



# NEWSLETTER

## Lavalla Catholic College

9 March 2007

### From the Principal

Dear Parents and Students

This year we acknowledge 200 years of the Brigidine tradition in Victoria and almost 50 years in Traralgon when the Brigidine sisters founded St Michael's Primary school in 1958. Daniel Delaney, Bishop of Kildare established the Congregation of the Sisters of St Brigid (Brigidine Sisters) in Ireland in 1807. Not unlike Marcellin Champagnat, Bishop Delaney was spurred to form a religious teaching order in response to the need of the time. Of their own History the Brigidine Sisters write that, "In the shadow of the penal days in Ireland the need for education and revitalising the faith was stark". Bishop Delaney sought the patronage of Our Lady and the patroness of Ireland, St Brigid to protect and guide the first women who began the work of providing a secular and religious education programme for rich and poor alike.

The Oak tree which has come to symbolise the growth of the Brigidine congregation has become central to the life of the Kildare Campus. It is a place where students meet in the morning and in their rest times and in its shade we recognise the sacred place that repairs us from the harshness of our summer sun. The Oak is both strong and gentle and is in keeping with the spirit of St Brigid and the Brigidine motto - "Fortiter et Suaviter" – "with strength and gentleness".

Bishop Delaney planted a sapling from the Oak tree at Brigid's abbey in Kildare as a sign that the work begun by Brigid had sprouted again. Since 1807, the Brigidine sisters have established 95 schools in the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand and each of those schools is said to have planted in its grounds the Oak tree as a symbol of the Word of God branching out into all aspects of humanity. The first founding sisters in Victoria began their work in Echuca in 1886 and in Traralgon in 1958. Sadly, the Sisters withdrew from Traralgon in 1988 but left us the Kildare Campus, the Oak tree and Delany House as legacies of their tradition and presence amongst us. Last week, Sr Rose Duffy returned to the Kildare Campus the original statue of Sr Brigid that lived in the long corridor of Kildare College in the 1960s.

She has been restored and we will celebrate her return in a fitting way some time soon.



Today the Brigidine Sisters are known for their Compassion and Justice for Humanity and the Earth and their current work with Asylum seekers is well known. In 2001, they responded to the signs of the time and Brigidine House became open to accommodate and support Asylum seekers. To discover more about this work go to their website: [www.brigidine.org.au](http://www.brigidine.org.au).

The theme for Lavalla Catholic College this year is 'Looking to the Future with Audacity and Hope'. The actions and wisdom of our founders, Marcellin Champagnat (Marist), Bishop Delaney (Brigidine) and Nano Nagle (Presentation) will be stories of inspiration for us as we try to be as courageous and bold in our response to the sign of today.

*Ms Erica Pegorer*  
*Principal*

## Kildare Campus

We have passed the half-way mark for the term. Students have settled in well and have worked well with other students and staff on the campus.

### Work Experience

Mrs Anne English has worked hard this term to ensure that our Year 10 Students are well-prepared for their Work Experience sessions which commence next week. I thank Mrs English for her hard work and trust that our Year 10's will have a safe and worthwhile time over the next two weeks. It is a time for our students to reflect on where they have been and where they want to be. I look forward to the stories and excitement on their return.

### Swimming Carnival

Pirates, Superhero's, Luck of the Irish and Life-Savers - these were the themes of our Swimming Carnival this year. Each House dressed in their appropriate themes and it was an entertaining day, as well as an eventful one for our competitors. To match our four Houses and themes, we also experienced the four seasons on the day but we all survived the wind and rain and appreciated the warm sun when it made its appearance in the afternoon.

The students enthusiasm made the day as they became more spirited, spurred on by the improving weather. I was impressed with our Student House Leaders as they gathered up support and cheered each other down the lanes. Congratulation to Nagle House for their victory on the day and their two House Coordinators Ms L D'Aloia and Ms L Wakefield. They were more than happy with the result. I must also congratulate Ms Renehan and Delany House. This year Delany House did not come last – well done Delany House.

### Commissioning Mass

On Tuesday we commissioned our College Leaders at the Commissioning Mass. It was awe-inspiring for them to stand on the Champagnat Centre Stage and be struck by the sight of our total College population. Our new Lavalla Catholic College Captains and Vice-Captains spoke of feeling both privileged and proud about their roles and at the same time anxious about their task ahead. To lead a student body takes great strength of character and I congratulate our elected leaders on being chosen by both the students and the teachers and wish them well for the year ahead

**Captains:** Melissa Germano and Jeremy Waanders

**Vice-Captains:** Monique DeCarli and Brendan Smith

### Year 12 Information Night

A big thank you to the parents who attended the Information Night this week and also to those who sent in their apologies. Our Year 12 students only have 30 weeks left of their secondary education and it is important that they start the year as prepared and informed as possible. I thank Mr Ernie Rijs for his leadership in preparing and organising the night. Parents commented on the usefulness of the night and were grateful for the opportunities to discuss with the teachers the expectations for this last year.

