



NEWSLETTER

Lavalla Catholic College

26 August 2005

Dear Parents,

We can expect that as we go through life, we make mistakes and do the wrong thing. It is sometimes hard to get students to see that what they did was wrong. They don't always own up and sometimes try to push the blame onto others. The fear of the consequences not only didn't stop them doing the wrong thing; but it also leads them to compound the offence by lying.

Students often have before them regular media reports of citizens in trouble for doing the wrong thing and they hear and read about apologies (of sorts) from drivers to footballers proclaiming that they had done "a silly thing" and regretting the consequences of their act. "Spin doctors" are called in to explain it all away. Rarely do students experience someone admitting that what he or she did was plainly wrong.

The emphasis given to consequences and fear of consequences is not a good way of educating students to do the right thing. A student weeping because his/her parents will find out that he/she has done the wrong thing is weeping about the consequences, not about the wrong-doing.

If and when the fear of consequences dissolves, then students stand in danger of being in a moral vacuum that can lead to wrong doing. Moral education is something that we urgently need in schools and something which can be glossed over if we become fixated on consequences and fear of punishment.

Br Julian Casey
Principal

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

As usual things on campus have been busy. Last week Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Sharman and Mrs. Sutton organized a week of exciting activities to celebrate **Science Week**. Students had the chance to make things and participate in cool chemistry sessions. A large number of students managed to make a bridge from cards and a contraption that could protect an egg when it was dropped from a ladder. As well, we had a speed radar set up in the Champagnat Centre on Wednesday lunchtime for students to test their serving and throwing speeds. Everyone seemed to enjoy it! There was also

a display of optical illusions in the library, which fascinated students for hours! Thanks to all the teachers who helped supervise the activities at lunchtime.

This week we have had students and staff attending the **Melbourne Writers' Festival**. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to meet writers and to learn about their craft. These visits took place over two days. Thanks to Ms Lyons for organising these.

St Paul's (contd....)

The first of the **snow trips** took place on Monday and Thursday under what I am sure skiers would call ideal conditions. While they were long days 5:30am to 7:30pm, staff and students all had a great time. While I know these are enjoyable days, I would particularly like to thank the parents for arranging the drop offs and pick ups, the students for their cooperation and particularly the staff who give so willingly of their time.

On Wednesday we were delighted to be visited by the **Police Band**, which entertained us in the Champagnat Centre.

Family Life

Yr 9 students have participated in classroom sessions for Family Life through the week. It was very disappointing to note that many families did not bother replying to the invitation to attend Monday evening's parent session. Many families are looking for support in their parenting and this is one of the ways the College seeks to help. While I understand that it is not easy to find the time to

come to these evenings it only takes a few moments to at least indicate that you are un/available to attend. Mrs Collis did a wonderful job of presenting material to the four parents who came.

Raffle tickets

This week has seen the return of the raffle tickets, which are given to the students as rewards. Students receive tickets for good behaviour, proper wearing of the uniform, handing work in on time; in fact any positive behaviour that teachers want to encourage. The tickets give us another means of recognising those students who are truly co-operative and who live by the school motto.

"We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life, when all that we need to make us happy is something to be enthusiastic about."--Charles Kingsley

Lee McKenzie
Head of St Paul's Campus

PRESENTATION CAMPUS

Lack of snow has resulted in another postponement of our scheduled **Ski Trips**. We have one more opportunity next week on the 1 and 2 of September. Should the trips not go ahead all money will be refunded.

The **SRC** is holding a **Social** on 8 September between 7.00pm and 11.00pm. Security, DJ and Bands have been hired for the evening. Students at the St Paul's Campus are invited to attend. Tickets are \$7 presold or \$10 at the door. Prizes and give-aways will be a feature of the night.

Our Year 7, 8 and 9's went to Melbourne this week to attend the Writer's Festival. An account is included below:

"On the 22nd of August, students from both campuses took a day trip to the Melbourne Writers' Festival. For the first session we were divided into 2 groups for the "Written on Writers" and "A Girls World" session. Both groups saw – Sonya Hartnett, Isabelle

Carmody, Luke Kioske, Maureen McCarthy, Martine Murray and Penelope Todd. Then after a quick 5 minute break all of the year 8's saw "My Favorite Books" with Maureen McCarthy, James McCorney and Joshua Wright.

After lunch we saw "The Best of all Possible Worlds" with Carl Wilkinson, Cory Craw and Felicity Pulman.

