



From the Principal

Dear St Mary's College

Over the last months a Willy Wagtail has made its nest in the low branch of a tree right near our front door. The nest is compact and neat, quite different to any I have seen before. Three eggs were laid in the nest and as the weeks have gone by, they have been carefully tended by two adult birds.

Since the eggs hatched, getting from our front door to the car has become a process that involves dodging two swooping birds determined to protect the three young ones in the nest. Each day we watch as the adults bring food to the nest and the birds grow and become stronger. It is getting crowded in the nest!

Watching all of this unfold on our doorstep has been such a joy. When the storms hit last week, my husband and I spoke about the family of birds and hoped they would be okay. We have also become quite protective of the young and vulnerable baby birds.

Protecting and caring for our young is part of what we do as parents. We feed and care for their needs, provide shelter and protection, we support them towards independence and slowly over time they begin to make their own way in the world. In humans, this happens over a much longer period than the timespan unfolding with our resident Willy Wagtails.

In modern times caring for and protecting our young necessarily involves an awareness of their online activity. Young people are growing up in a world vastly different to that which many of us experienced. Social media has shifted the way relationships form, connections are built, and communication is managed. This is true for us as adults as well.

Our young people need our continual guidance and support in navigating the online world. I was reading an article in *The Conversation* recently that described the way in which children have become more exposed to hate online during COVID. One need only follow Twitter through the recent US election to have an insight into that phenomenon.

We have known for years that children, and adults, will write something on a social media platform, in a text or in an email, that they would think twice about saying to someone's face. Throughout this year, we have noticed an increase in the level of unkind, mean and hurtful behaviour online. In some instances, this has become part of a pattern of ongoing bullying and harassment. This online behaviour happens largely outside school hours but in school time it leads to damaged relationships, anxiety about attending school and a sense of isolation. All of this impacts on learning and engagement in the classroom.

The first step in addressing this behaviour has to begin with an adult awareness about how we model positive communication for our children – on social media, in emails and texts. The next is to be aware of how our children are using social media – what platforms they are on, who they are connected with. Giving them time away from connection is critical, especially at night. The no phones in bedrooms is a simple and effective rule. There also needs to be constant conversation about good and healthy ways to engage on social media. Three simple questions – Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary? – is a really good place to start.

If you become aware of unsafe online behaviour, then getting screen shots and reporting it to College Leadership is important.

Supporting young people as they navigate the online world is part of tending the nest for adult humans. Working together with a strong home and school connection will help our children develop good habits with digital connection. Their relationships will be all the better for it. As we enter the last weeks of the term and the long break ahead, there will be a stretch of time for parents and carers to be especially vigilant in this space.

We are in the final stages of developing timetables and staffing for 2021. I will write before the end of the year with updates regarding staff changes to St Mary's in the new year.



Enjoy the weeks ahead.

Warm regards,

Clare Nocka

Principal

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From the Deputy Principal

Care Groups 2021

Next year we are putting in place a different process around the formation of Care Groups in Years 7 - 12. In the past, students have been given the opportunity to nominate two or three friends they would like to be in the same Care Group with, and staff have ensured they have had at least one friend in their Care Group. The nomination process usually took place half way through Term 4.

This was often fraught with difficulties – student relationships often changed over the holidays and come the start of the school year, we had parents contacting the school wanting their daughter's Care Group changed, which by then was too late as the timetable had long since been finalised and classes set. It also meant that for many students, instead of branching out developing new friendships and relationships, many stayed within their own little friendship group.

Going into 2021, there are a couple of different processes being put in place:

- Staff are deciding on Care Group classes, based on a couple of aspects: teacher expertise; and teacher knowledge and understanding of how students, both individually and as a whole, learn best and who they learn best with; and also in terms of their wellbeing. From Years 7 – 12, students are not in their Care Group classes for every subject. They are mixed up across the Care Groups for their specialist subjects. From Year 9 onwards, this becomes even more evident as students begin to choose more and more of their own subjects. In Year 10 for example, students are only in their Care Groups for three subjects.....the rest of their subjects they are in mixed classes.
- Care Groups for Years 8 – 12 will not be made available until the very first day of school for the whole school, Thursday 28 January.

At St Mary's, as part of our Positive Education work, we value the importance of building resilience in students and helping and supporting students in developing positive friendships and relationships. We believe the changes in the Care Group formation process provides wonderful opportunities for students to develop both their resilience and their relationship building skills that they will need for the rest of their lives.

Uniform

Just a reminder that you can order the school uniform through Hambours online. This will provide an opportunity for those who can't come into school to order, to go online and order instead. Don't worry....if you still wish to come into school and order you can. A 5% discount applies for all online orders.

