

Lavalla Catholic College

ISSUE 5
May 11
2012

this issue

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From the Principal

Dear members of the Lavalla community

Mothers around the world represent a common sacred thread that binds and unites us all. It is something we all have in common and a mother's love expresses itself in countless ways every day. On Sunday as we celebrate our mothers, those still with us and those who have died, we can draw hope from a mother's incredible ability to shape the world around her both through her daily interactions with us and by the values she imparts. This week I share with you an inspiring article that connects a mother's love to the education of girls around the world and while its focus is on third world countries, the principles Erin Ganju speaks of apply internationally. She connects very strongly a mother's desire to improve her daughters' lot in life to the dream of a better life that education can bring:-

It is hard to dispute that gender disparity in education no longer exists when one realises that of the 793 million illiterate people in the world, two-thirds are female. Likewise, it would be difficult to challenge the importance of providing girls with an education, as we know that educating females is the most powerful and effective way to address global poverty. Educated mothers are more likely to educate their own children -- ending the cycle of illiteracy in one generation. What is perhaps less definitive is how best to tackle this issue. With many barriers facing girls in the developing world that go far beyond simple economics, including cultural bias, tradition and safety concerns, the answer is admittedly not simple. Yet, for many areas in the world, one of the answers may lie in the synergy of parental

support and the support of women in their families and communities.

Parental involvement plays a paramount role in shaping girls' expectations for themselves and deciding how long they will remain in school...While of varying cultures, a common thread unites them all - a strong commitment to supporting their daughters' education. In Andhra Pradesh, India, a mother remarked, "I can now dream of my only daughter going for higher studies, getting a job and earning her own money. She won't have to live like us." In Siem Reap, Cambodia, a mother shared with me, "I am illiterate. I don't want her to have the same fate. I don't have an inheritance for her. I know only that knowledge will be a priceless and lifelong gift for her."

...It must be recognized, however, that in many countries, the sphere of parental influence is often extended to others, most often women. Grandmothers and aunts play an important role in ensuring that girls remain in school...This level of devotion is also reflected in the words of an aunt from Laos who remarked upon hearing that her niece would be part of our Girls' Education program, "When I heard Inkham was selected by Room to Read, I couldn't sleep. I felt as if I had won a kilogram of gold."

As another extension to familial influence, other women outside the family can serve as role models in the lives of young girls... some can serve as a personal advocate on their path to graduation from secondary school. This role may take many forms. In Bangladesh, it may include advocating against early marriage so that girls can remain in school longer. In

Continued next page...

Prayer to the Mother of the Lord for all mothers

Mary, on this day when we honor all mothers, we turn to you. We thank the Lord whom you serve for the great gift of motherhood. Never has it been known that anyone who sought your intercession was left unaided by grace. Dear Mother, thank you for your "Yes" to the invitation of the angel which brought heaven to earth and changed human history. You opened yourself to God's word and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

Dear mother, intercede for all of our mothers. Ask your Divine Son to give them the grace of surrendered love so that they could join with you in giving their own "Fiat." May they find daily strength to say yes to the call to the sacrificial love- the very heart of the vocation of motherhood. May their love and witness be a source of great inspiration for all of us called to follow your Son.

On this Mothers day, Mother of the Word Incarnate, pray for us who have recourse to you...

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

From the Principal - *continued*

Zambia, it may include exploring an attendance issue that has resulted because the walk to school may be too dangerous or far. As members of the community themselves, our social mobilisers understand the pressures that these girls face and can serve to exemplify the educated, empowered women they may become one day.

As a mother of a six-year-old daughter, I have been humbled to witness the extraordinary lengths taken by parents and women in the communities around the world to ensure a girl's education, despite the odds. Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "Youth fades; love droops; the leaves of friendship fall; a mother's secret hope outlives them all."

On this Mother's Day, I salute not only dedicated mothers everywhere, but all women who recognise that a mother's hope starts with education and devote a part of themselves every day to ensure this for the girls in their lives and communities. Erin Ganju; A Mother's Day Tribute (CEO of Room to Read)

And while we celebrate our own mothers and reflect on her importance in our lives, we are also reminded of Mary, who as Jesus' mother showed gentleness of motherhood, courage, sacrifice and love. As Catholics and as Marists, we devote the month of May to Mary. Her faith and openness to God's will, inspires us to undertake new challenges and like mothers around the world who see that education can be a vehicle to improve one's life, we dedicate ourselves to improve the lives of all our students so that they may become good citizens and good Christians.

