

# LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



6 MARCH 2009

Dear parents, students and teachers

Symbolically water speaks of healing, recovery and rebirth and I am sure we were all relieved to see and hear the rain overhead during these last few days. What a welcomed relief to our fire weary State. The rain also blessed our Commissioning Mass this week, adding a sense of tranquillity and hope as we had taken pause to pray for all those affected by the bushfires.

We also invested our College leaders at the Commissioning Mass and congratulate them on being selected as the student representatives. In the Marist tradition these are not positions of prestige, they are positions of service. Our young leaders are undertaking to put the welfare of others first and to be of assistance and support to the College. We are most grateful to these leaders for their willingness to give of themselves for the good of the community and we wish them well. We congratulate:

#### **College Captains**

Christine Scholtes  
Sky Hammer  
Jessica Lowe (Vice)  
Matthew Bogan (Vice)

#### **Presentation Campus Leaders**

Katelyn Somerville  
Simon Noy  
Kate Troy (Assistant)  
Jake Dorrington (Assistant)

#### **St Paul's Campus Leaders**

Kristina Psinas  
Dylan Glasson  
Ryan Ward  
Erin Lawn

## From the Principal's Desk



#### **Spirit of Anzac Prize Winner**

For the third year running, the College was very proud to receive the Spirit of Anzac Prize. This year's winner is **Georgina Van Der Staay**, who received the award last Friday. Premier John Brumby spoke eloquently about the need to keep alive the legend of the Anzacs especially in this time when many in our community were attuned to devastation and adversity. Mr DiCesare and Mr Roga provide further details.

#### **Mr Brett Van Berkel**

The Australian College of Educators will award **Mr Brett Van Berkel** in recognition of his work in the applied learning area in the VCAL programme. The award recognises Mr Van Berkel's creative and innovative programmes and his leadership in this area not only within the College programme but his contribution to the development of it across the region. It is also the third year running that a member of this College has received this prestigious award. We maintain an enviable reputation for our excellence in teaching in the VCAL programmes. Congratulations to Mr Van Berkel and his team of equally dedicated and innovative teachers.

#### **Publications**

All families should by now have received in the mail a special edition of the College Newsletter updating you on events that occurred at the end of last year as well as a copy of the College's strategic plan for 2009. Within these pages you will be informed of the new projects targeted for this year and also notice our desire to improve our partnership with parents. Enclosed is a short survey that we will ask you to provide feedback on a number of issues including the effectiveness of our advertising and promotion; communication, organisation and special events. In addition, we are keen to develop a register of parents willing to assist with special committees, excursions and camps and a mentoring programme for some of our students. We would be very appreciative of your assistance with some of these programmes and encourage you again to please reply to the survey.

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Principal

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## Improvements in the College Information Communications Technology Resources

Many parents will already be aware that Lavalla was successful in 2008 in obtaining a grant of \$348,000 from the Australian Government for Round 1 of the National Secondary School Computer Fund.

The College was able to purchase 351 computers with this grant money to bring our total fleet to just over 670 computers for student and staff use. Our technical staff worked hard prior to the Christmas break last year to get these ready for student use. We have installed Office 2007 and the Adobe Master Suite on the computers capable of running these. In addition to these, the College is in the process of renewing the servers that manage and administer all the computers on the College network.

The College is seeking additional funding from the Australian Government to assist with the infrastructure costs in setting up the new servers to cope with the additions we have made to our computer fleet. Parents may be interested to know that the software needed to just run the servers and keep our students and staff safe from SPAM, unsavoury websites and amateur hackers costs the College an average of \$45,000 a year.

Work is also being carried out on the College wireless network to facilitate access to the College computer resources from most of the learning spaces. Most of the new computers purchased last year are laptops capable of wireless connections. This allows students to use them without having to be connected to power or to a wired network connection and also allows classrooms to be set-up in the ways that facilitate learning without being bound to fixed furniture. As wireless networks do drop out from time to time, we have asked all computer users to carry a USB memory stick around with them to save and back-up work.

We have also acquired new devices for photocopying-printing-scanning. These devices will only operate with a College ID card and so both staff and students have been issued with these.

The College is in the process of developing a new look to the College website and we hope to launch this at the start of term 2 this year.

**Mr Ben Verghese**  
Director of Educational Resources

## Presentation Campus

The busy times have continued with much to celebrate as a community and with the many learning opportunities.

Our **Swimming Sports** on Thursday 19th saw a flood of colours giving expression to the competition that was about to begin. Banners, streamers, sunscreen and hats accompanied a general feeling of excitement for the day ahead.

**Ms. Stewart, Mr Williams** and the House Leaders went first to the Moe pool and made sure it was decorated and ready for a day of friendly but serious competition. The weather was near perfect and the house parade and chant certainly set the scene for a great day.

Nagle House were the winners on points but with many students achieving their personal best performances while others competed for the first time. Most certainly there was more than one type of winner on the day.

