Kamp
&
Rebecca Scollen
Science Teachers**

Indonesian

Selamat Siang,

This term, Years 3 & 4 have been learning about rice and the process it goes through from seed to on your plate. They have learnt that the word for uncooked rice is 'beras' and cooked rice is 'nasi'. They are currently making books about the rice process. This week in Indonesian they were able to taste some different rice dishes.

There was plain white rice- 'nasi putih' and some fried rice-'nasi goreng'. Students also tasted some rice crackers- 'kerupuk nasi'.

Most students enjoyed their tastings and thought it was 'enak'-delicious. They had fun writing about their experience.



Hari Merdeka

Next **Thursday 17th August** is **Indonesian Independence Day**.

It is the biggest celebration in the Indonesian calendar.

To celebrate this students are allowed to wear **red and white** (merah dan putih), the colours of the Indonesian flag. Classes will be doing activities during the week learning about this special day.

Bu Cullum Mrs Jacqueline Cullum

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St Mary's College

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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	
Mon. 17 th July	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: <i>Reminder: 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.</i>
Fri 11 Aug	Year 3 Excursion - Scienceworks Round Robin (Secondary Students)
Mon 14 Aug	Scholastic Book Fair concludes Book Week National Science Week
Wed 16 Aug	Foundation - Mini Transition (Flying into College Feast Day) Enrolled & Prospective Families (2.30pm-3.00pm)
Thurs 17 th	Indonesian Independence Day... celebrate by wearing red & white
Mon 21 Aug	College Athletics Carnival (Yrs 3-10) Book Week cont.
Fri 25 Aug	College Athletics Carnival (F-2)