



Lavalla Catholic College

ISSUE 8
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2012

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From the Principal

Dear parents, students and teachers

Last week it was a pleasure to be sitting in the audience of the Gippsland and Cardinia Diversity Awards 2012, to witness Mrs Anne English receive an award for her work with refugees and new arrivals in understanding Australian work places and training. We congratulate Mrs English and her team from the Baw Baw LLEN for their work on the 'Journey to Work for your Future' programme. Part of the award ceremony also recognised the diverse talents that migrants and refugees offer our community. It was an emotional moment to see some Kildare campus students involved in the amazing African dancing.



Mr Russell Broadbent gave an excellent and emotionally charged speech about what it means to be a refugee or a migrant in Australia. He spoke passionately about the plight of migrants showing a profound understanding that while Australia promises a good life, each migrant and refugee has had to give up the knowing, understanding and traditions of their own countries. Each probably holds not too far from the surface, traumatic memories from their homeland from which they have wanted to escape. Mr Broadbent reminded us that as Christians and people of conscious we need to 'fight the good fight' for our new arrivals and to help them experience the many wonders of an Australian lifestyle.

The evening concluded with lots of singing and good cheer and hopefully with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the minority groups that enhance our community. Today we have all learnt of the tragedy that has unfolded again on our seas, as a refugee boat capsized near Christmas Island. We are reminded of the risks that desperate people will take to ensure a better life and keep in mind the hundreds that die in the attempt.

There has been much activity around the campuses this fortnight. The mid-year exams at the Kildare campus are almost complete; the Year 12s seemed to have enjoyed their retreat experience at Phillip Island; the AMSA netball team have recently returned from Tasmania placed 7th in the competition; there have been excursions to Walhalla and Melbourne and our teachers have been totally focused on completing assessments and reports for parents. Classrooms are full of completed students' work and many students are involved

A Winter Blessing

Blessed are you, winter,
dark season of waiting,
you affirm the dark seasons of
our lives
forecasting the weather of waiting
in hope.
Blessed are you, winter,
you faithfully guard a life unseen,
calling those who listen deeply
to discover winter rest.
Blessed are you, winter,
frozen and cold on the outside,
within your silent, nurturing womb
you warmly welcome all that longs
for renewal.
Blessed are you, winter,
your bleak, barren trees
preach wordless sermons
about emptiness and solitude.
Blessed are you, winter,
you teach us valuable lessons
about waiting in darkness
with hope and trust.
Blessed are you, winter,
season of blood red sunsets
and star-filled, long, dark nights,
faithfully you pour out your
beauty.
Blessed are you, winter,
when your tiny snowflakes
flurry through the air,
you awaken our sleeping souls.
Blessed are you, winter,
with your wild and varied moods,
so intent on being yourself,
you refuse to be a people-
pleaser.
Blessed are you, winter,
when ice storms crush our hearts
and homes,
you call forth the good in us
as we rush to help one another.
Blessed are you, winter,
your inconsistent moods,
often challenge spring's arrival,
yet how gracefully you step aside
when her time has come.

The Circle of Life
Joyce Rupp & Macrina
Wiederkerhr

in providing their parents feedback about the MSP programme. Details about these events are described elsewhere in this newsletter and we are very pleased with our efforts and achievements this term.



Students who have worked hard to achieve excellence in semester 1 will be acknowledged at the College Assembly on Thursday 19th July. The assembly is held at St Pau's from 11am. All families are warmly invited to attend.

Next Tuesday 26th June the College is holding its Annual General Meeting and parents and staff are welcome to attend. Please inform my personal assistant if you are intending to attend. The AGM is being held in the Principal's conference room at Kildare at 5.30pm.

This is our last newsletter for the term. The teachers are looking forward to meeting with you again over the parent-teacher and LA interviews over the last week. The vital conversation between all parties at this time is extremely important for your student. Students, staff and parents are generally quite tired at this time of the year and the break is very welcome as we all recoup our energies.

