

St Mary's College

"We Grow by Lifting Others"

Issue 8, Monday 6 September 2021

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

The South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS) has recently circulated a draft Student Inclusion and Diversity Policy for input from school communities. Alongside the draft policy is a document that captures the "policy into practice" approach.



The Policy is based on six interdependent strands that define Catholic Education's commitment to student inclusion and diversity:

- culture of inclusion;
- student agency;
- partnership with parents, carers, and families;
- focus on learning and wellbeing;
- leaders and staff focus on each student; and
- services for student learning, wellbeing and inclusion.

The following Strategies arise from the Student Inclusion and Diversity Policy:

- Disability Strategy;
- English as an Additional Language or Dialect Strategy;
- Aboriginal Education Strategy;
- Gifted Strategy;
- Engagement of Children and Young People in Care Strategy;
- Regional and Rural Strategy;
- Early Years Strategy;
- Vocational Education and Transition Strategy.

The following Procedures and Guidelines are derived from the Student Inclusion and Diversity Policy:

- Developing Responsible Student Behaviour: Guidelines;
- Responding to Harassment and Bullying: Procedures;
- Parent Engagement: Guidelines;
- Student Enrolment: Procedures;
- Student Transition: Procedure.

The development of the project is grounded in engagement with, and feedback from, key stakeholders. This includes school governance, staff, students, parents and carers. If you would like to review the early documents and provide feedback, please contact Sandy Conroy: sandy.conroy@stmarys.sa.edu.au. The online form for response is open until Friday 22 October.

Being a community that actively embraces diversity and protects the vulnerable in our midst, is a hallmark of our Catholic identity. In his healing ministry, time and again, Jesus healed the sick, disabled or possessed, to bring them back into the community. At the same time, he challenged the community practices that left some people abandoned and on the outer. Whenever we see behaviour that excludes others, we need to call it out. Truly embracing difference will make us a better community, and it will strengthen the learning and wellbeing of all our students.



Warm regards,

Clare Nocka
Principal

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From the Deputy Principal

Safeguarding Sunday and National Child Protection Week

Safeguarding Sunday is on 12 September and was formerly known as Child Protection Sunday. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference sees Safeguarding Sunday as a day which seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children and adults at risk, including by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts.

There is a focus on raising awareness of child protection in the context of all types of harm and promoting safeguarding policies and procedures.

Safeguarding Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate children in the life of our parishes and schools, recognise that they are valued, respected, heard and encourage opportunities for children to be involved.

Safeguarding Sunday comes at the end of National Child Protection Week (5 – 11 September).

The theme adopted this year for *Child Protection Week* is "Every child, in every community, needs a fair go". This term, with the support of our wonderful SRCs, I gathered feedback from our student body about feeling safe at St Mary's - do they feel safe? Where and how do they feel safe and unsafe? And.....what else do we as a school need to be doing so students feel safe? This feedback will be used to shape further our safeguarding practices.

The 'Keeping them Safe: Child Protection Curriculum' is taught across the school to all students, from Reception – Year 12. The aim of this curriculum is to teach students about how to protect themselves, how to seek out help, what abuse looks like and feels like, and so forth. All staff who deliver this curriculum are fully trained to do so.

All staff this year are updating their training in responding to abuse and neglect in children, so they are fully aware of the processes to follow in regards to mandatory reporting. If staff suspect a child/young person is being abused or neglected in some way, or in cases where this information is disclosed directly to them, they are legally mandated to report this information and follow up on it.

St Mary's College takes very seriously the safeguarding of all children in our care. In my last newsletter article, I outlined the updated processes for all parents who would like to become volunteers at our school. Similar processes are also in place for all visiting speakers/groups/student teachers/contractors, and so forth, who come on to our grounds and work with students.



Lorna Starrs
Deputy Principal



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.

Big Sister Program

Recently our Year 7 students thanked their Year 10 Big Sisters, who have supported them as they transitioned into Middle School at St Mary's College.

"It was a fantastic program that helped me transition into Year 7".

My Big Sister had a positive impact on me and supported me on a few tough days".

"It helped me to feel like I belong at St Mary's".

"I want my Big Sister to know that I was very grateful for her assistance in guiding me through Year 7 with a stress-free mindset".

"I appreciated having my big sister support me throughout the transition. She helped me stay organised and talked about how she coped in

Year 7, which gave me an idea of what I can do. She was always open to listen to me in group conversations, and I am grateful that she gave me advice that I can use for the rest of the year".