To apply for an online store account, parents/carers need to go to hambours.com.au and click on the St Mary's College logo.

You can choose to collect your order either from the College shop during opening hours, or from Hambours at Royal Park, or couriered to your home for \$10.

Any further questions, please contact Hambours on 8447 2077 or you can email customerservice@hambours.com.au

The Uniform Shop here at the College will be open Monday 25 January 2021 from 9.00 am—12.00 then 1.00 pm—4.00 pm. Normal trading hours will commence on Wednesday 27 January. The Hambours Shop at Royal Park will be open normal trading times with the exception of public holidays. Please check their website for further details.

A couple of reminders to parents in regards to Uniform:

- Piercings – can we ask that students don't get extra piercings in their ears or their lip, nose or eyebrow pierced just before school returns next year please? This makes it difficult for staff in following up students about our uniform expectations as they insist on keeping their piercings in so the hole doesn't close over. If

students feel they 'must' get extra piercings, we ask that this occur at the beginning of the school holidays so they can be taken out when they return to school.

- Nails – the same request applies to nails. Students are asked not to have acrylic nails or shellac added just before they come back to school.

We appreciate your support in following up these matters with your daughters.



I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very blessed Christmas, and relaxing holiday break.....may it be a time to rest and relax and spend time with those you love.

Lorna Starrs
Deputy Principal

Tuition Fees Now Due

As detailed in the St Mary's College Fee Schedule and Policy, all families are reminded that fees are due to be paid in full by 30 November 2020.

Exceptions apply to those families who have established an alternative arrangement with the Business Manager due to extenuating circumstances. Non timely payment of tuition fees invariably applies pressure to the resources available to deliver curriculum to students.

I ask that if you have not finalised payment of your 2020 fees, or are without an arrangement in place, please contact Mrs Nuala O'Donovan (8216 5709) immediately.

Payments can be made by cash to the Front Office, cheque, Eftpos, Credit Card, Direct Debit, B-Pay and Qkr!

Richard Watson
Business Manager

Students in the Community

Nicole, Year 11 student and Justice representative, visited the Campbelltown Council Chambers to deliver a speech to the elderly of the community about the Justice program at St Mary's College. She spoke about the different initiatives and the many activities that run throughout the year to help numerous local charities and the pilgrimages that we usually offer to orphanages and schools in Vietnam and Cambodia. She also answered questions in the discussion that followed.

We appreciate Nicole's passion for the Justice program, for sharing her experience and for being a wonderful ambassador for St Mary's College.



Our future will be impacted by these courageous young women 'who will not stay silent' in the face of social injustice.

Thank you, Nicole!

Catrina Tridante 11 Gold
Peter Batty Justice Coordinator



Justice Day 2020



Book Week 2020

This year's Book Week theme was *Curious Creatures & Wild Minds* and we began the week with a dress up day where many of the costumes were a true reflection of this.

A special thank you to Nicole Cremona for her choreography of the Junior School dance – such a positive and exciting way to parade our costumes! Also a huge thank you to the SRC and our Youth Minister, Jean-Marie Nguyen, for the yummy Book Week breakfast. The library was busy all day and especially at lunch time with Book Week quizzes and craft activities.

Book Week Great Debate - 'Reading is the best way to encourage curiosity and imagination.' This was the topic of this year's Book Week Great Debate. Congratulations to Alex, Sarah, Gauhar and Rebecca, the amazing student team who entertained us with their powerful affirmative argument.

Some of the highlights from the debate:

After asking students who'd seen the movie version of some classic stories, Alex argued:

- 'If authors had not written these books these movies would not exist...'
- To imagine the worlds they create, authors had to read books.
- Stories solve our questions about the world and make us think about more questions.
- 'Reading is not just reading books... Reading is about reading words, reading pictures, reading people, [people watching] reading body language... reading is an essential part of life we could not live without...'

Arguing the negative, the teachers shared some humorous personal anecdotes to illustrate their points – much to the delight of a very vocal audience.

A special thank you to Ms Clare Nocka, Ms Karina Black, Ms Alex Gavrilidis and Ms Jasmin Parasiers.

Book Quiz Challenge

Both participants and audience had a lot of fun at this year's book quiz challenge. The teachers won by a whisker this year – and only because the students lost points for calling out answers early!

A special thank you to our quiz master, Mr Peter Batty, and teachers, Ms Jane Kristensen, Ms Kristin Fanto and Ms Erin Doherty for their participation. Thanks also to the sensational student team: Sienna, Liliana, Milla and Bella.

