

LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



26 June 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers

From the Principal's Desk

The end of semester one assembly, celebrating the successes and achievements of our student body was a wonderful reminder of the importance of recognition and praise for a job well done. I sincerely thank those parents who made the time to come and acknowledge their child's award and to be with us in community during this fantastic celebration. We noticed this year an increase in the number of students recognised which speaks of the improved effort of many of our students. Congratulations to all the recipients and to those quiet achievers who are working at their very best all of the time.



**Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal**

Curriculum News

As we reach the halfway point in time this year, we are very conscious of the old adage: Time flies when you have fun. It is our hope that students have enjoyed their learning experiences this semester and that the semester break will see us all refreshed and ready for a significant Term 3. This is when students prepare for and complete the process of enrolling in their subjects for 2010.

At **Lavalla Catholic College**, we are always careful to ensure that our learning programs keep pace with the skills necessary for students to engage with the complexities of the changing times. So next term as you and your child embark on the '2010 Subject Selection' journey, we encourage you to become well informed about the range of programs on offer and the diverse pathways that are accessible to any Lavalla Catholic College graduate. Some new curriculum initiatives are now established and we will seek your feedback when we evaluate and refine them for the following year.

Learner Advisor Program at Yr 10

An initiative which has particular emphasis on students' learning goals & achievements and regular meetings involving each student, parents and learner advisor six times during the year.

Presentation Campus

As this very full and exciting term draws to an end our students' **reports** showed much to be celebrated in their achievements both academically and personally. Many students were recognised in specific learning areas for their effort and excellence and additional recognition of high performing students was presented at our whole school assembly.

The advice given to students in the reports about often simple techniques that they might use to improve their learning, will hopefully challenge them to critically review their efforts and procedures so far and we hope they will return determined to apply these at their classes in semester 2.

Parent and student feedback certainly indicates that the changes in the **delivery of curriculum** initiated particularly in Years 7&9 but also in the interdisciplinary area with Year 8 has been well received. From a staff perspective engagement levels have certainly improved and the determination of students to use their time more effectively has been noticeable.



Last week we recommenced our **community involvement** with **GippsTAFE**, with 16 students travelling there to learn more about personal presentation and to experience first-hand training done in the Hair and Beauty course offered there.

As well, there was a meeting with representatives of the **Moe Life Skills** group to explore some co-operative endeavour which would

VALU at Yrs 9-10

Another initiative which fosters an applied learning pathway for students undertaking specific projects. A fully accredited two year Hospitality Course for students, starting in Yr 10, with professionally certified outcomes, including the preparation and presentation of 3 course meals. Some of you would have enjoyed a recent experience of fine fare served by our Hospitality students at the Kildare Campus dining room.

Home study plans for each term / semester are available for parents and if you have not seen these so far, please enquire at campus offices. We are keen to work closely with you to improve student learning habits & achievements.

New curriculum initiatives are planned for 2010 and we will keep you posted with updates as the year progresses.

Mrs Rita Nainie

Director of Student Learning

be possible in the coming months. This could open up some options for students in the Performing Arts area as well as in the preparation of props and the use of sound and lighting.

Fr Bernie O'Brien spent time with our year 7 students giving recognition to the presence of the **Oblates** in the parish. Their care for the St Kieran's community and the people of Moe in general were celebrated recently in their recent Diamond Jubilee. Their origins, fundamental beliefs and ongoing work in the world today was shared.

We have had year 7&8 completing their Gymnastics units in PE/Health and students involved in football competitions, netball and soccer try-outs and several qualified students took on the role of umpire/referees at the recent Western Valley Lightning Championships.

Our grateful thanks go to **Trafalgar Concrete's** generous donation of materials. This has allowed us to complete another aspect of our work improving the Campus Environment. Linked with their generosity was the skilled labour provided by **Ms. Bianconi's** father **Forte** and her brother **Mark** who completed the task of laying the concrete pad.

So often, especially in recent weeks, the generosity of parents and friends of the Campus, local businesses and the contribution of our staff remind me that

"Our community is not built by wishful thinking. Rather community is a fragile gift of commonality, built on deeds. It comes about when people are prepared to love and serve one another."

May God continue to bless us with people such as these.