Leanne Fry
Coordinator Big Sister Program



2022 Enrolments Finalising Now

We are in the process of finalising places for 2022 and offering 2023 enrolments. Families are reminded that siblings enjoy priority of enrolment at St Mary's College only if they are on the waiting list.

If you have a child at another school and you wish them to transfer here or they are due to start school please register here:
<https://enrol.stmarys.sa.edu.au/application-for-enrolment/start> **urgently** if you have not already done so.

Interviews are taking place now. Should you have any questions about the enrolment process and guaranteeing a place for your daughter, please contact the Registrar, Denise Bergamin at enrolments@stmarys.sa.edu.au or on 8216 5704.

Parents and Carers are also reminded that at least one term's notice of termination of enrolment must be given for any withdrawal of place. Failure to do so will mean payment of a term's fees in lieu of notice irrespective of the date the child leaves during the term. If you need to discuss your daughter's enrolment status for 2022, please contact the Principal's Executive Assistant, Sandy Conroy on 8216 5706 to arrange a confidential meeting.

Uniform Policy Update

Over the last 18 months we have worked with a number of our College stakeholders to revise and update our Uniform Policy. Our College uniform is an outward reflection of our identity as a community. Individual actions affect the image of the College and perceptions of others. The correct presentation of the school uniform is a shared responsibility between home and school and all members of the community are responsible for supporting our young people to comply with the policy.

Here are a few important reminders:

- **Nails:** students nails are not to have coloured sns, shellac and acrylic. Only clear nails are allowed; they must be no longer than the tips of the fingers.
- **Jewellery:** a moderate approach to jewellery that is in keeping with the school uniform is appropriate. This includes a single plain ring, small cross/religious medallion and small, thin, sleepers or studs. No visible facial piercings.
- **PE Uniform:** the PE uniform is only worn for the school day when students have PE lessons. When they have before and after school training students are required to change.
- **Hair:** Hair needs to be natural colours. Hair that is shoulder length or longer needs to be away from the face.

We are a community that is built on relationships and dialogue and therefore from time to time we need to take student particular needs into consideration. We want to work with you and your child about how we can support them to be in correct uniform. If there are needs we need to take into consideration about your child and how they wear their uniform, please contact your child's Care Group Teacher.

The updated Uniform Policy can be found on the parent SEQTA 'landing page'.



Please contact me jo.cains@stmarys.sa.edu.au if you wish to discuss the policy further.

Jo Cains
Director: Student Wellbeing

SALA Gather & Create Evening 2021

Recently, our community (of staff, parents, Old Scholars, and College guests) came together for our inaugural SALA Gather & Create event.

The inspiration for the evening was Van Gogh's sunflowers, with the evening filled with colour, fun, and chats.

Thank you to our super talented Visual Arts Team, who worked so hard in creating such a successful event.

Our proud artists got to take home their canvas of sunflowers as a keepsake of the night! After the night's success, we will be back in 2022 with another Gather & Create event!



Think about your
next move.
Apply for a Dental
Assistant Traineeship.



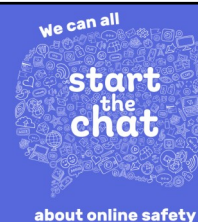
Dental Assistant Traineeships

SA Dental is offering up to 30 Dental Assisting Traineeship positions at clinics across the State. The 12-month Traineeship contract includes on the job training and attendance at TAFE where you will gain a Certificate 3 in Dental Assisting while earning **\$19,312 - \$40,130** a year.

If you are 17 – 24 years of age (or up to 30 years if Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander) and have finished year 11, you may qualify for a Traineeship.

Applications open 27/08/2021 – 19/09/2021 for the February 2022 intake.

For more information on the Dental Assistant Traineeship please visit: www.sahealthcareers.com.au
(Search Job No: 758854 at this website from 27 August – 19 September 2021 to apply.)



esafety.gov.au/sid

Book Week 2021

Old Worlds, New Worlds, Other Worlds



Our students (across all year levels) love to dress up for Book Week each year ... our staff love to dress up too!

A great week was had by all with lunchtime activities, teacher/student debate and a community breakfast—just to name a few!

Eileen McCabe
Coordinator Information Resources



Year 5 Camp

On Wednesday 11 August, our Year 5 students travelled to Glenhaven Park in Stockport, South Australia, for two nights. They completed a range of activities where they collaborated, encouraged and challenged one another. These activities included: high and low ropes courses, a leap of faith, a giant swing, archery, team building initiatives, campfire cooking (damper) and a crate tower challenge. At night, students enjoyed each other's company around the campfire, joined forces in a quiz and experienced a camp

cinema. Overall, they were able to get to know peers in a different environment, get outside of their comfort zone and have a lot of fun together.