Around the College

Within these pages you will see we have had many reasons to celebrate this fortnight. I join Mr DiCesare in congratulating our Masters graduates in Mr Van Berkel and Mr Proud and for the conferring of his degree, Mr Di Corletto. These are honoured moments and we benefit greatly from members of staff who are still passionate about their own learning.

It's the time of year where we focused on 2013 enrolments and we celebrate the success of the College with our Twilight Evening on Wednesday. Teachers and students were very proud to share their work and we were pleased that so many came to enjoy the evening. Please be mindful that enrolments close on 31 May and if you know someone who needs to be aware of this date, please pass on the information. Mrs Jean Jennings can be contacted for details.

We enjoyed a very entertaining night of Drama on Thursday when year 10-11 students presented their work. Congratulations to Mrs Mancer for her teaching, training and coaching of these students. We are blessed to have such talent at Lavalla.

Congratulations to our girls basketball team for finally winning the Marist Basketball competition held in Queensland this year. After three years of finishing runner up to Catholic College Sale we finally snatched the trophy. Well done to the girls and to Miss Karen Joyce.

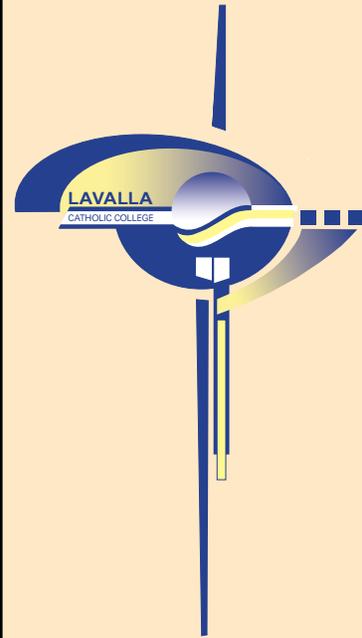
Rest in Peace

We offer our condolences and sympathy to Mary Jane (Yr 8) and Jasmine (Yr 11) who are grieving the loss of their dad Bruno Vernier.

Also to Fr Mark Godridge whose mother, Noreen Godridge died this week. May these families find comfort in the memories of their loved ones and may they draw on God's strength to live their lives without them.

Yours faithfully

Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal





St Paul's Campus Update

Mr Andrew Martin - Campus Director

TWILIGHT

I was blessed this week to witness the staff of St Paul's work seamlessly to produce a wonderful exhibition of student work and interactive activities in support of 'Twilight' – the College open night for prospective students and their families.

Designed to inform and engage families, activities on offer included bridge design and construction, the dissection of a rat, lino printing, cooking and woodwork to touch the surface. Roma Valentine, our year seven coordinator can be congratulated for her work in planning and guiding the event in collaboration with the staff and leadership team.

A feature of the evening in my view was that the conduct of families around the Campus and the various displays of student work was entrusted to our student leadership group. They represented us ably and with pride. Several family representatives contacted the College on Thursday to praise these students for their diligence in carrying out these duties with aplomb.