Mrs Leanne Mills
Campus Director

Kildare Campus

The semester is drawing to a close. We have worked hard to be where we are at now. I congratulate the Campus community – staff, students and parents – on a fine semester's work. We are all well aware of some of the challenges that the year has brought us. Even so, generally students were back on task and mostly focussed. There were a lot of new initiatives: the Learner Advisor programme was introduced, lap-tops were rolled out across the campus, wireless network points were installed, digital projectors were installed, competitions were won, scholarships were awarded, overseas trips were awarded, students experienced the world of work, staff were recognised for their excellence externally and so the list goes on. A lot happens in a school semester and it takes all of us in the Lavalla Catholic College community to make this happen. Let's pat ourselves on the back and acknowledge this. We all deserve the break!

Information Services Centre

It is great to see this project coming to a close. Our ISC staff are working hard to ensure that we have the new centre open early next term. The building is a great resource for our students and the next term will see our students experience this new resource. Two new classrooms, a multimedia room, podcast retrieval area, electronic research resources and the latest electronic smart boards are just some of educational advantages this centre will offer. We will officially open the building early in the next term. Now the building of the new Student Services Centre begins.....

St Paul's Campus

The last week of the school semester always ends in a flurry of activity; reports have been given out on Tuesday, 23rd; Parent-Teacher-Student interviews were held Thursday 25th evening. The hard work over twenty weeks is coming to an end. For those students who have been conscientious and steady, the rewards are success in learning and the self-esteem that flows from achievement. The Awards ceremony will celebrate and name their success. For those who are not happy with the semester results, it is a time to regroup, to reflect and to return in Semester 2 with renewed vigour and a will to succeed.

Whatever the outcomes of Semester 1, everyone needs the holidays. For the holiday season, a number of venues in Melbourne have some interesting events and displays for students. They would be worth a visit. I wish everyone a safe, restful holiday, catching up with family and friends.

Festival of ideas

On Thursday June 18th 15 students from Year 9, 8 from STP and 2 from P, were invited to spend the day at the Melbourne University, for the inaugural Festival of Ideas. The themes were sustainability and Tolerance. They participated in workshops including the 'Place of the USA in the World'. They learned about the Global Financial Crisis', 'Islam in Australia' among other things. The students also toured the campus and visited libraries and saw the facilities. I hope some of them will return to Melbourne University as students.

Year 7 Camps (by Ms Carmel McCullagh)

ON 17th June one hundred and eighty one enthusiastic, Year 7 students boarded the buses to Phillip Island for the annual year 7 camp. This was the first time that the entire year level had gone on camp together, and for many students, it was the first time they had mixed with students from other homerooms. The students



People affected by Bushfires

This week **Mrs Clarke distributed** information to those students and staff on the Kildare Campus who were affected by the bushfires. Free Holiday Programmes and Activities are being offered to students in Yrs 9-12 who suffered hardship as a direct result of the bushfires. The Mornington Peninsula shire is also offering weekend holidays to families affected and there is a Bush to Beach Retreat for women. If you did not receive this information please contact Mrs Clarke via the Kildare office for more information.

Mr Marco DiCesare
Campus Director

were organised into activity groups which comprised students from different homerooms. The aim was to foster making friends. Upon arriving at camp and settling in, they engaged in activities; the High Ropes course, the Giant Swing, the Twin Flying fox, the Low ropes course, Crate Climb, archery, Team Rescue and the beach activities.

It was a hectic three days and two nights. One night half the group participated in a Trivia Night followed by a liturgy. The other half of the group ventured into 'A Maze 'N Things' where they played mini-golf, crawled in the dark in the maze, rode the free fall slide and experienced a range of illusions.

All-in-all it was a fantastic camp and the coordinators are very grateful to all the staff who worked tirelessly to make it a success.

Mr Chris Roga
Campus Director

Second Hand Book and Uniform Shop.

NEXT OPEN

Thursday 16th July

New Hours: 3.30pm – 6.00pm

Shop located at: St. Paul's Campus
Payment options: Cash, Cheque or EFTPOS

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

13 Jul	Commence Term 3 - Student Free Day
16 Jul	Uniform Shop open (3.30pm to 6.00pm St Paul's)
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 Aug	Year 9 Programme Information Evening
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.