



NEWSLETTER

Lavalla Catholic College

18 May 2007

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Students

The International Day of Families, celebrated on the 15th May is a day observed by the United Nations honouring the importance of families throughout the world. Last week we honoured our mothers by celebrating Mother's Day which co-incidentally falls within National Families week. The month of May is also Mary's month where we say the Rosary praying to God through Mary our good Mother. Marist schools also focus on developing a sense of family and connecting to God through Mary being two of our fundamental underpinnings.

One of the most amazing things about my job is that I often meet very interesting and influential people; People that make a difference to other peoples' lives and people who have political, economic and educational clout. One cannot help but be impressed by their achievements and to admire their determination and success but in recent weeks, none have been more impressive and extraordinary than the mothers and the fathers I have met. For various reasons I have had difficult and challenging conversations with some parents regarding the general well being and behaviour of their adolescent child. In partnership, we were able to work together with the child to ensure the best outcome for all. What was inspirational about these conversations and relationships was the parents' unrelenting commitment to their child; the breadth and depth of their unconditional love and the power of their hopeful spirit.

It served as a good reminder that as a College we need parents to work in partnership with us, to share and be committed to the same Christian values mindful that even if adolescents try to stand independently, they are always reliant upon us – their family and their teachers- to help guide them through the rocky parts of their journey. Take the time to celebrate the International Day of Families if you have not done so already and give thanks to God, through Mary, for the gift of your family.

School Renewal Day – Pupil Free Day – Friday 18th May

On Friday, all members of staff will be gathering at the Presentation Campus to reflect upon, discern and articulate the College's Mission for the next five years. This is part of our School Renewal programme and will be the first of three days that will be dedicated to this work this year.

Enrolment Period 2008

Applications for enrolment from the current Grade 6 students for the Year 7 intake in 2008 for both Presentation Campus and the St Paul's Campus are now open and will close at the end of May. Please direct all enquires to the Registrar – Mrs Jean Jennings at the St Paul's Campus.

Billeting for the AMSA Netball Competition

Thank you; there has been an overwhelming response to our call last fortnight. We still need to accommodate approximately 20 students. Please contact Mr Steve Erdely urgently if you are able to assist.

Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal

St Paul's Campus

The Campus is humming. Winter brings footy season, and the sound of young people playing. The campus has got really busy with a number of activities designed to enhance learning.

Grade 6 Visits

The year 7 Co-ordinators, Mrs. Barrett and Ms. McCullagh, and I have visited the Grade 6 students in the Catholic primary schools. The students have responded enthusiastically. In return, the Grade 6 students have spent a morning at the campus, engaging in some classes and getting a feel for learning at Lavalla. The feedback from the students has been good.

Open Day

Open Day is always exciting. This year proved no different. It's always fun to have visitors to see the Campus at work. At reception the student guides greeted the visitors and escorted them around the campus. They also entered some classes to see the lessons in progress. As usual the visitors commented glowingly about the conduct and answers of students.

Medieval Day

On 3rd May time was reversed as Presentation Campus became a medieval place and our Year 8 students entered the Middle Ages. The aim of the day was to enrich their understanding of life in medieval Europe. Students were organised into groups and participated in activities and workshops. In Tourney, an armed Knight challenged a number of students, armed with wooden swords, to hit him. At one stage the 'knight' sat down, drank a cup of tea with one hand and beat off the challenge of the attacking students with the other. The students were startled to see that none of them could harm him, while they were easily dispatched. They understood the power of the knight. Crime, Armour, Dance, food, Fashion and Dress gave them a fascinating insight into life in medieval times. Thanks to the meticulous planning by Ms. Widrich and her team and the hospitality of the Presentation staff, the students enjoyed the learning experience.

Athletics Carnival

For the first time the athletes from the three campuses took part in the College Athletics Carnival at the Joe Carmody Athletics Track in Moe on 4 May. Altogether, over 400 hundred students participated, about 220 from St. Paul's. The general consensus is that this event was very successful; it ran smoothly and participants, especially the elite athletes, reached a high level of performance. More information will be given in the forthcoming sports bulletin.

Junior Footy (Year 7 & Boys)

The Junior Boys footy team played at Sale on 9 May 2007 and advanced to the next round of the Catholic All Schools Competition at Ferntree Gully, Melbourne. They beat Nagle College and Sale Secondary College by large margins, but lost narrowly to Catholic College, Sale. Mitch Aucote won the Medallion for Best Player of the tournament. Best Players: Mitch Aucote, Lockie Williams, Chris Williams, Tim Membrey, Robert Spector, Michael Di Dio, Jack Doderico and James Cook.

