



The Marian



Newsletter No. 17
Term 4 | 3rd November 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,

Year 9

Year 9 have experienced the beautiful South Island (Tasmania) this week. The students' behaviour was excellent. They visited the world-famous museum of Old and Modern Art (MONA); Port Arthur where convicts lived under the harshest of conditions and visited the site and memorial of 1996 Port Arthur massacre. The group experienced the tall Huon Pines and Eucalyptus trees by walking the Huon Valley AirWalk and then back to Hobart's Mt Wellington for the spectacular views of the harbour.

The students experienced many landmarks and Launceston's Cataract Gorge before flying out from Launceston to return to the North Island.

Thank you to our staff **Mr Lloyd, Miss Francis, Mrs Moore, Mrs Gordon** and **Ms McLaughlin** for accompanying Year 9.

The excursion to Tasmania does more for our Year 9 students than experiencing the South Island and its beautiful scenery.

Year 9 students learn more about themselves and each other when away from home and the College. New friendships will develop and importantly, they develop a greater awareness and understanding of differences, which strengthens the groups bonding of their connections to each other and to St Mary's. The excursion is an excellent way to enter Year 10 when the workload increases, and the students look towards Year 11 in 2025.

The Venerable Catherine McAuley

On Wednesday **Yr 7 classes** joined with parishioners for the **All-Saints Day Mass**.

Following Mass, the process to sainthood was explained by the students. Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Mercy Sisters and whose charism and values our College always strives to emulate is at the Venerable stage in the process to Sainthood.

Venerable is when the Pope declares a person has led a heroic and or virtuous life. The steps to sainthood can be a long process. After the Venerable stage the next step is 'blessed' requiring evidence of the intervention of Catherine through prayer to heal a person.

Once this is categorically proven then canonization takes place by the Pope at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. Many nuns regardless of their Order gave up so much to service their founders. Many nuns were saints in their every daily life.

Stewards of our Planet

3A have put up posters around the College to remind students and staff of the importance of looking after our earth.

There is no doubt the younger generations coming through are more conscious and are concerned about our planet.

I heard on the news last week that every year millions of tons of clothes go into our landfill. We only have one earth.

Apologies for the inconvenience the building works may cause to accessing the Office area. The end result will be worth it.

Monday is a **staff professional development day** for **Report Writing** and
Tuesday is the day our nation 'sort of stops' for a few minutes at 3.00pm.

May you do well if you place a bet on the Cup.

And if you are on the roads this coming weekend please go gently.

Victoria's road toll in 2024 has been tragically very high in the Northeast.

Best wishes for an enjoyable weekend.



Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wayne Smith

Principal, St Mary's College Seymour

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



Eucharist

Eucharist Sharing Day



On Sunday 22nd October
Year 4 celebrated the
Sacrament of Eucharist.

It was a
beautiful ceremony and
supported by family and
friends, as well as many
staff.

Thank you to Fr Ashkar
for leading such a
meaningful celebration.

**Congratulations to all
of our Eucharist
candidates !**



Secondary Retreats

All secondary classes have participated in annual Retreat Days. These days provided students with an opportunity to step back from their day-to-day demands of the College and focus on a specific topic relating to the mission and values of St Mary's. The retreat included some time spent in prayer and aimed to rekindle and deepen the students' relationship with God. The days also included ice breaker games, drama, multi-media and reflection activities.

The days were expertly led by an external organisation, the Youth Mission Team from Melbourne. Six vibrant and enthusiastic young individuals added a delightful touch to these events, and their efforts were greatly appreciated by numerous students who expressed that it was an outstanding and immensely enjoyable experience. Remarkably, some Year 8 boys were so impressed with one of the leaders that they honoured him with a framed expression of gratitude. The YMT team, in turn, was deeply impressed by the students' eagerness to participate in all the activities and their exemplary behaviour throughout the event.

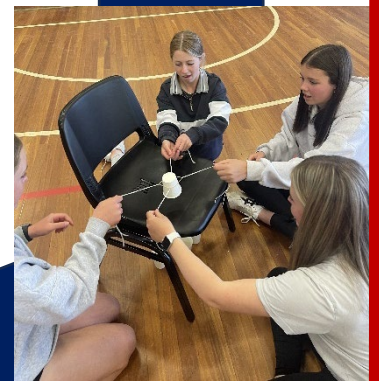
Each Year Level was based around a specific theme:

Year 7: Knowing God

Year 9: Social Justice

Year 8: Self Image

Year 10: Life Choices



Rochelle Gough
rochelle.gough@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Staff 'Pinktober' Morning Tea Fundraiser

Pinktober Fundraiser for the National Breast Cancer Foundation



Last week Staff held a very special morning tea in honour of all those who are fighting cancer.

