

LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



29 May 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers

From the Principal's Desk

Last weekend I travelled to Canberra with two year 12 students, **Caitlin Platt** and **Jaryd Rankin** to visit three Catholic schools who had so generously raised funds for our families who lost their homes during the Black Saturday Bushfires. **MacKillop Catholic College, The Good Shepherd Primary School and Marist College Canberra**



received us with welcoming arms, offered wonderful hospitality and listened attentively to Caitlin's and Jaryd's stories. Both Caitlin and Jaryd openly shared their photos and personal stories and answered questions. It was a memorable experience and an opportunity for those students and families who had given so much to receive personal thanks and to also get to know something of what it meant to live

through such a terrifying experience. Conversely, it was also valuable for Caitlin and Jaryd to have an opportunity to meet the people on the giving end of the equation.

As an added bonus, we were privileged to have had the opportunity to meet the RH Minister for the Environment **Mr Peter Garrett** and our own local Representative **Mr Darren Chester** (pictured above).



Mr Darren Chester (pictured above).

Ms Erica Pegorer
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Other schools and organisations who made donations to the College will also receive a certificate of appreciation when the opportunity arises:

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College, Alice Springs NT
Riggals, Traralgon
St Mary's Presbytery, Sale
Catholic College Sale
Blackfrairs Priory School, Prospect SA
Sacred Heart College Senior School, Somerton Park SA
Newman College, Churchlands WA

Earlier in the year we were recipients of much care and concern from other schools and we in our turn now pray for the Lismore community for the devastation caused by the recent floods. **Trinity College** and **St John's Woodlawn** who hosted us recently at the AMSA basketball carnival have been greatly affected. We will make contact with these Colleges to offer our help and support.



Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal

Progress on College Information Communications Technology Resources

The building of the new Information Services Centre on the Kildare Campus is progressing well. It is very pleasant to see the paper drawings take shape. When we consulted with the architects, we were keen on having an open and inviting space that would foster discussion, inquiry, deeper exploration, and support those valuable one-to-one teacher-student relationships needed for learning to flourish. Walking through the unfinished building already confirms that we will have what we hoped for.

Despite some teething problems, we have now successfully installed new servers and are very close to providing all the services and connections we had with the old servers. For our technical staff, it has involved new software, new security protocols together with an increased number of computers to look after. The College is expecting some further funding to assist with infrastructure costs which will help us to deliver better services for students. Currently, a large number of computers rely on a restricted wireless network that is inadequate

Kildare Campus

As we enter our Year 10 and Year 11 Exam period, all students should be working on revising and summarising their semester work. We met with both groups throughout the week about their exams and our expectations. Year 10 exams will occur throughout their timetable and normal classes will run during the exam week. With our Year 11's, no VCE/VET classes will run during the exam week. Our focus will be on study, revision and the exams. Please ensure that if students are absent from exams they supply the College with a medical certificate.

Alfred Atherton Award

Congratulations **Brooke Ward** from MacKillop 3. Brooke has won the Alfred Atherton Award and will be presented with her prize on Wed 15 July at the Melbourne Town Hall. The Alfred Atherton Award is presented to students from Victorian Secondary Colleges who have achieved above average standards for Year 10 in 2008 and who are continuing to obtain High standards in Year 11. Brooke receives a cheque and plaque for her achievement.

2009 Defence Technical Scholarship

We also congratulate **Ryan Hosken** of Delany 3. Ryan was selected for the Defence Technical Scholarship after an application process. It rewards technically-savvy students for staying on at school and enrolling in specific subjects. Well done Ryan on your scholarship.

Cross-Age tutors

Matthew Bogan has been busy organising our cross-age tutors. There is a growing number of students who are using this wonderful service. Our cross-age tutors are available to assist and support students to improve their results. It is also an opportunity for students of like mind to share their learning and coach one another. Cross-age tutors can be found in room 33 on Monday lunchtimes and Monday and Wednesday after school. All are welcome.

A Student Leader

Matthew Bogan: Matt is the Mentor leader and his responsibilities include the cross-age tutors and environmentalist group as well as focusing on campus life. He is currently studying Maths Methods,



to meet the demands of teaching and learning. We hope to be able to install cables and network points to most classrooms to enable students to use computers on both wired and wireless.

As for photocopying and printing costs, students are currently charged 10 cents for an A4 black/white copy, 30 cents for an A4 colour copy, 50 cents for an A3 black/white copy, and \$1 for an A3 colour copy. All students started the year with \$10 credit. When they use up this credit, they can pay for additional credit at any of the Information Services Centres on all three campuses. Currently, our supplier is in the process of installing some software updates to allow students at the St. Paul's Campus to see their costs more accurately.

The College website has been delayed and we hope to make this available soon.