Year 7 Museum Visits

'Fabulous' is a word used often in connection with the 'Great Wall of China' and the 'Bunjilaka' Exhibitions at the Melbourne Museum. This excursion links up with the study of Ancient civilisation in Contact, and connects with the learning on Australian culture. By the end of May all year 7 homeroom would have visited the Museum, and we hope come back enriched.

Year 9 Camp to Tamboritha

Mudslides and Rock slides have closed the road to Tamboritha, and in the interests of student safety the Year 9 camp to Tamboritha, scheduled for May have been postponed to Term 4. A circular to this effect has been sent to the parents of the year 9 students. The Staff are currently arranging suitable dates in Term 4 and parents will be kept informed.

*Mr Chris Roga
Campus Director*

Curriculum News

Competitions underway for all campuses

Seventy Year 7 & 8 students and a number of Year 9 & 10 students participated in the **ICAS Science competition** held last Thursday. The results of this competition provide comprehensive feedback in several aspects of scientific knowledge and reasoning. **The ICAS Maths competition** will take place on Wednesday 23rd May, with the **Spelling and English competitions** further down the track. (*Enquiries maybe directed to Mrs Kim Widrich, Ms Lisa Williams & Ms Kimberley Stewart, Curriculum Team Members*).

Great Sponsorship Opportunity

Applications for a chance to participate in the **Australian National University Winter School** will close by 31st May. This is open to year 11 students who have a strong interest in mathematics and science. The successful applicant will be fully sponsored (interstate travel and accommodation costs) by a Rotary Club. Students who feel they would benefit from this experience should contact *Ms Natalia Nadsadina* as soon as possible.

*Mrs Rita Nainie
Curriculum Director*

Presentation Campus

On Thursday and Friday of last week the Grade 6s from St Mary's and St Kieran's experienced life at Secondary School. All students did one hour of Food Technology class with Mrs. Fredrickson and Mrs. DiSavia, and then toured the Campus. In the coming weeks our year 7 SRC representatives will spend a morning with the Grade 6s taking them through the Timetable and Student Planner.

Lavalla Catholic College Year 7's Visit the Great Wall of China Exhibition

Throughout the month of May, over 260 Year 7 students from Lavalla Catholic College have had the opportunity to visit the Melbourne Museum and to view the Great Wall of China exhibition currently showing.

Individual classes have also taken the opportunity to explore a range of exhibits including the Bunjilaka Indigenous Exhibit, the Australia Gallery, the Southern Diversity Exhibition, Bugs Alive and the Mind and Body Galleries while at the Museum.

The highlight of these visits has been learning about the enthralling story of the many dynasties that began the walls that make up the Great Wall of China today. Students have been exposed to a rich selection of artwork and examples of ancient technology. Rare artifacts, detailed models, reproductions and multi-media presentations have entertained all visitors and have provided the students with a wealth of information and opportunities for exploration into this fascinating field of Chinese history.

Having been inspired by their Museum experience, all Year 7 classes are now planning their own museum presentations, required of students to integrate a range of skills from across the VELS curriculum.

Yours in the Spirit of Strong Minds and Compassionate Hearts.

*Mr Chris O'Brien
Campus Director*

Countdown for the Victorian Premier's Challenge

All Year 7-9 students have been registered in this reading marathon, which is part of the wider reading program in the English curriculum for the first three school terms. Please encourage your child's efforts to keep up with the recommended reading. *(Mrs Jeananne Brown, teacher-librarian, may be contacted for further information).*

Kildare Campus

We are close to the half-way mark of term 2 and there are a few tired faces around the campus. Year 12s are busily preparing for their mid-year exams. Revision classes and practice exams will commence soon to prepare our students for their VCE Exams. Year 11s have settled in to classes and their workload has steadily increased. Our Year 10s are back from work experience with a renewed forward focus. Winter is starting to rear its head and we all pray for rain.

Equal Opportunity

This term we have seen a few students not always thinking through their actions and the impact they can have on each other. I thought it a good time to remind students of some of their responsibilities when being part of a community. Homeroom mentors led students through an Equal Opportunity information sheet.

In it we outlined each student's right to a 'fair go'. Treating others unfairly (discriminating against them) or harassing (hassle or pick on) someone because of their race, religious beliefs, sex, age or sexual orientation is not acceptable in any community. At Lavalla Catholic College we believe that every student has a right to be part of a safe and inclusive school that is free of bullying, discrimination, sexual harassment, and vilification. If you are aware of any incidents please feel free to ring the Campus.

Within the next few weeks the Kildare Campus will be asking all students to complete a survey addressing the above points. Everybody deserves a 'fair go'.