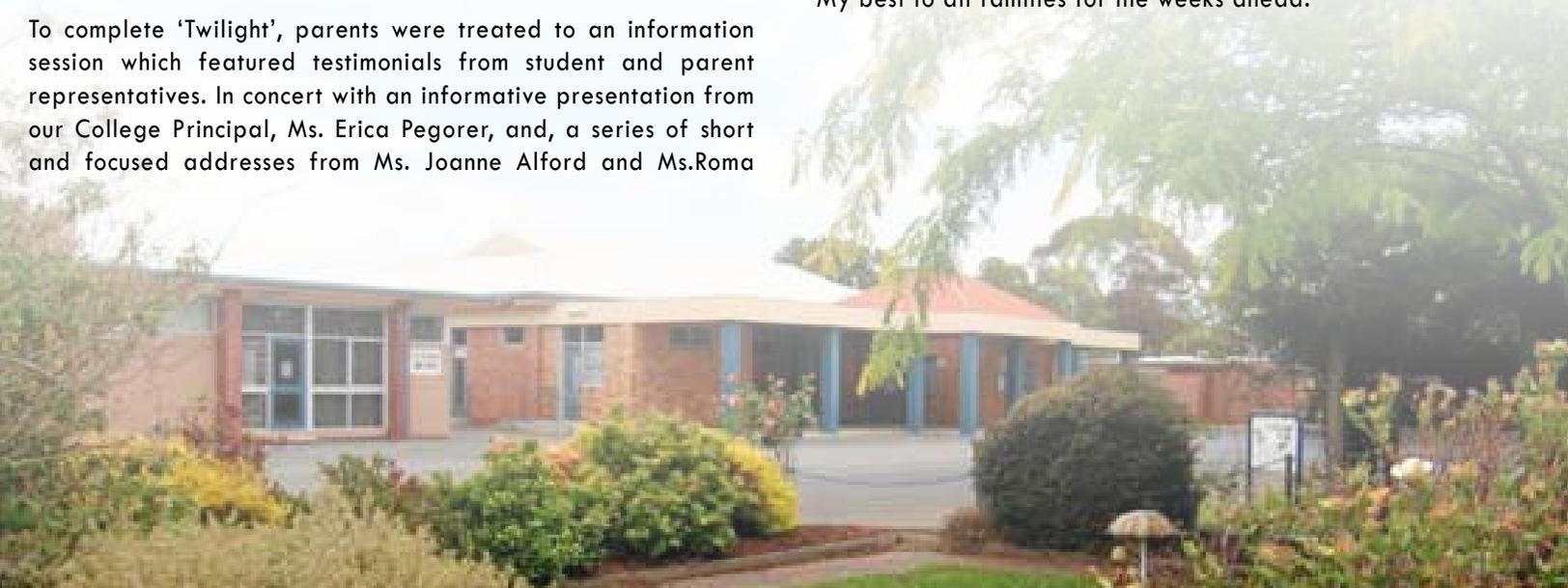
To complete 'Twilight', parents were treated to an information session which featured testimonials from student and parent representatives. In concert with an informative presentation from our College Principal, Ms. Erica Pegorer, and, a series of short and focused addresses from Ms. Joanne Alford and Ms. Roma

Valentine, I was pleased to assist in the process of drawing a picture for parents of Life as a Lavalla student. We hope that the message we delivered in respect of our focus and vision for their children was contemporary, compelling and reflective of our Marist style.

Other News:

Having completed the last of our year 8 camps to Tamboritha this week, Photos, NAPLAN and MSP Camps all figure prominently in the week and month ahead as we negotiate a packed and dynamic program of events. These include an upcoming Champagnat day mass and festival as well as the 10yr celebration of Lavalla as a new College and the Year 7 camp at Phillip Island. Finally, the coming week is LA interview week, and year 8 students will present at their second round of Parent, Teacher, Student Conferences as part of this inclusive and directed learner support program.

My best to all families for the weeks ahead.



Kildare Campus Canteen Helpers

Monday 14th May –
I Gregson

Tuesday 15th May –
L Zalesiak

Wednesday 16th May –
K Licciardi

Thursday 17th May –
A Slavin

Friday 18th May –
L Clarke

Monday 21st May –
C Jackiw

Tuesday 22nd May –
L Zalesiak

Wednesday 23rd May –
L Ware

Thursday 24th May –
M Holt

Friday 25th May –
NEED HELP



Kildare Update

Mr Marco DiCesare - Campus Director

I was fortunate to be selected for the 2012 Champagnat Pilgrimage that occurred over the Easter period. It was an amazing experience where I was able to follow in the footsteps of our Founder, St Marcellin Champagnat.

Travelling with other pilgrims, we visited significant places in France with regards to the establishing of the Marist Brothers as an order.

Having been involved with the Marist Brothers from Year 7, being involved with and often working alongside the Marist Brothers through my teenage years to working in a Marist College now, for me this was a significant journey that helped to cement my vocation as a lay Marist.

To see, first-hand, the impact that the Marist Brothers have on education not only in our Australian schools but also in Kenya and Rwanda reaffirmed my commitment to Marcellin words – we must “make Jesus known and loved”.

As a nation currently debating many moral and ethical issues, this has never been more needed amongst our youth.

