

# LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



27 November 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers

From the Principal's Desk

As we write the last newsletter for the year, the end of the school year is fast approaching. Christmas decorations line our streets; the busyness and urgency of things all around us has increased and the warm weather reminds us that the summer holiday is within reach. However, we have two weeks to go and it is important that students remain focused and continue to uphold the College regulations with regard to uniform and especially good manners. Please urge your child/children to finish well, to be respectful at all times and to bring to the end of the year the spirit of good will and co-operation, so that they might finish without incident.

## New Funding Agreement Struck

Last week the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) released news regarding the funding for Catholic schools over the next four year agreement period. Although the CECV forwarded a submission requesting that funding be set and linked to 25% of the cost of education in a government school, we were successful in procuring a 19% increase over four years. The current rate of funding is about 12%. There was also some recognition of the need for an increase to our Disability Funding. It seems that the State government will deliver an additional \$1.4 billion to the Catholic sector over four years. This is certainly a better outlook for us and we should start to feel the effects of this in 2011. I am yet to know precisely what this will mean in dollar terms for Lavalla Catholic College.

## Sexting

Sadly, Sexting is a disturbing trend emerging in our society and unfortunately some of our students are involved in this, often with emotionally and socially damaging consequences. Sexting is the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically, primarily between mobile phones, but can also be via internet applications such as MSN, email or social networking sites such as Facebook or My Space. In Australia, if the images are of a young person under the age of 18 years, the person taking the pictures, sending them, or possessing them can be charged with child pornography offences. It is important that both parents and students are aware of the consequences of this illegal activity. Apart from the emotional damage that could be caused, there is a real danger that the material is spread and that the original owner has no control of where it goes. Young people, who are generally impulsive by nature, often lack the maturity to understand the possible ramifications of sexting. Initially what is fun, exciting or provocative becomes a source of shame and humiliation which can lead quickly to depression and social isolation.

## What can parents do?

It is vital that parents stay informed and up-to-date with the power of technology and that they play an active role in educating their child in the safe and responsible use of it. Also it pays to have a working knowledge of the text messaging language, to have full view of the computer and to monitor the use of the mobile phone. In particular it is essential to keep your child safe over the holiday by engaging in good conversation about dealing with the pressure that some feel to engage in this sort of activity. Some discussion starters:

1. Have you or do you know anyone who has received a sexual message or naked picture on a mobile?
2. Has anyone ever asked or pressured you or a friend to send a nude or sexual picture?
3. What could happen to someone if s/he sends or forwards a sexual text message or naked picture with her/his mobile or via internet or Facebook?
4. Do you know what it means to be charged with child pornography or being placed on a register as a sex offender? How might this affect a person's life?

## The College Response

Mindful that the holidays are approaching and that our young people may have extra time on their hands to engage technologically with each other, the issue of sexting has been raised at Campus assemblies. Co-ordinators have made students aware of the consequences of such activity and that it is unacceptable in our community. As with all illegal activity, the College will seek assistance from the police if we become aware that students are engaged in such behaviour. As parents, if you become concerned with sexting, particularly over the holidays, I encourage you to contact the police to see how the matter can be redressed.

## AMSA Cricket

We wish our Senior Cricket team well as they head to Marist College Ashgrove (QLD) for this year's competition, next week. **Mr Brett Van Berkel** and **Mr Peter Flahavin** will accompany the students.

The team also needs congratulating for raising quite a substantial amount of money to fund their trip. Hopefully, they will have a good competition and enjoy the Marist hospitality. The team is: **Matt Berry, Jordan Symons, Sam Farmer, Jack Heiser, Ben Julin, Chris Williams, Rohan MacDougall, Michael Ryan, Sam Price, Steve Hibbs, Nick Celima, Sean Spiteri, Jordan Brown** and **Justin Blair**.

## Formal Goodbyes

Over the next two weeks we will farewell a number of our students. The **Year 12 Graduation ceremony** allows us to farewell our students and families who have been loyal and committed to the College for a number of years. It is an opportunity to thank parents for their support of the College and for entering in partnership with us as we accepted the privilege of educating their daughters and sons.

