

Lavalla Catholic College

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear parents, students and teachers

I extend to you all, my wish for a joyful return to the Lavalla community in 2011. To the new parents and students who have joined us for the first time whether in year 7 or any other year level, I trust that you have received a warm Marist welcome and I hope before long that you will feel part of this wonderful Marist community.

The year 7s were just delightful on their first day and the year 12s seemed to stride through the gates with renewed purpose. Regardless of the year level, the warm exchanges between friends and the chatter in the corridors was uplifting and energizing. This year has been marked by a smooth and calm beginning, by much laughter and by an air of excitement that only a new year can bring.

We are well placed to have an exceptionally good year. I would personally like to thank all the parents from students in year 7 who have responded so positively to the introduction of the netbook. I am delighted to report a very smooth implementation of this programme, largely due to the incredible work of the Director of Educational Resources, Mr Ben Verghese and his IT team and the work of the Finance Team, Mr Robert Tarraran and Mrs Colleen Robins. The Year 7 teaching team, ably lead by Ms Roma Valentine, has worked diligently to ensure the teaching programmes will make a difference to the way our students learn and what they will learn.

You would have heard the phrase, Anywhere - Any Time Education, indicating the easy access to information through the internet and other electronic devices. This is revolutionising what is happening in classrooms. Teachers at Lavalla are being challenged to envisage a new way of teaching that is not about the delivery of information and knowledge but its manipulation to create new knowledge and new ways of knowing. It is really an exciting time for us.



Our theme therefore for 2011, Excellence in Learning: Excellence in Teaching, captures this transition. The value in education in this day and age is not the transference of information although this is important but that information is used as a springboard to a much deeper way of knowing.

Consequently the purpose of schooling is changing. No longer do teachers simply pass on information, our purpose, in fact our moral purpose, is to facilitate student understanding and discernment. To do this we, both students and teachers need to focus on excellent learning strategies for this new way. This simple and effective symbol reminds us to keep relationships at the centre of all we do.

By now you should be aware of your child or children's LA or Homeroom teacher. This person is a very important person in the daily life of your child at school. The LA or Homeroom teacher monitors your child's progress and keeps an eye out for her/his welfare. Please ensure that you know who this person is and I would encourage you to call the College should you have a need.

Welcome to new members of Staff

We welcomed this year 21 new members of staff and it is with pleasure that I introduce them to you now:-

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

Joanne Allford – Welfare and Wellbeing Leader
Valentina Bonavitta - LOTE
Claire Couling - Learning and Teaching Leader
Vanessa Di Savia - Math & Science & Food
Anne Entwisle - English & Humanities
Renee Gilmour – Art
Alana Risely – Music
Lacey Robinson SPC- Ceramics & Art
Dominica Szlykrot - Art
Phillip Schipp – RE and English
Jaimee Sallee Sport's Trainee

PRESENTATION CAMPUS

Byron Chen - Math & Science
Jess Kerlin - PC- PE & ICT

KILDARE CAMPUS

Laura Della Fortuna – Biology & HHD (JS)
Wayne Kirsten – Physics (MJ)
Tim Lee - English & Humanities
George Steele - Hospitality

SUPPORT STAFF

Brianna Midsfud - Tech support, Food
Hayley Casagrande - Principal's PA
Reg Gordon - Bus Driver
Rachael Lindsay - School Counsellor (Kildare)

FATHER MATTHEW JOSEPH

At this week's assembly at the St Paul's campus we also welcome **Fr Matthew Joseph**, the newly appointed parish Priest for St Michael's. We will celebrate mass with us on the 2nd March and in his brief address expressed a desire with work with the College. He claimed no allegiance to any football club, despite the attempt of many to lure him to their corner.

Marist Flood Appeal

In my introductory paragraph I have made reference to the Marist Family and on behalf of this extended family that encompasses 33 schools around Australia, I am asking that you support this flood relief appeal for two Marist schools in Queensland and one in northern NSW.

