

LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

6 February 2004

Dear Parents,

I welcome you to the 2004 school year and I hope that it will be a fruitful and peaceful time. For those parents who are new to the College, I offer a special welcome and I am sure the staff will look forward to meeting with you and helping to settle your son and daughter into Lavalla Catholic College.

There are Parent Nights being organized at each Campus. Please check the Calendar at the end of this Newsletter for the dates. The first one for parents of VCE students on Study Skills is on 11th February.

This Newsletter carries with it a number of important reminders and I urge you to check through it. There is also a calendar of events for Term 1 and this will prove a helpful document for you.

Br Julian Casey
Principal

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ENROLMENTS

The students have settled in well to the New Year and we have been able to make a good start. At the Year 12 Assembly we welcomed students from last Year's VCE who gained an ENTER Score of more than 90. There were 11 students in all and those who were present spoke to the students about their experience. The Dux of the College for 2003 was Pawan Kashyap. We offer our congratulations to these students and to Pawan

St Paul's Campus

Year 7	219
Year 8	212
Year 9	205

Presentation Campus

Year 7	54
Year 8	53
Year 9	55

Kildare Campus

Year 10	233
Year 11	237
Year 12	192

CHANGES IN FAMILY ADDRESSES OR FAMILY ARRANGEMENTS

Please fill in the enclosed form indicating any changes, which we need to make to our records

CONDOLENCES

For some students the start of the year has seen the death of one of their parents. It is a very sad time for them and not easy to get back into the swing of school life. We offer them our support and condolences.

Brett and Jayden Embry and family on the death of their father

Naomi Boyce and family on the death of their mother

Charlie Cassar and family on the death of his step-father, Ken Havis

TIMETABLE

Students should now have their timetable. Please note the following times:-

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday)

Homeroom commences at 8.50am.

Recess is from 10.45 am to 11.05

Lunch is from 12.55pm to 1.45pm

Dismissal is at 3.25pm

Thursday

Homeroom commences at 8.50am.

Recess is from 10.30 am to 10.55

Lunch is from 1.10pm to 1.55pm

Dismissal is at 3.25pm

A 5 minute movement time has been allowed, so that there will be no excuse for lateness to classes.

ATTENDANCE

One of the responsibilities of parents is to ensure that students attend school. Students need to maintain regular attendance to maximise their learning opportunities. Please remember that absent students miss out on learning opportunities and this can lead to poor performance. According to our records, students who are often absent perform less well. The College has an attendance system, which tracks the attendance of students and alerts us of regular absence or skipping classes. Attendance at classes is a requirement for VCE success. Any reference from the College refers to the pattern of attendance, because this is an important criteria for employers. As well the attendance of those students who receive the Youth Allowance is regularly checked by Centrelink throughout the year

We ask parents to ring or write to the College if the student is to be absent. Absence is accepted only where a sufficient reason, such as genuine illness, exists. Birthdays, shopping trips, and child-minding are not regarded as legitimate excuses. Sometimes the excuse of “not feeling well” looks dubious. Illness needs to be defined, not only to assure us, but also to alert teachers to be aware of this.

Students who are absent are expected to ascertain from teachers what work has been missed and to undertake that work.

COLLEGE PLANNER

I understand that the firm responsible for producing these failed to meet the required deadline, which has been most inconvenient for all concerned. We have commenced the difficult task of distributing these to those who have paid.

I simply remind all that the Planner is a compulsory purchase. It has some significant information and dates in it. Some students are careless in the use of the Planner and we are disappointed in this. However we still insist that all students have the Planner and will expect it to be produced on demand.

THE PRESENTATION CAMPUS CANTEEN

It has been necessary for us to hand over the management of this canteen to Heidi's Café, Moe and arrange to take over the canteen services. The Campus was really not big enough for us to cover the costs of staffing and operating this canteen.

The arrangement is that we will continue to seek volunteers for this Campus so that the viability of this canteen can be maintained and enable us to continue providing a service to the students.

