

LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER



30 MAY 2008

Dear parents and students

We offer our heartfelt congratulations to **Quinn McGenniskien** who ran an overall 4th in the World, while competing in the recent International Brain Bee Competition in Montreal. She has been our very first student to succeed at this extremely high level of competition and she performed brilliantly. Mrs Mara Bormanis accompanied Quinn to the competition and she has reported how impressed she was with Quinn's composure and confidence in entering this nerve racking competition. We will welcome them both back next week and will rightfully celebrate this great achievement for both Quinn and Mrs Bormanis.

Speaking of celebration, our music students entertained the crowds last week with their first **Music Concert**. Apart from the wonderful sound that the various ensembles managed to capture, it was clear that families and friends enjoyed the abundant talent before them. A special thanks to all our students and of course to our extraordinary Music Director, Mr Shane Reid and his team of dedicated music teachers.

After almost 10 years in various capacities, **Mrs Norma Bellerby** concludes her loyal association with the College. As well as working full time in running the family business and raising a family, Mrs Bellerby has generously given of her time on the Parents and Friends Committee and the College Council. Her resignation from both committees will take effect at the College's Annual General Meeting. We sincerely thank Mrs Bellerby for the pastoral manner, her encouragement, programmes and initiatives, and support for the College over the years and wish her well in the years ahead.

Vacancy on the College Council

As a result of Mrs Norma Bellerby's resignation, a vacancy exists on the Lavalla Catholic College Council.

Immediate nominations are called for from parents/carers in the *Traralgon and District zone*. Nominations, including a brief letter of introduction need to be addressed to The Principal. Nominations close on **Wednesday 11th June**.

Ms Erica Pegorer PRINCIPAL

Coster Circle TRARALGON
Ph: (03) 51 74 52 72
Fax: (03) 51 74 92 35

Mr Marco Di Cesare KILDARE CAMPUS DIRECTOR (Yr 10-12)

Kosciuszko Street, TRARALGON
Ph: (03) 51 74 81 11
Fax: (03) 5174 07 83

Mrs Leanne Mills PRESENTATION CAMPUS DIRECTOR (Yr 7-9)

John Field Drive, NEWBOROUGH
Ph: (03) 51 27 13 11
Fax: (03) 51 27 71 10

Mr Chris Roga ST PAUL'S CAMPUS DIRECTOR (Yr 7-9)

Grey Street, TRARALGON
Ph: (03) 51 74 73 55
Fax: (03) 51 74 18 27

POSTAL ADDRESS:
PO Box 1080
TRARALGON 3844

- All parents/carers of students who attend Lavalla Catholic College and who live in the Traralgon and District zone qualify to be on the Council.
- Membership shall be for a term of three years with the possibility of re-election for one further consecutive term.

Once nominations are received, the Principal seeks the Governors' approval before appointments are made to the Council. If the number of nominated applicants exceeds the number of vacancies, then the Principal will organise elections on behalf of the Council.

If you are interested in more information, please do not hesitate to ring me. I genuinely invite all parents/carers to consider this important and significant role for the College and I look forward to your nomination.

Surviving Teenagers

The Parents and Friends Committee are inviting interested parents to listen to the wisdom of Jeff Steedman. Full details are advertised elsewhere in this Newsletter. This is an example of the work of this committee and I strongly urge you to avail yourselves of this wonderful opportunity.

Reporting Period

A reminder to parents and students that we are entering into the official reporting period. Teachers are beginning to finalise course and assessment tasks and it is vital that communication lines remain open. If you have any worry at all about how your child is progressing, the Homeroom and/or Subject teachers will welcome your call.

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What does the lack of funding support from the State Government mean for Lavalla Catholic College?

If Lavalla Catholic College does not receive assistance from the State Government in relation to recurrent grants then we will need to face the following issues: -

1. A **gap of \$798,000** between the funds received and the funding predicted to cover teachers' salaries.
2. A **minimum increase of 30.3% in school fees** to cover this gap. This equates to approximately \$650 increase for a Year 7-10 student and \$680 increase for a Years 11-12 student each year.
3. A dramatic **decrease in co-curricular activities** currently covered in the curriculum budget **OR** an increase in co-curricular costs met by the family.
4. **A dramatic decrease in funding students with special needs.** Did you know that a student with a disability in a Catholic school receives \$5,000? The same student in a government school receives \$15,000. Because of this disparity the Catholic sector has requested an increase of \$25.5 million per annum to assist students with special needs.

Parents in our community cannot be confident, or take it for granted, that the State Government will support the Catholic Schools inline with Government School salary increases.

Presentation Campus

The recent weeks of this longer term have certainly been filled with activities. It is far more a matter of where to start than one of what to say!

We have begun our Pastoral Interviews to allow us to convey to some students and their parents our concern about the amount or quality of work they are producing.

For all students there are, as the Term draws to an end, a number of assessment tasks whose due dates are looming. Students are regularly reminded of this and have the assessment grid, criteria and progression points for the VELS curriculum on their worksheets and/or test papers. They need encouragement to finish the Semester to the best of their ability so that their Report accurately reflects the progress of their skills and knowledge.