The Year 9 ceremonies are more about transition and moving forward as students leave from one campus to the next but it is also a time to give thanks to the parents and the teachers. **For the Presentation Campus, the farewell mass is on Tuesday 8th December at St Mary's in Newborough and for the St Paul's students it is on Wednesday 9th December at St Michael's in Traralgon. Both occasions begin at 5.30pm.**

Years 7, 8 and 10 will have less formal gatherings and liturgies to mark their finishing. In the celebrations, we will remember the days of joy and the more challenging days, but more importantly the many, many days of hope as we kept focussed on the road ahead.

## Orientation Day

A reminder to parents that the Year 7 orientation day will be on **Tuesday 8th December** on each of the year 7-9 campuses. At the same time our year 9 students are offered the final familiarisation day at the Kildare Campus.

## Awards Night

The **Annual College Awards** night will be held on **Monday 7th December commencing at 7.00pm sharp** at the Champagnat Centre at St Paul's. Shortly you will receive letters of invitation and the night is open to the whole College community.

Students have worked hard to be nominated for these awards and the expression of pride when their names are called marks the night as a particularly joyous occasion. It is important that parents and friends become part of the celebration.

I look forward to seeing you on the night and encourage you to introduce or re-introduce yourselves to your child/children's teachers. It is an occasion to bring closure to a successful year.



## Staff Farewells

A number of staff will leave us at the end of the year to begin employment in other schools or to follow a different path altogether. We say **farewell, thank you and good luck to:**  
**Teachers:**

**Mr Bob Carmody, Mrs Sally Cleary, Ms Kate Duxbury, Mr John Edwards, Mrs Colette Jewell, Mr Madhu Kashyap, Mrs Gurminder Kaur, Mr Frank Mesaric, Mr Russell Quill, Ms Stephanie Stewart, Mr Andrew Wood** and **Mrs Kallitsa Yiannacou**  
**Support Staff**

**Mrs Margy Forester, Ms Jacqueline, Mrs Toni Milbourne, Ms Nina Montano, Mr Alex Robertson** and **Mr Peter Schneider**

### Farewell to Mr Frank Mesaric

After 34 years of dedicated service to the development of growth of this College, it has come time to farewell **Mr Frank Mesaric**. He began in 1975. Over the years he has held a number of responsibilities at the College. He will be remembered for the promotion of the Arts in the curriculum and for his insistence on excellence in the students' work. We thank Mr Mesaric for the way he generously shared his artistic talents with the community and wish him the very best in his new position.



### Farewell to Mrs Nina Montano

We also farewell **Ms Nina Montano** who has been part of this College since 1978. Over the 31 years Ms Montano has held various positions in the library, as food assistant and as curriculum support person. We will miss Ms Montano for her jovial disposition and her willingness to assist when a job needed doing. We extend our best wishes to her and wish her well for the future.



## Merry Christmas to All

As a College community we have carried what seems extraordinary difficulties this year. It is fair to say that we are all looking forward to a well earned rest but can also be satisfied that we worked as a community to support our students and each other during the bushfire period and other issues as they unfolded.

On behalf of all of us here at Lavalla Catholic College we extend to you our warmest wishes for this Christmas season. We thank you for your support of us this year and wish you a safe and restful holiday, pleasant gatherings with your families and ample opportunities to catch up with friends.

May you also take the time to remember that the true meaning of Christmas is more about giving than receiving and really appreciating that the greatest gift we can ever receive is God's love through his son Jesus. It is also a time to remember all the blessings that fill our lives, beginning with the great blessing that came on a holy night in Bethlehem. For Christians around the world, the birth of Jesus is a central religious event; an example of God's profound love for humanity and the pathway to hope and to new life.

**May you have a happy and holy Christmas**

**Ms Erica Pegorer**  
Principal

# Presentation Campus

The fast approaching end of year has seen computers and the Information Services Centre in high demand. For those with effective study habits and good time management practices there are no issues with meeting due dates. For others though, they are now feeling that their opportunity to showcase their skills, is being replaced with the desperate need to hand something in.