Book Week Finale

The final spectacular event held on Friday lunchtime was *Five nights at Freddy's Haunted House*, presented by Jessica. This was an intriguing event that entertained all the students who attended. Thanks so much Jessica!

Thanks again to the students and staff for your time and effort, and for joining in on all the fun.

Please visit the Children's Book Council page for the shortlisted books and winners. As always, some fantastic books to read.

<https://cbca.org.au/winners-2020>

Eileen McCabe
Coordinator of Information Resources

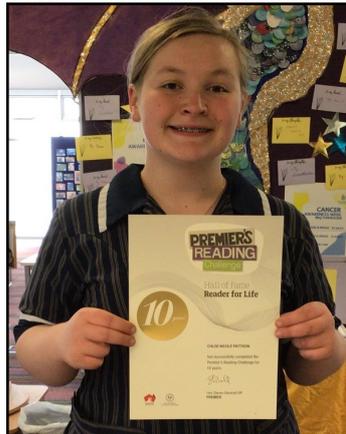


Library News

Premier's Reading Challenge
 This year we had over 183 students from Reception to Year 11 complete the Premier's Reading Challenge. Congratulations to all the students who participated!

The theme for Book Week 2021 has been announced....

**OLD WORLDS,
 NEW WORLDS,
 OTHER WORLDS**



Christmas Holiday Reading
 Just a reminder that all students are able to borrow books from the library for the Christmas holidays. We just ask that all text books are returned before they borrow.



Eileen McCabe
 Coordinator of Information Resources

Career Chat



Webinar Series

This is an exciting time for students, and Mas National is keen to take this opportunity to share our knowledge on the career options that are available to finishing students.

Our industry specialists are presenting a series of webinars aimed at both parents and students and offering independent career advice.



Webinar 1

Career options available to you

Not every individual follows the same pathway and during this session we will share an overview of what options are available to you.

How to register: Head below to register <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/beyond-school-career-options-available-to-you-registration-127666990405>

When: Tuesday 10th of November at 7pm

Cost: The webinar is free of charge



Webinar 2

Focus on Apprenticeships and Traineeships

Apprenticeships and Traineeships are a genuine pathway and in this session we will replace myths with facts and open up your mind to the options available.

How to register: Head below to register <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/beyond-school-focus-on-apprenticeships-traineeships-registration-127667544061>

When: Wednesday 18th of November at 7pm

Cost: The webinar is free of charge

masexperience.com.au • 1300 627 628

International Education Week

Engaged • Resilient • Global

Research Your Options

INFORMATION SESSION WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER



Would you like to study at an American university? EducationUSA will host this free online general advising and colleges sports session that is open to students, parents and school staff. The session is divided into two parts.

PART 1: GENERAL SESSION 5PM - 5:45PM

Part 1 will address guidance on U.S. undergraduate study, including university application processes, timelines for Australian students, scholarship information and standardized testing requirements.



PART 2: U.S. COLLEGE SPORTS 5:45PM - 6:30PM

Part 2 is for those aspiring to be recruited as a student-athlete - this session will address opportunities available through college sports particularly NCAA for students, parents, teachers and coaches. Join us as we simplify the process. For those interested in college sports, you should plan to attend the entire 90 minute session.

REGISTER for Zoom Session at:
<http://bit.ly/EdUSANov18>

With limited zoom places, we will also broadcast this session via our Facebook Page through Facebook Live. So not sure of your plans - tune in on the night!

REGISTER NOW!



STEP ONE

The first step to studying in the United States is researching your options to find a college or university that best fits your needs. You shouldn't try to match yourself to the school, but rather find the school that matches you and your priorities and long-term goals.

Remember that no official ranking system exists for colleges and universities in the United States. The best college or university is the one that is best for you and meets your requirements—academic, financial, and personal.

f EducationUSAustralia

Art Winners in the Junior School

I am very happy to announce that Isabella in Year 2 has won the Schools Fringe Poster Competition. Students from Reception to Year 12 from around South Australia entered in the competition but Isabella's poster stood out to the panel of judges because of her wonderful character, colourful dress and confetti. Her poster will be on the cover of the Schools Fringe Booking Guide for 2021 and will be displayed at the Central Markets in the upcoming weeks, along with the top 100. She has also won a free Fringe performance for the College!



Scarlett from Year 2 also created a poster that stood out to the judges and she is in the top 100. I am very proud of the whole Year 2 class for their exceptional effort in this project.

Alana Kunowicz
Junior School Art Teacher



Vacation Care Program

The St Mary's Vacation Care program for December is now available. It can be accessed on SEQTA or there are physical copies available in OSHC.

