

LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



20 MARCH 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers

From the Principal's Desk

Congratulations to **Brett Van Berkel** for his recent award at the Australian Council of Educators Award's Night. Brett was appropriately recognised for his inspirational leadership in the VCAL programme and for his innovation and creativity in designing and implementing the applied learning programmes in years 10-12. Brett has been a dedicated and talented teacher in the applied learning area and has worked for many years to ensure rigor, excellence and relevance in learning for our students. His students are all too aware of the diversity in opportunities that his programmes provide and his team of teachers have spoken of his compelling attitude, his supportive nature and his energy. Brett has helped build the fine reputation that this College enjoys in the applied learning area. Congratulations Mr Van Berkel.

Student Free Days

For some time now you have been aware that the College has been developing and implementing its improvement plan. This work is not yet complete and various teams need time to draw these projects to a conclusion. To allow for this, please note the upcoming student free days:

For the Presentation Campus Students: Thursday 2 April and Monday 11 May
For all students: Monday 11 May only

Year 7 Enrolments 2010

This is to advise families that we are about to enter into our enrolment period for year 7 students for 2010. The format for receiving information will be quite different this year with twilight sessions being offered on **Wednesday 13th May for the Presentation Campus and Tuesday 19th May for the St Paul's Campus**. Please refer to this newsletter for further details at the beginning of term 2. If you would like to commence your enquiries now, please contact **Mrs Jean Jennings** the College registrar.



Ms Erica Pegorer

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Seeking Parental Feedback

Thank you to those parents who have responded so positively to the survey sent out to you a few weeks ago. We are in the process of collating your responses, after which this information will be fed back to you so you have an appreciation of what the whole community is thinking about certain issues. It's not too late to return your reply if you have not yet done so.

Leading Australia's Schools

Leading Australia's Schools programme is a challenging national leadership development program for principals from across Australia. Its aim is to build the professional knowledge and leadership skills of school principals to increase their capacity to lead schools effectively in the 21st century. The programme is delivered by the University of Melbourne in partnership with Teaching Australia. Each year, two cohorts of about 40 principals participated in the program, which involves a residential component and an individual challenge project. I am fortunate to have been selected this year and the first residential component commences on Sunday 26 April for a week and then again in July for three days. I am looking forward to learning first hand about the latest research on leading schools and then applying it to our own community.



Marist Province Conference

The Leadership Team will be participating in this conference for two days next week. The main focus will be to learn about the first International Marist Mission Assembly held some time ago now but more importantly to help the Province set new direction for our mission as Marists working in education and other ministries, in light of this international work. This conference has potential to deepen our commitment to the Marist charism and challenge our work for the poor and the marginalised.

Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal

Curriculum News

Home Study

Please take time to read the **College policy** and **subject based home study plans** sent home with students in **Year 7 – 9** this week. We hope this helps in supporting your child's learning goals. Please feel free to provide us with feedback, either by contacting teachers at Parent - Student-Teacher interviews this term, by phone or via the College website.

Year 10 parents will have met with Learner Advisors last week and discussed students' progress.

Year 11-12 students will receive these documents in class during the next week.

Parent - Student - Teacher Interviews

We look forward to meeting parents and students at the College campuses on **Thursday 2nd April (4.00–7.30pm)** and **Friday 3rd April (9.00 am – 12 noon)**. This is an excellent opportunity to

catch up with teachers and discuss your child's learning goals and progress

Information about

- maximising study skills & opportunities,
- participating in competitions ,
- achieving recognition through awards

will be made available through workshops, brochures and other resources. Please refer to the Interview booking form for further details.

We encourage all parents to visit classrooms, meet with teachers, view displays of student work and take part in activities and workshops.

