

LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



24 July 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers

From the Principal's Desk

Welcome Bishop Prowse

We welcomed last Wednesday our new Bishop. It was a fitting celebration that gave thanks for the Bishop's appointment and warmly welcomed him into our Diocese as the 8th Bishop. He spoke knowledgeably about the challenges that have faced our Diocese and genuinely sought to discover more about the Sale Diocese and its people. Two of our students **Shane Lebbe** and **Matthew Staple** heralded the arrival of **Bishop Prowse** as the ceremony began and our own **Sophy Morley** had the important task of being the choir director for this very important occasion. It was a wonderful gathering of our extended Catholic community and we extend our community's congratulations to the Bishop and wish him prosperous times. A word of thanks is also extended to **Fr Slater** who also supported us both pastorally and administratively.



Natalia Nadsadina

Sadly we mourn the loss of our highly regarded and talented teacher, **Ms Natalia Nadsadina** who passed away on Friday 27 June after illness. Ms Nadsadina was a teacher at the College since 2001 and taught a combination of Math, Science and Physics classes at the Kildare Campus. She will be greatly missed by her brother Victor and nephew Mark and joins her parents in eternal life. She was an excellent educator, had a deep commitment to her teaching and cared equally for all her students. The College has received wonderful tributes from the broader educational community and later in the year the College plans a memorial service for her to which you will be invited. May she rest in peace eternal.

AMSA Netball Carnival Adelaide

Over the holidays our students competed in the AMSA Netball Carnival held in Adelaide and competed extremely well; finishing 5th overall. Unfortunately, some members of the team become sick and in true Marist spirit a player from Sacred Heart College stepped in to support Lavalla. Congratulations to Notre Dame College in Shepparton who were this year's winners. A special thanks to parents and staff who accompanied our students during their holiday time.

College Life

The College is required to make known to the community its performance and future plans. You will find this year's Annual General Meeting report on our web page. I encourage you to read this report as it captures in detail the College's life over the last 12 months. At this year's AGM held on Tuesday 23 June we farewelled long standing member and Chair of the College Council, **Mr Peter Cefala**. Mr Cefala was an energetic and compassionate member of the Council. We also thanked and farewelled **Mr Brad Silver** as a parent representative and **Mrs Mara Bormanis** as the teacher representative. We welcome our new College Council members **Mr Dave McDonald** and **Mr Andrew Crawford** as parent representatives and **Mr Marco DiCesare** as the teacher representative. **Mrs Kathleen Roberts** has generously accepted the role of the new Council chair. The College Council is a significant working group in the College and I trust they will find their work both challenging and rewarding.

College Fund Raiser – Car Raffle

Earlier this year parents were surveyed about the possibility of having a fund raiser to provide sufficient funds to install air conditioners and other forms of climate control across the campuses. Generously, parents supported this initiative which gave the **Parents and Friends Committee** the mandate to organise this event. The Chair of the Committee **Mrs Anita Both**, together with the **Business Manager Mr Rob Tarraran** have organised the car raffle which will be drawn on 5th November. Tickets will be issued to families within the next couple of weeks.



Champagnat Mass

The annual Champagnat Mass will be held at the St Paul's Campus on **Tuesday the 28th July 2009 at 9.30am**. This year a festival day inauguration of our founder Marcellin Champagnat will be held on all campuses. **Families are welcome to attend.**

Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal

Curriculum News

Home Study Plans for Semester 2 are on their way !

We all know that there is no greater advantage than getting a head start on this Semester's learning goals in each subject. So we have advised students to get right into those home study plans and start whittling away at their tasks. Parents are encouraged to monitor students' home study and communicate with teachers, via the Planner, as an easy first step. We are looking for feedback and would love to hear from you.

The start of a new semester is also an excellent opportunity for those students who missed out on Semester One awards & commendations for Excellence and Effort. To be recognised in this manner, students need to demonstrate to their teachers a capacity for high performance and diligence on a regular basis.

Year 7-9 students have been given a paper copy of their home study plan this week, while Years 10-12 students have been able to download a copy on USBs for home reference. Online copies of home study plans for all Year levels are also accessible to students on campus

EXPO coming up

Please highlight Friday 14th August in your diaries – we have some exciting activities planned for Year 8-12 students and families on this day as well as a number of information sessions built into the same week. We will keep you posted about the key dates and times in a variety of ways: newsletters, student planners, subject information handbooks and a special letter of invitation.