Donations raised (\$932) went to the National Breast Cancer Foundation 'pinktober' fundraiser.

Rochelle Gough



Business Assistant - Financial

Reminder

Fee Due Dates

Please be reminded that all fees are now overdue. Payment was required by 31st October 2023. Should your fee payments be in arrears please make final payments a matter of urgency.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those that have paid their fees or have been making regular payments. For families who have a direct debit arrangement in place, please review the payment instalment amount, in order to meet your commitment in 2023.

The College bank account details are:

Account name: **St Mary's College General Account**
BSB: **083 347** A/C No: **839 989 790**

Please remember to use your statement account number and surname as the payment reference when paying via EFT.

Should you be experiencing hardship in meeting your fee commitment, please contact me to make an appointment with our finance team to discuss further.

If you have any other queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Lisa Cinquegrana

lisa.cinquegrana@smseymour.catholic.edu.au



Careers



With the end of the school year fast approaching some Year 9 and 10 students have been securing their place in their selected VET (Vocational Education and Training) and SBAT (School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship) courses.

In 2024 students are enrolled in the following courses:

- **Certificate III Allied Health Assistance**
- **Certificate II Automotive Studies**
- **Certificate II Engineering**
- **Certificate II Community Services**
- **Certificate II in Agriculture**
- **Certificate II in Salon Assistant**
- **Certificate III Design Fundamentals**
- **Certificate III Early Childhood Education and Care**
- **Certificate II Building and Construction**
- **Certificate III Information Technology**
- **Certificate II Information Technology – Game Programming**
- **Certificate III Screen and Media – Game Art**
- **Certificate III Sport and Recreation**
- **Certificate II Cookery/Hospitality**
- **Certificate II in Animal Care.**



Such a wide variety of skills and knowledge to be learned to take into their future studies and the workforce.

Mrs Tanya Oakley

tanya.oakley@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Defence Mentor



Defence Kids Club Foundation – Year 4 have been very creative these past two weeks. Week One was Halloween craft. Students put together some scary looking ghosts on sticks using fabric, polystyrene balls, polyester fill, wooden chopsticks and some decoration. A few students also made a cardboard spider or mummy, all while we listened to Halloween tunes. Week Two, in preparation for Remembrance Day on November 11th, we have been busy making Remembrance Day wreaths for all primary and secondary classroom prayer tables, as well as some for students to take home if they wanted. Lest we forget.

First Remembrance Day

The first national service to commemorate Remembrance Day was Commemorated in Canberra on Sunday 10 November 1946. It was held in honour of those who gave their lives in the wars of 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. In 1949, the Returned Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia agitated for a period of silence to be observed on the former Armistice Day. So, our national commemoration of Remembrance Day has been held on 11th November since 1950. *Excerpt from* anzacportal.dva.gov.au



Mrs Janice Kerris

janice.kerris@smseymour.catholic.edu.au

Year 9 Health Education

Last Friday, 20th October, Year 9 Health students **ran a variety of activities and stalls for Year 3 – 6 students** as a part of their unit on Mental Health. Students were tasked with coming up with an activity to support the R U Ok? Organisation which they could facilitate to the primary cohort.

Activities included cupcake and biscuit decorating, backyard cricket, beat the goalie, longest kick, balloon relays, guess the number of lollies in a jar, bullseye, beanbag toss and much more.

Mrs Wood and Ms Francis are incredibly proud of how well Year 9's ran these events, they absolutely excelled, we also thank the primary teacher and students for their support in this.



Jasmine Francis
Secondary Humanities
and HPE Teacher

Art Program

Year 10 girls got to have a try throwing (*the technique of shaping*) on the Pottery Wheel. They did a great job. We also did some hand building.



Year 2's got into the Halloween spirit. We chose to use paper Collage. Their job was to make the scariest Pumpkin they could imagine.