Ms Rita Nainie
Director of Student Learning

St Paul's Campus

Term 1 is coming to a speedy end. This week teachers will complete writing the Interim Reports for Term 1, which will be distributed to students on 30th March. We will get a first look at student performance and learning habits for the year. In the last week of term we shall hold Parent - Student - Teacher Interviews on 2nd April from 4.00 pm to 7.30 pm and on the 3rd April from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon. I encourage all parents to meet the teachers about their children's progress at one of the sessions. I have asked all staff to make these meetings a celebration of learning and achievement, with practical suggestions for improvement.

On a different note, Delany House celebrated Delany Day on 17th March. In 1807, Bishop Daniel Delaney of Kildare and Leighlin responded to the hardships of the penal days in Ireland by establishing the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Brigid. The Brigidines focussed on the need for education and revitalizing the faith. Bishop Delany planted a sapling from the oak tree at St. Brigid's abbey in Kildare to show that the work of St. Brigid had sprouted again. Delany House, the Kildare Campus and the Oak tree are visible signs of the Brigidine charisma at work in the history and life of Lavalla Catholic College.

Year 7 Information Evening

The Year 7 Information Evening was held on 10th March from 7.30 – 9.00 pm. It centred on allowing the parents, students and the homeroom teachers to interact in the homerooms amid the samples of student work and achievement. More than 150 people attended and it was heartening to see a number of students.

Erin Lawn, one of the Campus Leaders for 2009, conducted a formal session in the Lecture Theatre very capably. She also spoke of her experiences at St. Paul's. **Mr. Rod Lawn**, her father, spoke appreciatively about the opportunities both his children had received at Lavalla. The 7 minute film clip, 'A Day in the Life of Year 7' captured the range of activities in a refreshing way. Itake this opportunity to thank all who were involved in the event for their contribution to making it successful.

Swimming Carnival

To quote Winnie the Pooh, the 5th of March was a 'blustery' day. However, the enthusiasm of the students more than made up for the weather. The Traralgon Outdoor Pool area was a riot of

colour. House teachers and students had gone early and set up house tents, with decoration and bunting, balloons and banners. House Captains were busy rounding up competitors and whipping up support for the house chants. The competition in the events was exciting and a large number of students participated. The cheering, the joy of the winning and the disappointment at losing were mirrored in the reactions of the houses. After the swimming competition, late in the afternoon, inter-house competitions in volleyball, soccer and tunnel ball saw every student take part in some fun events. The kudos go to the organising teachers and house teachers who kept the students going. The Swimming Carnival gave all houses the opportunity to compete in a spirit of friendly rivalry. **Delany House** was crowned the winner, with **Champagnat**, **McKillop** and **Nagle** following in that order. The individual age level winners were:

	Male	Female
13 years	MITCHELL JONES	GEORGIA TSEBELIS
14 years	RODNEY KEARNS	STEPHANIE SPEHAR
15 years	LEIGH JONES	RACHEL DRENNAN

Delany House (Green) Day

On 17th March Delany House celebrated their Founder's Day. It eventuated from the work done through our Lavalla Action plan Team (LAPT) as part of building a stronger school community. It was the first for the St Paul's Campus and, proudly the Delany House team and its members experienced a huge success. The celebrations took place on Tuesday at Lunch time in the Champagnat Centre. Delany House staff and students brought an amazing amount of "green" food to share. The dedicated staff in the Delany house busily baked and prepared some very delicious green delicacies. We played musical chairs to Irish music which was generously supplied by **Mr O'Hara**, we had apple bobbing and eating competition. **Mr Sizeland** generously supplied the Door Raffle Prizes which were all won by our girls. Better luck next time boys.

The highlight of the day was planting of an "acorn" while playing the Delany House's theme song **From Little Things Big Things Grow**. The Delany House hopes to grow the acorn as a potted plant and when it is big enough we hope to transfer it to a meaningful and prominent position within the St Paul's Campus as a Delany House symbol.