Vacation Care will run from Friday 4 December to Friday 18 December and we have a lot of fun activities planned.



If you have an enquiries please feel free to contact Anjie, Director of OSHC at Anjie.Evans@stmarys.sa.edu.au or call 8216 5743.

Anjie Evans
OSHC Director



Cancer Awareness Week

Recently, the SRC team lead the school community in 'Cancer Awareness Week', raising awareness, celebrating and remembering those affected by cancer.

The school community gathered for a liturgy on the Veritas Lawns to kickstart the week, and throughout the week staff and students were invited to decorate the library with lavender and yellow cards of prayer and remembrance. To wrap up the week, the SRC team hosted a lovely fundraising BBQ with all proceeds supporting the Cancer Council.



Thank you and Farewell Fr Alan Wong

Based at St. Ignatius' Church in Norwood, Father Alan Wong SJ has kindly been giving his time to our school community. Throughout this year, Father Alan has helped us celebrate whole school and year level masses, sacraments with the Junior school students and visited Religious Education classes as a guest speaker. The staff and students of St Mary's College have enjoyed hearing about Father Alan's journey to Priesthood and his many inspiring homilies.

We thank Father Alan for his generosity and wish him many blessings as he embarks on his next assignment to Hong Kong.



Confirmation and First Holy Communion

On Friday 16 November, 18 Year 4, 7 and 8 students completed their full initiation into the Church as they celebrated Confirmation and received First Holy Communion at St Patrick's Church with their families and sponsors.

Leading up to this final initiation, the girls engaged in a variety of activities presented by Mr Matt Pastro and participated in a day long retreat to prepare themselves to more closely embrace the example and teachings of Jesus.



Front Row: Madison, Sade, Alyssia, Chloe, Allison, Irene, Emilia, Gracie, Annie.

Back Row: Fr Anthoni, Olivia, Eloise, Sophie, Ella, Imani, Evelyn, Maddison, Emily, Maddison.

These Sacramental times of retreat and ceremony give us pause to open our hearts to God so that we may experience the freely given grace and love of God.



Thanks goes to Fr Anthoni Adamai for leading us in joyful celebration and to all parents and sponsors for their love and guidance.

Anne Soldan
Sacramental Coordinator



Did you know you can follow St Mary's College via Facebook, Instagram and now YouTube!

<https://bit.ly/STMCFB>

<https://bit.ly/STMCIstagram>

<https://bit.ly/STMCTube>

A great way to catch up with what is happening in our College community.

ST MARY'S COLLEGE TOURS

We invite you and your family to tour the Campus and discover the St Mary's College difference.

For further information or to book your tour, visit stmaryscollege.catholic.edu.au



ST MARY'S COLLEGE

Year 8 Science

On Tuesday 3 November, the Year 8 Gold Science class went to North Terrace as part of our Earth Science Geology unit. Starting from Parliament House, they answered questions about the Geological significant buildings and landmarks that feature along North Terrace. Students had the opportunity to take photos of how various rocks and minerals are featured along the North Terrace strip and investigate some of the social significance of these places. Despite the warm weather, the girls actively engaged with a variety of locations by asking questions, taking photos, and following the Geological society guide for North Terrace. Below are some student reflections about the experience:

"The part I really enjoyed in this unit was learning about sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks and the rock cycle. I liked how in class we had rocks that we could look at and we had to classify them. I liked that on the excursion we could actually go and see the rocks in person not just looking at a photo. I also just had lots of fun on the excursion with my friends. Something that I took out of this experience was that I learnt much more about rocks and minerals than did before like how and where they are formed." Ashleigh

"Things I liked about this unit were the rock cycle, it was really cool to see how the three different types of rocks were made. Another thing I liked about this unit was when we learned about metamorphic rocks and doing the gemstone investigation, it was fun to make a poster about gemstones and learn more about them. Even though it was a very hot day, and everyone came back with sore feet, I actually quite liked the excursion because it made me see new places that I didn't even know existed and it also taught me that there is so much history behind rocks but most people don't notice it. I think one thing I took away from this experience is that where we live is filled with so much history." Shania

Katherine Edson
Year 8 Science Teacher



Allergy Awareness

St Mary's College is an Allergy Aware school with policies and procedures in place to provide care for the wellbeing of staff and students with allergies. Anaphylaxis is an allergic reaction that in some cases can be severe and even life threatening. It is important that the school has medical information and medication along with an annually updated medical care plan for students with Anaphylaxis.