God Bless

Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal

Clarifying Dates

June 29

- Student Free Day
- Parent-teacher conferences 8.30-11.00am

July 16

- Student Free Day
- Catholic School Renewal for staff

July 17

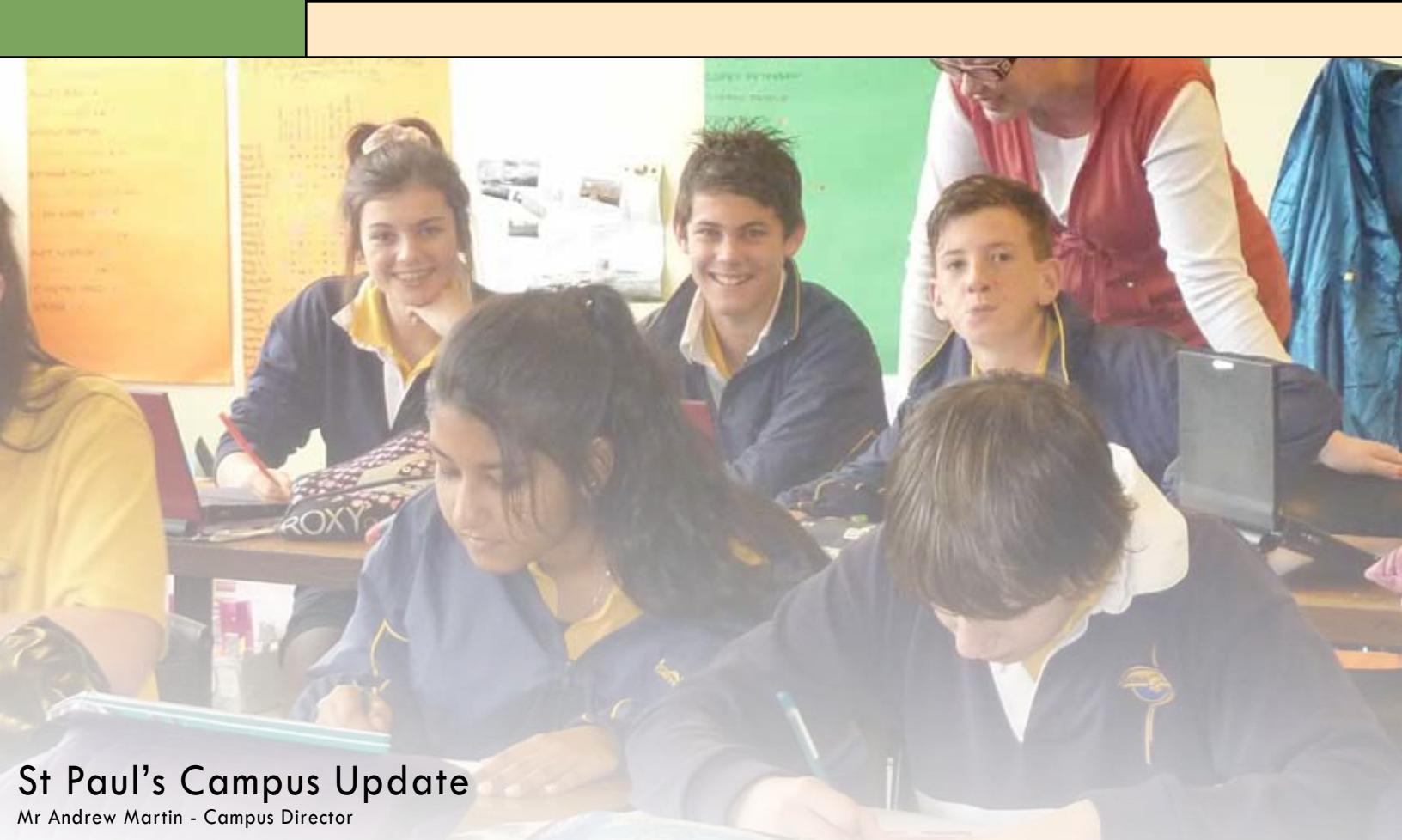
- All students begin Semester 2

July 19

- Full college Assembly - Semester 1 awards

Lavalla Catholic College extends its congratulations to Br Jeff Crowe who was appointed as the first Provincial of the new province of Australia. It has been a pleasure to work with Br Jeff on the Province Mission Council and I am sure he will bring to the new Province a unifying vision, enormous wisdom and a warm sense of humour. The new Australian Province will be inaugurated on 8th December 2012.





St Paul's Campus Update

Mr Andrew Martin - Campus Director

As the semester draws to a close it is appropriate for our students to actively review their progress in line with their goals and expected standards. Our aim for each student is that they develop work habits which support excellent learning outcomes. Our method to achieve this has revolved around student identification of strengths and weaknesses in their approach to learning and these have been expressed as goals to be regularly reviewed and updated throughout the semester.

