

12 February 2010



Lavalla Catholic College

News

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Dear parents, students and teachers

Once our gates open to welcome our students, we all feel that sense of excitement that a new year promises. Once again our yard and classrooms become vibrant and full of life giving joy as students and teachers gather to greet each other and share holiday stories. This year was no exception. All campuses reported a smooth start to the year and from my own observation of those first few days, students settled very readily into their routines.

We extend a warm welcome all new and returning families, as well as the 18 new students in Year 8-11 who have joined the College this year. We hope that you all experience a good year with us.

Our theme this year is **Strong Minds and Compassionate Hearts**. We are revisiting our College motto and will focus this year's work on reaching out to the marginalised, locally and internationally through our compassionate hearts and doing this through developing sustainable projects through careful planning and implementation (strong minds).

We welcome all new and returning staff to the College:-

New members of staff

Ms Eva Amezquita

Maths & Co-ordinator

Kildare

Mr Eric Herst

English

Kildare

Mrs Mattia Mercurio

LOTE – Italian

St Paul's

Ms Emma O'Brien

Drama

Kildare

Mrs Mihaela Ranga

Art & Visual Communication

Kildare

Mr Daniel Scholes

Maths & Science & MSP

Presentation

Mrs Josephine Wade

Humanities

St Paul's

Mr Tim Northe

Sports Trainee

All Campuses

Mr Tony Van Rossum

Bus Driver

All Campuses

Upcoming dates

16 February (7.00pm)

Year 7 Information Night

18 February

St Paul's Swimming Carnival

19 February

Kildare Swimming Carnival

23 February (7.00pm)

Cybersafety Information Night for Parents

26 February

Presentation Swimming Carnival

Returning

Mr Rim Zitkevicius; Mrs Terry Archipow; Mr Alan Ryan; Mrs Anne English; Mr Gerard English, Mrs Allison Farley

On Leave

Ms Lisa Templeton and Ms Lee McKenzie

We Keep in our Prayers

Mrs Jennifer Bur who has extended her sick leave for another term and **Mrs Nikki Schroeter** who lost her nephew **Oliver Heenan** in tragic circumstance.

Anniversary of the Black Saturday Fires

The memorial service at **Monash University** on Sunday 7th February was a heartfelt and respectful service to remember the devastation of what some have called a modern day holocaust. It was hard not to leave with a heavy heart remembering the 11 people in our region who had lost their lives and the many more who lost property. Yet the comfort brought during the thoughtful homily, prayers and our own Lavalla liturgical choir offered a sense of hope and renewal. Our own choir and the work of the **Mike Hansen** Director of Faith and Ministry did us proud on Sunday.

The hills that frame our Valley still carry the physical scars as do many in our own community. Let's continue to pray for the healing of all communities.

*Loving Creator, we honour the life and energy
Of all who have died in the fires.
We are grateful to have shared
The journey of their lives.*

*Be with us as a new path opens before us:
For in the ashes new seeds are sown
From the ashes new life will grow
Leave the past in ashes; let the old things give
way
Start a fresh new life right here today
In the ashes, from the ashes, out of ashes.*

Dux of the College & VCE results

We congratulate **Anthony Lawn** as the College VCE Dux in 2009. Anthony was a diligent student throughout his six years at Lavalla and it was pleasing to see him well rewarded for his efforts.

As a College we celebrated good results this year with a number of students in the 90s and a substantial increase of students in the 80s. Some general outcomes for our students include: 75% applied for university degrees, 75% completed their VCAL certificates and 98% completed their VCE certificate.

Our VCE median was raised by one point. Throughout the year approximately 30 students finished their senior secondary schooling in favour of an apprenticeship or full-time employment which again attests to the value and rigour of our VCAL programme.

My School Website

You would have been affirmed by the comments made by Professor Bruce Waldrip from Monash University in The Express. He stated that “...**Lavalla Catholic College,...** **received the most [university] offers in the Valley and had the highest numeracy and literacy [Naplan] results**”. This is surely something to be proud of and speaks of the hard work of our teachers and you the parents, working in partnership, to ensure our students are well educated.

