



NEWSLETTER

Lavalla Catholic College

23 March 2007

From the Principal

Dear parents and students

Term 1 seems hardly to have begun and today I write to wish you a Happy Easter and a good holiday. This is our last newsletter for the term but next week you will receive in the mail our Information Bulletin which will highlight the term's events and remind you of some important policies and procedures.

Rest in Peace

Last week the College received news of the untimely death of two former students, *Craig Thorpe* (1998) and *Michael English* (2002) who both died in accidents. We offer our condolences and sympathy to both families and especially keep in mind and in our prayers Michael's brother Terrance English who is currently in Year 11. We give thanks for the gift of these two young men in our lives.

Opportunity for dialogue for Parents, Students and Teachers

Recently you have received in the mail an invitation to attend the Parent, Student and Teacher interviews. We have said many times before that the most successful students are the ones whose parents engage as partners in the educational process and you are therefore encouraged to make good use of the workshops being offered at the Traralgon campuses. Campus Directors provide further details in relation to report distribution, interviews and workshops.

Successful Students

Mr Di Cesare has written quite a detailed account of the result of the Australian Brain Bee Challenge. Congratulations are extended to *Quinn McGenniken* the overall Victorian winner of the competition and to *Jessica Edwards* for her third placement. *Ashleigh Dyer* joined Quinn and Jessica to make up the winning overall Victorian team. Congratulations to these students and to *Mrs Bormanis* for such an outstanding achievement.

Gifted and Talented

Lavalla Catholic College is about to launch the gifted and talented programme which will commence in 2008. Further details will be provided at the Information Nights in May 2007. Parents of gifted and talented students should know about an organisation called GERRIC - *the Gifted Education Research, Resource and Information Centre*, which was established by the University of New South Wales to provide an establishment for excellence in research, teaching and services for gifted education. GERRIC is about to conduct a National Talent Search and I would encourage you to visit their website: http://gerric.arts.unsw.edu.au/stdt_apt.html.

Happy Easter

The 40 days between Lent and Easter are significant days in our Church and in our faith journeys. It is a time where we can reflect and take some action on our struggles over hatred, pride and selfishness. Palm Sunday signifies that Easter is near and Holy week becomes the light at the end of the tunnel reminding us of God's Love and Forgiveness. Easter allows us time to contemplate upon The Resurrection and the New Life; both bringing hope after they had all but disappeared. On a spiritual level we live in hope for triumph over death. The suffering and death of Jesus teach us that God's love consoles us as we carry life's crosses. For the community of Lavalla Catholic College, as we come to terms with the recent death of four young people, we value more than ever the hope that comes from knowing we will rejoice in being united again.

May Easter renew our love of God and love of each other.

Remember to turn back your clocks on Sunday.

Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal

Kildare Campus

The Campus has been a little quiet this last fortnight - our Year 10 students have been away on Work Experience. It is an exciting time for them where they are able to experience a block of time out of school. There is a tremendous amount of organisation that goes into planning these employment placement. We aim to visit every student at each workplace to offer them support and encouragement. I thank and congratulate Mrs Anne English and Mr Dan Prigg on their hard work and dedication to organising our visits. We look forward to the "buzz" that will occur on the return of our Year 10's.

A Cause Worth Shaving For

This year our 'Cause Worth Shaving For' will recognise the brave efforts of the Country Fire Association. Students will be shaving their heads during lunchtime on Thursday 29th March. The College Captains have set a target figure of \$5,000. We have always had a huge amount of support from parents and friends of the College in the past. If you would like to make a donation, our school captains - **Jeremy Waanders** and **Melissa Germano** - would welcome any contribution via the front office at the Kildare Campus.

Student Attendance

We have seen a marked improvement in student attendance this year. You would be aware that the College regularly checks the attendance of students. We expect students to attend all classes but understand that students may be absent at times for reasons beyond their control. If there is an ongoing medical or environmental reason for your son/daughter being absent then please contact your son/daughters House Coordinator immediately so that they can discuss eligibility for Pastoral Provision.

GCSSSA Swimming Finals

The campus congratulates our swimmers who participated in the swimming meet. Our school spirit and students support was loudly evident - particular congratulations to **Timothy Bedford** and **Brianna Walden** on their achievements as Age Champions on the day. Good luck to our competitors participating in the Melbourne Catholic All Schools competition this Friday. A special thank-you to Ms Nikki Heenan and Ms Kim Stewart for their support and guidance of our swimming students.

Australian Brain Bee Challenge

On Friday 16 March **Ashleigh Dyer**, **Jessica Edwards** and **Quinn McGenniskien** attended the state semi-final of the Australian Brain Bee Challenge, a neuroscience competition. The venue was the Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute, a research centre affiliated with the University of Melbourne.

After an address by Prof. Fred Mendelsohn, two preliminary rounds of the competition followed. **Jessica Edwards** and **Quinn McGenniskien** made it through to the final round.