Our Open Day and Information Evening, Grade 6 visits and Interviews enabled many who were unfamiliar with our picturesque setting and our facilities, to visit and become informed about this Campus and what it had to offer their student. It was wonderful to hear the value so many placed on the opportunity to have their child start their secondary education here with us.

In one of the interviews I spoke with Sandra Grant, the parent of an ex-student and grandparent of two prospective students. She passed the following comment about the support she felt from having a daughter here

"It made parenting easier because I always knew that what I was trying to teach at home was being reinforced at school – Christian values at home – Christian values at school. I felt I had back up and if I needed it, follow up at the school."

It was wonderful to have the College's work valued in this way and my congratulations go to the students and staff who contributed in making these events so welcoming and informative.

Whilst it is not my intention to be alarmist I urge you to take this matter seriously and ask the question of our Local Members - why the education of your children is not as valued as the education of children who are attending the local State School? Perhaps they might answer you if you write directly to them or through the papers. We are all responsible for raising the awareness of what amounts to discrimination for children in our Catholic Schools.

Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal

Billing of School Fees

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their prompt payment of school fees and current arrangements with the school.

During the course of any given year it will be standard practice for parents on a pre-arranged payment plan, to receive a statement three times a year informing them of the progress and balance of their account.

This month however, parents on payment plans received a tax invoice on the second instalment which caused some confusion of what was actually owed. This was due to a computer program error and was not caught in the system before distribution.

Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Mr Robert Tarraran, Business Manager

Our students have been great ambassadors, along with Ms. Doganieri at the Big Morning (for Cancer) Tea where Breanna Albanese, Hannah Maunder, Josh Diamente and Rochelle Hyatt provided the musical entertainment.

Last Tuesday eleven of our boys were selected to play in the Interschool Boy's Football teams. The Year 7/8 team played well but were not the winners in their grand final. However, the 9/10 team finished their day undefeated and consequently Tyler Forte, Sean Spiteri, Jayden Shaw, Steven Hibbs and John Noy will this week represent the College in the next round of the competition.

Last Wednesday it was a pleasure to relax and listen to the College bands at their first concert for 2008. Hannah Maunder and Sarah Aquilina proudly wore the uniform they had gained as part of the Senior Band, Josh Diamente played in the Jazz Ensemble and thirteen of our Year 7's took to the stage as part of the Training Band conducted by Ms Alison Teychenne.

This week we have welcomed the Grade 5 and 6 classes and their teachers from St Kieran's Primary School to our Campus to work with our staff and to experience a little of the life at secondary school.

Our Year 7's will travel to the Shrine and the Art Gallery as an enrichment of their Contact classes. We have no doubt it will be a memorable outing for them.

We are also hosting a combined gathering with the St Mary's and St Kieran's Primary School staff as we work with the Red Cross to ensure we know the latest about dealing with specific health issues for some of our students.

Mrs Leanne Mills
Campus Director

St Paul's Campus

Open Day and Information Morning - 14 May 2008

Visitors, prospective parents and students began arriving at the campus before 9.00am. While the beginning of the Open Day was hectic, the number of early visitors was energising. Student teams from Year 9 and Year 7 proudly showed people the Campus. They entered some classes to see learning in action and answered all questions honestly. The comments in the Visitor's Book show how impressed the parents were. Congratulations to Ms Amezcua and her team of guides!

Sandwiched between these two sessions of school tours was the Information Morning and we were pleasantly surprised with the attendance and interest shown.

Information Evening - 20 May 2008

A large gathering of adults and some students gathered in the Lecture Theatre to see what St Paul's Campus offered their children. From the feedback after the session, all went away suitably impressed by the professionalism of the presentations and the presenters.

They highlighted the opportunities, the pathways and the support structures to help young people become good people, good citizens and achieve their potential. Ms Pegorer, Principal, gave the parents a global vision for students at Lavalla.

The President, Parents and Friends, Mrs Anita Both, spoke of her experiences when her son began secondary school last year. Parents responded very well to her insights.

Kildare Campus

We have passed the halfway mark for term 2. This is a long term and students can sometimes find it difficult to keep their focus. I encourage parents to continue to support us as we work with your developing young people; providing a firm but fair environment where we nurture and allow for learning and growth.

Exams

Over the next few weeks the Campus will enter into Exam mode. We begin with our Year 10's and 11's on Monday 2nd June. Most subjects will be examined. This is an important opportunity for our students to put into practice what it is they have learnt in a timed environment. Meanwhile, our Year 12's are also preparing for their VCAA mid-year exams and General Achievement Test. We have all been working hard to prepare our students for these important assessments and I encourage all our students to give their best to these exams.

International Brain Bee Competition

We are all so proud of **Quinn McGenniken** who only this week represented Australasia in the International Brain Bee Competition in Montreal, Canada. Quinn effectively came 4th in the world in this competition. You may have seen part of her journey in this international competition on the ABC's 7:30 Report. We look forward to Quinn's return to Australia and the stories of her achievements.