Reports will be to you soon and the commendations given to students in them, is to be celebrated but the advice about areas for improvement is equally valuable. There is so much busy-ness at this time of year that this advice they contain can be all too easily lost. I would hope that you make the time to read them through carefully with your son/daughter so that when 2010 begins they have some strategies in place for improving their approach to their studies and to their completion of work tasks.

I would like to thank the dedicated ladies who form our **Parents and Friends group**. Once again this year they have met, planned fundraising and will now facilitate the Second Hand book sales in the hope of making this otherwise very expensive event more affordable for parents. In particular thanks to **Irene Bramstedt, Doris Aquilina, Wendy Gibson, Carol Wilson, Mira Renninson and Catherine Noy**. Thanks as well to **Andrew and Catherine Corrigan** (Frame By Frame) who always provide goods for raffles and for our student awards. To **Br Bill** and **Br Mark** and **Mrs Pam Rankin** for their loyal and dedicated support of our students, staff and the Campus community go our grateful thanks.

The **two major events** of the past two weeks have been the **Year 9 Camp** and the **Cricket Coaching Clinic for year 7/8**.

Camp Comments shared by **Rachel Camm, Nathan O'Connor, Katelyn Somerville, Leigh Anne Munro, Rowan Williams, Nick Clarke & Lucas Fry** and **Hayden McGown**

*Camp at Tamboritha was a million times better than I had expected. I loved how our days were filled with activities but how we also had our free time to just enjoy the place.*

*Camp was good fun everyone had a great time. It was terrific to be able to sit and talk to people in your year level and just relax.*

*We had so many laughs at camp. Memorable things playing such as playing spoons, sleep talking, people losing their voice and sardines. Definitely worth going to and make sure you play spoons!.*

*Best times - chilling out with my mates and going for a swim on day 1*

*The mountain bike riding was a challenge (especially since it was a pretty hot day)*

*I stepped up onto the saddle and my feet settled in the stirrups, I was feeling excited since I had never ridden a horse before - it was a great experience for me.*

*Year 9 camp was a great experience. Not having phone reception for a week didn't end up being the end of the world.*

Comments shared by **Cassie Malady, Emily Gibson, Cameron Stitt, Eilish Brenton and Nick Ellul** about the Cricket Victoria Coaching Clinic.

*Yesterday Rob Wood came to our school and taught us about coaching cricket.*

*We did ball handling drills and learnt new skills. First, we played 2 ball games and one was about team work and the other was about your own skills.*

*I remember most the relay races, fun and games scratch matches.*

*We were given good advice about cricket thanks to Rob Wood*

*At the end of the day we were all very grateful for the wonderful opportunity.*

We thank **Rob Wood** for his ongoing work with our students through Super 8's, Kanga Cricket and through free coaching clinics such as this one.

Thanks also to **Ms Adriana Bianconi** and **Mr Rod Williams** for their preparation and development of the Year 9 extended Camp and to **Miss Kimberley Stewart, Miss Laura Joyce** and **Max Harrup** and **Tony Van Rossum** from the Tamboritha committee for their involvement.

Our final **Year 9 Mass and Dinner on December 8th** will be a celebration of their time with us. We wish them success in the future and a lifetime of great happiness in harmony with God and their community.

To all families and friends of the Campus may the blessings of this Christmas enable an abundance of peace to be your reality and may you find the time to reflect on the good news that Christ's birth brought to all humanity.

**Ms Leanne Mills**  
Campus Director

## Annual Christmas Concert<sup>®™</sup>

Please feel very welcome to join the music department on Monday the 30th of November at the Newman Park Sound Shell for a 6.00pm start. This is traditionally not a very long night and will include some carol singing as we usher in the Advent season

Feel free to bring friends, family, supper and refreshments. There is no admission cost but we do traditionally have a collection for St. Vincent de Paul and icy poles will be sold as a Music Support Group fundraiser.

