

LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER



12 JUNE 2008

Dear Parents and Students

Teaching staff are currently busy finalising assessments and writing reports. Tomorrow, Friday 13th, is a student free day for report writing and for all students studying units 3-4 subjects to sit their General Achievement Test (GAT). Semester one reports will be available for families on Tuesday 24 June and this will be followed by parent-teacher interviews on Thursday 26 June (4-7pm) where you will need to make appointments with your child's or children's teachers in the usual way. Students are expected at school on Friday 27 but will be dismissed at 2.30pm in keeping with the dismissal time of our local government schools.

New Look Pastoral Report

The College is introducing a new element to the Pastoral Report. Students have been encouraged to set their own learning goals for the semester in a bid to assist them keep focused and on task as the year progresses. You will remember that this report is written by Homeroom teachers to provide you feedback on how your daughters and sons develop meaningful relationships and engage in collaborative pursuits that contribute to community building, while strengthening their own personal, spiritual, social and academic growth. Teachers will also use this opportunity to comment on students' reflection of their personal learning and goal setting.

Even Start Programme

Some families would have received direct communication from me regarding this Federal Government initiative aimed at assisting some students improve their skills in literacy and numeracy. If you have not already done so, please assist the College with its planning by responding to the survey which was attached to your letter. It is very important that this survey is submitted to Mrs Reynolds as soon as possible so we are properly informed before we plan our tuition programmes in terms 3 and 4.

Welcome Home - Quinn McGennicken

It was wonderful to see Quinn back at school this week and to hear of her experiences in Montreal. The attached photo shows her receiving her award from the competition organiser. Even though Quinn is disappointed not to have won the competition she is rightly pleased with having tried and achieved as well as she did. Congratulations Quinn – well done.



Ms Erica Pegorer

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World Youth Day and Marist Festival

Ms Maria Haggett has worked extremely hard to ensure that our students who are attending the Marist Youth Festival and the World Youth Day in Sydney are well prepared. This group of 20 students will benefit from their experience and from meeting other youth who are also interested in deepening their faith commitment. Mr Ben Verghese, Ms Lee McKenzie and Mrs Monica Justin will accompany Ms Haggett and the students to this extraordinary, potentially life-changing event.

Bringing the World to Lavalla

Early next term the College is excited about receiving a number of international visitors. Straight after World Youth Day we will be spending a day with 80 French students and their teachers. These students will be returning from World Youth Day on their way to Melbourne and will spend Friday 25 July visiting each of the three campuses. In that same week the College will expect a visit from some of the Marist Brothers General Councillors. Br Cesar who is a guest speaker for the Marist Youth Festival will hopefully have a chance to address our students and staff about the inspirational work he is currently undertaking in Geneva on the Rights of the Child. You already know of course, about the arrival of our Mexican musicians who will be the guests of honour at the first Marist Music Festival on 29 July. Lavalla Catholic College is so very fortunate to have the opportunity to be enriched by what these people will bring to our everyday lives.

Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal

Presentation Campus

Assignment deadlines and preparation for test time have seen a flurry of activity for the Semester Reports. With so many of the students committed to producing evidence of the skills they have acquired and the knowledge they have gained already this year, it is amazing to hear tales of students still claiming that they get all their work done in class and therefore have nothing to do for homework. There is always revision, wider reading on the topics being studied and news and current events to raise awareness of the world and its complexity.

I urge parents to use the Student Planner as a communication tool to be in touch with Homeroom and Subject Teachers if they have any questions about the apparent lack of work to be completed at home.

We look forward as well to productive meetings at the end of term if there are concerns as a consequence of the report.

There is little doubt that the Year 7 excursion to the Gallery and Shrine reported in the last newsletter lived up to expectations. They are to be congratulated on their behaviour throughout the day and the interest they showed in the opportunity to learn. The Sculpture Park at the gallery seemed to have been quite a favourite.