Mr Chris Roga
Campus Director

Presentation Campus

Year 7 Camp

There was both excitement and apprehension for our year 7's before leaving for their camp at Inverloch last week. From all accounts the canoeing and surfing were certainly the most talked about activities but it was undoubtedly a valuable time for building relationships for staff and students. Our thanks to **Ms Stewart, Mrs Fredrickson, Mrs Webb** and **Mr Williams** for their tireless efforts to encourage the students to make the most of the experience. Apparently we have some very talented impersonators and performers and thankfully many young people whose manners and sense of humour was greatly appreciated by all the adults involved in running the event.

Garden Areas

Prior to leaving, year 7's helped start the rejuvenation of our garden areas planning some improvements and for some planting in the front garden. This Thursday a group of students representing all year levels will travel to Lumen Christi to see what they have achieved and to visit their Eco-Centre. This experience will help formulate our plans for the newly constructed "veggie patch", the planning for which was instigated by **Mrs Margaret Gaulton**. However, it has been the hard work of **Br. Bill** and **Mr Peter Schneider**, along with students from the Campus who are now working to make it a reality.

Kildare Campus

The building of our new Information Services Centre is well underway. Starting next week there will be some minor interruptions to the way we move around the campus. Later this week we will inform the community about these changes. There is much anticipation as the works start to take shape and we begin to imagine these new facilities and their impact on our learning community.

The last two weeks of term will see our Year 10 students experiencing the world of work. I trust that our Year 10s will take advantage of this opportunity and pray that it is a safe and fruitful experience for them. A tremendous amount of organisation goes into finding employment for all of our Year 10 students and I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank **Mrs Anne English**. As our Careers Coordinator she works tirelessly to ensure that our students have the best opportunities and information available to them. Not even a broken arm in these last few weeks has been able to slow her approach to this task – she completed it literally single-handedly!

Tennis Achievement

A number of our students participated in the Catholic All Schools Tennis competition. Only 12 students across the state can qualify for the State finals and Lavalla Catholic College has once again excelled in the sporting arena. Congratulations to **Thomas Fortin-Langelier** and **Marc Koolen**, both from Delany House.

Past Students

Having watched over students as they progressed through their secondary schooling, we always appreciate updates on the whereabouts and achievements of our past students. We recently received invitations to Receptions where our students were recognised for their achievements:

GippsTAFE Awards

Rebecca Dunstan – Most Outstanding for Sport & Recreation
Sam Franklin – Most outstanding 3rd year apprentice – Electrical Instrumentation

On March 6th several students attended the **World Day of Prayer** service co-ordinated by Sr. Joy Hanrahan and celebrated St Mary's. This year it was prepared by the committee representing New Guinea and had as its theme "In Christ we are many members, yet one body". Sr Felicity Corder who has worked for many years in New Guinea was the guest speaker.

Our year 8's and 9's have started to set the building blocks for their Interdisciplinary Program. The program started with the group looking at the different ways learning is achieved. They were introduced to a number of models which research identifies as engaging young people and then engaged in analysing themselves as learners. Now we are looking at teamwork and focussing on them as a team player as well as what is called for in leadership roles they might undertake.

We congratulate the following on being selected by their peers and staff as class Student Action Representatives and we look forward to their contribution to the Campus in this role.

Yr7 Sam Aquilina, Ben Noy, Melanie Renninson, Luke Prekop

Yr8 Josh McGrath, Chynche Laurins, Jade Rendell

Yr9 Maddie Rickard, Stephanie Wise, Amelia Vincent, Simon Jackiw

Mrs Leanne Mills
Campus Director

Jake Kistler – Most Outstanding VETiS student for Engineering
Jack Darling – Most Outstanding 1st year apprentice – Mechanical Engineering

Melbourne University Scholarship Reception

Nicole Bortignon (2009 College Dux) – Awarded a 2009 Melbourne University Scholarship for academic excellence

Physics Excursion

Recently, the Year 12 Physics class travelled to Luna Park to experience the Physics of the Theme Park organised by the Victorian Institute of Physics. In examining concepts such as free fall, constant acceleration, circular motion and projectile motion, we felt there is no better practical example of such Physics than the experience gained from a roller coaster ride, Ferris wheel or a swinging boat ride.

