

LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



13 November 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers

The Midterm break and Cup Day provided a welcome break for most members of the College community except a number of Yr 12s who had to face an exam and a few teachers who supported them on the day. To date the year 12 exams have proceeded without any difficulties. I hope that any post exam celebrations are joyous and safe occasions. For families of Yr 12s a reminder that the **Graduation Dinner** will be held on **27th November**. This is a very formal way for families and the College to recognise these young people as they move from being school children to young adults. I invite you to come and share in this special evening.

My thanks to the parents and staff who attended last Thursday's draw of the **Big Prize Raffle**. On the evening we took the opportunity to invite parents of Yr 8 students at St Paul's to visit the Presentation Campus in preparation for the Master Survivor Program and for Yr 7 Parents to learn about the Learning Advisor Program to be implemented in Yr 8. It is always pleasing when parents take the time to join us for these College occasions. My heartfelt thanks to the very loyal band of workers in the Parents and Friends group who oversaw the raffle. They gave many hours to distributing and collecting raffle books and money. Their efforts were rewarded with an approximately \$12,000 profit which will be used for climate control across the College. It is my hope that we will build on this success via future fund raising and will be able to eventually install climate control in all student areas over the coming years. The recent hot weather is a reminder of how important this initiative is. Any thoughts or suggestions you might have for continued fund raising would be most appreciated.

Yr 11s will finish classes at the end of this week and begin exams next week. This will be followed by 2 weeks of Yr 12 2010 classes. Despite the notion of some students, that there is not much happening in the last weeks of term 4, there is still much to be done and students at all year levels are still obliged to attend classes until their final days. Teachers and campuses put much planning into students finishing the year well. Please ensure that your son or daughter attends school every day or that you follow the usual process of informing the College of an absence.

Ms Erica Pegorer

PRINCIPAL

Coster Circle TRARALGON

Ph: (03) 5174 5272

Fax: (03) 5174 9235

Mr Marco Di Cesare

KILDARE CAMPUS DIRECTOR (Yr 10-12)

Kosciuszko Street, TRARALGON

Ph: (03) 5174 8111

Fax: (03) 5174 0783

Mrs Leanne Mills

PRESENTATION CAMPUS DIRECTOR (Yr 7-9)

John Field Drive, NEWBOROUGH

Ph: (03) 5127 1311

Fax: (03) 5127 7110

Mr Chris Roga

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS DIRECTOR (Yr 7-9)

Grey Street, TRARALGON

Ph: (03) 5174 7355

Fax: (03) 5174 1827

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 1080

TRARALGON 3844

Throughout this term students in Yr 9 have been involved in camps, with Presentation students away next week at Tamboritha for what will be the last camp of the year. These camps offer students wonderful social, emotional, physical and spiritual experiences and demand much of students and staff. I am most grateful for the generosity of staff that facilitates and organise these activities.

Please take particular note of the College calendar, as we move into the Festive season and the last weeks of school. Things will become very busy and it would be disappointing if you missed out on celebrations or second hand sales etc.

As we approach the season of Advent, the College community prepares to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The joy and fellowship that we experience is a product of the sense of hope that Jesus' birth brings and while this may sometimes seem lost in the commercialisation of Christmas there are many ways we can reclaim the simplicity and happiness. Many of our students contribute to classroom hampers for St Vinnies, cards of appreciation and good wishes are given to teachers and friends.

As families you can encourage your children to consider others in need by donating to many worthy organisations or assisting in activities such as hamper distribution. Perhaps even in the re-telling of the Nativity and the Flight into Egypt you might pause to remember the many refugees in the world, most particularly those currently standing off our own shores. How do we reconcile Australian refugee policy with social justice; is there really 'no room in the inn' for these people? While I don't presume to know the answer to this complex issue, I do know that it is important that our young people grapple with these notions in preparation for their adult life.

Ms Lee McKenzie
Director of Staff Development

St Paul's Campus

The Mid-term break and the Melbourne cup holiday were fantastic! Staff and students got a well-deserved rest before the final rush to finish. Understandably, the pressure is on to complete work. Please feel free to contact staff for any clarification about how your child is doing in school so that you can support him/her to do well. We have noticed recently our students bringing some coloured sugary 'straws' into school. Each straw contains almost 15 gms of sugar, an equivalent of 3 teaspoons. We are discouraging students from bringing these into school and thank you for your support.