Several talented swimmers demonstrated their skill in the water and were the winners of their year level champions as follows –

Under 13	Boys Cameron Stitt	Girls Olivia Vincent
Under 14	Boys Damon Bednarski	Girls Chynche Laurins
Under 15	Boys Alex Axisa	Girls Kate Troy

A huge thank you must go to a good number of parents who were able to call by to say hello and encourage their son/daughter. A special mention to parents **Pat Laurins, Brendan Jenkins, Debra Lawrence** and **Jacki Malady** and two former students **Rachel** and **Sarah Briggs**. We thank them for the assistance that they gave throughout the day.

On **Shrove Tuesday**, **Mrs Fredrickson** co-ordinated the team of staff and students who cooked and served pancakes for our community. As well, our Campus student leaders joined with representatives from our St Paul's Campus and **Mrs**

**Roga** to travel to Leongatha for the formal launch of Project Compassion whose theme this year is "an environment to grow in".

**Ash Wednesday** saw us gather with **Ms. Pegorer** to mark the beginning of Lent. Through word, symbol and scripture we brought into focus the understanding of the season and its call to reflect on our life and to bring about change. With the assistance of **Mr Hansen**, Director of Faith and Ministry, we also recognized the impact of the recent bushfires and the blending of those ashes with the traditional Palm Sunday ashes was a particularly poignant aspect of the service.

**The Parents and Friends Auxiliary group** have held their first meeting for 2009 and new members were warmly welcomed. Their plans for helping to support the Campus were the main part of the agenda and they are looking forward to another successful year. Their next meeting will be held at the Campus on **March 18th @ 5:30p.m.**

Our arrangements for **Year 7 Camp** have been able to proceed with just a change of venue to Inverloch. It was wonderful to see the many parents who attended the information night with **Michael Morgan** from First Track Adventures and Campus staff. The students are certainly looking forward to the activities and the chance to spend time in the relaxed atmosphere that camp provides.

The **Commissioning Mass** was a fitting celebration of the College and its religious traditions. The challenge to us all to have "**New Hearts for a New Dream**" was brought to life in **Ms Pegorer's** address. The liturgy itself also called us to be people of faith and action, making a difference in the world because of our beliefs. Of special importance was the calling forward of our Campus leaders **Katelyn Somerville and Simon Noy** and their assistants **Kate Troy and Jack Dorrington**. We wish them all the best as they fulfil their leadership roles this year.

**Mrs Leanne Mills**  
Campus Director

## Kildare Campus

There have been many celebrations across the Campus and the College this week. As a Campus we joined together to mark Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent. As a College we celebrated our commissioning mass and presented our College Captains and Vice-Captains. It has been a busy fortnight and I would like to highlight some of our other achievements.

### Campus Swimming Carnival

The House themes chosen by students this year were "Tradies", The Army, Fire Services and 000 Heroes. Each house dressed in their appropriate themes and worked hard to ensure that their House was well represented in the colour stakes as well as competing successfully in the various events. It was a memorable day and I congratulate Nagle House on their win. While many were looking towards a Delany House Hat trick, **Mr Edwards** and his team ensured this was not the case. I was once again impressed with our Student House Leaders as they gathered up support and cheered each other down the lanes. Congratulations to all for participating and especially to those staff who braved their fears and joined in on some of the events.

### Psychology Enhancement

We congratulate **Mrs Mara Bormanis** on her significant contribution to the publishing of a major psychology text for students. Her passion for her subject has seen many of our students excel in the area of Psychology studies. This year is no exception. **Mrs Bormanis'** encouragement and dedication to the students has seen 3 of our current Year 12 students commencing University studies in Psychology.

### Latrobe City Youth Council

**David Beltrame, Lesley-Anne Firth and Sarah Lewis** have been successful in securing a place on the Latrobe City Youth Council for 2009. Well done to each of these students. It is a huge commitment where they must attend regular meetings with other members of the Youth Council. They also meet regularly with our Councillors and visit Parliament House in Melbourne. They donate many hours to looking at and suggesting new initiatives for youth across our City and I congratulate them on being selected.

## St Paul's Campus

The Campus is returning to normal as staff, students and families deal with the effects of the bushfires. I gratefully acknowledge the generosity of staff, students and parents in the response to the bushfires; the campus appeal raised funds and goods for those affected by the bushfires. While it is heartening to see our community, especially the young people, bounce back, the emotional toll is quite hidden. We shall still need to be alert and sensitive to the needs of our staff, students and families. I am delighted to recognise the efforts of staff, students and parents in some improvements I have observed; fewer students are arriving late to school; uniforms are worn better; more parents are ringing the Office to inform us of students being absent for the day; the yard is cleaner.

### Year 7 Information Evening

The Year 7 Information Evening is scheduled for 11th March, 2009. It is a great opportunity for parents to get a snapshot of what the college offers their children and to meet with the homeroom teachers in the homerooms. Student work will be displayed in the homeroom. I know the Homeroom teachers will relish the chance of meeting with parents and learning something more about the students.

