

# LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



30 October 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers

## From the Principal's Desk

Congratulations and best wishes are extended to our Year 12 students who finished their schooling days with dignity and in good relationship with their teachers. This group entered into the spirit of joy and fun and in their celebrations were able to lift the campus and leave us with some wonderful memories of them. Examinations have begun today, Friday 30th October and I ask that we keep them in our prayers, not only so that they might find the courage to confront their exams with confidence but also that God will guide them as they begin to make their own life decisions.

During this past week, we were pleased to invite **Bishop Prowse** back to the College to meet the staff and students. Being very generous with his time, he spent most of the day visiting the three campuses, with the highlight being the blessing of the memorial garden at the Kildare Campus. The poignant liturgy allowed us sacred time to reflect on the lives of two of our talented teachers who sadly lost their battles with cancer. As parents now, many of you would remember with affection, **Ms Maree Dargie** who taught English at the Kildare campus for almost 20 years. We were especially touched that Ms Dargie's family was present during the liturgy, giving us an opportunity to share memories and stories about her again. **Ms Natalia Nadsadina** died earlier this year and we will remember her with fondness for her passion for physics and mathematics. **Their plaques read:**



### Natalia Nadsadina

In memory of Natalia Nadsadina

An excellent educator, a woman who found her home amongst us

1 November 1960 - 27 June 2009

### Maree Dargie

In memory of Maree Dargie

A teacher of exceptional dedication and a woman of courage

17 August 1952 – 3 July 1998

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We hope the garden will be a peaceful place where the memories of those passed before us will be honoured. The garden is also special to us because our own **VCAL students**, under the supervision of **Mr Brett Van Berkel**, were responsible for its design and construction. Further, **Michael Townsend** from the maintenance team crafted the magnificent cross that hangs as a reminder of the sacredness of this garden. It is a wonderful example of our own community's stewardship. You are welcome to visit the garden the next time you are at the Kildare Campus. It is situated beside the Virtual Services Centre.

### Extra Curricular programme

I draw your attention to the extraordinary programmes that have been offered to students on every campus over these last two weeks. A special mention to the retreats held for year 10 students and Year 9 students and the amazing work of the Net Retreat team. The second pilot of Master Survivor Programme held at the Presentation Campus, for our Year 9 students was very successful. Other year 9 students have also been involved in camps, as have been the senior Outdoor Education students. I would like to recognise the generosity of our teachers and many school officers who offer these programmes beyond their normal duties and thank them for the time. I am sure, like me you appreciate that these extracurricular activities take them away from their families and rest time but they do it gladly for the benefits of your daughters and sons.

**May you have a good fortnight.**

**Ms Erica Pegorer  
Principal**

# Lavalla Catholic College Kildare Campus

It has been a very rewarding fortnight for both staff and students at the Kildare Campus. I was so impressed with the behaviour of our Year 12's as they finished their formal secondary education at the College. They approached the week with a mature attitude and ensured that as a campus their last week was a real celebration. We had daily competitions at lunchtime and I am pleased to announce that



the Netball Match with Year 12's vs Staff ended with the staff remaining victorious 2:1. It was great to see so many staff involved in this and other activities. The atmosphere was brilliant.



Our Year 12 Celebration commenced on the Thursday after the College Farewell Assembly. There the flame of Leadership was passed from our current College Leaders to our 2010 College Leaders.

**Nicole Xuereb** and **Lewis Wentworth**, as the Year 12 Champagnat Medal winners have their response to the assembly.

*We then returned to the campus where our Year 12's prepared for their final presentation to the Kildare Campus – "Lavalla's got talent". It was an extraordinary time where we were all entertained by various acts throughout the afternoon. Congratulations to all our Year 12's who performed for the campus. Our Farewell Mass was very special. Students gathered with their families to celebrate their secondary education at St Michael's Church, with Fr Peter presiding. It was a special time and I thank our Choir who added a richness to the Mass that was appreciated by all present.*



On Friday our Year 12's joined us for breakfast – coordinators donned their aprons and ensured that bacon, eggs, toast and pancakes were in constant supply. We then moved into our Year 12 rituals – the planting of the Yr 12 Rose, receiving their Time Capsules, the Chair, Friday Night Games (in the morning) and then our final Prayer as a group with the releasing of our hopes and dreams using Balloons. Thank-you **Mr Hansen** for making it a memorable experience.

I would like to thank all students and staff for the way they conducted themselves last week and for the fun that we were all able to experience as a community. My heartfelt thanks to **Christine Scholtes, Jessica Lowe, Sky Hammer** and **Matt Bogan** for their leadership and support throughout the year. They have been a credit to the student body and their leadership and legacy will leave our incoming College Leaders in good stead.