Year 4 have been planning their wind chimes since the beginning of term. They planned their design then used clay to build them.



After being fired in the kiln the **grade 3s** painted their own designs. Now they have finished them off with string and beads.

Jodie Neilson
Art Department

Selamat Siang Semua! (Good afternoon everyone!)

Many things have been happening in the background in the Languages domain recently.

We are very proud to have been awarded an **Honorary Lighthouse Partner Program grant** for our BRIDGE partnership with SMPN20 Singawang. This is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and managed through the Asia Education Foundation. The money will be used to support collaboration across the two schools to develop 'Life Skills' for our students. It is hoped that the activities will build inter-cultural awareness and global citizenship of students in both schools. We hope to create uniquely Australian items and images that can be sent to Sinkawang who will proudly display our student's work. We hope to receive work from our Partner school students in exchange. We will also continue to exchange work and video calls as we have in the past.

The Year 10 VCE VET Certificate II in Applied Language students have successfully completed their course. Congratulations to **Annie Dignam, Olivia Leary** and **Matilda Underhill** who have all worked hard to complete the course over 2 years. The combined Yr 9 and 10 class will be visiting an Indonesian restaurant, Pondok Rempah, in Melbourne next week to celebrate, and to put their language skills into practice. Makanan Indonesia enak ya!



On the 16th November our Year 3 and 4 students will enjoy a cultural workshop incursion with the Baguskan team, Nita and Aaron. The students will experience uniquely Indonesian activities such as playing the gamelan, masked dances and becak rides. This is always a colourful event and a lot of fun. Stay tuned for photos after the day!

Angela Molinaro



St Vincent de Paul Society
VICTORIA
good works

St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Inc.
ABN: 28 911 702 061
RN: A0042727Y

St Mary's Conference Centre, Seymour

October 2023

St Vincent de Paul (SVdP) offers support:-

The Seymour Conference would like to remind the College community that we are here to give a hand up to those who need it. Our local SVdP Conference is well aware of the financial challenges facing families today. An unexpected change in financial circumstances can impact the whole family, including children's education.

We are able to assist people with a range of short-term support, including food and some school expenses. Please call in to our assistance Centre at 76B Anzac Avenue on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday mornings, or call us on 5792 4167 to arrange an appointment to discuss your needs. Our volunteers will respect your situation and your confidentiality.

If those days or times are unsuitable to you, or if you would prefer meet with our volunteers at another time or place, please contact Allison Moore to assist with making alternative arrangements or call us on the above number.

Administration Matters

Reminder:

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.

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.



Interim Bus Travel (Adhoc Form) ...

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

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.

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.



... just a few of the unlabeled items that are building up in the Office.

... we will be playing a game of skittles soon ☺



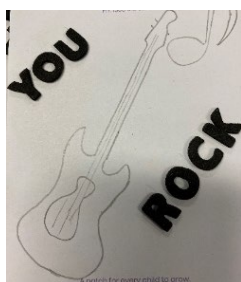
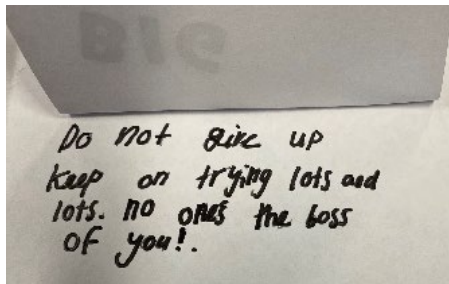
Donations Sort ... with the onset of hayfever season and *the sniffles in general*, it would be greatly appreciated if parents of F-6 students could donate a box of tissues to their child's classroom. Thank you in advance.



Our Patch

We have been having fun with Halloween the past few Weeks.

This week the children have been writing to some homeless and less fortunate in the community.



This is to go along with our goodie bags for them as part of our involvement with the Community Monthly Food Share.

The Food Share is held at The Centre next to Vinnies every first Thursday of the Month. If you have perishables, you may not eat and are in date consider donating to the needy in our community.

The Victorian **Container Deposit Scheme** is giving .10 cents per plastic bottle from 1st November.

St Mary's College Our Patch is all about sustainability, the community, and the future of our children. As part of Our Program, we are supporting the Community Food Share. **We have a small trolley in the room to help our families with food items.**

We are going to start **collecting plastic bottles** with the .10-cent mark to exchange for money to buy food for both the community and our family food share.

