



## NEWSLETTER

# Lavalla Catholic College

**27 August 2004**

Dear Parents,

This week we are sending out letters detailing absence from roll calls, lateness and unexplained daily absence. Attendance is an issue because for some the law says it is or makes it so. The electronic system that we have installed to check attendance is specifically designed to track anyone who fails to be at the required place at the required time. Like all electronic checks, it is insistent and unrelenting and rarely makes errors. If students don't do what is required, the system will catch them in a way that no teacher would have the time to do. All this is a part of a two-way accountability whereby students are accountable for maximum school attendance and the College is responsible for providing the courses and programmes which make up its educational offering.

The system gives us a full list of students who breached either punctuality or attendance without any explanation being offered. We are informing parents of these breaches asking them to acknowledge them and, if possible, offer an explanation.

Records of who is and who is not in school have always been kept. But over the past decade, there has been a rise in non-attendance levels, particularly around Years 8, 9 and 10, where students and parents are legally bound to ensure attendance.

Research is showing that failure to be in school long enough or often enough to gain the required skills and knowledge has personal and social costs. Poor results, deteriorating peer relationships, unemployment, poverty, and criminal activity can often be linked to poor attendance.

The "why's" of absenteeism are as important as the "how often's" and it is sometimes wise to find the reason. Is it peer pressure, anxiety about course deadlines, fear of bullying, dislike of particular lessons or particular teachers, excessive home responsibilities or weak reading skills??

I hope that the information results in improved punctuality and attendance.

*Br Julian Casey*  
*Principal*

## ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

During this term football and soccer have been all the rage on campus. While this has meant some muddy shoes or clothes it has been great to see students running around and enjoying themselves during recess and lunch. We have also had the in-door soccer competition, run by Mr DeFazio, which has set off some friendly rivalry between Homerooms.

### Fun Run

Last week saw the last of the Fun Run activities. These serve two purposes - as a fundraiser and as a selection process for the Cross Country Championships. The activity is also another way that students are encouraged to exercise, either by walking or running, and everyone participate at their ability level. Thanks to Mr Sizeland for organising the event and the staff and students who worked as his support team.

We are in the midst of **Eisteddfod season**. Many students participate with the school and through various other groups. We wish them all well.

### State School, Yr 6 Visit

Brothers and sisters of current students, who will be joining us in Yr 7 in 2005,

are invited to spend time at the campus on September 1<sup>st</sup>. All families involved should have received notification of this in the mail.

### Sudan Appeal

One of the key objectives of Catholic Education is to allow young people to see that they can and should make a difference in the world. Hopefully, during the week all families received the letter from the St Paul's Campus SRC asking for your support of the Sudan Appeal. This is an example of young people making a difference and I trust you have given them your support.

### Trip to Italy

Congratulations to all involved in the Dinner Dance held at the Italian Australian Club. It was a terrific social event and fundraiser.

*"If you don't like the way the world is, you change it. You have an obligation to change it. You just do it one step at a time."*-- Marian Wright Edelman

*Lee McKenzie*  
*Head of St Paul's Campus*

## PRESENTATION CAMPUS

On Friday last week students were offered a bowl of rice in exchange for their lunch money. The students raised \$200 which will go towards the **Sudan Refugee Crisis** in Africa. Our thanks to Mrs. Fredrickson, Mrs. Di Savia and student helpers from Years 7, 8 and 9 for their organization and preparation of this worthwhile cause.

By now all **Intention Forms and Subject Selection Forms** for 2005 should have been completed and submitted to the office. Our numbers

for next year in Years 7, 8 and 9 are very healthy. We do have one or two vacancies in Years 8 and 9 for 2005. If you are talking to people and they ask about the College please direct them to contact Mrs. Zyhajlo on 5127 1311 and arrange for an Information Package and Enrolment Form.

A date has been set for a **Social** this term - 16<sup>th</sup> September - depending on the SRC and their organization it may go ahead. We will keep you informed.

Following on from last week Ms. Bianconi has contributed the article below on the forthcoming **Italian Trip**.

“Two students from the Presentation Campus are currently preparing for the trip of a lifetime. Megan Hasthorpe and Jessica Bortignon are the two representatives from this campus who were chosen to be part of the first LOTE trip to Italy. These students are currently helping to raise money for this

trip and ensuring that they have enough room in their luggage to fit everything they want to take over. The girls are very excited and are trying to learn important phrases, which they hope will help them in their travels. We wish them the best of luck.”

*Yours in the Spirit of Strong Minds  
and Compassionate Hearts.*

**Chris O'Brien**  
*Head of Campus*

### KILDARE CAMPUS

#### **Student Drivers:**

Some student drivers are bringing notes from home requesting permission to go to McDonald's or other take-away places for lunch. Lunch passes are only issued to students who live close to the College and to students who are able to go home and return again in time for afternoon classes. Going to take-away places is not part of this arrangement.

Further, some students are driving their car loaded with their friends to these places, which is certainly against the College regulations. Permission is not granted for going down the street or to carry passengers to another student's home for lunch.

Lunch passes may be applied for at the office. Applications need to be accompanied by a note from home.

**Peter Schneider**  
*Head of Kildare Campus*

### PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

A big **thank you to Mr Mark Judd**, VCE Co-ordinator, who was the guest speaker at our last meeting. All parents found his talk extremely interesting and informative and the evening gave parents the opportunity to ask questions regarding VCE and VCAL.

The **next meeting** will be held on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2004** at the

Information Services Centre (Library) at St Paul's Campus.

If you are unable to attend the meetings but would like a copy of the minutes or any further details please do not hesitate to contact either chairperson, Jenny Hansch (5122 1684) or Felicetta Kile (5166 1480).

#### **CANTEEN ROSTER**

Mon. 30 Aug  
Tue. 31 Aug  
Wed. 1 Sept  
Thu. 2 Sept  
Fri. 3 Sept

##### **St Paul's**

M Lappin, D Webb  
I Gregson, P Johnston  
R Crowle, P Brown  
P Brown, A Scully  
R Hadjistefanis, J Kivisalu,  
C Shippen

##### **Kildare**

C Dougan, help needed  
T Stratford, C Wilson  
P Radovich, L Weckmann  
B Whittaker, M Wojciechowski  
P Atkinson, C Barry

**AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'  
CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE TRUST (AVCAT)**

In 2005 the AVCAT is offering grants of financial assistance to help necessitous or deserving children of the Australian veteran community with their costs while in full time education. To apply you must meet these requirements:

- Be within the means test, i.e. financially eligible on assets and income grounds for Youth Allowance benefits for full-time education.

- Be the child or grandchild of a veteran who has had operational service since the start of World War II in the Australian Army, Navy or Air Force.

If you think you may be eligible please contact **Mrs Anne Wilson** on the Kildare Campus for further details or information.

**IT'S ON AGAIN!**

**The Lavalla Catholic College's  
'September Concert' 2004**

The night will feature an array of music for all tastes from all of the school ensembles, choirs and VCE soloists

- At the Kildare Hall
- 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2004
- Starting at 7pm
- Please bring a plate for supper to share
- Raffle to be drawn on the night with lots of fantastic prizes to be won

Tickets: Available at the door

- \$15 family (2adults 2children)
- \$6 Adult
- \$4 Concession
- \$3 Child

---

Postal address PO Box 1080 Traralgon 3844		Kildare Campus Kosciuszko St Traralgon Ph 5174 8111	Presentation Campus John Field Drive Newborough Ph 5127 1311	St Paul's Campus Grey St Traralgon Ph 5174 7355
---	--	--	---	--