There has been much in the media about overstating the value of what the website reports and to a certain degree the warnings are valid. There is no doubt that competencies in literacy and numeracy are priorities but you will agree that the development of the whole person requires many other non-testable and non-measurable qualities.

Lavalla prides itself for being a 'non-select' school welcoming all families who seek a quality Catholic education. We provide relevant educational and career pathways for our students and uphold strong Christian values. Apart from being academic we are also community minded and encourage our students to be people of the heart as well as good citizens. As the year progresses, our own website can attest to our improvement in these areas.

Opening of the new Student Services Centre

Year 12 students were introduced to the new **Student Services Centre** on their first day back at school. While we are still waiting for some furniture the new centre is up and running and the students have responded very positively to this new facility which has been in the making for almost 6 years. Together with the new **Information Services Centre** our senior students will be very well resourced to complete their VCE or VCAL study. A special acknowledgement to the Debutante Committee who raised sufficient funds to gift the students two comfortable red lounge suites to enjoy while they are studying in these centres.

Two new projects have also commenced at St Paul's and Presentation campuses. The new netball and tennis courts at St Paul's will be a great asset to the PE department as well as provide a large shaded area for our students. The new ropes course at the Presentation Campus will enhance the Master Survivor programme for our Year 9s but also support the PE programme for all students on the campus. We will conduct an official opening of the new buildings at Kildare in term 2.

Pride in the College Uniform

It has been pleasing to see the majority of students in proper full summer uniform and appropriately groomed as they arrive at school each morning. A special thank you to those students who are making an effort and our parents also need commending for insisting that uniforms are worn with pride.

Co-ordinators and Learner Advisors (homeroom teachers) on each campus are being diligent in their duty to ensure all students are abiding by the requirements and the students to date have responded well. However, there are a few who feign uncertainty about the regulations. Full description of what is permissible with regard to uniform and grooming can be found in the student planner and on the College website. Of particular concern at the moment is the length of the girls dresses as well as the shortness of the PE shorts. A reminder that only studs or small sleepers are permissible as earrings. I ask that parents support the College's decision to withdraw your child from the yard or be sent home if she/he is not in the correct uniform.

Sport shorts: By next summer the College will have made a decision regarding appropriate sports short for the PE uniform.

2010 Home Study Programs for Year 7 - 12 students

Please take time to read the College policy and subject based home study plans sent home with students in all year levels this week. These are recommendations for home work that are designed to complement the classroom based learning, strengthen study skills and consolidate knowledge and understanding of concepts.

We hope these programs will assist students in achieving their learning goals. Please provide us with feedback, either by contacting teachers prior to or during Parent - Student-Teacher interviews this term, by phone or via the College website.

Fortnightly Newsletter - via email

Please note that this is our first formal newsletter. For the balance of the year, the newsletters will be sent out electronically (rather than being provided in hardcopy) to your nominated email account. **All new parents** please ensure that your email address has been provided to your child's homeroom teacher to ensure you receive the newsletter each fortnight.

New Programmes for Year 9

The College has received very positive feedback about our two new Year 9 programmes. After their orientation day on the first day back, students settled quickly into the new courses and the higher demands being placed on them. **Thank you** to the parent who took the time to ring and report that her son "was just loving the MSP programme".

During these early days, it is wonderful to hear such positive comments and reminds us all of its value and why the College is offering a different course for Year 9. Thank you to all year 9 teachers for their efforts to ensure each programme began well.

Vertical Pastoral Groups for Years 8 & 9

Learner Advisors (replacing the term homeroom teachers) have been very pleased with the way year 8 and 9 students have responded to the vertical homeroom structure. Learner Advisor groups meet each morning for the general day's announcements and during the pastoral period the year 8 students will work on individual goal setting and the year 9s will be involved in other activities.

We have changed the physical structure of this morning gathering in an attempt to improve the quality of our community as well as focus our year 8 students on their studies and on improving their outcomes. We will welcome your feedback during the first LA session with parents in week 6.

Technology Infrastructure Upgrade

Over the holiday period, **Mr Ben Verghese**, Director of Educational Resources and his team were focused on installing an upgrade wireless system. While we would have liked the system to be up and running it seems that we need to wait for a few weeks yet.