Graduations

Last week we celebrated the graduation of three staff members. Life-long learning is something that we encourage and model at Lavalla Catholic College. Many staff are currently studying and we take the time to acknowledge and congratulate the following staff on their graduation ceremony at Latrobe University :

- Mr Brett Van Berkel – Masters in Education (Applied Learning)
- Mr Todd Proud – Masters in Education (Applied Learning)
- Mr Mark Di Corleto – Bachelor of Education (PE and Outdoor Education).



Kildare Update - continued



A Parent's Guide to 21st-Century Learning

As a staff we are constantly reworking and revising our curriculum to ensure that it meets the needs of our student. Parents would acknowledge that there has been a strong focus on technology at the College. A free resource recently became available for parents and I encourage you to take the time to discover the tools and techniques today's teachers and classrooms are using to prepare students for tomorrow -- and how you can get involved <http://www.edutopia.org/parent-21st-century-learning-resource-guide>.

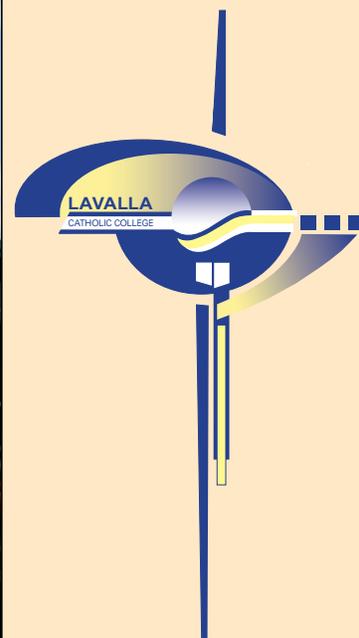
What should collaboration, creativity, communication, and critical thinking look like in a modern classroom? How can parents help educators accomplish their goals? We hope this guide helps bring more parents into the conversation about improving education.

Year 12 Tertiary Information Session

Our Year 12 VCE Students attended workshops and an information session at Monash University on Thursday. It was an important session for our students where they were encouraged to refine their choices and options for further study. We are entering a more challenging school-to-work period over the next few years and I encourage all students to continue their conversations with their Learner Advisors, Mrs Anne English (Careers and Tertiary Advice) and outside institutions.

Student Behaviour and Uniform

Our students have adapted well to their winter uniforms. Only a few student need to be reminded of the importance of ties and top buttons and the length of some kilts. We will be unwavering and continue to uphold in our expectations of how a Lavalla Catholic College student should look. Please continue to monitor your child's uniform and general grooming and support the college in ensuring that all students are wearing their uniform with pride.



Second Hand Uniform Shop

NEXT OPEN:

Thursday 17th May

Thursday 7th June

3.30pm – 6.00pm

Shop located at:

St. Paul's Campus

Payment options:

Cash, Cheque or

EFTPOS

**(Please note Kilts/
Skirts must be tried on.
They are not sized)**

Presentation Campus Update

Mrs Tamsin McCormack - Campus Director



Another busy two weeks at Presentation Campus have flown by.

Half the MSP students have completed a leadership program involving a visit to the zoo, with the other half set to do this in the next fortnight.

The first of the MSP camps has been completed. Forty students headed to the city and learnt how to navigate their way around. Twenty students headed to Mount Tamboritha and learnt how to deal with different situations in the bush.

Over the past two weeks Grade 6 students have had the opportunity to visit St Paul's campus both at Twilight and the Grade 6 days. St Kieran's and St Mary's primary schools enjoyed having the opportunity to explore the campus, creating crafts, cooking and participating in math challenges. The students had lots of fun and their enthusiasm was contagious. We look forward to working with them further in the future.

Year 8 students this year have had the opportunity to study textiles. The first of their tasks were finished this week, with the students completing a heat pack, ideal for the winter months coming up, and maybe some mums will receive a handy gift for Mother's Day this weekend.



7/5/2012 The Zoo Trip

On the 7th of this month, a group of year nines, including MSP, took a trip to the Melbourne Zoo. We went there for the leadership program which the Zoo was conducting. There we were split into two groups, where one went to see gorillas and baboons while the other group went to see meerkats and seals. At each station we learnt about that animal's leadership qualities. The two Zookeepers were each trying to convince us whether leaders were born or made.

