



# ST MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE

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## **Newsletter**

Volume 42 – Issue 19

Friday, 4 December - Term 4, Week 8

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

This week, I had the opportunity to join our new Year 11 and 12 students on their Senior Retreat. Despite the changes that were necessary due to COVID, and the heat, I found all the students engaging in some very important bonding time, learning about themselves, each other and about Leadership and Faith. These retreats are invaluable experiences for all who attend. In the future, they will remember and cherish this time together as a group, and for the opportunity for reflection. I would like to thank all the teachers who gave up their time to all the students to have this time together. I would also like to thank Mrs Margaret Bertalli for all her work in procuring the 'Passionist Youth Retreat Team' and ensuring that the Retreat went ahead, despite all the obstacles that have had to be dealt with. Margaret will be leaving the College at the end of this year, and will be taking up a position at McAuley Catholic College in Grafton. I would like to thank Margaret for all that she has contributed to the College in her 3 years, and wish her all the best for the future in her next endeavour.

The move out of C Block continues. There was a concern that students would not have access to lockers in 2021, but we have managed to move them and have them in various spaces around the College, including the Gym. This means that all students will be allocated lockers for next year. There will also be some pre-demolition works happening at the College from next week. Students will not be able to access the area around C block from this time. It is a very exciting time for our College, and I appreciate the way staff and students have taken on some of the changes that an undertaking of this size, necessitates.

As 2020 Semester 2 reports will be sent home early next week, I remind you of the opportunity to discuss these reports. Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews will be held on Thursday, 17 December from 9am to 12noon. Again, due to COVID-19 restrictions, parents are not permitted at the College, so these will be held as phone interviews. This was done most successfully for the mid-year interviews and we anticipate the same level of success this time round. Further information is provided elsewhere in this Newsletter. Please remember that the interviews should be booked for teachers of students in 2020.

With the hot weather well and truly upon us, the College has been inundated with calls regarding the welfare of students during these particularly hot days. A message was sent home via the College app this week to let parents know of College arrangements during these really hot days. The message sent reads:

*"The College would like to assure parents and guardians that we are doing our utmost to provide as many students as possible access to air conditioned classrooms. We have also made air conditioned spaces available to students during recess and lunch.*

*Sport tomorrow will go ahead due to expected lower temperatures, however in the event that higher temperatures are experienced alternative arrangements will be made.*

*At this point in the year we are in the unique position of having more students in more classrooms with air conditioning than ever before. We are also in the process of moving air conditioning units from the decommissioned C Block classrooms into those areas that currently do not have air conditioning."*

The new C Block building will be fully air-conditioned. We anticipate that at the end of 2021, there will be very few spaces in the College without air-conditioning.

Next Tuesday, 8 December a Family Mass will be held in the church for all Year 12 (2021) students and their families. The Mass will begin at 6pm. We look forward to seeing the Year 12 students and their families at this Mass.

After a tumultuous year, there is comfort to be found when we pause to read, pray, and reflect over the course of the [Advent](#) season in which believers eagerly anticipate the celebration of Christ's birth. The first Sunday of Advent gives us the opportunity to centre our thoughts on hope. It's a beautiful chance to remember the hope God offers to our lost and dying world, and that He's given us through Jesus.

"Father, let your hope arise in our hearts! Lift our eyes up to see that you alone are where our hope comes from. Help us to shake off the anxiety, discouragements, and distractions that have filled this year.

May we pause to remember that we have hope in you.

You know the end of our stories, and we give thanks because you have promised that it will be a victorious ending. Give us the grace we need to wrap up this year joyfully.

We invite your Spirit into this beautiful Advent season. Renew our sense of holy anticipation! Let us be those who are waiting eagerly for Jesus to come again.

More than anything, we ask that you be glorified in this season of expectation."

Amen.  
(Amanda Idleman, 2020)

Finally, on behalf of the entire College community I would like to offer condolences to the family of Alexander Russell (Year 11) and Catherine Russell (Year 9) on the death of their Grandfather.

Yours sincerely



Tracy Robinson  
**Principal**

## **PARISH MASS TIMES**

**WEEKEND MASS**  
**6 pm (Sat) & 8 am (Sun)**

**WEEKDAYS**

Monday 9.00am, Tues 8.00am  
Wed 8.00am  
Thurs 9.00am ,  
**Fri 9.00am (Until further notice)**  
Sat 9.00am

**RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 8.45 (Prayer of Penance)

**BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS FUNERALS**

(Contact Parish office for details)

**Masks are recommended for those attending  
Mass.**

Only 60 people in the Church.