THE KILDARE AND ST PAUL'S CANTEENS

The canteens on these Campuses are absolutely desperate for helpers. We are trying to maintain these Canteens through the use of volunteer parents. We don't want to start sending students down the street nor do we want to go down the track of outsourcing the service. We simply cannot go ahead with our present number of helpers. Please ring the respective canteen if you can help. If your son or daughter is discouraging you from volunteering, you would be welcome on the other Campus

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS



- ?? The Portable Classrooms at Kildare (shown above) have been painted and are, visually, more in harmony with the rest of the Campus. Other painting tasks have or are being completed.
- ?? The Presentation Campus now has an air-conditioner in the Library.
- ?? There have been repairs to the concrete paving at the St Paul's Campus
- ?? A statue of Marcellin Champagnat has been purchased and will be erected at St Paul's Campus
- ?? The Floors of Champagnat Centre and Kildare Hall have been refurbished
- ?? The Public address system at St Paul's Campus has been renewed

My thanks to our Maintenance Staff for their attention to these projects and for preparing the Campus for the arrival of the students.

INSURANCE

Insurance premiums, as you would probably know, continue to rise in all aspects.

As a part of our efforts to keep this down, we have arranged to fund a special cover for each student while he/she is at school or going to or from. This is called the **CCI School Care Cover** and an enrolment at Lavalla Catholic College means that each student is automatically insured. Information is available from each Campus Office.

AMBULANCE COVER

It is wise to consider Ambulance Cover. Our procedures require us to call an ambulance in certain situations such as back injury. Hence I cannot underestimate the importance of having this cover.

For those students who enrol in Outdoor Education classes, we will need to know about ambulance cover before excursions take place.

THE STODDART BLOCK BUILDING PROJECT



THE NEW ENTRANCE TO THE STODDART BLOCK



PREPARATION FOR THE NEW VERANDAH
ON THE NORTHERN SIDE

This project is on schedule and we are more than happy with the approach of the Builders (Farnham Developments) to the building programme and the care they take with ensuring that students are kept away from the site. We would hope to occupy the first stage in April/May this year.

THE BUILDING FUND

I am hoping that we will be able to use the College Building Fund to assist in the financing of this major project. This will enable us to minimise the loans.

I recommend the Building Fund to you. It is a “**Tax Deductible**” Fund and is a very important source of finance for our buildings. The Catholic Community over the years since the commencement of the Catholic Secondary Education has done much to provide the facilities. It is now the turn of this generation of parents to shoulder the responsibility.

SUMMER

Although summer has been very mild so far, it is to be expected that there will be some hot and very hot days to come. Hence two things are worth noting:-

Very Hot Days

It is important that parents are aware that we make allowances for students when temperatures rise. Please remember that maximum temperatures are usually in the mid or late afternoon and that school can usually operate in the mornings unimpeded.

The use of bottled water in the classroom has been allowed on these days, as are more frequent or longer breaks for some classes.

The PE programme is re-shaped or organized to take account of the weather. If the weather is forecast to be extreme or if there is fire-danger in the area, notification of alternative arrangements will be provided as soon as possible and on the 3TR and ABC morning programmes.

All students and staff are strongly recommended to wear head protection when outside the buildings during recess and lunch breaks. Navy Blue caps or hats are the only acceptable cover for students.

Swimming Carnivals.

A special mention to be alert to these days and ensure that students at these carnivals have adequate protection. Staff members have been asked to follow up those students who are unprotected or not using shaded areas.

BUS TRAVELLERS

If students are new to the College or have changed address, they will be required to collect Conveyancing Forms from any of the campus offices to take home for parents to complete. It would be appreciated if these forms could be completed and returned by the end of this week to the Campus offices. We need to ensure that **accurate distance** and address information is available to the school to enable it to complete the school claim form.

Students who live more than 4.8km from their respective campus will be eligible for the Conveyance Allowance.

EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

The EMA is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- ?? be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- ?? be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 1986 or a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of **Term 1, 28 January 2004** (which is the first day for teaching staff).

The EMA application **should be submitted to the school by 27 February 2004** for the first payment. The EMA provides an annual amount for secondary students of \$254 and is paid in two instalments. The College has to enter the details through the Internet and hence we need

to have the forms completed and returned to the College as soon as possible. No late applications can be accepted.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2004 through this school, will **not** be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents should notify Mrs Helen Orr at Marcellin House if they are not eligible to receive the second instalment of the Allowance. Parents who transfer children to another school after 27 February and prior to 6 August 2004 must re-apply at the new school for the second instalment.

Application forms are available only from Marcellin House or Presentation Campus Office.

YEAR 12 RETREATS AND YEAR 7 CAMPS

These retreats are conducted early in the year to ensure that the year gets off to a great start. The Year 12 Retreat and Year 7 Camps are most important activities and we do not encourage anyone to find an excuse to drop out. Those who do find some excuse generally regret their absence from these events. We are in contact with the Department of Sustainability and Environment in order to ensure that the sites are known to be safe. Co-ordinators will provide any further information required

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Parents and Friends first meeting for 2004 will be held on Monday 16th February at the Resource Centre (Library) at St Paul's Campus starting at 7.30pm.

An invitation is extended to all parents both new and continuing, to come along as the evenings are always interesting and informative.

If you would like to know more about Parents and Friends, please contact Jenny or Felicetta.
Jenny Hansch (03) 51221684 / Felicetta Kile (03) 51661480

TAMBORITHA COMMITTEE

The next meeting of this Group will be held on the 4th Monday of the month at the Kildare Campus February 23rd. Fathers of students at the College are most welcome to Join this group.

THE PARENT SUPPORT AUXILIARY

Many thanks to the Parent Support Auxiliary for supporting parents through the organization of used textbooks and uniforms both in Traralgon and Newborough. This is an outstanding service and one for which we are most grateful.

The Meeting of this Group is on Thursday afternoon 19th February at the St Paul's Campus

MUSIC SUPPORT GROUP

Much of the success of the College Music can be traced to the quality of support that this Parent Group has offered to the Music staff and students. As well this Group has raised funds for musical instruments and has done much to help organize the various performances. Like the other groups, this group stands in need of some support. Everyone, particularly those new to the College, will be made most welcome.

ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

	Kildare	St Paul's
Monday	Senior Choir	none
Tuesday	Senior Wind Ensemble	none
Wednesday	Senior Jazz Junior Jazz (3.30 p.m.)	Training Band
Thursday	Intermediate Band	Junior Choir
Friday	Senior Wind Ensemble	Junior Band

All rehearsals will **begin at 7.45 a.m.** (except Junior Jazz), which requires you to arrive and set up at least 5 minutes earlier.

Presentation students will be bussed back to Presentation Campus after each rehearsal.

Training Band rehearsals will be on Wednesday mornings at St Paul's Campus – starting date to be notified

The Music department is back in full swing with **all ensemble rehearsals commencing from Monday 9th February.** Please check the schedule above/ below to see when your son/ daughter will be required. **Instrumental lessons will resume from Monday 16th Feb** and the timetables will be posted in the Lecture theatre, on the notice boards at the office of both St Paul's & Presentation Campuses and in the music centre at Kildare.

Most of the Training Band members from 2003 have been promoted to the **Junior Band** and will be going on camp at Rawson Village from **Wed 11 Feb until Fri 13 February**. Notices should have come home by now, but if you have any questions please contact Mrs Testa at the Kildare Campus. Some Training Band members progressed so well last year that they have been promoted straight into Intermediate Band, whose members will be going on camp in May.