### Ashley Thornton

Congratulations to Ashley Thornton on his wins over the last few weeks in Athletics. Ashley won 9 gold medals and broke 3 records in the Gippsland Regional Athletics. Ashley appeared on our local news station last week. We wish him well in upcoming try-outs.

*Mr Marco Di Cesare*  
*Campus Director*

### Palm Sunday Launch of World Youth Day

On Sunday, April 1st, Bishop Coffey will launch **World Youth Day** before a large gathering of young people at St Mary's Cathedral. This will be at a special Passion Sunday Mass followed by a Youth Festival of art, food and live bands. A free bus will run from Drouin/ Warragul/ Yarragon and Trafalgar. For details ring Deacon Mark Kelly on 0427748646.

### 4th WEEK OF LENT

This week's Project Compassion story focuses on Adolpho from Peru. The story explores the meaning of Fair Play Today in terms of men and women working together to promote gender equality (MDG 3) and overcome poverty (MDG 1). This is happening through the community's development of their crop, cattle and sheep production. Through your donation to Project Compassion you are supporting Fair Play Today.

### 5th WEEK OF LENT

Pope Paul VI in *Populorum Progressio* – On the Development of Peoples said "Lack of education is as serious as lack of food." Y Re is from Vietnam. She dreams of a future where she can send her children to school. Y Re also values her own education. Through your support of Project Compassion you are helping the people of Vietnam through income generation and other educational programs such as a savings group and health education.

# St Paul's Campus

We are into Week 6 of the term. Before we know it Term 1 is coming to an end! The immediate focus for staff and students is completing work, handing it in and getting it marked and recorded. Interim Reports are at the end of the month with our first Parent-Teacher interviews scheduled for 29 and 30 March.

At the moment, the campus hums along quietly and there is a great sense of purpose among students and staff.

## Year 7 Camps

My observation of the Year 7 Camps is that the students and staff entered the activities enthusiastically, First Track Adventures personnel were professional and understood the needs of the students, and the parents who came contributed to the camps. Mrs Barrett, reports. "The Year 7 Camps at Wilson's Promontory from Feb 12th - 23rd were a great success. The students participated in a variety of activities that included abseiling, canoeing, surfing, beach activities, night activities and challenges that focused on the building of friendships through group cohesion, acceptance and teamwork. Our camp theme was True Colours, and the students' actions and responses to the activities highlighted that it was a fantastic way for them to discover their true self. Each activity encouraged students to step out of their comfort zone and meet new friends, demonstrate initiative, develop skills in leadership, overcome personal inhibitions and display their special talents, allowing their true colours to shine through. Congratulations and thanks to the homeroom teachers, auxiliary staff, students, parents and Mike Morgan and the First Track Adventure crew for their expertise and friendship that made our camps the best ever."

## Swimming Carnival

The Swimming Carnival held on 27 February at the Traralgon Outdoor Pool was an outstanding success. The atmosphere was carnival, positive and joyful. We noticed increased participation, more competition and sporting spirit. Those students who did not swim cheered their House participants. While there were some sterling individual performances from students, the last team event, water polo, decided the championship: MacKillop and Delaney Houses tied for first place. It was an exciting and happy day for students and staff.

## Thinkfest

The first Thinkfest Carnival was held on Friday 2nd March at Presentation Campus for all the Year 9 students. It was designed so that all students and staff to got involved and worked together to accomplish an outcome, under the guidance of fifty two Year 11 students and about twenty staff members. Together we explored the challenges and satisfaction of completing tasks designed to promote thinking and the imagination.

Some Year 9 students reported that their brains were tired after the day! This is because the brain is a muscle and on Friday they really had to exercise that muscle to achieve a result. It was an amazing day and thanks to our two organisers from Canberra, Penny and Mary, the students got to show each other their various talents.

Meanwhile the Year 7 and 8 students from Presentation Campus traveled to St. Paul's Campus where they followed their normal timetable for the day. The students mingled at Recess and Lunch. Such events allow students from the separate campuses to meet and develop friendships. Our thanks to the Presentation Campus staff and students for being good hosts.

## Energizers

We welcome Annabel Hecker, Isabel Nocera, Ashleigh Albanese, April Beaton, Bianca Colgan to this group of student leaders.

## SRC

After returning from their camp, the Year 7 homerooms have elected their SRC. They are: Jacob Hoskin, Shaelyn Cadzow, Sam Farmer, Alex Bermingham, Stacey Farnham, Kristina Psinas, Ruby Wyntjes. We wish them well for the year ahead.

*Mr Chris Roga  
Campus Director*

## ENROLMENT 2008

Students seeking places in Year 7 for 2008:

- Students attending State / other schools who have a brother or sister currently at Lavalla College should fill in the form below and return it to either the St Paul's, Presentation or Kildare Campus office, or telephone Jean Jennings at the St Paul's Campus office (51747355).
- Students who do not have siblings attending Lavalla College and who attend State or other 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.

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**YEAR 7, 2008 ENROLMENT -  
LAVALLA COLLEGE SIBLINGS ATTENDING  
STATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

Student in Grade 6: .....  
State Primary School student is currently attending:

.....  
Parent contact name: .....

Phone No: .....

