



NEWSLETTER

Lavalla Catholic College

20 February 2004

Dear Parents,

I am very happy to report that the year has started enthusiastically and positively and the various activities associated with the start of the year have been most successful. It is truly consoling to hear how appreciative the Year 12 students were of their Retreat experience and the Year 7's of their Bonding Camp. Please keep your eye on the Calendar for Parent Information and Contact Nights.

As students settle into new groups, they sometimes experience the activities associated with "establishing the Pecking Order among the group". On some occasions these activities border on bullying. Hence it is important that they are aware that the College has an Harassment Policy in place. This policy has been most effective in diminishing any bullying that might occur. Any student who feels that they are being bullied should report the matter immediately to the Homeroom Teacher or the Coordinator. Too often students just hope "it will go away" and don't do anything. To make sure it goes away, it should be reported early. Don't wait until it gets intolerable.

Mobile Phones will not be tolerated during class time. Should a phone be used to send or receive a message it will be confiscated and its return to parents or students will be determined by the Campus Policy.

Br Julian Casey
Principal

BLAZERS

Please note that fittings for the Lavalla Blazers are conducted at the Morwell Store only. However, payment for blazers can be made at either the Morwell or Traralgon Store.

PRESENTATION CAMPUS

Welcome back to another busy school year. We have been back three weeks and in that time a lot has happened at the Campus.

Our **Student Leaders** in Year 9 have been elected by students and staff. Our congratulations go to:-

Monique De Carli and Jeremy Waanders our Campus Leaders for 2004 and Kimberley Bramstedt, Nikki Munro-Wulffers, Brennagh McKenzie, Anthony Battista, Darcy Price SRC for 2004.

The **Buddies Program** for Year 7 has been conducted and all Year 7's now have a buddy in Year 9. Mrs Haupt has written the following:-

During the first week of the school year all Year 9 students were trained by Pam Mathieson to be 'Buddies' for our Year 7 students.

The topics covered during the training day were:-

Being a School Leader

?? *How to communicate.*

?? *How to develop positive relationships*

?? *How to work with your buddy.*

Students gained valuable skills through their participation in each session and will be presented with a certificate at our next campus assembly.

The Buddies initiative is being introduced as part of our Pastoral Care Program which focuses on student well-being and community building.

I look forward to working with our students
(Vivian Haupt)

Presentation Campus (contd...)

A very successful campus **Swimming Carnival** was held on Friday of last week. The enthusiasm of the students was excellent and the day noted a great team building experience by both staff and students. My thanks to Mr. de Van Der Schueren for his organisation and motivation on the day. Mr de van der Schuren's report has been printed separately and will be issued to Presentation Campus students.

We are preparing for the beginning of **Lent**. Next Tuesday "**Shrove Tuesday**" pancakes will be sold, money will go towards the missions. All staff and students will be attending Mass on **Ash Wednesday** 25th February at St. Mary's Church at 9.30am. Parents are welcome to attend.

Year 8 Activity Days are now being conducted. All students experience a day's canoeing at Lake Narracan based around skills acquisition and tour.

My thanks to Mrs Allen and Mr Perona for their involvement on these days.

The **Parent Support Group** meets this Monday February 23rd at 7.00pm in the staffroom. All parents are welcome to attend.

We are seeking **assistance in the Canteen** between 11.00am and 1.30pm each weekday. If you are able to assist please contact Eleanor on 51 271311.

Year 7's are on camp in the next few weeks to Wilson's Promontory. Permission forms and money need to be returned by 5th March.

Parent Information Evening for Year 7's - 18th March 2004 at 7.30pm.

Yours in the Spirit of Strong Minds and Compassionate Hearts.

Chris O'Brien
Head of Campus

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

We have made a delightful beginning to the school year. The Yr 7's have shown us already how keen they are to be at secondary school and to get on with the business of learning and have enthusiastically joined our community. We are most grateful to the primary schools and parents who have helped prepare them so well for this transition. The Yrs 8 and 9 students have also settled in well and teachers are reporting high levels of cooperation and interest from all students.

Protective Behaviours

Our Yr 7 students have begun their Orientation Camps and their Protective Behaviours Program. The Program encourages the development of mutual respect and dignity for themselves and others. The St Paul's Campus Counsellor and the students' homeroom teacher will facilitate this program. One of the aims is to develop, through various activities, a growing awareness of the levels of acceptable behaviour between individuals or groups of people. The emphasis will be on defining abusive behaviour, its affect on others, and being able to recognise the different forms of abuse that occur, or could occur, both within our school environment and within society at large.

Campus Leaders

This week I had the privilege of interviewing the Yr 9 students who have been nominated for the position of campus leaders. It was very difficult excluding any of these students from the final list of 6 boys and 6 girls to be voted for by students. It was refreshing to hear each of them speak about what they wanted to offer the campus and how they could be of service to students and staff.

Stoddart Block

We have had some minor changes of classrooms as some classes have been reallocated classrooms away from the areas where we have had a crane operating. This has all been in the name of progress and we've been encouraged to see recognisable classrooms take shape out of the refurbished shell of the building.

"Excellence can be attained if you care more than others think is wise, risk more than others think is safe, dream more than others think is practical, and expect more than others think is possible".--
Unknown

Lee McKenzie
Head of St Paul's Campus

KILDARE CAMPUS

Welcome back!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to the Kildare Campus for 2004 and to extend a *Kildare family welcome* to the newest members of our community. My hope is that we

can develop a strong sense of belonging to the Campus family and that the channels of communication will remain open between students and staff and between Campus and home.