Mr Ben Verghese
Director of Educational Resources

Specialist Maths, History, Outdoor Ed, and English Language. Matt went to primary school at Lumen Christi in Churchill. Matt also plays soccer and next year he wants to defer and travel around Europe before joining the Air Force and becoming a pilot.

A Cause Worth....

Congratulations to **Mr Ernie Rijs** and the Year 12 leadership for all of your hard work. Last week our students ran a number of activities in an effort to raise funds for the Make a Wish Foundation. At the start of the week, we saw our students play-out a Touch Football competition, with **Sky Hammer** and the PM's Eleven triumphant. Tuesday saw students Pogo-Jump, with victory jumping into the clutches of **Joel Barry**. Wednesday was a more fulfilling day with **Jack Davies** consuming the prize in the Pie eating competition. Unfortunately on Thursday there were no real winners. This day saw our males wax in an effort to fundraise.

Unofficially **Mr Rijs** lost most of the hair from his leg and officially most of the boys involved had a better appreciation of what it is to wax! On Friday we had the



annual Shave. Once again this was a successful day. I particularly congratulate those females on campus who shaved their heads. Well done to our **Yr 12 Leadership Class** on a very successful week. Over \$3000 was raised for the Make a Wish Foundation.

Anyone who wishes to donate to this cause is encouraged to ring the office for details.

Mr Marco Di Cesare
Campus Director

Presentation Campus

What a pleasure it was to see the Campus full of life during our Twilight Enrolment program. Our many visitors were warmly welcomed and prospective students and their families engaged enthusiastically with the activities on offer. This more interactive evening enabled the pride that students, staff and parents have in the opportunities offered at this Campus.

The gummy bear energy show in the Science room, the thinking challenges from the Humanities/English area, as well as the general room displays and the opportunity to speak with our community members were all appreciated by those who came. The most welcome addition was undoubtedly the aroma wafting from the Food Tech. room followed by the opportunity to taste the range of muffins which had been prepared by our year 7 students.

Many contributed to the success of the evening but special thanks to the parents who provided a light supper and to past students now at Kildare, **Kristian Aquilina, Jayden Shaw, Lucy Stephens, Adam James** and **Will Troy** who returned to help out on the evening.

Another huge success was that of the Chess team at the Latrobe Valley Interschool Chess Tournament which was held on Tuesday 19th of May in Traralgon. Seven teams competed in the tournament in an all day competition. The students played remarkable chess with many interesting and challenging games. It was a close contest with the final winners Lavalla Catholic College Presentation Campus scoring the highest with 29.5 games won.

Pictured here is the winning team proudly displaying their medals. They are **Liam Corrigan, Luke Prekop, Ryan Prekop, Anthony**

Wiebenga, Lachlan Kincaid and **Thomas Bramstedt** with the last three named as among the highest scorers for the day's



competition. Thanks here to **Mr Bernie Wiebenga** who has supervised the Campus chess club in recent weeks and to **Mr Bob Carmody** for his organisation of our students and their involvement in the tournament.

Our Year 9's tested their observational skills in the Field study on Tuesday 26th with their final display to occur during our Campus celebration of World Environment Day on June 5th. On this day parents, staff and students will work together to improve the Campus surroundings. Plants, bulbs and monies donated for this day have been gratefully received. Thanks also to **Br Bill** and **Mr Peter Schneider** for their ongoing work in setting up the vegetable growing and composting area.

Mrs Leanne Mills
Campus Director

St Paul's Campus

From June 1st the Campus begins the 'No Interruptions' period. For two working weeks, teachers and students concentrate on getting the academic assignments and work finished in time for Report Writing on 12th June. Parents can help by assisting children with work that needs to be completed, or discussing progress with them. Paying attention to the curriculum and Home Study document sent out a few weeks ago will also help.

"Open School: Twilight Session"

The inaugural 'Open School: Twilight Session' had a terrific atmosphere. On 19th May from about 4.15 pm (much earlier than we anticipated) families strolled into the campus and saw first hand what happens at St. Paul's and how staff and students interact to learn.

Prospective students were engrossed by the interactive Science activities, making muffins in the Food room, Screen printing in Art, making mosaics, sewing in the Textiles rooms, the interactive displays in the ISC, a Bible quiz game in RE, activities in English and Humanities, using computers and calculators for Mathematics. The static displays and the DVDs were well done. The choir and the band rehearsed in public much to the delight of a large number of visitors.

The Information Session in the Lecture Theatre saw more than 200 people listen to what Lavalla Catholic College (years 7-12) had to offer young people towards a balanced and fulfilling life.

There was plenty of interaction between parents themselves over some refreshments and a cup of tea.

The evening was a good example of high quality learning and the excitement success produces.

CAS Footy

The Catholic All Schools Footy was held at St. Paul's oval on Thursday 28th May. **Nagle College, Bairnsdale, Catholic College Sale, Mary McKillop College, Leongatha** and **Lavalla** participated. Healthy inter-school rivalry saw competitive matches and sporting spirit. The Lavalla teams won the competition, with the Intermediate boys team winning by an average of 10 goals a match. Outstanding players were **James Cook, Tyler Forte** and **Matt Northe**.