## Presentation Campus

The Swimming Carnival held last Friday week was a great success. My thanks to Mr De Van Der Schueren for his organisation of this event. The participation rate by all students were involved in more than 70% of students were involved in more than six events.

### RESULTS

#### Winning House

- |    |                   |     |
|----|-------------------|-----|
| 1. | Delany (green)    | 621 |
| 2. | MacKillop (red)   | 578 |
| 3. | Nagle (gold)      | 548 |
| 4. | Champagnat (blue) | 546 |

#### Level Champions

##### Year 7 Girls:

- 1 Kate Troy
- 2 Amelia Vincent
- 3 Jessica Curtis

##### Year 7 Boys:

- 1 Alex Axisa
- 2 Lucas Fry
- 3 Simon Noy

##### Year 8 Girls:

- 1 Katrina Barrett
- 2 Adele Hirsch
- 3 Erin Tatlow

##### Year 8 Boys:

- 1 Jack Sheedy
- 2 William Troy
- 3 Luke Wiebenga

##### Year 9 Girls:

- 1 Sam Grubb
- 2 Alex Sheedy
- 3 Carly Mullen-Bianconi

##### Year 9 Boys:

- 1 Callan Brooks
- 2 Steven Gelagotis
- 3 Ryan Broeren

Congratulations to all these winners.

On Thursday last week a very successful parent evening was held in the Circulation Area. Fifty Year 7 parents and twenty staff attended. The evening focussed on the daily routine of the College, various policies and the coming Year 7 Camp. The evening took the format of a Trivia Night with questions based on the College Planner. My appreciation to all who attended making the evening the success it was.

The SRC are planning a Social for Thursday 22nd March. The tickets will be \$5.00 pre sold and \$7.00 at the door. Security will be provided and no pass outs, is the condition of entry. Monies raised will go towards Caritas and the Mission Appeal for 2007.

Enjoy the long weekend

Yours in the Spirit of Strong minds and compassionate hearts

**Mr Chris O'Brien**  
*Campus Director*

## Forthcoming Events

### MARCH

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 12 March    | <b>Labour Day Public Holiday</b>          |
| 13-23 March | Work Experience - Year 10 [K]             |
| 14-16 March | Year 7 Camp [Pres]                        |
| 14-16 March | Dare to Lead Cultural Immersion [K]       |
| 16 March    | VASS Football                             |
| 20 March    | Intermediate and Senior Boys Cricket      |
| 27-28 March | Outdoor Education Excursion [K]           |
| 29 March    | Easter Mass at St Kierans [Pres]          |
| 29 March    | Parent-Teacher Interviews 4.00-7.30pm     |
| 30 March    | Parent-Teacher Interviews 9.30-12.00pm    |
| 30 March    | Last Day Term 1 - <b>Student Free day</b> |

### APRIL

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 16 April | First Day Term 2 - <b>Student Free Day</b> |
| 25 April | Anzac Day - Public Holiday                 |

### MAY

- |        |                                       |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 2 May  | Athletics Day [Pres]                  |
| 9 May  | Year 9 AIM - English [Pres/St P]      |
| 10 May | Year 7, 2008 Information Night [St P] |

## CANTEEN ROSTER

### ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

- |                   |                                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Mon 12 Mar</b> | <b>Labour Day Public Holiday</b>      |
| Tue 13 Mar        | C. Towns, J. Gregg                    |
| Wed 14 Mar        | S. Jones, M. Whitty                   |
| Thu 15 Mar        | A. Mooney, (help required)            |
| Fri 16 Mar        | F. Webb, C. Bruzzese, (help required) |
| <br>              |                                       |
| Mon 19 Mar        | M. Nocera, L. Calabrese               |
| Tue 20 Mar        | C. Hinds, J. Campbelle                |
| Wed 21 Mar        | T. Thornton, (help required)          |
| Thu 22 Mar        | Help required x 2                     |
| Fri 23 Mar        | L. Zalesiak, M. Holt, (help required) |

### KILDARE CAMPUS

- |                   |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Mon 12 Mar</b> | <b>Labour Day Public Holiday</b> |
| Tue 13 Mar        | J. Campbell, A. Dorrington       |
| Wed 14 Mar        | S. Hilier, S. Bridges            |
| Thu 15 Mar        | M. Wojciechowski, P. Radovich    |
| Fri 16 Mar        | P. Johnston, (help required)     |
| <br>              |                                  |
| Mon 19 Mar        | K. Manson, D. Berryman           |
| Tue 20 Mar        | H. Van Berkel, K. Dugan          |
| Wed 21 Mar        | A. Scully, (help required)       |
| Thu 22 Mar        | V. Sammut, (help required)       |
| Fri 23 Mar        | M. Byl, (help required)          |

Postal address	Marcellin House Admin	Kildare Campus	Presentation Campus	St Paul's Campus
PO Box 1080	Coster Circle	Kosciuszko Street	John Field Drive	Grey Street
Traralgon 3844	Traralgon	Traralgon	Newborough	Traralgon
	Ph: 5174 5272	Ph: 5174 8111	Ph: 5127 1311	Ph: 5174 7355