Mrs Rita Nainie
Director of Student Learning

Differentiated Learning News

Vocational Education and Training

Students at years 10-12 continue to be offered VET courses as electives in their study programs. In 2009, year 10 students could select from five courses delivered on campus and years 11 and 12 had the choice of a wide range of certificates delivered both on and off campus. **Mrs Anne Symes** coordinates this whole area working with Lavalla staff, students, outside providers and our auspicing arrangements with Bendigo Access.

Teaching Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning [VCAL] and Vocational Applied Learning and You [VALU]

For the first time this year there is an Applied Learning pathway from year 9 to year 12. The College employed an experienced applied learning

teacher, **Mr. Todd Proud** to establish the VALU program at Years 9 and 10. Year 9 VALU students undertake this program as their Project subject. The emphasis is on personal development, communication and group learning that is delivered through activities and leads to group projects. Successful students will be credited with some units from the Certificate of General Education for Adults. The team is ably supported in administration tasks by **Mrs Cheryl Hunter** who has the roles of VCAL support, integration aide and VCAL gym instructor.

Mrs Anne Wilson
Director of Differentiated Learning

Presentation Campus

It has been a pleasure to see our students return rested and with a renewed commitment to be ready to make the most of their learning opportunities.

The end of semester reports undoubtedly helped clarify many issues in relation to the individual learning of each student. The studies planned by staff in this next semester and detailed in the recent "green letter" will continue to build on the knowledge and skills of each student. Special attention will be given where appropriate to include information related to New Zealand in preparation for our Campus tour due to leave on September 20th.

Soon it will be time for the College Expo and the opportunity to explore the excellent Career Pathways which are available through the College's Kildare Campus. At this time as well, the all important elective choices are made for those in Years 9&10 2010. Please encourage your student to choose subjects suited to their talents and interests.

Our Year 8 City Experience Camp is to be held in August 5th – 7th August. It is a much anticipated opportunity to learn

in a different environment and enjoy the company of their peers while learning about many of Melbourne's landmarks.

We were well represented on Tuesday at the Futsal (soccer) play offs by **Eilish Brenton, Olivia Vincent, Thomas Bramstedt, Brayden O'Connor, Jess Curtis and Billy Gatt. Jamie Ferguson and Simon Noy** are in the team competing at the CAS Football as I write this. In the coming week **Maddie Rickard, Cassie Malady and Georgia Broeren** are in the CAS Netball team to play next week. We congratulate them all on their sportsmanship and enthusiasm as they pursue this aspect of College life.

We welcome students new to our College **Jaiden Jarvis (8), Madeline Pollard (9) and Jake Kakis (9)** and their families to our community. As well it has been a pleasure to meet the students and families who are enrolling as part of our year 7 class in 2010.

Mrs Leanne Mills
Campus Director

Kildare Campus

Our newly opened Information Services Centre is a fantastic facility. There is certainly a different feel around the campus. Congratulations to our Librarians who have worked hard to have services up and running so quickly. There is obviously some work to go – judging by the number of students in the centre I am confident in saying that the ISC's impact on the campus will continue to grow.

We have moved into the next phase of our building programme. The new Student Services Centre will be located centrally on the Campus. The Study Centre and all co-ordinator and student service offices will be located in this centre. At Lavalla we are keen to keep building on our excellence.

Premier's VCE Award Winner for Engineering

Mrs Annemarie Clarke attended the presentation of the Premier's VCE Award to **Jake Kistler**. Jake completed his Year 12 last year and was recognised for his excellence in the study of Engineering. Congratulations Jake.

Alfred Atherton Award

You may have heard Brooke on ABC Radio last week. **Brooke Ward** was formally recognised by the **Master Plumbers' and Mechanical Services Association (MPMSA)** as one of two winners of the 2009 Alfred Atherton Educational Award. Brooke, who wants to study

Medicine, has been selected as a Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholar with admission to the University of Melbourne's Young Scholars' community. "Being educated allows us to be aware of the world around and to decide on a path balancing school, sport, work, family and friends." Well said Brooke and congratulations once again.

VCAA Special Provision Process

Special Provision provides an opportunity for the school to support students so that they can perform at their best in circumstances that are often out of their control.

Students who are absent without explanation from a SAC will be asked to provide a medical certificate or a detailed letter outlining the reasons for the absence. If this documentation is not provided within two days of the student's return, an after-school SAC Completion Session will be required of the student. It will take priority over other activities at that time. In the meantime, the student's result will be recorded on the VASS system as 'NA' (Not Assessed due to non-submission) and the Unit Result will automatically revert to 'N' until the work is completed. You will be informed by letter should your child fall into this situation. School-sanctioned events do NOT apply to this process. Should you have any queries about this process, **Mr Ernie Rijs** is our VCAA Liaison.