With the price of food going up all the time every little bit helps and there are more and more families needing help.

With the landfill getting fuller and fuller the idea of showing the children how much we can save and earn by as little as collecting plastic bottles is going to be fantastic learning about sustainability for the children.

Instead of throwing the plastic bottles into the bin or recycling bins could you PLEASE rinse out the bottles place them in a garbage bag and bring them to the Our Patch room for me to take to the local exchange centres to cash them in to buy the groceries for the Community Food Share.

I will be putting updates regularly in the newsletter on our progress.
Everyone can make a difference in changing a person's outcome if we just care.



Lynne Fulton (Patch Leader) Ph: 0475 451 524
www.ourpatch.education

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

TERM 4	
Fri 3 rd Nov	Year 7 Boys Hume Region Tennis – Wangaratta
Mon 6 th Nov	Pupil Free Day - Staff Professional Learning
Tues 7 th Nov 	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
Thurs 9 th Nov	F-2: Sports Morning (Period 1-2)
Fri 10 th Nov	Remembrance Day Service 2:15pm -3:15pm F-2 Incursion: Crazy Chemicals All Day 
Saturday 11th Nov	Remembrance Day
Tues 14 th Nov	Primary Incursion: St Johns Ambulance in Schools (All Day) Foundation Information Evening (5:00pm-6:00pm) (PLC Learning Hub) Year 7 Information Evening (7:00pm-8:00pm) (MPH)
Thurs 16 th Nov	Year 3/4: Indonesian Incursion
Fri 17 th Nov	F-2 Incursion: The Australian Music Show (10:00am-11:00am)
Wed 29 th Nov	Year 10 – End of School Year
Fri 8 th Dec	Year 7-9 – End of School Year
Fri 15 th Dec	F-6 – End of School Year
Wed 20 th Dec	Staff – End of School Year

... as the year
draws to an end.

Community Events



Get Techy, Get Ready

Are you prepared for emergencies?



Digital devices are a fantastic way to help you stay alert, informed and connected when disaster strikes.

Mitchell Shire Council is hosting free workshops where you can learn how to download, set up and use emergency related apps on your smartphone or tablet.

10am to 11am, Thursday 7 December

Kilmore Customer and Library Service Centre, 12 Sydney Street

10am to 11am, Monday 11 December

Greater Beveridge Community Centre,
Cnr Lithgow and Mandalay Circuit

Booking essential. Please bring your smartphone or tablet.
Participants will receive a free smoke detector.
Book online using the QR code or call us on 5734 6250.

Contact us

t. (03) 5734 6250 e. mitchell@mitchellshire.vic.gov.au
www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au



*When your mind is
telling you you're mentally
and physically at max
capacity, you're really only at
40% - find your extra 60%*



About our fit family... Griff-Fit was founded by brothers Adam and Tobi Griffiths. After creating the close-knit fitness community at BFT Seymour, it was a natural progression to open Griff-Fit to continue to grow the fitness community in Seymour.

With the help of their right-hand lady Alex and her team, Griff-Fit is here to help you achieve your health and fitness goals.

We already have a few SMC students and parents as members of Griff-Fit (your Crawford Street neighbours – 6 Crawford St.) and was looking to see if you'd like to do a partnership with your parents and teachers?

Our membership price is \$19.95 per week, however we would love to offer parents and staff \$17.95 per week!

Give Griff-Fit a call ... **0437 566 959**

Make cycling safe. Make your mark on BikeSpot.

BikeSpot 2023 has launched across Australia for the first time ever.

BikeSpot is a map that allows every Australian to say where they feel safe or unsafe while riding their bike, so we can target improvements to road design nationwide, create more safe bike routes, and get more people on bikes.

In the past 40 years, [the percentage of children who walk or ride to school has dropped from 75% to 25%](#). And we know that one of the top reasons why parents hold their kids back from riding to school is because of safety concerns.

By making our streets safe for bike riding, we can help kids stay active during their school years and beyond.

And that's why BikeSpot is such an exciting project. As Australia's largest ever crowd-sourcing bike safety project, BikeSpot has the power to transform how people across the country get from A to B.

Go to bikespot.org to access the map and start adding your spots, to show where you feel safe or unsafe while riding your bike.