



NEWSLETTER

Lavalla Catholic College

5 September 2003

Dear Parents,

Last week I attended the Kildare Campus Assembly. A part of the program was the recognition of excellence among a number of students. Last Saturday I attended the Band Festival Finale in Melbourne where the excellence of the senior choir had been recognized and where the choir was invited to sing for a much larger audience.

Excellence is not about competition; it is not about being better than others. Rather it means a commitment to work always for improvement. Excellence also implies identifying, developing and celebrating the giftedness in individuals and in groups. Within the choir you have a large group of some 80 students whose commitment and practice have resulted in a most impressive and skilled performance. In some ways it is a surprise to them to realise how high-quality their performance is.

Excellence in learning is measured objectively by how well students have understood and made what they have been taught their own, rather than by their ability to memorise and reproduce a static body of knowledge. Excellence in learning also implies an openness to seek the truth wherever it can be found and a willingness to challenge the assumptions that underlie our views and opinions.

Supporting the efforts of each of the students involved in these excellent achievements are many committed adults:- teachers who encourage, explain, coach, who give of their time and talents, who demonstrate and model excellence.

At Lavalla Catholic College, we hope to build on the traditions of excellence handed down to us from the Colleges who went before us

Br Julian Casey
Principal

CALENDAR DATES

Tue. 9	GCSSSA Touch Football Championships Reports printed and collated
Wed. 10	College Music Concert (7.30 to 10.30pm)
Thu. 11	Year 11 VCAL Camp CAS Athletics Championships
Fri. 12	Year 11 VCAL Camp Interim Reports Distributed (3.15 to 3.30pm)
Wed 17	Parent Teacher Interviews (4.00 – 7.30p.m.)
Thu. 18	Parent Support Auxiliary (2.00pm) Secondhand Uniform Shop (3.30pm) Debutante Ball (also Friday and Saturday)
Fri. 19	Parent Teacher Interviews (10am – 12noon) Pupil Free Day

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

This has been a challenging term for our Yr 9 students. We have worked with them on their:-

academic plans – through course counselling and subject selection,

transition issues – by visiting Kildare campus and

life choices – through the use of guest speakers and class discussions.

This week the Yr 9 students had Jason Bright as a guest speaker reminding them to make positive choices in relation to drug use. They also had speakers from CASA, highlighting the threat of drink spiking.

All of these things are reminders that the Yr 9 students are becoming self-determining. They are taking more responsibility for their own actions. In working with the students in these areas of decision-making we hope to support the efforts of parents who spend so many hours advising and worrying about their children.

Thanks

My special thanks to **Mr Gerard English** who has made himself available to many students and families post Expo, as they make decisions about subjects and career paths.

Soccer

The junior girls' soccer team played against the senior girls in preparation for the CAS soccer finals in Melbourne. We are proud to point out that the junior girls prevailed!! Mr DeFazio is obviously an excellent coach. We wish them all well in Melbourne.

Plans are not yet finalised for our **arrangements for the beginning of term 4**. All parents will be advised in writing of our plans before the end of term in relation to the refurbishment. While students are very keen on the idea of an extra week of holidays that is not currently our plan.

Friday 12th - Plain Clothes Day.

Students across all three campuses are asked to make a donation towards the **Marist schools in Trichy**, India. Students are able to wear plain clothes on the day and make a gold coin donation. On our recent pilgrimage we visited the schools in Trichy and saw the joy and exuberance of the students and the dedication of the teachers as they work with minimal support materials. It would be fair to say that not all students owned pens let alone the array of pens, calculators etc that our students take for granted. It will be a privilege to offer some support to the schools that welcomed us so warmly.

Students are reminded that "plain clothes" = modesty and practicality. Bare midriffs, high platform shoes and torn clothes are not appropriate for school. We hope to have a great day and would be disappointed if we had to send home inappropriately dressed students.

From time to time **contact information changes** - please advise the office of this before there is an emergency and you are uncontactable.

Exiting the College

Please remember that each student and family should sign an exit form when the child moves from the College. This is generally done before the child leaves. Even students who have submitted enrolment forms indicating that they will not be returning in 2004 will need to fill in an exit form.

*My basic principle is that you don't make decisions because they are easy; you don't make them because they are cheap; you don't make them because they're popular; you make them because they're right.--
Theodore Hesburgh*

*Lee McKenzie
Head of St Paul's Campus*

PRESENTATION CAMPUS

A warm welcome to two new staff members in the Year 7 and 8 area: **Mrs Rachel Allen** (Yr. 7 Mind & Matters and Yr 8 Science/Maths /RE) and **Ms Adriana Bianconi** (Yr. 8 English).

Mrs Allen competed in the Hotham "Hopit" last weekend skiing 14 km. She came 5th in her age group. Congratulations.

My thanks (again) to **Denis Nagle** for his time with us over the past eight weeks.

The Year 8 optional **Snow Trip** on Monday was an excellent success. We had snow and heaps of it! The students responded in a "creative" and positive manner. The skill level of all students was pleasing to see. Here's hoping for snow in 2004.