## State Champion

Congratulation to our cycling team who competed in Melbourne recently. **Shannon McCurley** won the 2009 Victorian Schools Cycling Championships State Title. A credit to her. **Well done Shannon!**

## Bishop Christopher's Visit

As Ms Pegorer mentioned, we were privileged to have Bishop Chris bless our newly created memorial garden. Another important part of the day was the presentation by the Year 10 VALU student to our Bishop of the Comfort Crosses. The Comfort Crosses, case and prayers were created by our students to be used as an aid to praying. The cross has always been a symbol of Jesus' suffering, so through holding it, the comfort cross is a way to begin to understand our own suffering and to know that in times of need, God is always there.

## VCAL Dinner

Last week we also celebrated the achievements of our VCAL students. The night was a formal occasion where parents, students and staff were able to reflect on the many "jobs well done"; Wind Generator, VCAL Bank, Rabbit Breeding, Hair and Beauty, Memorial Garden, Metal Work, Catering, Construction, Garden Projects. Well done to our VCAL students and the team of dedicated staff led by **Mr Van Berkel**.



## Mr Marco DiCesare Campus Director

## St Paul's 2010 Student Leaders

Stephanie Spehar



Cassie Forester



Mitchell MacDonald



Mubtasim Murshed



## Second Hand Book and Uniform Shop.

NEXT OPEN

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November

**Hours: 3.30pm – 6.00pm**

Shop located at: St.Paul's Campus  
Payment options: Cash, Cheque or EFTPOS  
**Please have all Uniform Items to be sold in by the 27<sup>th</sup> November if you want them to be available to buy at the end of the year sale.**

# Presentation Campus

Spring days are certainly being enjoyed on Campus with various groups actively involved in their last games of soccer or their first games of cricket. Next week we see our year 7/8 teams involved in the Super 8 competition organised by Cricket Victoria's Rob Wood. Selection try outs took place at lunchtime and the announcement of the four teams is eagerly awaited.

In the past fortnight we have held the second pilot of the **Master Survivor Programme**. This time the theme was Beach/Water and included an overnight stay at Venus Bay and activities at both Inverloch and Wonthaggi. We thank St Joseph's Primary students and staff for their enthusiastic welcome of the group and Rosemary Swart of the Bunurong Environmental Centre who so generously gave her time and shared her knowledge about the local area. Thanks as well to Shane Hogan for his broad view of the issues involved in the Desalination debate which has been so controversial. Thank you also to **Kimberley Stewart, Rod Williams** and **Sam Worley** who were instrumental in the delivery of the many activities which made up the programme.

Work is continuing on other areas of the curriculum especially with regard to the new electives which will be on offer for year 8/9 in 2010 and to the organisation of the Learner Advisor Programme at year 8 after its success in supporting students and their learning in year 10 at Kildare.

Other events have seen our Campus represented at the Victorian Chess Championships held at Monash Clayton where **Lachlan Kincaid, Anthony Wiebenga, Luke Prekop, Ryan Prekop** and **Thomas Bramstedt** competed along with more than 300 others. **Liam Corrigan**

## St Paul's Campus

There is much to be happy about. The recent rains were fabulous. The lawns are looking green, the shrubs beginning to flower, and **Mick Tyas**, the campus groundsman is smiling. Salvador Dali every morning, looked into the mirror, twirled his moustache and said, "What great things is Salvador Dali going to do today?" and he did do some fabulous things, as the exhibition at the NGV highlighted. To get the most out of school, students need to do something similar. Aspirational self-talk, or a mantra creates the right focus for the mind and gives the person a purpose for the day. Just a few words of caution: we notice an increasing number of girls coming to school with makeup. There is no need for makeup at this age. Youthful skin does not need chemicals. Secondly, makeup is used to attract attention from the opposite gender. This attitude interferes with achievement in school at this age. I ask parents to ensure that students come to school without makeup.

### Year 9 Camps

The Year 9 corridors have been unusually quiet with different homerooms away on camp. As of today, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4 have completed their wilderness experience at Tamboritha. All looks good. The Year 9.1 camp was cancelled due to snowfall forecast for the camp dates. Since the rest of the year was too packed to organise a special camp for 9.1, small groups of 9.1 students are joining each of the remaining camps. In this way we hope to still give 9.1 the Tamboritha experience. So far the reports have been positive. Horse riding, bike riding and walking have featured heavily in the activities. An unusual hit was fishing. Some boys rose at 6 am to go fishing! When they weren't fishing they were digging for worms to put on their hooks to go fishing! One homeroom caught seven fish and dinner that night was special. Students enjoyed most the opportunities to connect with one another on a human level without the distractions of mobile phones, internet chat, TV etc. It made them spend time with each other, be more attentive and built connections and they were very well behaved.

### Booktober 2009

The Latrobe City Council Libraries held 'Booktober' 2009 at the Traralgon Library on Sunday. Booksellers and publishers set up displays in the library. Patrons browsed the selections and 'ordered' books, DVDs and CDs for the libraries. I was pleased to see school students among a steady stream of visitors. Books are magic for all ages and I am glad to see young people using such a great facility.

went as an observer, with the day only being made possible with the generous support of **Bernie Wiebenga** who transported the group.



