



NEWSLETTER

Lavalla Catholic College

12 August 2005

Dear Parents,

Monday 15th is an important celebration time in the life of the Church. The tradition we celebrate is called the Assumption of Mary and is actually a public holiday in places like France, Italy and Philippines and it is celebrated properly at the College. We need to recognize its importance in our calendar and try to understand its meaning.

This feast is a long tradition that goes back many centuries in the Church both of the East and West. The Assumption of Mary, the mother of Jesus, celebrates the fullness of Mary's life in union with God. It is a celebration which opens up for us the realization of what God's love can create in our lives and reminds us of the hope which comes to us from this event.

For the Christian, just as for everyone else, there will still be sickness, senseless hurt, broken dreams, and cold, lonely seasons when love is far away. We have never been promised heaven on earth. But we do find ourselves yearning for fullness of life, for an end to limitations, compromises and the struggles that characterize our present existence. We often feel landlocked in space and time.

But this will not be permanent. The time will come to each of us when we are summoned forth to our eternal destiny, to fullness of life. It's a radical, faith-filled hope and it is a far cry from the popular images of clouds, harps and angels, which can be a bit embarrassing for many Christians. The celebration of the Assumption of Mary is a timely reminder about our hope of eternity. Just as the blossoms, which are appearing during this wet and chilly winter, are a happy reminder that Spring is soon to come, so too does our celebration of Mary's fullness of life with God give us hope in God's presence in our lives and a promise of what is to come for us.

Br Julian Casey
Principal

EXPO of COURSES and CAREERS

We have just finished our Expo of Courses and Careers and I would like to especially thank our staff members who have put so much work into this presentation. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents and students to see the content of the courses and to come to an understanding of the various options that are open to students. Anne English, despite being unwell, was responsible for the leadership of this event and I am sure that we are most appreciative of her efforts in this area. Thank you Anne.

We have now reached that time when students must decide about courses for next year. Generally speaking healthy choices are not made by people who just bob along, letting the current of life take them wherever it will. Good choices are the result of reflection, discussion and decision. So it is important to take this time with the utmost seriousness.

Br Julian Casey, Principal

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

The Yr 8 camps are now complete. As usual, we were delighted with and proud of the behaviour of the students. In coming weeks we will be evaluating the camps and would appreciate any feedback you can give us. I would particularly like to thank the staff who gave their time to make these camps a success; particular thanks to **Ms Eva Amezquita** and **Mr Michael Archipow**, the Yr 8 Coordinators, for their efforts.

Music News

Congratulations to **Miss Huang** and the Junior Choir who received **first place** in the Open Choir Section and **second place** in the Secondary School Choir section of the **Yarram Eisteddfod**. Many hours of dedicated practice have been rewarded. I wish all our musicians, singers and performers well for the rest of the Eisteddfod season.

Team Photos

On Tuesday, August 16th, those students who have been involved in various team activities will have group photos taken.

Dare to be Different

Thanks to **Mrs Kaylene Mustoe** and **7.1** for inspiring us with a Dare to be Different day. The students took the opportunity to step outside their comfort zones and also raised some funds for the Marist Missions- well done. We are most grateful to Mrs Mustoe for the enthusiasm with which she is filling Miss Kathy Matters' shoes. Miss Matters is continuing her treatment and enjoying good health.

Recycling

Mr Dan Caffrey and a team of staff have begun an aluminium-recycling initiative on the campus. We believe that it is important that students learn to conserve and recycle resources so that they can enjoy a prosperous, sustainable future. This is quite aside from the gain of a tidier campus.

"I would rather be able to appreciate things I can not have than to have things I am not able to appreciate.--E lbert Hubbard

Lee McKenzie
Head of St Paul's Campus

PRESENTATION CAMPUS

Now **Expo** is finished our Year 9's will go 'on line' next week to select their Year 10 subjects for 2006. I encourage all parents to discuss this important decision with their son or daughter before Thursday 18th August.

Congratulations to the winners of the **Year 10 2006 Subject Selection Quiz**:

Shane Lebbe, Rita Chandra, Nicole Bortignon, Kirsten Larkins, Johanna Stephens

Intention Forms for all Years 7, 8 and 9 students were handed out on Monday. Please attend to these and return them by the due date.

We have introduced a **Mobile Phone Agreement Form**. If you son or daughter has a phone at school you are asked to complete this form. Copies have been sent home. 30 have been returned to date.