The **Intention Forms for 2004** have now been completed. At this point in time all students in Year 7 and 8 are returning in 2004. We have a few vacancies in each of these levels for next year.

Mrs Ambrose has requested any **Drama props** that you may wish to **donate** to the campus (e.g. clothing, sheets and shoes) before the end of term. Big thanks are planned for Term 4. If you wish to discuss any issues with Mrs. Ambrose regarding donations, please do so.

Yours in the Spirit of Strong Minds and Compassionate Hearts.

Chris O'Brien
Head of Presentation Campus

KILDARE CAMPUS

Tertiary Information Night:

Last Thursday, the College hosted a Year 12 Parent and Student Tertiary Information evening in the Virtual Services Centre. The evening was characterised by video-conferencing links with the Australian Catholic University, VTAC and Deakin University student Ms. Katie Scott. Ms. Kate Spencer, from Monash University, Gippsland Campus, also attended and spoke with an interested group of staff, students and their parents.

VTAC Applications were discussed and it was reinforced that the closing date was September 30. All students wishing to pursue further study in 2004 were asked to submit their Subject Preferences by the end of term, September 18. Costs of this were also discussed, including the significant penalties for submitting late applications. It was strongly recommended that all students wishing to look for work in 2004 also enrol in a TAFE course.

Important dates were outlined:

Results (ENTER Scores) published:
Monday, Dec. 15.
Change of Preference Period Dec.15 - 24.

1st Round Offers: January 19.

2nd Round Offers: February 5 – 10.

3rd Round Offers: February 19 – 23.

VCAL Project:

The Year 11 VCAL Students have completed a garden bed complete with water feature, ground cover, small shrubs and hedge. The project was completely planned, moneys raised, designed and constructed by this enthusiastic group of students. It has certainly made a huge difference to the area outside the Student Services entry on Campus. I would like to express my thanks and that of the entire Campus to the following students:

Ben Albanese, Sam Anderson, Suzanne Bailey, Robert Byrne, Danny Celima, Rory Clark, Daniel Cook, Michael Dargie, Scott Dwyer, Lawry Eastgate, Allison Emmett, Sarah Gatt, Monica Hansch, Tim Lawless, Dean Lont, Lauren Mander, Joanna Merante, Rohan Patten, Adam Steevens, Hollie Stillburn, Luke Van Berkel

A big thank you is also extended to **Mr. John Williams, Mrs. Tina Sonka** and **Mrs. Annemarie Clarke** who have worked on the project with the class.

Melbourne Bands' Festival:

On Saturday night, the Senior Choir was invited to perform four songs at the Finale Concert of the Melbourne Bands' Festival. This is the first time a choir has been invited to perform at the Finale Concert. The Choir performed with great distinction and demonstrated just what can be achieved with dedicated staff and students when all work together to strive for excellence. The concert showcased the best schools' talent in Melbourne and the standard of performance was no surprise. We were certainly in good company.

Earlier in the evening, the Senior Wind Ensemble was awarded a Bronze Medal in the Intermediate Concert Band Section and the Senior Jazz Ensemble was recognised for its participation in the Intermediate Jazz

Ensemble Section. I would like to thank all members of the Senior Wind Ensemble, Senior Jazz Ensemble and Senior Choir for their work in preparation for the Bands' Festival and to pay special tribute to **Mr. Peter Cavenagh, Mr. Matthew Harris, Mr. Ernie Rijs** and **Mrs. Sophy Morley** for their tireless work with the ensembles throughout the year.

Notable Performance:

Congratulations to **Paul Riess** who has been selected in the National Schoolboys' Soccer Squad. This is indeed a great result for Paul who has worked hard on his skills and fitness and to be honoured with national selection is a fitting reward for his dedication to his sport.

*Peter Schneider
Head of Kildare Campus*

CANTEEN ROSTER

	St Paul's	Presentation	Kildare
Mon. 8 Sept	J Griffiths, M Wojciechowski	R Ryan	M Auciello
Tue. 9 Sept	M Armatas, M Armatas	K Farrugia	K Manson, S Prosser
Wed. 10 Sept	A Fletcher, H Stoddart	K Camilleri	M Wojciechowski, P Radovich
Thu. 11 Sept.	S Sammut, S Barber	M Kane	L Saunders, D Webb
Fri. 12 Sept.	M Byl, J Hartley, D Leatham	D Paulet	D Howe, B Fulton, G Edebohls

MONASH UNIVERSITY

Parents and Secondary Students

Explore Monash ...

- See:** the great facilities
Hear: all about courses, selection and accommodation
Speak: to current students and staff
Explore: Australia's most dynamic university

Tuesday 30th September 2003

Gippsland Campus 10am to 2pm

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Please contact Sharon Foster

Phone 03 9902 6594

Email: sharon.foster@adm.monash.edu.au

Postal address PO Box 1080 Traralgon 3844	Marcellin House Admin Coster Circle Traralgon Ph 5174 5272	Kildare Campus Kosciuszko St Traralgon Ph 5174 8111	Presentation Campus John Field Drive Newborough Ph 5127 1311	St Paul's Campus Grey St Traralgon Ph 5174 7355
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