Bee's a buzzin'

Quinn McGennisken, the Victorian Champion of the *Australian-New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge*, is preparing to attend the International Brain Research Organisation convention in Melbourne from July 13 - 16. During this time she will also compete in the final round of this Challenge, being the only female to make it through. Quinn, a Year 11 student studying Year 12 Psychology, is currently preparing for this event, which will test an understanding of the gross anatomy of the human brain and involve patient diagnosis of neurological disorders. We express our support to Quinn as she prepares for the challenge, and wish her all the best for the National Final.

Student Achievements

We recently had a number of students attend our staff morning tea. It was an opportunity for our staff to acknowledge and praise some of the achievements of particular students. They seemed to enjoy the 'cuppa' and the food that was provided in their honour.

*Mr Marco Di Cesare
Campus Director*

Forthcoming Events

MAY

- 21 May **St Paul's Information Night (7.30pm-9.00pm)**
 21-23 May Year 9.3 Tamboritha Camp [SP]
 23 May Year 7.8 Museum Excursion [SP]
 23-25 May Year 9.7 Tamboritha Camp [SP]
 24 May Year 10 Diocese and Justice Camp [K]
 28-30 May Year 9.4 Tamboritha Camp [SP]
 29 May Years 9.2 & 9.3 ArtsConnect Excursion [SP]
 30 May GCSSSA Athletics (Moe)
 Year 9 Humanities Excursion [P]
 Year 12 Drama Workshop [K]
 Year 9.1 & 9.5 ArtsConnect Excursion [SP]
 30 May-1 Year 9.2 Tamboritha Camp [SP]
 31 May Year 9.6 & 9.7 ArtsConnect Excursion [SP]

JUNE

- 1 June Enrolments Close Year 7, 2008**
 1 June Year 9.4 ArtsConnect Excursion [SP]
 5 June School Photographs [K]
 6 June School Photographs [SP]
 7 June School Photographs [P]
 11 June Queens Birthday – Public Holiday
 12-13 June VCE Exam
 14 June VCE Exam – GAT
 15 June Curriculum and Report Writing Day – SFD
 17-19 June Intermediate Band Camp
 24-27 June **Marist Netball Carnival**
 28 June Parent Teacher Interviews (4.00pm-7.00pm)
 29 June Last Day Term 2

JULY

- 16 July Student Free Day
17 July First Day Term 3 commences

YEAR 7 2008 ENROLMENTS

Enrolment applications have been posted to parents for students attending **State Primary Schools** in Grade 6 who are siblings of Lavalla students.

If you have omitted to inform the St Paul's Campus of a **sibling attending Grade 6 at a State Primary School**, or if you have not received your package in the mail, please telephone Jean Jennings at the St Paul's Campus office immediately. (51747355)

Other students attending State Primary Schools should register their name on the enrolment application list by telephoning St Paul's Campus. **Applications must be completed before the deadline of June 1st.**

Our final Information Evening is scheduled:

INFORMATION EVENING

- Venue:** St Paul's Campus - Lecture Theatre
Dates: Monday 21st May - 7.30pm

Alpha

Alpha is a twelve (12) week course about the basics of Christianity, and is soon to begin at St Michael's Parish, Traralgon.

The course will begin with an introductory dinner in the St Michael's Parish Centre on Wednesday 30th May at 6.30pm. You are welcome to come along and see for yourself what is involved.

The course then continues each Wednesday evening, commencing with a dinner at 6.30pm, and Thursday mornings, commencing with morning tea at 10.30am. We show an interest and entertaining video presentation followed by a non-threatening discussion time in small groups.

Information brochures are available in the College Reception or the foyers of the Church, or phone Sheila on 5174 3851 for more information.

CANTEEN ROSTER

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

- Mon 21 May M. Korsak, R. Salleh
 Tue 22 May C. Towns, J. Gregg
 Wed 23 May L. Hodder, E. Panayiotou
 Thu 24 May M. Bird, (help required)
 Fri 25 May F. Webb, (help required x 2)
 Mon 28 May W. Heiser, (help required)
 Tue 29 May C. Morgan, K. Licciardi
 Wed 30 May S. Jones, M. Whitty
 Thu 31 May A. Mooney, (help required)
 Fri 1 June M. Holt, L. Zalesiak, (help required)

KILDARE CAMPUS

- Mon 21 May I. Gregson, S. Jacobs
 Tue 22 May A. Dorrington, (help required)
 Wed 23 May S. Bridges, (help required)
 Thu 24 May C. Shippen, H. Stoddart
 Fri 25 May P. Johnston, (help required)
 Mon 28 May K. Manson, D. Berryman
 Tue 29 May H. Van Berkel, K. Dugan
 Wed 30 May J. Rowe, (help required)
 Thu 31 May V. Sammut, (help required)
 Fri 1 June L. Weckmann, (help required)

Postal address	Marcellin House Admin	Kildare Campus	Presentation Campus	St Paul's Campus
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