First we went to visit the meerkats where Benny gave us a presentation about the largest female meerkat being born the leader. In between our two presentations, we were given time to free roam around the zoo. We visited the butterfly house, we saw the tigers, elephants, monkeys and lemurs. After that we watched Tom's argument that leaders were born not made.

At the end of the program we met back in the reptilian house where we were asked whether we thought leaders were born or made. Many students were at a crossroads, where they couldn't choose either. So we ended the day with a new thought to ponder on.

By Sophia, Joanne and Ripley.

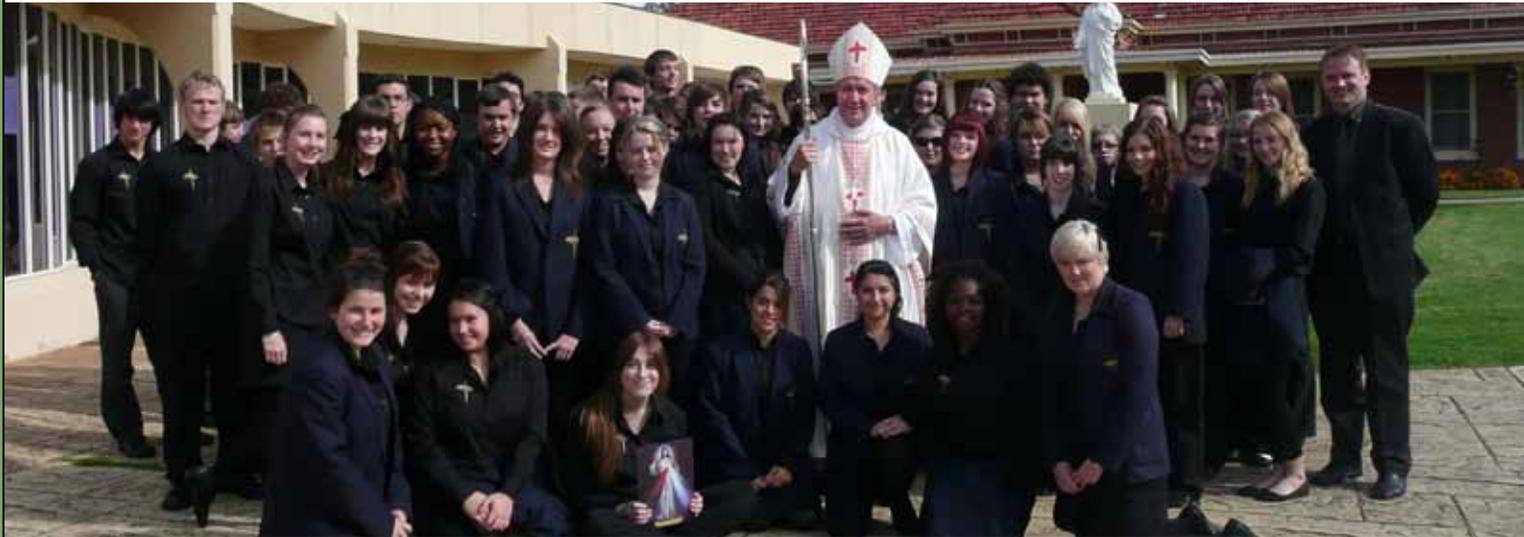


Music News

Mr Shane Reid - Director of Music

Senior Choir

Our Senior Choir has represented us with real distinction at a special mass held to celebrate Catholic Education Week in our diocese. This mass was held on Tuesday the 1st of May at the St. Mary's Cathedral in Sale. It is always a humbling and wonderful thing to see the reactions of people hearing our very choir for the first time. Senior staff from many of the forty-one catholic schools in the Diocese of Sale who were present made a special effort to pass on their appreciation and admiration for the work of our students. It was particularly heartening to be specially thanked by Peter Ryan, the Director of Catholic Education and Bishop Christopher Prowse.



We have three performance evenings looming for our music students:

1. **Senior Ensemble Concert – Tuesday the 15th of May in the Kildare Hall at 7pm**

This will feature our Senior Concert Band, Senior Jazz Ensemble and Senior Choir each performing two pieces. This concert is a component of a SAC for our VCE students.