The College received very good news in relation to Round 2 of the **Building and Education Revolution** (BER) funding. Lavalla is in line to receive almost \$800,000 to further develop our technology infrastructure and to acquire more laptops for students. Teachers are preparing well for this technological age and have committed to developing their ITC skills as the main Professional Development focus in 2010.

Erica Pegorer
Principal

Lavalla Catholic College

Music Department information

Welcome back to what promises to be another rewarding year of music making.

Please be aware that next week due to our Senior Wind Ensemble camp we will have our morning rehearsal on **Friday February 19th** instead of Tuesday February 16th. There will be no morning rehearsal for the Senior Wind, Intermediate Concert Band or Senior Jazz Ensembles next week.

Our Junior Choir will rehearse as normal on **Thursday 25th February**. All students from years 7, 8 and 9 are most welcome to join our Junior Choir which rehearses every **Thursday morning in the Lecture Theatre at 7.40am**.

Our regular rehearsal timetable will resume the following week beginning **Monday 22nd February**.

It is not too late for students to enrol in music lessons and join our ensemble program this year. We offer specialised tuition in Bassoon, Trombone, Flute, French Horn, Trumpet, Clarinet, Saxophone, Tuba, Oboe and other instruments that you may never have heard of! All of these students combine to be a part of our Training band. Students are also able to enrol in vocal lessons.

Please feel free to discuss any queries you have with **Mr. Harris** or **Mr. Wilkie**. Parents are also encouraged to contact Mrs. Maria Testa on 5174 8111 for any questions about our music department.

Thanks to everyone for what has been a great start to the year.

Shane Reid
Director of Music

Parent Canteen help needed

Kildare canteen is currently calling for any parents who may be able to volunteer their time to help out on canteen duty. Even one day per term is helpful and would be greatly appreciated.

If you are able to volunteer please call the Kildare Campus canteen on 5174 5272 and speak with Margaret or Ivana.

Cyber bullying Awareness Presentation Night

Lavalla Catholic College is hosting a Cybersafety Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation. Designed for **parents, teachers and students**, this presentation is provided by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) as part of a national program of cybersafety initiatives. The presentation is conducted by an ACMA Cybersafety trainer and is **free of charge**.

The Cybersafety Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation will be held on (all interested parties are welcome to attend):

Tuesday, 23rd February 2010

Commencing at 7pm at the Kildare Campus Hall

For further details please visit the website at <http://www.lavalla.vic.edu.au> To register your attendance (for catering and sitting arrangements), please email wisemeg1@lavalla.sale.catholic.edu.au as soon as possible. Enrolments will also be accepted on the night.



Lavalla Catholic College Year 7 Information Night

Parents are invited to the upcoming information evening being held:

Tuesday 16 February at 7.00pm

St Paul's Campus Lecture Theatre

You will have the opportunity to:

- Meet your child's teachers
- Find out about upcoming College activities relevant to your child such as camps and excursions
- Find out about your child's curriculum including homestudy
- Get better acquainted with the St Paul's campus and it's staff as well as the College as a whole

Lavalla Catholic College

The **Education Maintenance Allowance** is paid to eligible parents of students under 16 years of age who attend a State or a Registered School in Victoria.

The Education Maintenance Allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible

for the first instalment you must:

- (a) be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004: OR
- (b) be a Veteran Affairs Pensioner (TPI), OR
- (c) be a foster parent and
- (d) submit your application to either Marcellin House or Presentation Campus by the date/s listed below

The application form must be lodged at the school by: **26 February 2010** for the first instalment.

Important Information

A separate application is required for each school if you have children attending different schools. If you transfer your child, you will need to make a new application at the new school. All staff are required to treat the information that you provide as confidential.

EMA rate – 2010 \$450.00

Parents & Friends

The first Parents & Friends meeting will take place as follows:

Date: 1st March 2010

Time: 7.30pm

Place: St Paul's Campus library

Please feel free to attend this meeting

Second Hand Book and Uniform Shop

NEXT OPEN

Thursday 18th February

Hours: 3.30pm – 6.00pm

Shop located at: St. Paul's Campus

Payment options: Cash, Cheque or EFTPOS

Presentation Campus BBQ



Lavalla Catholic College