

LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



16 October 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers

From the Principal's Desk

There is so much news to share with you this fortnight but firstly welcome back to the last term of the school year. The first thing I noticed on my return from Italy was the wonderfully green, lush hills of Gippsland and the burgeoning spring. The good rainfall has brought with it a surge of hope to our farmers and broader community that it is hard not to feel buoyant about starting the term.



(Oceania Delegates)

I had a very positive and personally rewarding experience at the XXI General Chapter of the Marist Brothers in Rome. The days were demanding, requiring a high level of concentration as we tried to cope with four languages being simultaneously translated and coming to terms with the different realities of the Marist world. In fact, there were many similarities in the challenges that the Marist world faces and great strength in the diversity. The ten lay participants felt privileged for having been invited and we were encouraged to fully participate in the discerning of the future direction of our mission and ministries. Apart from determining the future direction of the Institute, the Chapter also elects the new Superior General and his Council. We congratulate **Br Emili Turú** who was elected as the Superior General and **Br Joe McKee** as the Vicar General. Staff and students will remember **Br Emili** from his visit to our College last August. We ask God's every blessing on his work and leadership of the Marist world.



(Br Emili and Br Joe)

I take this opportunity to thank **Ms Lee McKenzie** for generously accepting the role as Acting Principal in my absence and for the calm and clear manner in which she carried out the role. For her generous spirit and hard work, I am truly appreciative.

Ms Erica Pegorer
PRINCIPAL

Coster Circle TRARALGON
Ph: (03) 5174 5272
Fax: (03) 5174 9235

Mr Marco Di Cesare
KILDARE CAMPUS DIRECTOR (Yr 10-12)
Kosciuszko Street, TRARALGON
Ph: (03) 5174 8111
Fax: (03) 5174 0783

Mrs Leanne Mills
PRESENTATION CAMPUS DIRECTOR (Yr 7-9)
John Field Drive, NEWBOROUGH
Ph: (03) 5127 1311
Fax: (03) 5127 7110

Mr Chris Roga
ST PAUL'S CAMPUS DIRECTOR (Yr 7-9)
Grey Street, TRARALGON
Ph: (03) 5174 7355
Fax: (03) 5174 1827

POSTAL ADDRESS:
PO Box 1080
TRARALGON 3844

Bishop Prowse will open the memorial garden

On Tuesday 20th October, **Bishop Prowse** will visit all three campuses of the College. At the Kildare Campus he will bless and open the memorial garden. During the liturgy we will honour the contribution of **Ms Maree Dargie** who was a teacher at the College some 10 years ago and more recently, **Ms Natalia Nadsadina** who you will remember passed away in June. Please consider this an invitation to attend any campus to meet Bishop Prowse and/or to attend the opening of the memorial garden. The Bishop will be at the Presentation Campus at 10.00am; Kildare at 11.00am and St Paul's after 1.30pm. For catering purposes please inform the Campus receptionist if you are planning on attending the opening of the memorial garden.

College Raffle

We urge families to return sold or unsold raffle tickets to the appropriate campus this week. It is a legal requirement that all tickets registered need to be accounted for and so if you have lost your tickets you will need to complete a Statutory Declaration declaring the tickets lost. Each campus office has a Statutory Declaration form that you could use. It will be necessary for the College to make contact with you if your tickets have not been returned.

I also take this opportunity to thank those conscientious and diligent families who have worked hard to ensure their tickets were sold. Raising money is always a challenge; more particularly difficult this year with the economic downturn but it is the only way the College will be able to provide additional resources for your children, while keeping school fees affordable. There is still time to sell your tickets if you have not done so. **The raffle will be drawn at the Champagnat Centre on 5th November.**

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Year 12 - Finishing

Our Year 12 students are entering their last week of formal schooling. It is lovely to see them proudly wearing their rugby tops and working with the staff to organise appropriate farewell functions. Parents and friends are invited to the final assembly on Thursday 22 October at the St Paul's Campus and to the final mass later that evening at St Michael's.

The formal graduation dinner will be held at the end of November. These are important rituals that help students with the transition from school to post-school and it is important that parents and families are also part of this transition.

I look forward to meeting you at these significant functions and am saddened that for some families it will be the last time we meet together in the Lavalla community.

College Award Night

This is early notification that the College Award's night is being held on Monday 7th December at the Champagnat Centre at the St Paul's Campus. Please keep this night free and attend this held on Monday 7th December at the Champagnat Centre at the St Paul's Campus. Please keep this night free and attend this affirming ceremony that recognises our students' achievements. This is a proud night for students, parents and their teachers.

Congratulations to the new College Leaders

We are delighted to announce that the new College leaders for 2010 are **Brooke Ward** and **Joey Black** and **Andrew Ware** and **Kosta Psinas**.