The special nature of their Year 7 curriculum continued the next day with the Protective Behaviours program presented for them by Ms Sandy Francois. Sandy is one of the College Counsellors and worked with them as they looked at how they interact with others and respond to challenging situations.

At the Parents and Friends support group meeting agreement was reached over holding our first Social for the year and arrangements are underway for what promises to be a wonderful opportunity for the students to gather and celebrate together.

Our assembly last week organised by our Campus Captains Hannah and Ryan along with leaders Nathan Snelton and Letitia McGown was a fabulous beginning to greater student involvement in these type of community events.

St Paul's Campus

We are coming to the end of Semester 2. Reports, Parent-teacher Interviews and then we have two weeks of holidays. Most of us can't wait to start, and time seems to drag along. The temptation is to slacken off. The game isn't over till the final whistle is blown. This is the time to stay mentally tough and continue to perform to the best.

A lot of hard work has been done. Staff, students, parents have all been involved in some way or the other. The results of the hard work will be seen soon. The enrolment frenzy has died down, but the interviews for students from state schools begin.

Mother Teresa said, "We do not great things here; we do little things with great love." That sums up life in general at St Paul's. The bedrock of what happens at St Paul's

Tyler Forte, Sarah Aquilina, Abbie Attard and Mitchell Drowley all gave individual reports and Rob Wood spoke of his involvement with Cricket Victoria and presented the Super 8 certificates.

As well other Certificates of Appreciation from Sacred Heart Morwell and sporting medals were distributed.

Recently we checked our lists to gauge the involvement of students in our wider community activities. It was a great pleasure to find that if we include all cultural, charity and sporting events nearly three quarters of our students have shared their time and talents beyond classroom expectations at least once this semester. We are especially enriched as a community by those who have supported many initiatives this semester.

With World Environment Day celebrated June 5th it was a fitting day to launch the Year 9 Project group's program to raise awareness of the issue about litter, to acknowledge our impact on this beautiful setting and to look at ways in which we can live in greater harmony with our natural world. I congratulate Mr Ozga and his students on their preparation for the event and on their plans to follow through with the Litter Meter and classroom visits.

The third of our Student Leaders' training evenings saw members of ROSTRUM, Ken Tabart and George Cornelius share their knowledge and expertise on how to make the most of public speaking opportunities. There was time to critique a small variety of speaking styles, to analyse what a greeting and thank you speech should contain and to then write their own and present them to their peers. It was wonderful to see the way the leaders participated and we are very grateful for the generous support of ROSTRUM in developing this important skill.

Whilst enrolments officially closed last Friday, we will continue to operate with a waiting list for those students who wish to add their name to our Year 7 intake for 2009. It promises to be an exciting time ahead!

Mrs Leanne Mills
Campus Director

is the relationship that exists between staff and students. Despite the generation gap, the staff know that students are the centre, and the students know that they can depend on the staff. So this Newsletter will highlight some of the lesser known areas and groups that function quietly on the campus.

Year 7 Museum Exhibits

The Year 7 students have been exhibiting their ancient Civilisations museum pieces. They have been studying Ancient Greece, Rome, Egypt and China. Each student has made some artefact from the civilisation the class studied as part of the learning task. With the help of their teacher, the students turned their classroom into a museum for a few periods. Students from other classes visited the classroom, looked at the displays and heard

what the exhibitors had to say about the items. Every single class has had an excellent display. Congratulations to the teachers and students for their performance.

Youth Pathways

Youth Pathways is an Australian Government initiative. It is a program designed to assist 13 – 19 year old young people to make a smooth transition through school to the completion of Year 12, and from school to further education, training and/or employment.

Youth Services Officer, Suzanne Ryan, attends St Paul's once a week. She meets with students who have been referred to her by the teachers, with the permission of the parents. She deals with barriers to their education. She helps them set achievable goals and map their future focussed around their individual needs. She helps with resume writing, job skills and work habits.

She says, "I love the job. It is challenging, but rewarding. I like to hear students say that they are now enjoying school, that they understand the purpose of school and can create a successful future." It makes a difference.