Year 12 Retreats

The Year 12 House Retreat experience was a great success once again. Students were most grateful for the work that staff had done for them and sound, working relationships between staff and students are emerging. It is good for the year level to step aside at the beginning of a busy year, to look at themselves in relation to each other, to assess their place in the bigger scheme of things and to confirm and strengthen their relationship with God.

I would like to thank the staff, parents, friends and past students who acted as life group leaders throughout the Retreat. They all made sacrifices to family, work and their free time to be at the Retreats, and to ensure that the exercises were well prepared and completed. To Mr. Michael Hansen, Mr. Mark Kelly, Mr. Marco DiCesare, Ms. Fran Renehan, Mr. Ernie Rijs and Mrs. Tina Sonka, who led the Retreat groups, I offer as special word of thanks.

The Campus Swimming Carnival.

On Thursday last, in excellent weather, the Campus held the annual Swimming Carnival. There was plenty of *Slip, Slop, Slap* during the day and students participated in a range of swimming and novelty events which culminated in a winning final result for Nagle House. Participation was the key and the House Captains (and Mr. Kelly) encouraged students from the House to enter into as many events as possible. It certainly paid off for Nagle.

For Mr. Gargan and his team of staff and student helpers, the carnival was one of the most successful in recent years. A special mention needs to be made of the work of Conor Clarke. Conor was the AFL Sportsready Trainee during 2003 and it was he who made many of the arrangements on behalf of the students for such a successful event. Conor's time with us has finished and he continues with his studies. We thank him and wish him well.

*Peter Schneider
Head of Kildare Campus*

REMINDERS

- ?? All **Educational Maintenance Allowance** (EMA) applications should be completed and submitted to the school by next Friday, 27 February. Application forms available at Marcellin House or Presentation Campus office. Unfortunately, late applications cannot be accepted.
- ?? **Changes to family details or student medical records:** A reminder to please return the printout of your family details with any changes to one of the campus offices immediately so as to ensure the college records are accurate and up to date. The college has been advised that RMB's are being phased out; please make sure to note your new postal address if you have been advised of one.
- ?? Also any changes to your **children's health should be advised** as soon as possible. Obviously it is most important that we maintain a current record of your child's contact and medical information to assist us in our care of them.

FAITH & MINISTRY

Year 12 Retreats.

The year 12 House Retreats have just been successfully completed. Nearly 200 students went to four different venues along with a team of adult leaders made up of staff, ex students and friends of the college.

The retreat experience is important for students as it allows them the opportunity to take time out to reflect on their relationships with themselves, friends, family, the environment and their God. There is an energy generated that assists in sustaining participants into the coming year with its stresses and strains. Perhaps the greatest benefit for us all is to realise that we are not alone. We thank parents and family for the letters that were written and the prayerful support. Thanks also to the Retreat Facilitators, House Coordinators, and Small Group Leaders who left family and gave their time

to be along side the Year 12 students during the retreat. What a great start our senior students have made!

Lent

Ash Wednesday is next Wednesday, February 25th. The occasion will be marked with an ashes ceremony at each campus. Presentation Campus students will attend Mass.

Shrove Tuesday will be marked on Tuesday February 24th with the making and selling of pancakes not only as a traditional pre-Lenten activity but also to highlight the work of CARITAS Australia, which does wonderful work as the Church's international aid organisation. Pancakes will be available to purchase on the three campuses.

Mike Hansen, Director of Faith & Ministry

Calendar Dates for Coming Week

Feb.	
23	Presentation Campus Activity Day for 8.10 VCE Units 3 & 4 – Information Night Yr 7.8 & 7.4 Orientation Camp
24	Caritas Activity – Pancake making/selling Parents of Year 8 – Information Evening
25	Ash Wednesday – campus-based liturgies Yr 7.5 & 7.6 Orientation Camp
25-27	Outdoor Education Canoeing Excursion for Yr 12's
26	Parents of Year 10 – Information Evening, 7.30pm, V.S.C.
27	Census Day

CANTEEN ROSTER:

	St Paul's	Kildare
Mon. 23 Feb.	G Hastie, T Roberts	C Jackiw, J Adams
Tue. 24 Feb.	P Johnston	D Webb, H Van Berkel
Wed. 25 Feb.	B Koedijk, J Bell	P Radovich, D Hall
Thu. 26 Feb.	S Sammut	E Whittaker, M Wojciechowski
Fri. 27 Feb.	M Lafferty, N Ellis	C Berry, P Atkinson, A Fogarty

St Paul's Campus Canteen requires further assistance on Fridays. **Kildare Campus** also requires help on Mondays and Tuesdays. If you can help out (even only once a term) please ring either Canteen. Your help, as always, would be greatly appreciated.

A CALL FOR PARENT ASSISTANCE

As part of **St. Paul's Campus Year 7 Literacy and Numeracy Programs** we are seeking parents who would be willing to volunteer some of their time on Friday afternoons, 2.00pm – 3.30pm, to work with our students. We would welcome your help in extending our Literacy and Numeracy Programs through:

- ?? Listening to students read
- ?? Assisting students develop spelling skills
- ?? Providing support with basic maths

Just 30 minutes of your time could make a difference.

Please complete the tear-off slip below and return it to reception at St. Paul's Campus or contact the campus office by Friday 27 February.

Thank you for your support. *[Debbie Reynolds, Julie Pezzutto, Student Support]*

YEAR 7 LITERACY & NUMERACY VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM

I am interested in becoming a volunteer in the literacy and/or numeracy program.

NAME (Please Print)

PREFERRED TIME (2.00 to 3.15p.m.)

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER

SIGNED.....

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