The third round, and the Individual Final, was ultimately won by **Quinn McGenniskien**, who was indeed challenged by highly complex questions. Quinn was acclaimed as the **State Finalist** for Victoria and was presented with a Nikon digital camera valued at around \$600. **Jessica Edwards** was third and received a monetary prize. Quinn will now prepare for the National Final to be held in July as part of the International Brain Research Organisation Meeting.

The girls also represented Lavalla in the Team Challenge. The questions were projected one at a time onto a large screen, and the contestants had 20 seconds to confer in order to generate each response. Our girls maintained their composure, and emerged the victors. Their reward this time was winning a microscope valued at about \$1,600 from Zeiss, the major sponsor of the event. The microscope will be for student use in the Science Department at the Kildare Campus.

Congratulations to our three ambassadors, not only for their success, but because of the spirit in which they entered the Challenge. They were positive and motivated throughout. Mrs Bormanis was more than a little proud of the girls. Her dedication to this competition and our students is commendable. Congratulations Mrs Bormanis, Ahleigh, Quinn and Jessica.

Mr Marco Di Cesare
Campus Director

Palm Sunday Launch of World Youth Day

World Youth Day is being held in Sydney in 2008. Over 500,000 young people are expected to attend the celebrations during July and be at Randwick Racecourse when the Pope arrives to celebrate Mass. Our College will be sending representatives to the WYD.

In preparation for WYD the Diocese of Sale is holding a special pilgrimage from the Sion Convent site to the Cathedral on Palm Sunday, **April 1st** of this year.

As the pilgrimage to the Cathedral takes place the pilgrims will stop and pray the 'Stations of the Cross' at fourteen different places along the way. Lavalla is staging the dramatic presentation of stations 3 and 4. The pilgrimage makes its way to the Cathedral where the Bishop will celebrate Mass with the pilgrims.

There will be a BBQ lunch followed by performances from live bands, an art exhibition and presentations on WYD. This festival aspect will conclude at 5.30pm.

Family groups are invited to attend. The College will be well represented at this pilgrimage and our involvement will be a vital part of the initial preparations for WYD Students.

For more details ring **Mike Hansen** at Lavalla Catholic College or contact your local Catholic parish.

St Paul's Campus

As we approach the end of Term 1, I congratulate the campus community for a successful Term 1. The students and staff have got on with the business of learning, teaching, and participating in the life of the campus.

Project Compassion

This year Project Compassion focussed on Bangladesh and making the poor self reliant through the cultivation of fish farms. Felix Rosario, of Caritas Bangladesh, spoke to our students at the launch of Project Compassion at the Campus in late February.

The students of St. Paul's have responded with their normal enthusiasm. It is good to see student initiative and involvement. Most Homerooms, ably supported by their teachers, have organised an event or activity to raise funds. SRCs and Student Leaders collect and count the money raised every week. The results are then displayed on the Homeroom 'fish' in the ISC. The coloured scales on the 'fish' show how much the Homeroom has raised. So far they have collected close to \$2,000.

While the events have an element of fun, the students expressed solidarity with the less fortunate and have acted to build a better world. Congratulations to all the homerooms and the staff for their effort.

Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews

The Interim Reports are scheduled to be distributed early next week. Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews are scheduled for:

Thursday, 29 March from 4.00 – 7.30 pm

Friday 30 March, from 9.30 am - 12.30 pm.

I recommend that parents meet the teachers, look at the displays of student work and attend some of the workshops being offered. The details are in the Parent-Student-Teacher Interview letter dated 19 March.

School Renewal

A random selection of parents and students have filled in Parent/Student Opinion Surveys. The data along with that of the Teacher survey will be analysed to identify the perceived strengths and weaknesses of the College, so that the whole community benefits from the resultant actions taken.

Harmony Day

The message for Harmony Day this year was a formula: U + ME = US. At a simple, but effective, ceremony the students said "No" to racism. "You are an original, why die a copy," said one student. Another traced the diversity of Australian culture from food to sport to culture. "Accept and respect each other's culture...all we need in Australia is a little love, a little patience. And a little respect." All the students were exhorted to accept each other as they are and stand up for their rights.

Easter

To celebrate and educate our students in this core Christian experience, the Campus will hold an Easter Liturgy next week. It is important that our children know the Christian stories that inform the pattern of our lives. We live the Easter Story every day, every time we do something for others, every time we make a sacrifice or help someone. The early Christians, greeted each other joyously after the midnight service with the words, "Christos anesti", "Christ is Risen". We wish you and your family a Happy Holiday and the Peace of the Risen Christ.

Mr Chris Roga
Campus Director

Inner Image Brighter

Information forum to learn more about Eating Disorders

Date: Thursday April 26th **Time:** 6.30pm

Venue: Latrobe Community Health Service, Traralgon
(corner Seymour Street and Princes Hwy).