For some students, developing work habits which allow for constant improvement in performance is a challenging process as they seek to minimise their responsibility for their behaviour and learning. We know however, that an adherence to a system of revision and review will set them up for a positive schooling and employment experience. Self-directed learners are the currency of modern work places where constant updating of skills, 360 degree feedback and reviews of competitive business strategy are integral to the success of the organisation. No student should leave school without having acquired evaluative skills.

From this perspective, the College is examining ways to reinforce the culture of creating effective learners from Year Seven, where goal setting and review processes are addressed as important foundations of their learning experience. They are introduced to a range of planning methods, work modes and assessment mechanisms in order to extend their horizons as life-long learners.

At Year 8, we are introducing a self-assessment tool to the 'End of Semester' reporting and LA Interview process. Students have been asked to review their work habits in each subject and make comment on their progress in achieving the goals they have set. An overall evaluation of their achievements and areas for improvement are also features of this process and will figure prominently in the interview discussions.

At year 9, students will engage in a 'Student led conference' which will see them demonstrate what they have learnt through the presentation of a portfolio of work. They should be able to articulate clearly what they have learnt and what value the learning has in terms of their future study and career pathways. With the Year 10 Subject Selection fast approaching, this conferencing approach to Parent/Student/Teacher interaction should be a real indicator of student readiness for senior school.

As a staff, we are also reviewing all of our teaching and learning and management processes as we are in a year of external review. Goal setting, personal accountability for program delivery and documentation and adherence to standards and regular review are just as critical for us as they are for student progress. We live what we teach and we teach to a philosophy of personal and workplace evaluation that sits very comfortably with our spiritual outlook of redemption.

My best to all for the holidays ahead, may they be a happy and holy break for all of our students and staff.

Kildare Campus Canteen Helpers

Monday 25th June –
I Gregson

Tuesday 26th June –
J Rowe

Wednesday 27th June –
L Ware

Thursday 28th June –
M Holt

Friday 29th June –
STUDENT FREE DAY

Monday 16th July –
STUDENT FREE DAY

Tuesday 17th July –
L Zalesiak

Wednesday 18th July –
W Whelan

Thursday 19th July –
S Bridges

M Byl

Friday 20th July –
L Clarke

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

NEXT OPEN

Thursday 19th July
3.30pm – 6.00pm

Shop located at: St. Paul's
Campus

Payment options: Cash,
Cheque or EFTPOS

(Please note Kilts/Skirts
must be tried on. They are
not sized)



Kildare Update Mr Marco DiCesare - Campus Director

Retreats are an important time for our Year 12 students, it is a time to reflect on who they are and their relationship with God. This year we pleased to hear Sam Clear's incredible journey.

He has been a part of the Youth Mission Team and shared his experiences of walking 29,000 kilometres around the globe praying for the unity of all Christians!

The Year 12's appreciated what they heard while on retreat and developed a good rapport with the retreat leaders. The students came with a positive approach and were open to all the activities and prayerful moments that were presented to them.

Particularly important at this time of year is the rest that such valuable time away can provide but also the opportunity to refocus on self and study as each of our Year 12's enter the last stages of their school days.



Presentation Campus Update

Ms Tamsin McCormack - Campus Director



Greetings from Presentation Campus,

As we near the end of the semester and term, it has been evident just how busy we have been. Students and staff are thoroughly looking forward to the mid-year break.

I have been impressed by the work that the students have produced this term, which is displayed around the campus for other students, staff and parents to admire.

Year 8 students have created 3D rock development display, designed and produced soft furnishings in textiles and medieval display.

Year 7 students have worked hard on their ancient civilisation tasks, including 3D models.

The MSP students have continued to be busy, completing Community Service, physical challenges, participating in TAFE courses and preparing for their Student Led Conference Meetings. I was particularly proud this morning to hear of the assistance one of the MSP students was giving to a grade 5 boy, who struggles with his learning. The MSP student worked diligently with this child all day and the child was able to achieve more than usual through this one-on-one mentoring, but it was also a huge boost to the MSP student's confidence. It is evident that this sort of connection has benefits not only for those receiving assistance but also to the learning and growth of the MSP students.

We wish everyone a safe and restful holiday.



Online Reports

Parents are reminded that semester 1 reports for years 7, 9, 11 and 12 will be made available electronically, via the Parent Portal for the first time this year. Reports will be accessible from Monday 25th June.