The **Music Notes Newsletter** will be published again this year with all students involved in the instrumental program receiving a copy. All year 7 students will be given a presentation by our tutors introducing them to the different instruments available from the school and if they are interested in learning an instrument, we encourage them to visit Br Peter in the Lecture Theatre, or Mrs Jenkinson at Presentation Campus to find out more information and receive an instrumental tuition form. We have instruments available to suit all budgets so please contact Mrs Testa for information regarding fees.

Some dates to keep in mind include: Training Band evening on 3 March and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra at Warragul on 23 April (for enhancement students)

BLAZERS

Blazers are a compulsory part of the Uniform for Years 10 – 12 for the beginning of Term 2 and arrangements should be made for students in Year 10 to be measured at Riggalls, our official uniform supplier. There may well be some blazers available at the Uniform shop located at the St Paul's Campus.

Clearly we don't expect and certainly cannot have students or parents actively resisting the uniform. It is not our intention to embarrass students or families and we have provided a number of reminders to parents.

The Blazer is important for the comfort and warmth of students. It has a nice style and provides a clear sign of the College identity and promotes a better image of a student of Lavalla Catholic College. All students benefit from that and from the positive recognition that comes from students presenting well.

So we look forward to a group of students who will represent the College Community in a way which will make all associated with the College proud of the way students present themselves.

STAFF NEWS

Staff on Long Service Leave

?? Gloria Zahra
?? Gerard English

New Staff Members

Eva	Amezquita	St Paul's Campus Teacher
Adriana	Bianconi	Presentation Campus
Lia	Crichton	St Paul's Campus Teacher
Allison	Farley	Canteen St Paul's campus
Russell	Henry	Kildare Campus Teacher
Candice	Huang	St Paul's Campus Teacher
Jeena	Illipparampil	Kildare Campus Teacher
Peter	Kelly	Integration Aide
Giuliana	Pezzutto	Literacy/Numeracy Aide
Nirmala	Roga	Presentation Campus Teacher
Jo-Maree	Sharman	St Paul's Campus Teacher
Minnie	Shashikumar	St Paul's Campus Teacher
Br Mick	Sexton	St Paul's Campus RE
Kim	Stewart	Kildare Campus Teacher
Carmel	Tedesco	St Paul's Campus Teacher
Alison	Teychenne	St Paul's Campus Teacher
Leesa	Wakefield	Kildare Campus Teacher
Kim	Widrich	St Paul's Campus Teacher
Lisa	Williams	St Paul's Campus Teacher
Kallitsa	Yiannacou	Kildare Campus Teacher

A warm welcome to these staff members and I hope their stay will be both satisfying and fruitful.

Staff Returning from Leave

Welcome back to Tim Campbell returning from Leave.

FEE ACCOUNTS

Fee Accounts will be forwarded at the end of February. These can be paid at each Campus. However EFTPOS facilities are available ONLY at Marcellin House and can ONLY be used for Tuition Fees and Charges. All other payments must be made through the Campus.

NEWSLETTER

The College Newsletter will continue to be distributed on a Friday. It is a bright yellow colour to enable it to be easily identified. This Newsletter is one way in which parents can keep in contact with what is going on. The Newsletter is on the College Website and I urge parents to make use of this. Often in the senior years, it is "censored" by students who discard it and this means parents can sometimes miss out on important information.

The address for the College is (www.lavalla.vic.edu.au)

COLLEGE STUDENT LEADERS

The College Leaders for 2004 are:-

College Captains:-	Margaret McIntosh Brendan Galea
College Vice Captains:-	Tim Lee Melanie Waldron
Presentation Campus	Jeremy Waanders Monique De Carli
St Paul's Campus:	Still being decided.

SMOKING

The College is officially a smoke-free area. Students, staff and parents are not permitted to smoke on College Grounds. This has been explained to students and staff.

PARKING OF STUDENT CARS

“The College parking area is not available for student parking and students are not permitted to park in the College parking areas, which are reserved for visitors, parents and staff. If students really need to bring their motor vehicles to school, then they must park in Kosciuszko Street. The College, on the advice of the College Council, cannot afford to carry the legal liability and responsibility incurred when students use official College car parking spaces.”