As a community, we can all provide support by not sending students to school with food containing nuts; things like peanut paste or Nutella in sandwiches is a common issue. Given that the most extreme reactions can be caused by contact with surfaces or in the proximity of the allergen, this is one precaution we can take as a community. It also helps when providing food for school events and fundraisers, if we avoid food containing nuts.

Our Allergy Awareness Guidelines are on the website. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

<https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/wh1.theweconsole.com/wh/4810/images/AllergyAwareGuidelinesJan14.pdf>

Screen-based online learning will change kids' brains. Are we ready for that?



Maryanne Wolf is the Director at the 'Center for dyslexia, diverse learners and social justice, UCLA'. In her new book – *Reader, Come Home* – Maryanne draws on neuroscience, literature, education, technology, and philosophy and blends historical, literary, and scientific facts with down-to-earth examples and warm anecdotes to illuminate complex ideas that culminate in a proposal for a 'biliterate' reading brain. She warns that we are starting to see technology's effect on child development and adult reading skills – and the research isn't optimistic. **As seen in the recent pandemic, with much of the world working from home, and millions of students learning at home, developing a biliterate brain – one adapted to both digital and traditional print literacy – has never been more important.** Where reading the print medium allows for slower, more attention and time processes, the digital medium advantages fast processes and multitasking – ideal for the skimming of daily information. Maryanne asks if youth will ever develop full literacy if they are learning on skim-encouraging screens. Research suggests that over 80% of college educators have seen a 'shallowing' effect on reading comprehension by students. The screen itself is not the problem. The distractions available on the screen lead to what researcher Linda Stone has called continuous partial attention. That in turn leads to less time allocated to abstract thought. The more time on screens, the more entrenched are associations to quick, superficial information-gathering and constant checks for new (distracting) information. The latter is the 'novelty reflex', rooted in our genes. **The great challenge now is to learn how to use both print and digital mediums to their best advantage for all.** "As a society we must ensure that there are always books next to our children's digital devices. Whether the books are new or old, owned or borrowed from the library, doesn't matter. What matters is that they are there, and that children are encouraged to read them. Furthermore, books – not digital devices – should be the only reading option in children's bedrooms." **Books are the places where we can suspend reality and instead explore our imagination's more tolerable, more beautiful promise of possibility.** Maryanne concludes it is up to us to make this happen. Sources: <https://www.maryannewolf.com/reader-come-home-1> <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/aug/24/deep-literacy-technology-child-development-reading-skills>

YEAR 11 & 12

Face to face & live online options!

SACE & UCAT **JANUARY HEAD START**

www.aeg.sa.edu.au

Traffic Safety

I would like to communicate some important reminders and requests regarding traffic safety and awareness. Observations and parental feedback have indicated some dangerous driving behaviours which compromise student and community safety particularly in Franklin Street at the beginning and end of the day.

We ask that all community members follow the simple manageable requests below which are based on traffic safety guidelines from Adelaide City Council and the need to prioritise community safety over individual need.

PLEASE do not park your vehicle in the Drop Off/Pick Up Zone adjacent to the main gates between 8.00 and 9.00 am and 3.00 and 4.00 pm.

- You must **not** stop in a **NO STOPPING** Zone, even for a few seconds to pick up your child.
- You **may** stop in a **NO PARKING ZONE** for a few seconds to pick up a child who is waiting nearby. You must **not** park or leave the vehicle.

PLEASE do not double park on the outside of parked vehicles – this is dangerous and blocks the bike lane.

PLEASE consider delaying your arrival to collect your daughter at the end of the day by **5/10 minutes**.

PLEASE understand that it is not possible for all parents to collect their daughters at 3.15 pm outside the main gate.

PLEASE drive around the block if necessary.

PLEASE consider parking a little further away and allowing yourself/your daughter to walk.

PLEASE model responsible behaviour by always using the pedestrian crossing to cross Franklin Street.



Your cooperation in these matters will be greatly valued and appreciated.

Peter Channing
Director of Administration and Operations

St Mary's College Absentee Phone Line 8216 5716

Please telephone before 9.30 am if your daughter is absent

St Mary's College Uniform Shop 8216 5719

Opening times - Monday 8.00 am - 11.00 am
Wednesday 1.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Thursday 8.00 am - 11.00 am

St Mary's College OSHC : 8216 5743

Online Safety- Interactive Tour

The Office of the eSafety Commissioner has just released for parents of young adults (10-14 years) an interactive tour that explores how to safely manage online issues as they arise. It is important as parents to learn about the digital environment in which your daughters interact and how you can help them to have safe and enjoyable online experiences. Visit the link below to take this online tour.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/education-resources/iparent/screen-smart-tour>