2. **Year 12 Solo Recitals – Monday the 21st of May in the Lecture Theatre at 6pm**

Our year twelve Music Performance students will each present two pieces from their solo recital programme. The students performing on the night are Laura Zalesiak, Nancy Ramadan, Leigh-Ann Munro, Madison Morley, Oscar Machen, Leigh Jones, Adrienne Annells, William Haverkort, Sammie Grumley, Shelby Fisher and Josie Buckley.

3. **Year 11 Solo Recitals – Wednesday the 30th of May in the Lecture Theatre at 5pm**

Similar to our year 12 evening in scope and structure, this concert will feature Lauren Wain, Kate Templeton, Stephanie Schena, Jade Rendell, Matilda Lappin, Stephanie Kay, Connor Jenkinson, Cassie Forester, Jess Elliot, Laura Dye, Corey Cook and Liam Charleston

These concerts are the first step in our students preparing for their end of year performance assessments both as soloists and as members of our college ensembles. They are always wonderful evenings to share in the talents of our senior students. All parents, students and friends of the college are most welcome to join us.

Junior Choir

It would be great to see some new faces join our junior choir this year. We are in the unfortunate and unusual position of not having had any of our new year seven students join this wonderful group of singers. All students are very welcome, even people who have never tried singing before. There is no need to be having vocal lessons to join our choir. I really urge all parents of our junior campus students to give this some thought, our junior choir rehearses every Thursday morning before school at 7.45 in the music rooms at the St. Paul's Campus.

Please feel free to contact me either through email reidsha1@lavalla.vic.edu.au or phone **5174811** if you have any queries about any aspects of music at our college.



Collecting Cans! What For?

Each year the college supports the 'Give a Can' initiative sponsored by the Traralgon Rotary Club. Teams of students door knock the local neighbourhood and appeal for canned goods which are then delivered to the Society of St Vincent de Paul for distribution to those in the community who are struggling to make ends meet.

Last week, teams of students again went into the community seeking donations. Several hundred cans in the Kildare chapel and the foyer of the St Paul's campus give testimony to the generosity of local families. At the Kildare campus the spirit of giving will continue until the end of May with homerooms invited to contribute to the tally.

One might ask, "What has this got to do with education?"

I am reminded of the Emmaus story (Luke 24)...that profound life changing experience of the disciples' encounter with the risen Jesus on the dusty road to the village of Emmaus... when their eyes were opened and their hearts were burning within them. What a challenge this brings us to discover, recognise, awaken and grow in our awareness of the experiences or moments of encounter where we might discern the presence of God... moments of gratitude, goodness, compassion and kindness. These are God moments.

As Marists we believe that through our experience of the presence of God, our lives are given new meaning. Our challenge is to live the good news as we have experienced it and walk along side others, particularly those most in need in our world. We meet them just as they are...wherever they are.

Mr Mike Hansen

Director of Mission and Ministry

Lavalla Girls return to the Summit

Lavalla Catholic College has climbed to the top of the Marist Basketball mountain once again with the girl's team being able to exorcize their demons of the past three carnivals to win their ninth Marist Basketball Carnival.

Facing the rivalling Catholic College Sale, Lavalla laid the foundations of their victory through an exceptional first half to claim their first Championship win in four years with a 43-32 triumph.

After an even opening quarter, the girls dug deep with a solid defensive effort as Lavalla spurred to a 14-point half time lead (26-12) following a decisive 16-5 spree during the second period. The path to a Championship victory was momentarily obstructed as Sale turned up the intensity and managed to grind away at the deficit they faced.

Lavalla's early dominance on the game slowly evaporated with Sale showing more aggression and resolve to reduce the deficit back to 31-25 heading into the final period.

After Sale scored the opening basket of the final quarter to close within four points there was an eerie feeling lurking about the Runaway Bay stadium that Sale were about to storm the gates.

Instead, a pair of free throws by Casey Sheriff and some clutch shooting by Meghan Keast and Rebecca Jennings gave momentum back to Lavalla.

It was fitting that the girls Most Valuable Player for the Marist Carnival, Rebecca Jennings, would cap the game with the last points of the tournament.

It was great reward for three members of the team who were attending their last Carnival with the college.