With the fitted data loggers to measure the acceleration and velocity, as well as videos analysis of each ride, the students (and their teacher) had a great day of thrills and spills (and of course some great Physics). Some of the highlights of the day included watching students from another school have to climb down the Metropolis ride after it got stuck at the top of the ride; seeing the joy in our students' eyes as I was side swiped in the dodgem cars and the eventful ride home.

Mark Judd - Physics Teacher



Mr Marco Di Cesare
Campus Director

Forthcoming Events

TERM 1

MARCH

23 Mar Year 10 Work Experience
Parents and Friends meeting

APRIL

2 Apr Parent Teacher Student Interviews (4.00pm-7.30pm)
2 Apr Student Free Day (Presentation Campus only)
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

TERM 2

APRIL

20 Apr Term 2 Commence - for all students and staff
23 Apr Second Hand Uniform Shop Open (3.30pm-6.00pm)
23 -27 Apr Marist Basketball [Lismore]
25 Apr Anzac Day
28-30 Apr Year 9-10 Musical
MAY
6 May Campus photographs (Presentation campus)
11 May Student Free Day (all campuses)
13 May Open Day and Information Evening (Presentation Campus)
14 May Campus photographs (Kildare campus)
19 May Open Day and Information Evening (St Paul's Campus)
29 May Campus photographs (St Paul's campus)

JUNE

8 Jun **Queens Birthday** (Public holiday)
12 Jun Student Free Day
26 Jun Last Day Term 2 - Student Free Day

Sale hosts WYD09!

Everyone is invited to **Sale on Palm Sunday to celebrate World Youth Day 2009 (WYD09)**. WYD is celebrated locally every year on **Palm Sunday with international gatherings occurring every three years.**

The annual diocesan Palm Sunday youth gathering will feature a re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross through the streets of Sale, Mass at the Cathedral, a free lunch and live entertainment provided by the band SATROX. **Join us at 12pm April 5 at St Mary's Cathedral Sale.**

Bus pick-ups will be available from Cranbourne, Narre Warren, Pakenham, Warragul, Leongatha, Churchill, Morwell, Traralgon, Lakes Entrance and Bairnsdale.

To book a seat on the bus contact Jess Denehy on jessd@sale.catholic.org.au or on 5126 1063. See you there!

DVD sale

The Diocese of Sale's WYD08 pilgrimage DVD is on sale for only \$10.

Order forms are available at <http://www.sale.catholic.org.au/agencies/youthministry/> or you can buy your copy in person at the Palm Sunday youth gathering in Sale April 5.

Canteen Roster

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

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
Mon 30 Mar L. Hare
Tue 31 Mar R. Gillow
Wed 1 Apr T. Grunwald, D. Arandt
Thur 2 Apr A. Mooney

KILDARE CAMPUS

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
Mon 30 Mar Help needed
Tue 31 Mar Help needed
Wed 1 Apr L. Barrett
Thur 2 Apr M. Johnston

Second Hand Book and Uniform Shop.

NEXT OPEN

Thursday 23rd April

EXTRA SESSION – UNIFORM SEASON

CHANGE

Thursday 7th May

New Hours: 3.30pm – 6.00pm

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

ENROLMENT 2010

Students seeking places in Year 7 for 2010: **Students attending State / other non-Catholic primary schools who have a brother or sister currently at Lavalla Catholic College** should telephone Jean Jennings at St Paul's Campus office (51747355) to register their names.

Students who do not have siblings attending Lavalla Catholic College and who attend State or other non-Catholic primary schools should telephone Jean Jennings at the St Paul's Campus office (51747355) to be placed on the list for enrolment applications.

Students in Grade 6 at Catholic Primary schools will automatically receive an enrolment package during April. Information Evenings and an Open Morning will be held in May. (refer Forthcoming Events)