Mr Chris Roga
Campus Director

Music Department News

We are in the midst of a vibrant season of performances within our music department at the moment. Our **Senior Choir**, **Senior Wind Ensemble** and **Senior Jazz Ensemble** all performed at our annual Semester One V.C.E. Assessment night early in May which also saw the first performance of our 2009 **Training Band**. It was a magical night. Congratulations to all students involved.

Early this week our **Brass students** presented an evening of fine entertainment at their semester concert and this coming **Monday (the 1st of June)** at 7.00pm in the St Paul's Campus Lecture Theatre our **Woodwind** students will do the same.

We also offer our congratulations to our **Senior Choir** who this Sunday will be involved in a special ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. This ceremony is held annually to honour the role of indigenous soldiers in Australia's combat history and our magnificent choir will be singing in the original language of the Gunai/Kurnai people of Gippsland. Salutations to all of our musicians., They continue to be outstanding ambassadors for our College.

Second Hand Book and Uniform Shop.

NEXT OPEN

Thursday 18th June

New Hours: 3.30pm – 6.00pm

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

YEAR 7 2010 ENROLMENTS

As the return date for enrolment applications was today, May 29th, any families wishing to apply for 2010 should forward their applications to Jean Jennings, the Enrolment Registrar located at the St Paul's Campus, as early as possible.

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

Forthcoming Events

TERM 2

JUNE

- 1 Jun Woodwind Concert (St Paul's Lecture Theatre 7.00pm)
10 Jun Parents & Friends (Presentation Group - 5pm Presentation Campus)
10 Jun Parents & Friends (7.30pm St Paul's Library)
11 Jun Lavalla Catholic College Restaurant (6pm Kildare Campus)
8 Jun Queens Birthday (Public holiday)
9 Jun Lavalla Youth Mentoring Programme Information Night St Paul's Lecture Theatre (7.00pm for 7.30pm - see next page for details)
12 Jun Student Free Day
17-19 Jun Year 7 Camp (all St Paul's homerooms)
18 Jun Uniform Shop open (3.30pm to 6.00pm St Paul's)
26 Jun Last Day Term 2 - **NOT a Student Free Day**

TERM 3

JULY

- 13 Jul Commence Term 3
16 Jul Uniform Shop open (3.30pm to 6.00pm St Paul's)
27 Jul Parents & Friends (7.30pm St Paul's Library)
28 Jul Champagnat Mass (9.30am to 12.00 noon)

AUGUST

- 10 Aug Year 11 2010 Parent Information Session
12 Aug Year 10 2010 Parent Information Session
20 Aug Uniform Shop open (3.30pm to 6.00pm St Paul's)
24 Aug Parents & Friends (7.30pm St Paul's Library)
24 - 28 Aug Year 11 on-line enrolments

Education Maintenance Allowance Eligibility

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 you must:

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

The application form must be lodged at the school by: **7 August 2009** for the second 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.

IF YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE EMA APPLICATION IN FEBRUARY 2009 YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR THE SECOND INSTALMENT



Looking for Mentors

Lavalla to start a Youth Mentoring Programme



Volunteers are sought from the school, parish and wider community to participate in a mentoring training program. Upon completion, the trained mentors will be matched with a young person with whom they will meet on a weekly basis for an hour or so at the College over an eight week period.

Youth mentoring program, *Reaching More Kids* is an early intervention designed to assist youth to find a way through life's many challenges with the support and guidance of a mentor. The program aims to assist young people to develop social skills, self esteem and remain connected to school and their community.

Benefits of the programme:

- development of positive relationships between our young people and our adult community
- student well-being and achievement is improved. Connectedness to community and parish is evident

This programme offers students an opportunity to:

- develop a one to one relationship with an adult from the local community
- increase the level of self esteem
- increase self confidence and self worth
- increase the level of engagement at school
- share life's issues and concerns

This program offers the adult mentor an opportunity to:

- offer support to an adolescent who needs a significant adult in their lives
- share life and social skills
- gain insights into the complexities of adolescent life
- develop empathy for our youth. Assist young people to set educational and personal goals

There is a prominent adage: **It takes a whole village to raise a child**. An information session will be held **Tuesday 9th June 2009** at our St Paul's Campus for anyone who is interested in finding out more about this dynamic, life giving program and what it takes to become a mentor. A light supper will be provided at 7.00pm with the session commencing at 7.30pm. For **further information** please contact **Sandy Francois** at the St Paul's Campus of Lavalla Catholic College on (03) 51747355.

If you are interested in attending the information session, please advise Megan Wisewould at WISEMEG1@lavalla.sale.catholic.edu.au.