For those of you who are not aware, I share with you the enormous support and generosity that came our way from Marist schools when our own community was ravaged by bushfires in 2009. Nine of our families lost their houses and many more were affected in some way. Lavalla received overwhelming support: \$68,000 from amazingly generous schools. For example:

Mackillop Catholic College (Canberra)	\$ 1 1 7 0 0
OLSH College (Alice Springs)	\$2 350
Catholic College Sale	\$4 500
Sacred Heart College (Adelaide)	\$2 000
Blackfriars Priory School (Adelaide)	\$4 100
Newman College (Perth)	\$4 000
Marist College Canberra	\$5 600

It is comforting in these difficult times to know that we can reach out directly to other Marist schools and families and offer financial support unencumbered by administration costs. Just as we did, these schools will discern how best to use the donations to offer support and encouragement to the families involved. I encourage you to give generously to this appeal so that the education of the young people involved is not delayed or disadvantaged by this unforeseeable disaster.

I would like to share with you this impression from College principal, Diarmuid O'Riordan:

Dear Lee

It's been a tough time for many of our families, staff and students. We know of 176 families (186 students) who were affected by the floods in some way – about half have had significant property damage and income loss due to inundation. The other half has had some income loss or their extended family has had significant loss and they are providing respite. Three staff members have also had significant property damage.

We've had more enquiries this year for fee help than ever before. We've been coordinating assistance with uniform and stationery replacement costs etc.

The College itself wasn't damaged – although we did have some damage from storms during the heavy downpour in mid December last year.

The community of Ipswich was hit fairly bad and the areas immediately surrounding our College like Booval, Riverview, Brassall and Goodna (areas in the flood plain that insurance companies are balking at honouring claims) were some of the worst affected areas. They are a stoic and proud people who defiantly resist being seen as weak but we know that they can't sustain this so we're waiting for a second wave of pain and grief to hit. The staff are absolutely brilliant – supportive, caring and very compassionate. It is a loving community.

There have been offers of help far and wide and I've been accepting them all. I'm buoyed by the great people that I work with and the occasional thoughtful enquiries like yours.



Diarmuid O'Riordan

Principal

St Peter Claver College, Riverview Qld

Thanking you in anticipation of your generous donation, please return your bequest, in the envelope provided to your child's LA or homeroom teacher by Friday 18th February 2011.

College Communication

The College newsletter is posted on our webpage every Week 2 by Friday afternoon. I encourage you to take the time to read it as it contains not only relevant information about the College events but it is a celebration of your children's successes. More importantly it is the first point of contact should we be facing an emergency situation. You will receive notification of when the newsletter is posted through your supplied email address.

Please ensure that this is up to date with the College registrar Mrs Jean Jennings at the St Pauls Campus.

Our webpage will also be used to develop the College Alumni. Mrs Lee McKenzie, in her new role as the Director of Creative Strategic Development is interested to hear from any former students willing to help develop this important association.

As every year, please expect to receive a survey during term one, seeking your opinion about a number of important matters. Mrs Lee McKenzie will also be the contact person. In previous years, results indicated that the College has needed to focus on its communication with parents. As a result we are investigating a text-messaging system to improve our effectiveness in this regard. More information will be provided in due course.

Upcoming Events

You are all welcome to join the whole College community as we celebrate the beginning of the College year with the Commissioning Mass on Wednesday 2nd March at 9.30am at the Champagnat centre. College and Campus leaders will be charged with their leadership roles as will the newly appointed Director of the Presentation Campus, Mrs Tamsin McCormack.

Keep in your Prayers

Over the holiday period, we were saddened by the loss of some of our community members. We keep in our prayers the Hamner family and the Williams family who both lost their fathers. Mr Michael Hansen on the loss of his brother Paul; Mrs Margot Whelan who is grieving the loss of her grandchild; Mr Varghese has recently returned from India after the death of his sister-in-law and Mrs Van Beek has flown to New Zealand after the recent death of her brother-in-law.

In addition, we mourned the death of Sr Conleth who died in January. Many of you will have fond memories of Sr Conleth and will remember her an inspirational teacher and Principal of Kildare College during the 70s.

May these dearly beloved, rest in peace.

Please continue to pray for all those recovering from recent devastations – floods, cyclones and fires experienced by many Australians over a few short weeks in January and February. Please give generously to our flood appeal.

Have a good week

Ms Erica Pegorer

Principal