When accessing reports, please be aware of the following variations:

- Progression points for year 7-10 students will be made available in hard copy via LA teachers or sent home through students during the last week of term.
- Year 8 LA feedback will be distributed by LA teachers as normal. Parents will be required to attend an LA Interview session as normal.
- Year 10 LA feedback will be distributed by Kildare LA teachers as normal. Parents will be required to attend an LA Interview session as normal.
- Year 11 Reporting is continuous so changes may be made, and visible to parents, during the final week of term as staff complete exam marking and feedback. As a result, Year 11 Semester reports will not be complete until the end of term; Friday 29th June.
- Students will continue to receive notification of subject awards through certificates sent home through students during the last week of term.

Semester reports will be available via the Parent Portal until Friday 13th July 2012 and can be printed at home if a hard copy is required. After this time, a rollover of the computer system to term 3 may prevent availability of reports on the portal. This situation is being investigated to try to ensure continual access to reports for the current academic year through the best means possible.

Year 9 Walhalla trips

During the month of June, Year 9 Mastering Learning Humanities students have undertaken a field trip to the historic gold mining town of Walhalla.

This activity was part of their study of Australian History. Students had the opportunity to pan for alluvial gold, tour the Long Tunnel Mine and explore the sites of the township.

Volunteers at the Long Tunnel Mine and Walhalla Post Office conducted tours and spoke to students and staff about the discovery of gold, life in remote Walhalla in the early 1800s and the 'boom and bust' cycle which impacted the region so dramatically. Students had first-hand contact with many primary sources which allowed them to learn about daily life in the past.



Year 12 Retreats

- by By Domenic Germano and Michelle Laidlaw

On Monday the 18th of June, the year twelves went to Phillip Island Adventure Park Resort for a spiritual retreat.

We departed from Kildare campus at 9 am, for a long 2 hour trip to the resort, which came to a halt in Leongatha for a quick toilet stop. Once we arrived, we briefed about house rules and the activities we would be participating in. Students were then allocated rooms, and to the girls and Wardy's disgust, bathrooms were to be shared between two rooms.



The day continued with an opening prayer, after which we were all split into small groups, referred to as our life groups which would accompany us on a spiritual journey over the next three days. Our first activity within our life groups was the trust walk where one of the members of the group led the rest of the group. The groups were blind folded and led on a walk around the site. Much to the surprise of everyone, Marco's group were nearly walked off the pier into the lake!

After lunch and some terrible jokes from Rob, the students went back to their life groups and found partners who would be their Journey Companions for the remainder of the retreat. During this time,

the Journey Companions were given time to get to know and learn some interesting things about one another.

Students were then given the opportunity to participate in various activities around the camp, including the giant swing and flying fox. Although, most students decided to take the time to talk to one another. Many of the boys played soccer and Jimmy and Nancy showed off their dance skills.

After a long and tiring day, pasta with Bolognese sauce was served with a side of garlic bread, which was nothing like Nonna's pasta! Once dinner concluded, it was finally time for Chris Rae's "keep it down" fashion parade. After Dylan Glasson's amazing wiggle shake, Adam Marino's fantastic dress design won the night.

After a night prayer, the students were all keen to go get a good night's sleep!!

In the morning, students woke up to breakfast and morning prayer, where Rob continued with some "lovely" jokes such as "this cereal is such a killer!" (LOL).

The day then continued on with life group sessions. The emphasis for day two was on personal reflection and growth, where we acknowledged that certain people in our lives are gifts. We also shared personal images of God and received a personal letter from home and we had time to read and reflect on what our parents had written. The day came together with a



Continued next page...

reconciliation which gave students a chance to pray for others in times of need and respond to our parents' letter.



The night ended with an inspiration speech from Sam Clear, a pilgrim from Australia who told us of his journey of 15,500km. This was to get others to join and pray for unity. Throughout his speech he told us of his troubles during his walk around the world. He described to us how he was faced with multiple challenges such as being beaten to near death, being robbed, held at gun point multiple times and even facing starvation. He also described the many people he encountered along the way, those poor and those wealthy, which shared a commonality in faith. His faith in God empowered him to strive onwards and to succeed in his mission.

The following morning students were awoken to a beautiful pink sun rise which fell across the morning sky. It was such a wonderful scene to tie together what had been a brilliant bonding experience with both students and teachers alike, and to truly reflect and appreciate the wonders of God in our everyday life.



The final activity in life groups was to tell each other what our talents and qualities were and what each brought to the table of life. We listened attentively to our affirmations. This was truly a heart warming moment as although many of us have spent most of our school days together we grew closer over the three days. We were very at home with each other!