### Under 18 Australian Lawn Bowls Champion

We congratulate **Lisa Phillips** on being part of the winning the Under 19 Women's Single Final at the Australian Lawn Bowls Championships. **Lisa Phillips** defeated her opponent 8-7, 11-7. Well done Lisa.

### Spirit of Anzac Prize School Competition

Last week I was privileged to attend the presentation of the **Spirit of Anzac School Competition Award**. Premier John Brumby announced the 10 winners. Congratulations go to **Georgie Van Der Staay** of Year 10, who will represent Victoria and Australia as a winner of the 2009 Spirit of Anzac Prize School Competition. Georgie will participate in a study tour to significant sites of the Korean War and the Gallipoli Campaign of World War I.

The Anzac legend and this award has been of significant interest to the College, with Georgie being our Third winner in as many years. Congratulations to **Mrs Kim Widrich** for all of the work that she has put into these awards in preparing our students.



**Mr Marco Di Cesare**  
Campus Director

### The Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge

This has become an annual feature of the campus and it aims to develop a reading habit for children. Each child is encouraged to read at least 15 books till August. Children can access the local libraries and record their reading list online. I ask all parents to get involved in improving their children's reading habits. Over the past three years the college has been singled out for its effort in this area of literacy.

### Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize

We congratulate **Georgie van der Staay** for being awarded the Premier's Spirit of ANZAC Prize for 2009. She is one of ten winners in the state. We know her passion for excellence and she will be a worthy ambassador for her family, school, state and nation when the group visits South Korea and Gallipoli. I also acknowledge the outstanding effort of the other contestants from the college; **Ashley Bransgrove, Mitchell Turnbull, Aliciabeth Licciardi, Matthew Berry and Clare Harlow.**

**Mr Chris Roga**  
Campus Director

## Forthcoming Events

### TERM 1

#### MARCH

- 9 Mar **Labour Day Public Holiday**
- 11 Mar Year 7 Information Evening at St Paul's  
Night time uniform Shop Open (6.30pm-8.00pm)
- 19 Mar Second Hand Uniform Shop Open (3.30pm-6.00pm)
- 23 Mar Year 10 Work Experience  
Parents and Friends meeting

#### APRIL

- 2 Apr Parent Teacher Student Interviews (4.00pm-7.30pm)
- 3 Apr Last Day Term 1 - Student Free Day  
Year 11 Debutante Ball  
Parent Teacher Student Interviews (9.00am-12.00pm)
- 4 Apr Year 11 Debutante Ball
- 16 Apr Second Hand Uniform Shop Open (3.30pm-6.00pm)

### TERM 2

#### APRIL

- 20 Apr Term 2 Commence - for all students and staff
- 23 -27 Apr Marist Basketball [Lismore]
- 25 Apr Anzac Day

## Canteen Roster

### ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

- Tue 10 Mar C. Asbock
- Wed 11 Mar L. Barrett
- Thu 12 Mar M. Johnston
- Fri 13 Mar M. Tatlow, L. Weckmann

- Mon 16 Mar R. Crowle
- Tue 17 Mar J. DePellegrini
- Wed 18 Mar C. Hinds
- Thu 19 Mar Help needed
- Fri 20 Mar D. Buckley, T. Newton

- Mon 23 Mar C. Jackiw
- Tue 24 Mar S. Budge
- Wed 25 Mar Help needed
- Thu 26 Mar S. Bridges
- Fri 27 Mar L. Clarke

### KILDARE CAMPUS

- Tue 10 Mar M. Buhagiar
- Wed 11 Mar T. Grunwald
- Thu 12 Mar G. Breed
- Fri 13 Mar K. Bulmer

- Mon 16 Mar I. Gregson
- Tue 17 Mar T. Pledge, S. Garrett
- Wed 18 Mar Help needed
- Thu 19 Mar K. Licciardi
- Fri 20 Mar L. Zalesiak

- Mon 23 Mar L. Hare
- Tue 24 Mar L. Skinner
- Wed 25 Mar L. Hodder
- Thu 26 Mar M. Johnston
- Fri 27 Mar J. Irvine

**Night Time**  
**Second Hand Book & Uniform**  
**Shop.**

**OPEN**

*Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009*

**From 6.30pm – 8.00pm**  
 Shop located at: St.Paul's Campus  
 Payment options: Cash, Cheque or EFTPOS

**Secondhand Book and Uniform Shop.**

**New Hours: 3.30pm – 6.00pm**

**OPEN**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2009.  
 Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009.

**EXTRA SESSION – UNIFORM SEASON CHANGE**  
 Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009

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

**St Paul's Canteen volunteers**

St Paul's canteen is currently calling for any parents that may be able to volunteer their time to help out on canteen duty from term 2 onwards.

Even one day a term is helpful and would be greatly appreciated.

If you are able to volunteer please call St Paul's campus canteen on 03 5174 7355 and speak with Pat Brown.