Sandra Ciccarello
Director: Junior School



Little Sprouts Playgroup

Last week at our 'Little Sprouts' Playgroup, toddlers celebrated Science Week, where many experiments happened. They used shaving cream and various food colouring.

Toddlers also went on a bear hunt!

Swishy, swashy through the grass, stumble trip through the forest, splashing through water, squelched through the mud, and hoo woo through the snow!

It was a fun morning for all.



If you would like to join our Playgroup, please register via the link below. Our website also has more information.
<https://bit.ly/LittleSproutsPlaygroup>

Angela Covino
Playgroup Coordinator



SMC Annual Winter Can Drive

St Mary's College conducts the Annual Winter Can Drive every year, inviting students and families to donate canned food.

The College collects, sorts and donates cans to St Vincent de Paul and Moore Street Centre to distribute to individuals and families who need assistance and support in their time of need.

This year, our tally of cans: 4040 (400 more than 2020!)

Sub school "winners."

Junior School Year 2 - 252 cans (see photo below)
Middle School 7G - 371 cans
Senior School 11B - 173 cans



Thank you to all our families, students and staff who donated. It is heartening to see the compassion and empathy our College community displays each year.

Peter Batty
Coordinator Immersion and Outreach



Netball News ...

Open A1 Netball Team – Catholic Girls Secondary Championship Team 2021/ State-wide Knockout Grand Finalists!

Congratulations to our Open A1 Netball Team, who defeated St Michael's College in the Catholic Secondary A1 Grand Final. Our players fought off an early challenge from St Michael's, playing brilliant netball and showcasing their excellent skills, winning by 12 goals and cementing themselves as the best Open Catholic Girls team in SA for the second year in a row!

On Monday, our students capped off a fantastic netball season defeating Blackwood High School and St Peter's Girls' School to advance to the State-wide Netball Grand Final later this term. We wish players all the best and congratulate them on an outstanding season.

A big thank you to 'super coach Shatts' for her commitment and dedication to the team. Special mention also to our Year 12 students, Cam, Bonnie and Ellen, for leading players and their commitment to the St Mary's College Netball Academy for the past five years.

We wish our team all the best in the State-wide finals.

St Mary's College Netball Academy Finals Results

St Mary's College Open A2 team staged an excellent comeback losing to Cabra 33-26 in a nail-biting Grand Final. Our players had a brilliant season, given that they were the youngest team in the Open A2 competition and undefeated until the very last game. The future of St Mary's College Netball is clearly in excellent stead!

St Mary's College Year 8A team also played in the Grand Final against Sacred Heart College. Our players fought hard; however, Sacred Heart proved to be an unbeatable opponent on the day. To make the Grand Final in the first season of netball is an excellent achievement.

Our Open B1, Year 10, Year 9A and Year 8B teams all played off for 3rd and 4th position in their respective divisions.



We are incredibly proud of all our players - seven teams in Semi-Finals, three in Grand Finals and the overall Open A Grade Champions!

We congratulate our Netball Academy teams and thank our outstanding coaching staff for their commitment to the program here at St Mary's College.

Rosie Petrilli - Director of Sport



Online Safety

Do you know the following facts:

- On average, children aged 10 to 14 years have 2 active social media accounts
- On average, outside of school, 10 to 14 year olds spend 23 hours online per week
- 12% of 10 to 14 year olds share personal information online
- 9% of 10 to 14 year olds reported being exposed to inappropriate content
- 21% of 10 to 14 year olds reported being socially excluded by others online (one form of cyberbullying)
- 36% of 10 to 14 year olds said they had talked to strangers online

***The above facts come from the 2017 Youth Digital Participation Survey – A nationally representative sample of 3017 children and youth (8 – 17 years).**

Are you surprised about the above statistics? Do you want to know more about how you can help your daughter if she experiences any of the above scenarios? The Office of the eSafety Commissioner has just released a 10 minute online interactive tour for parents. The interactive tour provides tips on how you can help your daughter explore the online world and manage online issues should they arise. This is especially important as they strive for independence and peer acceptance. Topics covered are: cyberbullying, screen time, social media, personal information, inappropriate contact etc. Parents can select any topic that they are interested in to get started and close the tour at any time, resuming from where they left off the next time they access the tour.

Visit:

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

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



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

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>

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

Orders can also be placed online at <https://hambours.com.au/>

St Mary's College OSHC : 8216 5743

St Mary's College Absentee Phone Line : 8216 5716

Please telephone before 9.30 am if your daughter is absent