## **FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

A reminder that formal classes will be continuing until **3.10pm on Wednesday, 16 December**. There will be an opportunity for parents to speak to classroom teachers regarding their student's Semester Two Reports. **Staff will be available for phone interviews from 9am – 12noon on Thursday, 17 December**. To make an appointment, please follow the instructions found in a different section of this Newsletter. Please be aware that the teachers who taught your student's class/es in the 2020 academic year are the ones you need be making appointments with.

### **Lost clothing**

There is an inordinate amount of lost clothing sitting in my office which includes hats and jackets. I have consistently stressed to students the importance of having their names on their clothing and to take care of their clothing because it is expensive. However, there is not a day that goes by when a staff member doesn't drop off an item of clothing on my desk. Parents and carers, please check that your sons and daughters have all their school clothes clearly labelled.

## Safe on Social Update

### TikTok's Family Pairing Has Expanded into Australia

There is very little doubt that TikTok has problems with content moderation, inappropriate contact from older users and the content access younger users have within the app. It is also a poorly kept secret that many users of TikTok are well below the 13+ age recommendation and that they possess these accounts with the full permission of many parents.

Parents need to familiarise themselves with the app to understand the real risks to Privacy and unregulated content that are part of TikTok.

TikTok has improved the parental control and safety features in the app. The improved Family Pairing offers extended control for a parent over their teen's TikTok account and is mainly aimed at the younger TikTok users.

### What can be done and how to do it with the improved Family Pairing?

There will need to be a sensible discussion between parents and teens about what limitations may be placed on an account. Both parents and teens will require a TikTok account.

Click on this link that has been provided by Safe on Social to help parents understand TikTok and how to work through the app:

[https://www.safeonsocial.com/single-post/tiktok-s-family-pairing-has-expanded-into-australia?utm\\_campaign=8705874d-034d-4d3a-91ed-af516b71ebdb&utm\\_source=so&utm\\_medium=mail&cid=f6465889-a9de-46e4-bff5-fb5a79308350](https://www.safeonsocial.com/single-post/tiktok-s-family-pairing-has-expanded-into-australia?utm_campaign=8705874d-034d-4d3a-91ed-af516b71ebdb&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=f6465889-a9de-46e4-bff5-fb5a79308350)

*Greg Colles*

**Acting Assistant Principal**

## **FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – MISSION**

### **Senior Retreat**



Students have returned from the Senior Retreat facilitated by the Passionist Retreat Team. Over the course of the Retreat, students explored their understanding of leadership, looked at their leadership styles, reflected on the masks they wear, considered their relationship with God and found opportunities for reconciliation.

The students particularly enjoyed working in small groups and had plenty of time to relax and enjoy time with their friends. Thank you to the staff who attended the retreat; without their commitment, passion and dedication these experiences would not be possible.

### **SHINE - Called to Greatness**

Students in the Year 9 and Year 10 Ministry classes will participate in SHINE - Called to Greatness. This is a program designed by the CSO for the Year 9 and 10 Ministry classes throughout the Diocese. The program will be facilitated by the YMO's and class teachers. It is an opportunity for students to engage with the youth ministry aspect of the CSYMA program.

Students will come to school as usual and walk to the Anglican Parish Hall assisted by teachers. Students are to bring their own recess and lunch. All students will need to bring a pen.

WHEN: Friday, 11 December, 2020  
TIME: All day  
UNIFORM: Casual Clothing (Respectable clothing; Sleeved shirts, closed in shoes)  
WHERE: St Mark's Anglican Parish Hall  
COST: NIL



#### **VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

This year, due to COVID restrictions we are unable to accept food vocation for Vinnies. Instead we are asking all students to bring in an item of clothing, a toy or cash vocation that will be used to buy Coles and Woolworths food vouchers.

We appreciate your support. All donations need to be in by Tuesday, 15 December.



#### **MINISTRY STUDENTS YOUTUBE VIDEO**

The Proclaim Lismore band - WILDFIRE ran a campaign to have students lip sync their new song *Never Stop*.