Congratulations to coach Karen Joyce and all the players on their efforts in capturing the girl's title. Katelyn Somerville and Rebecca Jennings both received All-Star 5 selection and Rebecca was also named MVP of the carnival.

Alice Springs will host the 2013 Australian Marist Basketball Carnival with the students already looking forward to another fun-filled event.



Lavalla Boys maintain competitive spirit

Lavalla Catholic College boys' team competed strongly at the carnival.

They maintained their competitive nature as some results just failed to fall their way and finished with an emphatic 60-27 win in the play-off for 19th and 20th against Ashgrove.

An even opening term signalled a tough contest would ensue but the boys stepped up their intensity in the second quarter and blew the contest wide open with an 8-0 run.

They continued to build on this cushion with good transition basketball and were never really troubled during the second half. Lavalla coasted down the stretch to a 60-27 victory to close out their carnival campaign.

Congratulations to Chris Sutton on being named MVP for the Lavalla boys team.

Overall, the boys competed very well against quality opposition. The experience gained by some of the younger students will assist them for future carnivals.

Thank you to coach Chris Watson, for offering his services to fulfil this role, and Ross Sizeland as team manager.

An even bigger thank you to Ray Sutton for assisting with washing the uniforms and organising places to go out for dinner.



West End JFC

Wanted - Under 12 & Under 14 players for West End JFC.

Training nights are Mondays and Wednesdays – 4.30pm to 5.30pm at West End Complex, Grubb Avenue Traralgon.

Any queries please contact Sharleen Barry 5167 1551 or 0434 832 680.

Hockey Victoria Personal Development Sessions

On 23 May, 2012, Hockey Victoria (HV) will be holding PD session for teachers in Drouin. During the session HV will cover the basic techniques of hockey, small, active, fun games for students to play and tips on how to teach hockey in a fun and safe manner. This is a great opportunity to introduce a new sport to your school and students.

If you have any interest in taking part in a PD session, or for your school to host one, please contact Steve Campbell (School Programs Officer) scampbell@hockeyvictoria.org.au or 03 8379 4281.

May Events

Monday, May 14

Parent/Teacher meetings commence
Photo Day - St Paul's

Tuesday, May 15

NAPLAN testing (Yrs 7-9)
Senior ensemble performance

Friday, May 18

MSP - ZOO Youth leadership day

Monday, May 21

Cause Worth Week commences at Kildare
Year 7 Camp commences
Year 12 solo performances

Friday, May 25

SSV Tennis state finals

Tuesday, May 29

Year 11 solo performances

Wednesday, May 30

MSP - City camp commences



Year 8 visit to Monash University

On Thursday 26th April, Year 8s from St Paul's and Presentation campus attended Monash University for an information day about Tertiary Education.

Students spent time getting to know the campus, finding out what Monash has to offer and also working with students from the marketing department.

To round out the day, all students took part in a Drug Education program aimed at complementing the Year 8 Health curriculum. The focus was on 'Party Safe' and educating students in preventing and dealing with high risk behaviour.

Students appeared to have a fun and enlightening day.

Thanks to Joanne Matthews from Access Monash and Michelle Couling for sharing her Drug Education expertise on the day.



Suicide Prevention

Focus on the Family

Fundraising Dinner Friday 25th May with Speakers from Focus on the Family and Lifeline

Topics include:

- Indicators
- Understanding Mental Health
- Prevention
- Dealing with
- Creating a positive family environment

Heyfield Bowling Club
6.30pm for a 7pm start
\$20 per head—\$50 per family
Bookings Essential and Numbers are limited
Tickets available from Heyfield Resource Centre
Phone Heather or Julie on 51482100 until 21st
May to secure your ticket.

Lifeline

All proceeds to
Focus on the Family

FOCUS
THE FAMILY

MARCELLIN HOUSE
(ADMINISTRATION)
Costa Circle TRARALGON
Ph. (03) 5174 5272
Fax. (03) 5174 9235

KILDARE CAMPUS
Kosciuszko Street TRARALGON
Ph. (03) 5174 8111
Fax. (03) 5174 0783

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS
Grey Street TRARALGON
Ph. (03) 5174 7355
Fax. (03) 5174 1827

PRESENTATION CAMPUS
John Field Drive NEWBOROUGH
Ph. (03) 5127 1311
Fax. (03) 5127 7110

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