Mr Marco DiCesare
Campus Director

St Paul's Campus

Welcome back to Semester 2, Term 3, the event-filled term. This term will have the Champagnat Mass and Festival, EXPO, Year 8 Camps and other curriculum based excursions. Normal work will continue as well. The term has started with the students in the correct uniforms. They do look smart in their winter uniforms, especially when they have their blazers on. A reminder to all parents about shoes; shoes need to be strong to support growing ankles and feet. Ballet shoes, dunlops and such footwear are really dangerous. So, regulation black leather shoes or cross-trainers and runners are the most suitable shoes for school. While children can bring mobile phones to school, they are strongly discouraged from using them during school time and on the school premises. They are not needed for learning or play. Students using phones when they shouldn't will have their phones confiscated. Parents will need to come to the office to collect the phone.

Mentoring

The first training session for adult mentors was conducted by **Ms. Sandy Francois** for about eight adults. After a four week training these adults will begin mentoring some of our Year 8 students. The mentoring program is part of the ongoing push to help students set meaningful goals, manage themselves better, and motivate themselves to perform better, through positive connections with an adult.

Year 8 Camps

The first group of Year 8 students begin their camp in Melbourne on Wednesday 29th July. The staff have organised the group and the staffing. Experience has shown that the students gain a lot from the urban experience.

Champagnat Mass

On **28 July** the College Champagnat Mass will be held in the Champagnat Centre. One of the highlights will be the presentation of the Champagnat Medals for students and staff. This year the mass will be followed by the inaugural Champagnat Festival, which will include music bands and visiting groups conducting activities for the students. We are looking forward to this festival.

Textiles and Community Care

The textiles students in Years 7 and 8, as part of their learning, will be making 'Trauma Teddies' for the Latrobe Regional Hospital and for the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. They will also make 'Cancer Care Packs' for the Gippsland Cancer Care Group. We appeal to parents to support their children in this endeavour.

Super Mathematics

One of the year 7 math classes has organised a trip to Coles Supermarket to see the practical application of mathematics. They are doing fruit and vegetable shopping for home. A senior supervisor will take them on a tour of the supermarket and explain some of the operations of the supermarket and how items are costed. The fruit and vegetable supervisor will speak to the students about how fruit and vegetables are transported and their importance in a balanced diet.

Mr Chris Roga
Campus Director

Education Maintenance Allowance Eligibility

The Education Maintenance Allowance is paid to eligible parents of students under 16 years of age who attend a State or a Registered School in Victoria.

The Education Maintenance Allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible you must:

- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004: OR
- be a Veteran Affairs Pensioner (TPI), OR
- be a foster parent and
- submit your application to either Marcellin House or Presentation Campus by the date listed below

The application form must be lodged at the school by: **7 August 2009** for the second instalment.

Important Information

A separate application is required for each school if you have children attending different schools. If you transfer your child, you will need to make a new application at the new school. All staff are required to treat the information that you provide as confidential.

IF YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE EMA APPLICATION IN FEBRUARY 2009 YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR THE SECOND INSTALMENT

Forthcoming Events

TERM 3

JULY

27 Jul Parents & Friends (7.30pm St Paul's Library)
28 Jul Champagnat Mass (9.30am to 12.00 noon)
29 -31 Jul Year 8 Camps

AUGUST

5 - 7 Aug Year 8 Camps
7 Aug EMA Applications due (Marcellin House)
10 Aug Year 11 2010 Parent Information Session
12 Aug Year 10 2010 Parent Information Session
14 Aug **Course and Career Expo (Kildare Campus)**
17 Aug **Student Free Day**
19 - 21 Aug Year 8 Camps
20 Aug Uniform Shop open (3.30pm to 6.00pm St Paul's)
20 Aug **Lavalla Catholic College Restuarant**
24 Aug Parents & Friends (7.30pm St Paul's Library)
24 - 28 Aug Year 11 on-line enrolments
25-28 Aug Year 11 Retreat
26 - 28 Aug Year 8 Camps

SEPTEMBER

17 Sep Parent & Teacher Interviews
18 Sep Term 3 concludes

The Education Tax Refund – Get 50% back

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students. This means you could receive a refund each year of up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care.

Are you eligible?

To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- the Veterans' Children Education Scheme
- the Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- a scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
- an Australian Postgraduate Award
- Independent students are also eligible to claim.

What can you claim?

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- laptops, home computers and associated costs — for example, internet and paper
- educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for special needs students
- stationery and art supplies
- school textbooks and associated learning materials
- trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses.
- For a more comprehensive list visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

If you fit the eligibility criteria, please visit the College website for details of how to claim or for further information contact visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au or phone the Tax Office on 13 28 61.