Throughout these sessions writers talked about themselves, what helped them to write and many other things. But a few of us were disappointed in how many of the authors barely gave any advice. Despite this many people received something to remember and prizes were given away and questions were asked by the audience.

The Writers Festival is a very different experience and I encourage others to go next time."

(By Matthew Schembri)

Brother Bill has been working at the campus for the past 8 months. He has included the following:

“As a volunteer I have been asked to be part of a scheme to develop Life Skills as part of the curriculum for students at Presentation Campus under the direction of Mrs Margaret Gaulton.

Term 1 saw us developing an area for a garden to provide herbs and vegetables for the Food Technology Department. This involved digging out Kouch grass, levelling, fertilizing, building retainer walls and eventually planting. At times, the group was involved in spreading mulch and cleaning other areas.

Term 2 saw the group renovating an old, rusty car trailer and bringing it to a state where it looked like new. This will be used by the senior students.

At the suggestion of one of the students, the skills being used this term involve the renovation of old bicycles. The aim is to eventually give these to needy families in the surrounding area. So far, we have 7 or 8 bicycles given to us by Br Anthony and some parents. Spare parts have been given to the group by the management of Milards Bike Shop in Traralgon. Our grateful thanks go out to these generous people.”

A final reminder to all parents that **intention forms for 2006** should now be in. All students in Year 8 and 9 have entered their subject selection online in the past week. Should you require information on any aspect of 2006 please contact the College during office hours.

Yours in the Spirit of Strong Minds and Compassionate Hearts

*Chris O'Brien
Head of Campus*

Secondhand Uniform Shop

As the third Thursday of next month is the last day of school, the secondhand uniform shop will not open. They will, however, open it on the first Thursday of term 4, 6th October and, as usual, the third Thursday, 20th October

LATROBE VALLEY EISTEDDFOD RESULTS

Congratulations to all of our singers in both the Junior and Senior Choirs who performed at the Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod last Thursday (18th of August). Our Junior Choir came third in section 308 (Open Choral Group) and second in section 307 (Choral Group under the age of 20). This is a wonderful effort from these students who were one of the youngest groups performing that night. A fine effort from Miss Huang and our junior singers.

Our Senior Choir was very successful on the night with second place in section 308 (Open Choral Group). The Senior Choir was also

successful this year in winning back the big one! The J.P. Gippsland Championship Cup is back at Lavalla after the Senior Choir finished first in section 306 (Secondary School Choir). This is a wonderful achievement from our Senior Choir and fitting acknowledgement of their excellent work this year. My sincere thanks to Mrs. Sophy Morley who has accompanied both choirs this year and Mr. Ernie Rijs who has again been a great support member for the Senior Choir.

*Shane Reid
Director of Music*

Eisteddfod (contd...)

In the Open Speech and Drama (Character Solo) Section, students from the Drama classes entered the Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod also. All performed creditably.

Cameron Cook (performing a character from *Bedlam*) was placed first, **Katie Webb** (from *Doll's House*) came second and **Zachary Ruane** (from *MacBeth*) was awarded third

place. This is yet another example of the great work that can be achieved by dedicated teachers and motivated students who are prepared to put in efforts above and beyond the requirements of their daily curriculum. Congratulations to these students and to their teacher Ms. Tripodi.

E ducation Forum For Parents

At our next meeting on **Monday September 5th** at the **St Paul's Campus library at 7.30pm.**, we will be farewelling Br Julian. Br Julian has been a great support to our group and we would like to set this night aside to wish him well with his new position and future.

He will, as always, be giving his principal's report which is always informative, followed by a light supper. This would be a good opportunity for parents to say good-bye and good luck.

CANTEEN ROSTER

	St Paul's	Kildare
Mon 29 Aug	D Berryman, K Manson	L Barrett, (help wanted)
Tue 30 Aug	W Heiser, K Stephenson	B Boothman, M Northover
Wed 31 Aug	H Stoddart (help wanted)	D Webb, S Eccles
Thu 1 Sept	A Mooney, M Donovan	M Whitty, (help wanted)
Fri 2 Sept	P Brown, S Brady (help wanted)	A Prezioso, J Kivisalu

NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR DATES

AUGUST

Sun 28 – Tue 30
Wed 31

Snow Trip to Mt Hotham – Kildare Campus
GCSSSA Cross Country Championships

SEPTEMBER

Sun 4 – Mon 12

Yr 11 "Discover" Immersion at Lytentye Apurte, N.T.

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