Year 9.6 Camp

On Wednesday 4th November, 9.6 went to Tamboritha. After a two and a half hour trip and a stop at Licola everyone settled in. Our first hike was up the very steep Mount Tamboritha. We were relieved to finally conquer the peak and rest! Coming down we negotiated an obstacle course of fallen trees, boulders, rocks, long grass. It was late afternoon when we finally got back to our cabins. While lasagne and mashed potato chips were being made (courtesy of Adrienne) everyone played basketball or table-tennis. After chores we made our way into the scrub to play 'Spotlight'. Great fun. Mr. Ryan told us a scary story and everyone went to bed after supper, the boys above the kitchen and the lounge, while the girls slept in the separate cabin.

On Day 2 we were woken up at 7.30! But, we didn't have school!! The pancakes were a flop so we lived on boring toast and cereal. Bike riding and Horse riding were the activities for the day. Bike riding was sometimes scary and always challenging. Mr. Higgins was a good bloke who let us ride his horses but made sure nobody rode like a '44gallon drum'. Dinner that night was spicy chicken and Lockie's famous chips and 'Spotlight'. Keeley received the 'Legend' award and we listened to another of Mr. Ryan's horror stories.

Presentation Campus

This week we have paid our respects to those who paid the ultimate price to ensure our freedom. Students were reminded of the origin of **Remembrance Day**, the significance of the Flanders poppy and were asked to reflect on the poem "In Flanders Fields" written by **John McCrae**, which began
*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row*

Some who were there, described them as fields full of blood and bodies. Further on, the poem challenges us to defend the rights of others in the cause of justice and to continue to work for peace so that the legacy of their death is not wasted or lost. The minute's silence, a mark of respect and gratitude was given the respect it was due. In this month of Remembrance we have also celebrated **All Souls Day** and **All Saints Day** and in our liturgy recognised the contribution of those who have died in the past year to the lives of those in our community. **May they rest in God's peace.**

The Year 7 members of the Training Band **Melanie Rennison** and **Anthony Wiebenga** are very excited to be invited to participate in the camp planned for Rawson next week. Our congratulations and our thanks go to **Mr Reid and Mr Harris** and **Mr Wilkie** for their generosity in enriching our music program through opportunities of this type.

Our year 9's are ready to depart for camp at Tamboritha and their awareness that their time on Presentation Campus is drawing to an end is growing. For many it is the promise of new places, things and routines that is beckoning, for others it is the comfort of being here where it is so familiar that brings a nervousness about this next step.

Bacon and Eggs made us feel good on Friday morning. Cleaning up was the task and Keeley got the toilets! Next it was packing up and making lunch for the journey back. The party bus rocked to music and Keeley lost her voice, though Erin made up for it. Although everyone would have liked a few more days, this was a great experience and we would recommend it to the year 9s next year. Thanks to all the teachers who made this possible.

LA Parent Information Evening

The Parent Information Evening for the Learner Advisor Program on 5th November was well attended. 'Thank you' to the parents who did come and ask questions. We found the group sessions particularly useful because of the free and frank exchange. I have compiled a list of issues that were raised and at our Planning Group session yesterday, we used the concerns raised to fine tune some of the processes. The Learner Advisor Program is an exciting venture for 2010.

Remembrance Day

On the 11th November, at 11 am, the Campus held a remembrance Day Ceremony to honour those who sacrificed so much to ensure we lived better lives. In doing so they created the legend of the ANZACs. The solemn ceremony was conducted effectively by the Campus Leaders and **Leigh Jones** played the 'Last Post'. The staff and students responded with deep respect.

Yr 8.7 & Yr 8.8 Mass

8.7 and 8.8 attended a Mass in the St. Paul's Chapel on Tuesday, 10th November. **Fr. Peter Bickley** made the Mass meaningful and interesting, according to the students. Students prepared the chapel, served the Mass and participated actively.

Mr Chris Roga
Campus Director

The **Spirituality Retreat** day on October 30th was a wonderful opportunity for each of our year 9's to explore the way they think about life and the way they act in relation to others. The Australian Youth Mission team certainly provided an excellent insight into how our students can incorporate living by the Gospel message into today's world as a young person.