Uniform is being worn well by the majority of students. It is a requirement of the College that all students wear the correct items of uniform and adhere to our jewellery expectations. Hopefully the excuses of: 'it's in the wash', 'couldn't find it', 'I didn't know that', 'I thought it was PE' will be a thing of the past.

Snow trips have been postponed again due to the lack of snow. The next possible dates are 24th and 25th August.

Our Year 7's went to **Starlab** this week as part of their Science Program. The presentation focused on the Earth's Travel in Space, Stars in the Night Sky and the Columbia Expedition. We congratulate students on their behaviour and response to this activity.

Last week **Year 7 students participated in the Achievement Improvement Monitor (AIM)** which is a statewide assessment and reporting program in English and Maths. In recent years, Australian governments have resolved to see that student literacy and numeracy levels of skill are raised and the AIM is part of this move. But a test alone cannot bring about improvements, just as measuring yourself will not make you grow taller.

Used well, the AIM results can contribute to improving learning outcomes by providing information that is a **part** (only) of a total learning picture.

Used on their own the results do not give a complete indication of any child's abilities in Maths and English - it must be kept in mind that the tests indicate what each child can do on a particular day with a particular set of requirements under a particular set of circumstances. However, used in conjunction with a whole program of assessments, AIM results can provide very useful information.

Therefore, governments and education systems can use the results to get a broad idea of numeracy and literacy standards, teachers can use them as an instrument of comparison with other assessments and parents can check results against reports received from schools. With a comprehensive collection of assessment results that includes the AIM, schools can appropriately adjust their curriculum to meet the learning needs of their students, paving the way for skills improvement. This is very much what occurs at our college.

Yours in the Spirit of Strong Minds and Compassionate Hearts

Chris O'Brien
Head of Campus

KILDARE CAMPUS

Expo 2005

The Expo was very well attended and now the process to enrol for 2006 will begin. I have mentioned in several newsletters recently the importance of parents and students observing all our internal deadlines.

In particular, I would encourage all students to return their Intention Forms along with the \$25 enrolment deposit by the due dates: **Years 10 and 12 (2006) by Friday, August 12 (today) and Year 11 (2006) by Monday, August 15.**

Students will not be able to enrol without having brought along the deposit. A late fee will apply for those students who do not meet this requirement.

Since enrolment will be completed online, a program commencing on Wednesday, August 17 and concluding on Friday, August 19 will be put in place for the Year 10's and 11's to re-enrol for next year. Late enrolments will take place at a later date the following week once the late fee has been paid.

Kildare (contd....)

Motivational Speaker

Last Thursday, **Tom Hafey**, former VFL/AFL Coach came to speak with the Year 12 students. His energetic message was simply about “having a go” at all things in life. His formula for success: **Desire + Dedication + Determination + Discipline = Destiny**. Tom is a strong advocate for not using drugs of any kind, has never smoked, consumed alcohol or used any illicit drugs himself and at the age of 74 still pursues a daily fitness regime of running 10 kilometres, swimming in the Bay, 200 push ups, 600 crunches and gymnasium work that would leave many men forty years his junior gasping for breath.

He was inspirational and many students have commented on this. In closing the gathering, I encouraged all students, that since the mid-year exams were finished, Unit 3 was completed and that Unit 4 had

well and truly begun, it was time to refocus, for some to get back on track, to revisit goals and to continue with the work of pursuing dreams for the future. For some, this will mean that they might need to set new goals, for others, to begin to understand the importance of a good finish to the year, and for others yet again, to come to the realisation that there are only eight (8) school weeks remaining until the end of classes for Year 12.

Tom’s visit was sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank and our guests for the day from the bank were Mr Andrew Beugelhall, (Regional Manager), Mrs. Anne Wilson (Manager) and Mrs. Katrina Guerin (Traralgon Branch Manager) and I am grateful to them for their support.

Peter Schneider
Head of Kildare Campus

Calendar Dates for Coming Week

Mon 15	Feast of the Assumption Yr 10 and 12 (2006) – re-enrolment forms due
Tue 16	College Cross Campus Photos
Fri 19	Victorian Netball Championships Year 10 “Discover” Camp

CANTEEN ROSTER

	St Paul’s	Kildare
Mon 15 Aug	G Hastie, T Roberts	C Jackiw, J Adams
Tue 16 Aug	V Sammut, S Brady	M Byl, G Breed
Wed 17 Aug	M Lowe, R Salleh	M Fievez, A Fletcher
Thu 18 Aug	V Sammut (help wanted)	P Radovich (help wanted)
Fri 19 Aug	D Buckley, P Brown, L Mills	I Koolen (help wanted)

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