Contact: Latrobe Community Health Service Ph: 5171 1400

Easter Liturgies at Your Local Parish 2007

St Mary's Parish Newborough

Good Friday 3.00 pm
Easter Vigil 7.00 pm
Easter Sunday 8.30 am (Yallourn Nth)
10.00 am (Newborough)

Morwell Catholic Parish

Good Friday 3.00pm (Sacred Heart)
Easter Vigil; 7.00pm (Sacred Heart)
Easter Sunday 9.00am (St. Vincent's)
10.30am (Sacred Heart)

St Michael's Traralgon

Good Friday 3.00 pm
Easter Vigil 7.30 pm
Easter Sunday 8.30 am (Traralgon)
10.00 am (Glengarry)
10.30am (Traralgon)
6.00 pm (Traralgon)

St Kieran's Moe

Good Friday 3.00 pm
Easter Vigil 7.30 pm
Easter Sunday 8.30am (Moe)
10.00 am (Erica)
10.30am (Moe)

Lumen Christi Churchill

Good Friday 3.00 pm
Easter Vigil 7.30 pm
Easter Sunday 9.30 am

Presentation Campus

Last week our Year 7's experienced life under the Canvas at Wilson's Promontory. Apart from a little rain on the Friday the weather was conducive to a very successful camp.

All students experienced abseiling, canoeing and surfing. The aims of the camp were to foster a sense of community and develop friendships – these were achieved. My thanks to First Track Adventures, Yarragon and Offshore Surfing, Inverloch for conducting the camp and activities and to our staff Mrs Grogan and Ms Bianconi for their time and organisation.

On Thursday this week 10 of our Year 9 students volunteered to assist with umpiring at the Gippsland Primary Schools Super 8's Cricket competition. Our thanks to Sam Amaira, Karlee Attard, Stephanie Bishop, Sam Price, Lachlan Wooton, Liam Bednarski, Chris Bortignon, Jayden Camm, Emma Handley and Ashley Raymond.

Parent teacher interviews will be conducted next Thursday from 4.00 – 7.30pm and Friday 9.30am – 12.00noon. All students will have their reports on Monday and interview appointment sheets will accompany the reports. We would like to see as any parents as possible at these interviews.

We are now one week away from the end of Term 1. It has been a successful start to 2007. On Thursday next week the campus will attend Mass at St. Kieran's in preparation for Easter.

I wish everyone a happy and holy Easter and safe Holiday period.

Term 2 begins on Monday 16th April. Winter uniform starts on Monday 30th April. Please ensure that your son or daughter has the correct items. The blazer is now part of the Year 7 & 9 Uniform.

Yours in the Spirit of Strong Minds and Compassionate Hearts.

Mr Chris O'Brien
Campus Director



The CDF wishes to announce the return of
TERM DEPOSITS

Why not make you money work harder.
Minium deposit \$5,000
For information on our rates for
6, 12 or 24 month Term Deposits
Call our friendly staff on 51 44 4 311.

Forthcoming Events

MARCH

- 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 - Student Free day**

APRIL

- 16 April First Day Term 2 - Student RETURN**
- 24-26 April Band Camp
- 25 April Anzac Day - Public Holiday
- 26 April Yr 10 Pastoral Evening [K] (7pm-8.15pm)
- 26-27 April Showstopper Musical**
Traralgon Little Theatre at 8.00pm
- 30 April Year 7 Museum Exc. [StP]

MAY

- 1 May Year 7 Museum Exc. [StP]
- 3 May Year 8 Medieval Day [StP]
- 4 May Athletics Day [Pres/StP]
- 8 May Year 9 AIM - Maths [Pres/StP]
- 9 May Year 9 AIM - English [Pres/StP]
- 10 May Year 7, 2008 Information Night [St P]

CANTEEN ROSTER

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

- Mon 26 Mar R. Freeman, (help required)
- Tue 27 Mar S. Garrett, T. Pledge
- Wed 28 Mar L. Hodder, E. Panayiotou
- Thu 29 Mar Help required x 2
- Fri 30 Mar D. Buckley, (help required x 2)

TERM 2

- Mon 16 April Help Required x 2
- Tue 17 April C. Hinds, J. Campbell
- Wed 18 April T. Thornton, (help required)
- Thu 19 April Help required x 2
- Fri 20 April L. Weckmann, (help required x 2)

KILDARE CAMPUS

- Mon 26 Mar D. Webb, B. McNutty
- Tue 27 Mar G. Breed, (help required)
- Wed 28 Mar L. Lloyd, R. Crowle
- Thu 29 Mar M. Johnson, (help required)
- Fri 30 Mar A. Fogarty, (help required)

TERM 2

- Mon 16 April Help Required x 2
- Tue 17 April J. Campbell, (help required)
- Wed 18 April S. Bridges, (help required)
- Thu 19 April V. Sammut, (help required)
- Fri 20 April P. Johnston, (help required)

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