Presentation Campus

**Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal**

Well the excitement around Campus at the end of term was connected to the promise of a welcome break. However for the 18 students, 6 staff and 1 parent who were to take part in the New Zealand tour it was one with a difference.

Flying out on Sunday 20th to Auckland ahead was the experience of 6 days of Marist story, Maori culture and general tourist fun. **Br Terence Costello** accompanied us and wrote this account of our first couple of days for NZ October Marist News.

“Our journey began with a brief visit and ritual at the graves of Thomas and Mary Poynton. The story of Mary Poynton going to Sydney from the Hokianga Bay area to have her children baptized is a very significant part of the story of Bishop Pompallier's arrival in New Zealand and of the arrival of the Marists.

From there it was north through the Waipoua Forest with a stop to see Tane Mahuta a huge Kauri tree and on to Opononi for the first night. Before dinner the group was led through a reflection on Pompallier's arrival into the Hokianga Harbour. The reflection was held on the beach at Opononi from where there is a very clear view of the mouth of the harbour through which Pompallier sailed.



The next morning it was across the harbour on the ferry and then onto Motuti to view Pomallier's casket. The custodian of the church at Motuti made the group very welcome and with appropriate prayer and waiata, the casket was raised and two very moving testimonies were given about the significance to the Maori of the Hokianga of having Pompallier resting in their midst.”

Add to this mix our Jet boat ride to pass though the Hole in the Rock, a Maori Hangi, traditional welcome and performance, a visit to the thermal park, several enthusiastic “luge” riders and a visit to Hobbiton (Lord of the Rings film site) to name but a few and you will understand the time went quickly.

Now, along with all the others in our community it is back to finishing our curriculum and skill development in style.

We ask that parents encourage their sons and daughters to make the most of these next few weeks so that they can feel justifiably proud of their achievements in 2009.

**Ms Leanne Mills
Campus Director**

Second Hand Book and Uniform Shop.

NEXT OPEN

Thursday 19th November

Hours: 3.30pm – 6.00pm

Shop located at: St.Paul's Campus
Payment options: Cash, Cheque or EFTPOS
Please have all Uniform Items to be sold in by the

Kildare Campus

Each term seems to be busier than the last. These two weeks have been action packed. We have had NET Retreats, Graduation Meetings, Excursions, Guest Speakers, Preparatory Exams, Captain Speeches..... All in a fortnight. It is busier than usual for our Year 12 students and teachers. They are coming to the end of their formal secondary education and we pray that these last weeks will re-enforce the learning that has taken place during the year.

Year 12

All parents of Year 12 received a letter outlining our events and expectations for the concluding rituals. Last year the media highlighted some of the difficulties that schools and communities can face at this time of the year. I have been grateful to our past Year 12 students for the way they conducted themselves at this time. These last weeks are a time to acknowledge the last 6 years of their education. They need to remain focussed on their education and their longer term goals. There are some changes to their programme for next week and I encourage you to speak to your young adult about what is planned for them. My letter outlines the College expectation and I am confident in our students and their conduct for next week.

Lavalla Restaurant Night

On **Thursday 29th October at 6.30pm** our Unit 1 and 2 Hospitality students will be catering. They have fed us splendidly the last two

times and I am looking forward to appreciating their cooking once more. Please contact either **Tamsin McCormack** or **Sharyne Malone** on 51748111 if you are interested in purchasing a ticket. This needs to occur prior to the night to ensure that we are not over-booked. \$25 a head and it is 50/50 menu (alternate serve).

ICAS Results

Congratulations to the following students for their achievements in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS)

Distinction:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Yr 10 English | – Keena Fresno |
| | – Erin Tatlow |
| Yr 10 Science | – Billy Duncan |
| | – Robert Sutton |
| Yr 10 Mathematics | – Billy Duncan |
| Yr 10 Writing | – Rhys McDonald |
| Yr 11 Mathematics | – Thomas Gauci and Kosta Psinas |

High Distinction:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Yr 10 Mathematics | – Robert Sutton |
| Yr 11 English | – Joey Black |

St Paul's Campus

Mr Marco DiCesare
Campus Director

Term Four began with howling winds, rain and wild weather. Old hands on the staff wisely nodded their heads and said, "This is how spring used to be." Others said, "I haven't seen water in the paddocks since the floods in the 90s." The weather has already caused us to postpone the Year 9.1 camp. But it has been lovely to see the rain cascading down and thinking of the dams and reservoirs filling up.

On a more work-based note; by 19 October all students should be in summer uniform. Wearing the correct uniform signals that the child is ready and prepared to learn. I ask all parents to endure that children come to school in the right uniform. If not, consequences follow and I expect parents to uphold the college expectations.