Energizers

The energizers are a group of year 9 students. Recently they have met to organise a number of activities on the campus to improve student life. Ideas vary from Crazy Tie Days to a social at Inferno to Peer Mediation. One of the benefits of the meetings is to learn how to run meetings and the processing of planning an event successfully.

Kildare Campus

Exams are upon us. Our Year 12's now have the opportunity to put into practice what they have learnt over the semester. Their previous years of education is where their habits were formed. Our Year 10 and 11 Exam week went well. I thank Mr Erdely and the team of teachers who worked hard to ensure that students experienced exam conditions. It is a huge role and Mr Erdely always ensures that nearly all contingencies are planned for.

Expectations

At the Kildare Campus, we see our role as guiding our young people and preparing them for a life 'after Lavalla'. Our uniform and various processes are important aspects of what we do and what we stand for as a Campus. Parents and guardians, please make sure that you communicate with teachers and House Coordinators when concerns arise.

I remind parents that Redemption Classes and other after school sessions/detentions are not always negotiable. These measures are sometimes needed to re-enforce lessons and learnings that are needed for life. Should you receive a letter requiring after-school attendance for your child it is important that you are aware that non-attendance can result in an external suspension for your child.

Master Class Programme – Steven Kearns

A short time ago I went to the Melbourne University and participated in their Master Class Programme. The aim of these classes was to give you an insight into what University is like.

SRC

The Student Representative Council have formed sub-committees so they can focus their activities in a more effective way. They are starting a blog available for all students to participate in. They have been meeting weekly during lunch time and have also attended some training. They will receive more training in Term 3.

Girls Netball and Footy

Girls Netball and Footy teams are training during lunch and after school. They are getting ready for tournaments in the last week of June.

Year 9-10 Boys Footy

The boys footy team played in Melbourne in the driving rain. Though they tried their best they were outplayed.

Lavalla Action Plan Team – St. Paul's

This group continues to meet weekly, inform staff of progress and get feedback from staff. On July 16, the group will conduct a full-day training session for all staff at St Paul's. The aim will be to agree on a project that will be valuable to the students' teaching and learning.

STUDENT FREE DAY - ST PAUL'S ONLY

Wednesday 16 July is a Student Free Day for School Improvement activities.

Mr Chris Roga
Campus Director

I attended a 1 1/2 hour session. It was the same as a full lecture that we would experience when at University. The lecture was at full pace. This means that we had to take a lot of notes! Normally, after a lecture you go to a practical session where you have other staff who would assist you in sections that you don't understand.

Even though I didn't experience the practical session I found the day worthwhile. It's worthwhile seeing what University classes/lectures are like. It was a good experience and I would recommend it to other students. **Steven Kearns**

A Student Leader.....



Phoebe Trinidad is a former student of St Vincent de Paul Primary School, Morwell. Phoebe is involved in many school groups such as the social justice group and environmental committees of Kildare. She is a passionate vocalist, spending many of her weekends performing with her acoustic band and her Father's Filipino choir at Church. Phoebe currently studies English, Mathematical Methods, Biology, Geography and English in Year 12. After completing Year 12, Phoebe would like to continue her studies at University in either the medical or environmental science fields.

Mr Marco Di Cesare

STUDENT FREE DAY - KILDARE ONLY

Monday 21 July is a Student Free Day for School Improvement activities.