Still ahead of us is the need to finish our studies well and another important task, that of selecting Campus Leaders, House and Vice Captains and beginning the setting up of the student Leadership structure for 2010.

This year we sent four teams of year 7/8 cricket enthusiasts accompanied by Ms Stewart and Mr Rea to compete in the Super 8 cricket at Drouin. They can be very proud of their sportsmanship and success in the competition. The boys and girls A teams made it all the way through to the finals narrowly missing victory by 20 runs and 1 run. Congratulations. Also, thank you to **Mitchell Grubb** and **Jamie Ferguson** for their assistance on the day. **Boys A** - Nick Clarke (Coach), Joshua McGrath, Jordan Street, Nick Ellul, Matthew Hibbs, Cameron Stitt, Ben Noy, Damon Bednarski and Brayden O'Connor

Girls A - Lucas Fry (Coach), Jordyn Corry, Carly Stafford, Samantha Aquilina, Monika Zakic, Cassie Malady, Emily Gibson, Olivia Vincent and Jaiden Jarvis

Next week **Rob Wood** organiser of that event will be spending the day with us delivering a Coaching Clinic - Skills and Clues on how to improve the game - yours and others.

Ms Leanne Mills
Campus Director

Kildare Campus

We keep our Year 12's in our prayers as they work through their final exams. Our Year 11's will begin their exams next week and trust that their learning throughout the semester will be demonstrated during this time. Exams can be a nervous time for some students and I encourage them to talk through any concerns with staff at the College.

Parents should note that this week Year 11 students received their Exam Timetable, Head-Start Timetable and a letter for parents. These are important documents and I encourage you to talk with your children about the exams and the importance that the Head-Start Programme will have for them. Year 12 officially starts during this time and attendance is compulsory.

I also acknowledge those students who will not be returning after this week. We have a number of Year 11's who will be moving away from the area or College, starting apprenticeships or other working arrangements. We wish these students all the best as they leave the College.

Debutante Ball 2010

I spoke to our prospective debutantes and their partners this week. There was certainly an extra bounce in their step as they entered the meeting. We will begin planning this event and I encourage parents to read the Debutante Ball Committee Invitation letter that accompanied this newsletter. Please let me know via the reply slip if you are interested as I am keen to commence our planning for 2010. Please note that the Debutante Ball is only open to 2010 Year 11 Students at the College.

Student Expectations

As our days begin to warm I remind all students to remain sun-smart in their approach. We encourage all students to ensure that they are protected from the harmful effects of the sun – hats, sunscreen, shade. Water bottles are also important as students cope with the heat. We sometimes see a change in behaviour at this time of the year and I remind our students that they need to remain focussed on their studies and that we will continue to enforce our standards at the Kildare Campus.

Footsteps

This semester, in our Footsteps Religion class Kosta, Lewis, David, Tom, Loretta and I went on two visits out to the local hospital to take part in the "Stronger Smarter Squad". We were taken into the Geriatric Ward where we met elderly people and formed groups and played simple games and took them for walks. This was a great experience and we all had a lot of fun.

During our classes we also made educational picture books for young children. These books included ABC books; counting books; books about animals, Australia, shapes, colours and sport – to name a few. In the later weeks of the semester we baked cupcakes and muffins and went to Liddiard Road Primary School on two occasions to visit the Prep class. The first time we read our books to the children and ate our cupcakes. The second time we played card games to help with their Maths and shared muffins with them. Thank-you **Mrs Jenkins** for a great semester!

Mr Marco DiCesare
Campus Director

Music News

Year 10 and 11 Soiree

An eclectic evening of musical entertainment was presented by our year ten and eleven music students on **Monday the 9th of November**. Our year eleven students presented pieces from their solo performance repertoire and our year ten students performed as a class choir and in small jazz combos.



The combination of these performance outcomes led to an inspired night of music making. **Congratulations to all students involved and our thanks to the many family members who braved a very hot November night to be a part of our audience.**

Gunnai Dreaming

Over the past eighteen months our Senior Choir has forged some invaluable links with representatives of the local indigenous community the Gunnai people. Through this partnership, we have seen many of our Taize chants, which are used for many college based liturgies and masses, translate into the revived and reclaimed Gunnai language. The wonderful work of **Lynette Solomon-Dent** and **Christine Johnson** from the Central Gippsland T.A.F.E. Koori unit has been critical to this venture. We are also indebted to local elders **Uncle Albert** and **Aunty Rachel** who have graciously granted our choir special permission for the use of their language.