World Youth Day Fundraising

Well done to **Ms Haggett** and her team of students for the terrific activities last Friday. It was a colourful day with the Year 12 Students fully involved in the exciting attempt at an AFL Match. We had celebrity umpires and a committed group of students who served food, drinks and kept the whole event running smoothly. It was interesting to see that those who wore their football colours so well on Friday were not so

Sarah O'Dowd and Josh Hanrahan, Campus Leaders, gave the parents and young people a student's perspective on transitioning from primary to secondary. Mrs Widrich and Mrs Sharman showed the Learning Pathways available. A DVD made by students and Mrs Sharman showed a typical day. Mrs Haupt, Ms McCullagh and Mrs French spoke on Wellbeing, Camps and activities for Year 7 students.

So You Think You Can Dance

Homeroom 7.8 ran a Project Compassion fundraiser in Term 1 based on the well known TV show. The competition ran during lunchtimes and students were both compere and judge. The winners were awarded their certificates at a Campus Assembly on Thursday. The winners are: **1st** – Arnold Musa **2nd** – Mary Beltrame **3rd** – Gemma McMahon, Maddie Trew and Henrietta Wentworth.

Music Roundup

The Training Band performed at a Concert in the Kildare Hall recently. They played with verve and performed admirably with the Senior Band.

Myanmar

Though they might seem unconcerned, our students are keenly aware of world events and want to make a difference to the conditions of the people in Myanmar. They have planned a series of activities with the staff to send relief to the victims of Cyclone Nargis.

Mr Chris Roga
Campus Director

obvious in their support on Monday – especially those supporting our feline friends in Geelong. Well done to **Megan Clarke**, **Jodie Chapman** and **Elle McNair** for helping in the coordination of the day.

Plain English Speaking Competition

Anthony Albanese and **Kayla Broeren** represented the College recently in a Plain English Speaking Competition that was held in Warragul. Both faired exceptionally well in the prepared speech section, presenting topics of a very mature and relevant nature. They were then required to present an impromptu speech. Both students were well composed. At the end of the competition Kayla Broeren came in 2nd with Anthony missing out on a placing. We congratulate both students on their achievements and thank **Mrs Kay-Taylor** for her effort and energy in working to ensure that this opportunity was available to our students.

Student Profile:



Sky Hammer came to us from St Michael's Primary school. He is one of the Lavalla Catholic College Vice-Captains. In our Student Leadership Structure Sky's specific responsibility is House and Sports Leader for 2008. Along with the usual Vice-Captain role, Sky also promotes team spirit and student involvement in sporting and cultural events. He is currently studying VCE Units in Accounting, Physics, Physical Education, Maths Methods and General Maths. After completing Year 12 in 2009, he is aiming to study Physiotherapy at University.

Mr Marco Di Cesare
Campus Director

Forthcoming Events

TERM 2

JUNE

- 2 June Unit 4 VCE begins
Year 12 Solo Performance Evening
- 2-6 June Years 10 & 11 Examination week
- 5 June Yer 7.6 Humanities Excursion
- 9 June Queen's Birthday - Public Holiday**
- 10-12 June VCE Unit 3 & 4 Exam week [Kildare]
- 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

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 2 June I. Gregson, V. Agius
Tue 3 June M. Bahagiar, (help needed)
Wed 4 June E. Panayiotou, L. Hodder
Thu 5 June R. Petrucci, G. Breed
Fri 6 June K. Nelson, K. Arbuthnot
- Mon 9 June Queens Birthday Public Holiday**
Tue 10 June R. Gillow, (help needed)
Wed 11 June T. Grunwald, D. Arundt
Thu 12 June M. Johnston, L. Elliott
Fri 13 June Report Writing Day - Student Free Day

KILDARE CAMPUS

- Mon 2 June D. Berryman, K. Manson
Tue 3 June J. Campbell, (help needed)
Wed 4 June S. Pistrin, (help needed)
Thu 5 June H. Stoddart, (help needed)
Fri 6 June A. Fogarty, (help needed)
- Mon 9 June Queen's Birthday Public Holiday**
Tue 10 June C. Templeton, L. Calabrese
Wed 11 June Help Needed x 2
Thu 12 June S. Bridges, (help needed)
Fri 13 June Report Writing Day - Student Free Day

PARENTS & FRIENDS

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

**** Surviving Teenagers ****

Tuesday 17 June at 7.30pm
at St Paul's Campus Lecture Theatre

Come and get to know some other parents.

Breakfast Club @ Kildare

Every Wednesday from 7.45am-8.45am

Held in the Food Technology room

All Welcome!!

Enquiries contact: Mike Hansen

YEAR 7 2009 ENROLMENTS

**Enrolment deadline:
Friday 30th May 2008**

Enrolment applications should be forwarded to Jean Jennings, the Enrolment Registrar, for those families interested in placing their Grade 6 child at Lavalla Catholic College for next year.

If you have omitted to return your application, or inform the College of your interest in placing an application, please telephone Jean Jennings at the St Paul's Campus office immediately on Ph: 5174 7355.