We would love to see you all there!

# Kildare Campus

Our future Year 12's are well into their 2010 Year 12 Classes. I congratulate them on how they have entered into this week and encourage them to take advantage of this period so as to set themselves up for success in 2010. Next week our current Year 10's commence their exam period. After this they will also move into 2010 classes. Meanwhile **Mrs McCormack** has been busy with her team organising the Graduation Dinner for our 2009 Year 12 Students. I would like to congratulate her on the work that has gone into this night. I know it will be a great celebration.

## Year 10 Exams

Our Year 10 students will be entering into exam time next week. Students need to remain focussed during this time and ensure that they take advantage of the revision classes that will occur. After the exam period we will move into Year 11 Classes so that our students experience aspects of 2010. I wish our Year 10's all the best as they enter into this important period. Parents, please note that I have had some queries about a Year 10 Formal. The College does not hold a Year 10 Formal.

## Uncovering Psychology

Congratulations to **Mrs Bormanis** on the publication of "Uncovering Psychology", a VCE Unit 1 and 2 textbook to which Mrs Bormanis has contributed 4 chapters. In her chapters there are illustrations by a past student as well as photos that pertain directly to our campus and students.

## ICT High Achievers Day

Well done to **Kosta Psinas, Rhys McDonald, Phoenix Trinidad** and **Matt Royal**. They will be attending the **ICT High Achievers Day** for students at Swinburne University. This day has been designed for high achieving and dedicated year 10 and 11 students. Students will take part in several hands on sessions that will enrich their studies and introduce them to different areas of ICT related tertiary studies. Well done!

## 2010 Booklist Requirements

All students should have received an envelope containing 2010 booklist requirements and details in relation to second hand sales.

### Important dates:

**Friday November 27** - hand in text books for resale and order forms for second hand books by 4pm – Kildare Campus

**Tuesday 1st December**- hand in text books for resale and order forms for second hand books by 4pm – St Paul's Campus (date extended)

**Thursday December 3** - hand in text books for resale and order forms for second hand books by 3:10pm – Presentation

**Monday December 14** - 9am to 12.00noon – St. Paul's and Kildare collection of school reports

**Monday December 14** - 10am to 4.30pm – St. Paul's and Kildare second hand book orders (Kildare Campus)

**Monday December 14** - 9am to 12 noon – Presentation collection of school reports and second hand book orders (Kildare)

**Thursday December 17** – submit 2010 booklist order to newsagency

## AFS Scholarship

This week I had a telephone call regarding one of our Year 12 Students. **Courtney French** was awarded an **AFS Scholarship** valued at \$8000. She will be travelling to Japan in December as part of a worldwide culture experience.

## Debutante Balls

Our Debutante Ball Committee has had their first meeting in preparation for next year. Students in Year 10 will be asked to register for the 2010 Debutante Balls in their last week of school. Forms will go out next week. **Any other parents who are interested in joining the Debutante Ball Committee are welcome to contact me.**

*Parents: persons who spend half their time worrying how a child will turn out, and the rest of the time wondering when a child will turn in.*

-- Ted Cook

As this is the last newsletter for the year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole Kildare community – students, parents and staff. It has been a year full of changes – new buildings, new programmes, new initiatives. **Have a restful break and may you remember the true meaning of Christmas.**

**Mr Marco DiCesare**  
Campus Director

## TRAINING BAND CAMP

Our 2009 Training Band has just returned from an extremely productive two day camp in Rawson. Under the guidance of **Mr. Harris** and a group of instrumental teachers made up of former and current senior Lavalla music students, this marvellous band has made a giant musical leap forward. The future of music at our college is indeed in very safe hands. Our thanks to **Mr. Harris, Mr. Wilkie, Miss. Dye** and **Mr. Reid** and our visiting instrumental staff: **Cameron Setchell, Annie-Rose Ferguson, Chauni Pirrie, Simone Weckmann, Tom Freeman** and **Shane Lebbe.**



**Mr Shane Reid**  
Director of Music

# St Paul's Campus

This has been an extremely busy term with the focus on finishing well. We will say 'Farewell' to our Year 9 students on the **9th of December at the Mass at St. Michael's**. We have watched them grow in stature and wisdom and we wish them well for the future. In a sense they will always remain connected to St. Paul's. The Year 7 and Year 8 students will finish on **Thursday 10th December at 3.30 pm**. They are still on their journey with us.