The retreat ended with a brilliant Eucharist ceremony conducted by Father Francis Otopo. It was a fitting way to end our three days of spiritual retreat.



Everyone then boarded the buses to head for home, all eager with excitement to get back to their own bed and shower and to get a big hug from Mum and Dad.

All in all, the retreat was a fantastic way to get to know one another, build incredible friendships, get to know our inner self but more importantly to reconnect with God and appreciate everything around us.



Sporting Club Targets Succes

The Howard & Schuback Perpetual Trophy was held at the Sale Field & Game Range on Monday, June 18th with some very successful results recorded by the Lavalla Clay Target shooting team.

Lavalla were out to defend their crown of 12 months ago and their respective teams put up a good challenge in the bid to claim the shield.

Over 150 competitors attended the shoot with Lavalla sending 21 shooters and while the College was unable to repeat the team success from 2011 some outstanding individual performances highlighted our performances.

The main standout performance came from Sam Bennison who was able to maintain a consistent effort across the two rounds to capture the Senior Girls trophy with a 14/20 score. This was three targets ahead of her nearest rivals Indi Gladman of Gippsland Grammar and Connie Padula of Catholic College Sale.

Scott Prosser recorded a solid 10/10 from the first round before letting one target escape during the second round to finish with 19/20 and equal with Angus Howlett from Gippsland Grammar. Unfortunately for Scott he was edged out in the shoot off but captured second placing in the Senior Boys event with 21/24 targets.

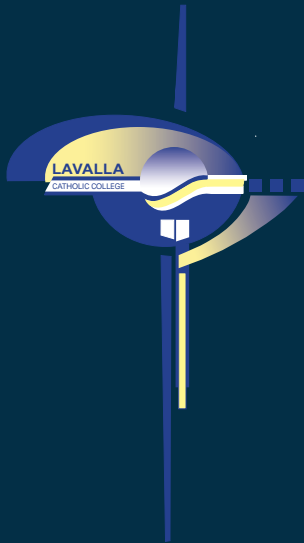
The No. 2 Lavalla team, which consisted of James Jacobsen, Jack Moon, Nathan Szabo, Jake Heriban and Jesse Stockdale ended up equal with two teams from Gippsland Grammar to enter a shoot off for first place and a chance at recapturing the team shield for the College. However, they were unable to outlast both teams and finished in second place overall.

Ben Bunston (Senior Boys) and Jack Moon (Junior Boys) both entered a shoot off for third in their respective sections but both fell marginally short in their quests to eventually finish fourth overall.

The shooting meet was still a huge success for the Clay Target shooting team with a great improvement in scores by many individuals and a great performance from many of the newcomers who attended their first competition with the College.

A big thank you must go to the Morwell Gun Club members who have assisted with the mentoring of all our students who have taken part in the Clay Target sessions in the lead up to this event.





June/July Events

Monday, June 25

LA parent meetings

Wednesday, June 27

Year 10 visit to Monash
Gippsland

Thursday, June 28

Last day of term 2

Year 9 visit to Monash
Gippsland

Parent/Teacher interviews

Final semester assembly

Friday, June 29

Student free day

Parent/Teacher interviews

Monday, July 16

Student free day

Year 12 visits to Melbourne
Universities

Thursday, July 19

Awards assembly

Monday, July 23

Year 10 work experience
week commences

Friday, July 27

Year 9 visits to Kildare



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Have you ever been asked to join the Catholic community?

Are you married or engaged to a Catholic or have Catholic children and want to know more of what it is all about?

Maybe you are searching for a Christian community to which you feel you could really belong?

Have you ever thought about becoming a Catholic?

Do you know someone who is not Catholic but who may be waiting to be asked to come along?

Come and See

The RCIA will begin the first stage – the Enquiry Period, commencing on Thursday 12th July 2011 at St Michael's Parish Centre.

For more information please contact Susan Grout on 51740587.

MARCELLIN HOUSE

(ADMINISTRATION)
Costa Circle TRARALGON
Ph. (03) 5174 5272
Fax. (03) 5174 9235

KILDARE CAMPUS

Kosciuszko Street
TRARALGON
Ph. (03) 5174 8111
Fax. (03) 5174 0783

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

Grey Street
TRARALGON
Ph. (03) 5174 7355
Fax. (03) 5174 1827

PRESENTATION CAMPUS

John Field Drive
NEWBOROUGH
Ph. (03) 5127 1311
Fax. (03) 5127 7110