TECHNOLOGY

There have been some interruptions to our website and to our e-mail. We have been installing and upgrading new servers and there have been some complications that we are still addressing.

It is interesting to know that the Year 11 Literature Class at Lavalla Catholic College is being shared with Mary MacKillilop Catholic Regional College in Leongatha through computer links and through video conferencing. This is a simple and small beginning and we hope to show other Colleges an example of how colleges in a region can join together and make good use of the technology.

VISIT OF SCANDINAVIAN EDUCATORS:

This visit will take place on 18-19 February and we are delighted to show international visitors what we are able to offer students here.

COMMISSIONING MASS MARCH 2

All students of Lavalla Catholic College (some 1460) are present for The first Mass of the Year which is the Commissioning Mass for Student Leaders

DISCOVER

This is a group within the College, which is open to all students in Years 8 –12. The groups meet on a fortnightly basis and provide a good grounding and training in leadership, faith, service and community. It is a wonderful opportunity for students.

Calendar Dates for Term 1, 2004

February

- 9-11 Yr 12 Retreats
9 Tamboritha Committee Meeting
11 Yr 7.1 and 7.2 Orientation Camp commences
Junior Band Camp commences
Off Campus VET Courses commence
VCE Parents' Evening – Study Skills Program, 7.30pm VSC
12 Kildare Campus Swimming Carnival
13 Study Skills Program (for students)
Presentation Campus Swimming Carnival – Moe Pool
16 Parents & Friends Association – First meeting for 2004
17 Parents of 7.1 and 7.2 – Information Evening, St Paul's C.
18 Swimming Carnival for St Paul's Campus students
Visitors from Scandinavia
19 Parent Support Auxiliary Meeting, 2.00pm St Paul's Campus
20 Presentation Campus Yrs 8 and 9 Activity Day
Alternative Swimming Carnival for St Paul's Campus
23 Presentation Campus Activity Day for 8.10
VCE Units 3 & 4 – Information Night
Yr 7.3 & 7.4 Orientation Camp
24 Caritas Activity – Pancake making/selling
Parents of Year 8 – Information Evening
College Council Meeting 7.30 pm
25 Ash Wednesday – campus-based liturgies
Yr 7.5 & 7.6 Orientation Camp
25-27 Outdoor Education Canoeing Excursion for Yr 12's
26 Parents of Year 10 – Information Evening, 7.30pm, V.S.C.
27 Census Day

March

- 1 VCE Units 1 & 2 – Information Evening: 7.30pm VSC
CAS Golf Championships
2 Commissioning Mass – 9.30am
Parents of 7.4 & 7.8 – Information Evening
3 Yr 7.7 & 7.8 Orientation Camp
Presentation Campus Year 7 – Information Evening
Training Band Evening
4 Parents of 7.5 & 7.6 – Information Evening
8 Labour Day Public Holiday
9 Parents of Year 9 – Information Evening
10 Presentation Campus Year 7 students – Wilson's Promontory
CAS Tennis Carnival, Traralgon
Parents of 7.3 & 7.7 – Information Evening
11 Year 11 Outdoor Education to Walhalla (overnight)
12 Swimming Carnival, Sale
15-26 Year 10 Work Experience commences
16 CAS Swimming, Melbourne
17 St Patrick's Day
Yr 11 Outdoor Education to Walhalla
18 Parent Support Auxiliary Meeting, St Paul's Campus 2.00pm
25 CAS Cricket Grand Final
26 Interim Reports Distributed
30 Yrs 7-9 (St Paul's Campus) Athletics Carnival
31 Yrs 7-9 (St Paul's Campus) Athletics (alternative date)

April

- 1 Parent Teacher Interviews – 4.00 to 7.30pm
2 Parent Teacher Interviews – 10 to 12.00noon