Forthcoming Events

TERM 2

JUNE

- 13 June Report Writing Day - Student Free Day (Yrs7-11)
GAT Examination - Yr 12 & Yr 11 doing Units 3&4 [K]
Year 12 Group Photograph [Kildare]
- 16 June Clay Shooting
- 17 June P&F initiative: "Surviving Teenagers" Guest Speaker:
Jeff Steedman [Lecture Theatre @ 7.30pm]
- 18 June Year 10-12 Drama Performance
- 26 June College Assembly
Parent Teacher Student Interview (4.00-7.30pm)
- 27 June Term 2 Concludes

TERM 3

JULY

- 14 July Term 3 Begins
- 14-15 July Year 12 University Immersion [Kildare]
- 15 July World Youth Day held in Sydney, NSW
- 16 July Student Free Day - St Paul's Campus ONLY**
- 17 July Melbourne Symphony Concert
- 21 July Student Free Day - Kildare Campus ONLY**
Parents & Friends (7.30pm ISC [Library] StPaul's)
- 23 July Unit 4 Outdoor Education [Kildare]
- 23-25 July Intermediate Band Camp
- 24 July CAS Netball
- 29 July Champagnat Mass
- 30 July-1 Aug Year 8.1 & 8.2 Melbourne Camp [St Paul's]

AUGUST

- 6-8 Aug Year 8.3 & 8.4 Melbourne Camp [St Paul's]
- 7 Aug CAS Netball Championships
- 11 Aug 2009 Year 11 Parent Information Evening [Kildare]
- 13 Aug 2009 Year 10 Parent Information Evening [Kildare]

School Uniform Alterations
please contact Vivien Agius
on Ph: 5134 1732

50 Years Brigidine Celebration

held on Sunday 29 June 2008

Celebrate the Brigidine connection with Traralgon and foundation of Kildare College (now Lavalla Catholic College). Festivities include:

- 9.30am St Michael's Church Traralgon Parish Mass
- 10.30-12noon Open Morning at Kildare Campus
- 12.00pm Luncheon at Grand Junction Hotel
(cnr Princes Hwy & Franklin St, Traralgon)

Luncheon bookings please contact
Grand Junction Hotel on Ph: 5174 6011
by Monday 23 June 2008

Further details contact:
Sue Chambers ph: 9547 7907 or
Catriona Devlin ph: 9509 7906

Canteen Roster

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

- Mon 16 June R. Farmer, R. Bermingham
Tue 17 June J. Campbell, (help needed)
Wed 18 June T. Thornton, S. Fisher
Thu 19 June K. Licciardi, L. Barrett
Fri 20 June L. Zalesiak, M. Patterson
- Mon 23 June W. Heiser, (help needed)
Tue 24 June K. Hildebrand, (help needed)
Wed 25 June R. Crowle, (help needed)
Thu 26 June A. Mooney, C. Richards
Fri 27 June M. Holt, (help needed)

KILDARE CAMPUS

- Mon 16 June D. Buckley, I. Gregson
Tue 17 June A. Mooney, (help needed)
Wed 18 June A. Scully, (help needed)
Thu 19 June M. Johnson, (help needed)
Fri 20 June L. Clarke, (help needed)
- Mon 23 June C. Jackiw, (help needed)
Tue 24 June K. Dugan, H. Vanberkel
Wed 25 June Help Needed x 2
Thu 26 June V. Sammut, (help needed)
Fri 27 June C. Hinds, (help needed)

PARENTS & FRIENDS

You are all invited to hear
Jeff Steedman, Guest Speaker discuss

**** Surviving Teenagers ****

*commencing with
Wine and Cheese at 7.00pm
on Tuesday 17 June
in the St Paul's Campus Lecture Theatre*

Breakfast Club @ Kildare

Every Wednesday from 7.45am-8.45am
Held in the Food Technology room
All Welcome!!
Enquiries contact: Mike Hansen

Refresh Your Marriage

Marriage Encounter is a worldwide marriage enrichment programme that has been in Australia for over 30 years. Enhance your marriage by attending a Marriage Encounter Weekend. The weekend is a time for you and your spouse to be alone together, to rediscover each other and focus on your relationship in a very positive way. Your marriage deserves that kind of attention. The next 2 weekends in 2008 will be held at Anglesea on 15-17 August and at Lysterfield on 24-26 October. For further information and bookings contact Peter & Erika Smith (03) 9899 0824 or E-mail erika@hrpartner.com.au. Checkout the website for more information on www.wme.org.au