[Have a look at our Year 10 Ministry students from St Mary's Catholic College.](#)

*Margaret Bertalli*

**Acting Assistant Principal - Mission**

#### **SMCC SPORT**

##### **Weekly School Sport Term 1 2021**

As Mr Colles explained in last fortnight's newsletter, Thursday's at St Mary's now consist of 6 x 50 minute periods to allow students more time to participate in sport and physical activity. Stage 4 students (Years 7 & 8) will have sport in the morning during Period 1 and 2, whilst Stage 5 students (Years 9 & 10) will have sport in the afternoons during Period 5 and 6.

Next week, students will have the opportunity to elect which sporting activity they would like to participate in for the duration of Term 1, 2021. Please see the details below regarding the sports available for each year group:

##### **Year 7**

Students will rotate through a range of scheduled activities as they transition into sport at High School. This will include completing a swim survival test at the Casino Memorial Pool as well as tennis, volleyball and touch football.

## **Year 8**

### Swimming/Pool Games

*Where:* Casino Memorial Pool

*Cost:* \$3.50 per week (unless they hold a pool membership or fitness passport)

### Archery

*Where:* Queen Elizabeth Park Archery Field

*Cost:* \$4 per week

### Lawn Bowls

*Where:* Casino RSM Club

*Cost:* \$2 per week

### School Sport

*Where:* SMCC / Colley Park

*Cost:* Nil

### Walking

*Where:* Various destinations around Casino

*Cost:* Nil

## **Year 9 & 10**

### Swimming/Pool Games

*Where:* Casino Memorial Pool

*Cost:* \$3.50 per week (unless they hold a pool membership or fitness passport)

### Gym

*Where:* Casino Health Club

*Cost:* \$5 per week

### Golf

*Where:* Casino Golf Club

*Cost:* Students can sign up as a junior member for \$10 for the duration of the year. No weekly cost.

*Equipment:* Students are encouraged to bring their own clubs. Some clubs are available for loan at the pro shop.

### Fishing

*Where:* Richmond River

*Cost:* TBC

*Equipment:* Students must have their own rod. Basic bait and tackle supplies will be provided.

### School Sport

*Where:* SMCC / Colley Park

*Cost:* Nil

### Walking

*Where:* Various destinations around Casino

*Cost:* Nil

If you have any questions, please speak to Mr Ryan.

*Mike Ryan*

**Sports Coordinator**

## **UNIFORM SHOP**

### **Uniform Shop Opening Hours**

The Uniform Shop is now located in the Front Office and will be open on the following days:

Tuesday - 3.15pm to 5.00pm and Thursday – 2.00pm to 5.00pm.

*Payments of cash, cheque or EFTPOS are welcome.*

### **SECOND HAND UNIFORMS**

Sustainable School Shop is an online shop dedicated to buying and selling of second hand uniforms. For more information ring 1300683337 or visit [www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au).

*Please note that this facility is available for use with the new College uniforms only.*



THE EASY WAY TO BOOK  
**SCHOOL  
INTERVIEWS**

Dear Parents

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held on Thursday 17 December, 2020. There will be times available between 9.00am and 12.00pm. These interviews will be an opportunity to discuss your child's 2020 Semester 2 report.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the interviews will be held as phone interviews. Bookings must be finalised before Wednesday, 16 December at 3.00pm, when bookings for this event will close.

For parents that do not have internet access, please ring the College on 66622255 and an office staff member will make the bookings for you. Interviews are strictly 5 mins and spaces are limited. If a longer interview is required, please contact the College office.

Now you can book an enrolment interview for a time that suits your family.

Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow these simple instructions.

Simply enter the code below and press "Go".

 

Enter your details



Select the appointment times that suit your family best



When you click **FINISH**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically. If you do not receive your email immediately –

**Check your junk mail folder AND make sure you have spelled your email address correctly**

You can return to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) at any time, and change your interviews - until the bookings close on 16 December at 3.00pm.

You may change your bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on: 6662 2255.

# Stay Safe These Holidays



## Pedestrian Safety Focus

Encourage your young person to be a safe passenger this holiday break by minimising distractions



### **THE ACTIONS OF A PASSENGER**

can have both positive and negative **impacts on the car driver**



### **SUPPORT THE CAR DRIVER**

to be focused by **eliminating distractions** and **wearing a seat belt**

# Stay Safe These Holidays

## Pedestrian Safety Focus

Encourage your young person to be a safe pedestrian this holiday break by minimising distractions.



Turn off the music  
and take off the  
headphones



Listen for danger



Use pedestrian  
crossings

***Even as a pedestrian  
you can become a  
risk to other road users.***