**Mark O'Donnell, Taylah Oulten, Jordan Street, Stephanie Schena** and **Ms Rankin** attended the thank you morning tea for our involvement in the "Make Moe Mauve" fund raiser for the Leukaemia Foundation.

Our final group visited the TAFE School of Hair and Beauty for practical tips on their personal care. Thank to **Mrs Christine Sapkin** for offering us this opportunity.

Another highlight was **Bishop Christopher Prowse's** visit to our Campus and his interest in our students and the opportunities they have in their time with us. He was very complimentary about our setting and the manner in which our students and staff welcomed him.

Finally, it was a great privilege to attend the Final Assembly for Year 12. We were able to congratulate them on their achievements and we extend our congratulations to **Mr Marco Di Cesare** and his Campus Team for their work in making it such a fitting end to their time as students in the Lavalla community.

**Mrs Leanne Mills**  
Campus Director

### Bishop's Visit

On 20 October Bishop **Christopher Prowse**, Bishop of Sale blessed and opened the Memorial Garden at Kildare Campus. The four St. Paul's Campus Leaders attended the ceremony and met the Bishop over lunch. Later the Bishop paid a visit to St. Paul's Campus, met some staff members and was taken on a tour of the Campus by **Ryan Ward, Dylan Glasson, Kristina Psinas** and **Erin Lawn**.  
**Campus Leaders 2010**

The new Campus leaders for 2010 have been elected. After being nominated, these Year 8 students faced interviews conducted by **Ms. Karen Joyce**, Assistant Campus Director (Student Wellbeing) and some Year 9 leaders. Five girls and five boys were shortlisted. They addressed the entire campus at a special assembly. Then the Year 7 and Year 8 students voted. The new Campus Leaders for 2010 are **Stephanie Spehar, Cassie Forester, Mitchell MacDonald** and **Mubtasim Murshed** (see photos on previous page). **Congratulations to these four!**  
**Learner Advisor Program for Year 8, 2010**  
For over a year, Lavalla has been looking at introducing the Learner Advisor Program. Kildare introduced it to Year 10 this year. St. Paul's will introduce it to Year 8 in 2010. In essence the Year 8 cohort is divided into small groups of perhaps 12/13 students. Each small group has a staff member appointed as the group's Learner Advisor. The Learner Advisor spends homeroom time, Assembly time and Pastoral Care time with the small group building life skills like goal setting, strategizing, coaching, study skills, developing emotional control, dealing with issues like internet safety etc. The research on the effects of the program is very encouraging. An Information Session on the Learner Advisor Program is scheduled for **Thursday 5th November, 2009, at the St. Paul's Lecture Theatre from 6.30 – 7.30pm**. Besides presentations some year 10 students, staff and parents will share their experiences. We hope to have a lively Q & A session. All parents and Year 8 students are invited and we would be delighted to play host to a crowd! We will end with a barbecue and the **Raffle Draw. Perhaps one of us could drive away with the car!**

**Mr Chris Roga**  
Campus Director

## Lavalla Catholic College

### 2010 Sports Traineeship

The College invites applications from 2009 Yr 12 students for the position of Sport Trainee to commence in 2010. Applications, including full resume and covering letter, should be addressed to Ms Lee McKenzie by no later than November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Please see job description and application form on the College website.

## Forthcoming Events

### TERM 4

2 Nov	Mid Term break
3 Nov	Melbourne Cup Day (Public holiday)
5 Nov	Big Prize Raffle Draw
13 Nov	2009 Year 11 classes finish
16-20 Nov	2009 Year 11 Exams
19 Nov	Second Hand Uniform Shop 3.30-6.00pm
23 Nov-3 Dec	2010 Year 12 classes
27 Nov	Year 12 Graduation Dinner
30 Nov	College Christmas Concert
4 Dec	Curriculum Day - Student Free
7 Dec	College Awards Night
9 Dec	Year 9, 10 and 11 students last day
10 Dec	Year 7 and 8 students last day
14 Dec	Report distribution

## Lavalla Big Prize Raffle

A **reminder** to all parents, staff and students to please ensure raffle tickets are returned to the College by Wednesday **4<sup>th</sup> November 2009**.

This is essential to ensure your chance of winning one of the great prizes on offer, as well as for reconciliation of the ticket selling process.

We wish to extend a big thanks to Mid Valley Shopping Centre and Stockland Plaza Traralgon for their generous support; allowing us to use their facilities free of charge. Also, a special thanks to all of those parents, members of staff and students who dedicated time and effort selling tickets at these venues.

Finally, thank you to all who ensured that their tickets were sold to family, friends and work colleagues.

The draw will commence at 7.30pm at the St Paul's Campus Champagnat Centre on Thursday the **5<sup>th</sup> November 2009**. Please see further details about the activities scheduled to take place that evening in this fortnight's newsletter.

***Please come along and support this great event – hopefully you will go away with a prize!***