## Green Up, Clean Up

The inaugural Green Up Clean Up Day was very successful. The campus was sparkling on the 13th November because each student cleaned up a bit. In addition, each homeroom has produced a collage on a Green theme. Students also got their 'green' work sponsored and the funds will



go to the Student Leadership Account to be spent on student activities. Congratulations



go to **Aimee Hunter, Megan Holt, Claire Holt and Laura Zalesiak** for organising this day from scratch.

I love Christmas. For teachers Christmas has a special relevance. Christmas is about children and the future, children with infinite possibilities, who bring hope and joy to the family. It is right that we stop and celebrate the birth of Jesus, and the birth of every child in the family, and our own births, too, because we once were children with infinite possibilities.

For the Marist family, the crib reminds them of the "simplicity, gentleness and even weakness of God who is capable of touching the hardest of hearts....there is no room for fear from a God who became a child. We come to know a god who has pitched his tent in our midst, and whom we call 'brother'. (Water From the Rock, 21)

So, till 2010, I wish all students and their families, and all staff and their families a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year** and may all of you have a happy, restful and safe holiday among family and friends.

**Mr Chris Roga**  
Campus Director

## Second Hand Book and Uniform Shop.

**NEXT OPEN**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

**Hours: 3.30pm – 6.00pm**

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

# Mentoring Programme

For the last three years Lavalla Catholic College has aspired to have its own Mentoring Programme and we have now successfully steered the programme off the ground. Ms Francois undertook the training of the 10 Mentors selected for the programme with assistance from Br Mark Needham, a process which took place over 8 weeks. As a result, the College had 10 highly motivated and keen to be involved Mentors, ready to participate in the programme across the two junior campuses for two and a half hours every week. Three of the Mentors were allocated to the Presentation Campus and included **Catherine Noy, Margaret Wills** and **Laurance Sartori** and seven based at the St Paul's Campus which included **Denise Bourke, Elly Ferguson, Maureen Marsiglio, Carole Salerno, Louise Varsaci, Liz Xuereb** and **Megan Wisewould**. Following the training, Ms Francois coordinated the programme and facilitated the St Paul's Campus group while Br Mark Needham facilitated the programme at Presentation Campus.

Throughout the programme, mentors and mentees participated together in group and in one on one activities, ranging from picture frame making to mini Olympics. The 2009 Mentoring programme concluded last week with



a celebratory morning including a game of mentee versus mentor at Lazer Tag (the mentees convincingly beating the mentors!) followed a pizza lunch back at the St Paul's Campus. At the conclusion of the programme, reflections and comments were collected which highlight the success of the programme. For a full outline of the programme including reflections, comments and photos, please visit the College website.

The College is excited about the Mentoring programme for 2010 following such a successful 2009 group. Further details about the 2010 programme will be provided next year and we invite all interested parties to contact Sandy Francois (School Psychologist) for further details.

**Ms Sandy Francois**  
School Psychologist

## IMPORTANT DATES 2009/2010

- 30 Nov Annual Christmas Concert
- 7 Dec Annual College Awards Evening
- 8 Dec Yr 7 Orientation Day
- 8 Dec Yr 9 Graduation Mass - Presentation Campus
- 9 Dec Yr 9 Graduation Mass - St Paul's Campus
- 9 Dec Yr 9 and 10 students last day
- 10 Dec Yr 7 and 8 students last day
- 14 Dec Report distribution
- 18 Dec School closure
- 1 Feb Yr 7, 9, 10 and 12 first day back
- 2 Feb Yr 8 and 11 first day back