This partnership has also seen the creation of a new piece of music written especially for our Senior Choir – "Gunnai Dreaming".

Melbourne based composer **Mark Clement Pollard** was commissioned by the college to write an original work using the Gunnai language. The piece draws inspiration from the **Gunnai dreamtime story of Boran and Tuk**. We have recently received the final copy of the piece and our choir has begun rehearsals on the new work.

Mr. Pollard is one of the most acclaimed Australian composers and artists of his generation. He is the Head of Composition Studies at the University of Melbourne: Faculty of Music and his work has won awards both in Australia and internationally. His involvement in this project is a real coup for the college and Gunnai Dreaming will become an important centerpiece of our Senior Choir's repertoire for years to come.



Mark Pollard meeting with indigenous language teacher **Lynette Solomon-Dent**, Director of Music **Shane Reid** and Yr 11 student **Hollie Johnson** at Lavalla Catholic College. Thursday 29th of October, 2009.

Mr Shane Reid
Director of Music

Catholic Education 25 Years of Service Awards

On the 5th November the Catholic Education Office held a function to formally recognise those members of staff who have given 25 years or more service to Catholic Education.

This event is held every few years and the names listed below are members of the College who were acknowledged by Bishop Prowse on this wonderful achievement. The College wishes to congratulate these individuals on reaching this significant milestone.

Jenny Dingwall
Russell Savige
Anne Wilson
Irene James
Alby Van Berkel
Dan Prigg
Fran Renehan
Bill Eagle
Birgit Sim
Steve Erdely

Forthcoming Events

TERM 4

16-20 Nov	2009 Year 11 Exams
19 Nov	Second Hand Uniform Shop 3.30-6.00pm
23 Nov-3 Dec	2010 Year 12 classes
27 Nov	Year 12 Graduation Dinner
30 Nov	College Christmas Concert
4 Dec	Curriculum Day - Student Free
7 Dec	College Awards Night
9 Dec	Year 9, 10 and 11 students last day

Second Hand Book and Uniform Shop.

NEXT OPEN

Thursday 19th November

Hours: 3.30pm – 6.00pm

Shop located at: St.Paul's Campus
Payment options: Cash, Cheque or EFTPOS
Please have all Uniform Items to be sold in by the 11th December if you want them to be available to buy at the start of the new year.

Lavalla Catholic College

Raffle Results

Congratulations to the winners in our College Raffle!

1	Sponsors	Value	Prize	Winners
1	Albroys Car Centre	\$26,850	Mazda 3 Neo Auto Sedan	P & E Panayiotou
2	Warehouse Sales	\$1,400	Plasma TV	B. Harkins
3	Harvey World Travel	\$1,000	Travel Voucher	C. Munro
4	Home Hardware	\$599	Makita Drill Set	H. Matters
5	John Ansell Photography	\$545	Family Portrait	K. Greenslade
6	Seymour Street Newsagency	\$500	Voucher Stationery	W. Kirstine
7	Grow Master	\$400	Plants	D. Caffrey
8	Amazing Clean	\$400	Curtain/Blinds	M. Pratt
9	Leon Hair Studio	\$350	Hair Style Voucher	K. Walters
10	Chris Humphrey Office National	\$350	Photo Printer	McNair Family
11	Cleaners World	\$150	Cleaning Products	G. Kerr
12	Mid Valley Shopping Centre	\$100	Voucher	K. Jones
13	Café Evviva	\$100	Dinner Voucher	Parhana Rahman
14	Village MidValley 8 Cinemas	\$95	Movie Tickets	G. Magaldi
15	Safeway Traralgon	\$50	Voucher	R. Payne
16	Tuition Fees (Book Seller's prize)	\$1,966	Book Sellers Prize	M. Ryan SPC 9.5

Lavalla Catholic College would like to thank all the abovenamed sponsors for their support in our raffle. The College is also very grateful to the management of Mid Valley Shopping Centre and Traralgon Plaza for the use of their centres for ticket sales.