Mobile Phones are emerging as an increasing nuisance. While we understand they are a good means of communication between parents and children outside school, school work and activities do not yet require the use of mobile phones. The campus practice for a number of years has been, "We do not see them and we do not hear them." I thank the parents for supporting us over the years in this area. If some students choose to misuse the phones we have to accept that they have deliberately made a choice to do so. In such cases the phone will be confiscated, kept at the office and returned personally to parents. Repeated offences will incur stronger responses.

This is the final term for our year 9s. They have been with us for 11 terms. I wish them the best for their 12th – and best – term yet.

Year 7 visits Tarra Bulga

For Contact and Science Year 7.1 and 7.3 went to Tarra Bulga National Park to learn about rainforests and ecosystems. The students were excited, especially as it was pouring with rain! On the bus trip up, the students were amazed at how much land was burned by the bushfires in February. They spotted new life growing out of black trunks. At the park they participated in making a scale map of a small area that Mr. Archipow had set with cones. A Park Ranger explained the

rainforest ecosystem during the bush walk as students walked over the suspension bridge and along the creek. They searched for different types of fungi, photographed them, made rough sketches, estimated the size and wrote a description. Students spotted birds and even a wallaby! *"I enjoyed it in the end, except for the cold weather."*

Sam Clavarino 7.3

Year 9 Camps

The year 9 students are looking forward to their final camp in St. Paul's. They will spend two nights and three days (less travel time) at the Sambain Chalet at Tamboritha. Besides the high country experience, the students will try horse-riding, mountain bike riding, hiking, and group activities.

The college keeps in contact with the RAAF Met office and the DSE to check on weather and safety for the camp. Unfortunately, the 9.1 camp scheduled for 14-16 October has been postponed because of inclement weather conditions. Alternative dates are being organised for 9.1.

Election of Student Leaders

The process of electing student leaders for the campus for 2010 has begun. Ms. Joyce and the 2009 leadership group in Year 9 interviewed the applicants. The successful Year 8 candidates spoke at a Campus Assembly on 13 October. All of them coped very well with public speaking. The assembled students then voted for the candidates of their choice. The results will be announced as soon as possible. Adolescent Recovery Action Day: 14 October, 2009 35 students, Ms. Francois and Mr. Campbell attended the 'Adolescent Recovery Day' at the Traralgon Recreation Reserve. This event was organised by Relationships Australia with the help of the local community to help those youth of Latrobe City affected by the 2009 bushfires. The students enjoyed the festivities that included Sumo Wrestling, Massage, a Laughter Clinic, bands, food and drink.

Mr Chris Roga
Campus Director

Clay Target Shooting Team

The College's Clay Target Shooting Team has done exceptionally well over the last two terms. The 16 boys competed in the Howard Schuback clay target shooting competition in Longford against some of Gippsland's strongest shooters. The boys then travelled to Frankston for the inter-regional championships and achieved first place.



On the 7th September **Scott Prosser, Reece Storie, Josh Wyeth, Nic Sartori, Leigh Stokes** and **Jake Whitham** then competed in the state Championships in Bendigo and finished 2nd out of twenty four teams, we would like to thank **Miss Carmel McCullagh, Mr. Tony Van Rossum, Mr. Stokes** and **Mr. Bob Dinsdale** (for all his help at the Morwell gun club) and **all the parents** who helped out to make this year very successful.

Forthcoming Events

TERM 4

- 19 Oct Full summer uniform
- 20 Oct Formal Opening of Kildare Memorial Garden
- 22 Oct Year 12 Assembly - St Paul's Campus
Year 12 Mass - St Michael's Church 6.30pm
- 23 Oct Year 12 classes finish
Student Free Day for Yr 10 and 11
Lavalla Restaurant
- 29 Oct
- 2 Nov Mid Term break
- 3 Nov Melbourne Cup Day (Public holiday)
- 5 Nov Big Prize Raffle Draw
- 13 Nov 2009 Year 11 classes finish
- 16-20 Nov 2009 Year 11 Exams
- 19 Nov Second Hand Uniform Shop 3.30-6.00pm
- 23 Nov-3 Dec 2010 Year 12 classes
- 27 Nov Year 12 Graduation Dinner
- 30 Nov College Christmas Concert
- 4 Dec Curriculum Day - Student Free
- 7 Dec College Awards Night
- 9 Dec Year 9, 10 and 11 students last day
- 10 Dec Year 7 and 8 students last day
- 14 Dec Report distribution

RE 4 the rabble



Catechesis sessions for ordinary, everyday young people.

What: Fr Andrew Wise discusses:

"Hands on skills for praying the Mass"

Where: St Joseph's Parish Centre, 23-29 Dowling St, Wonthaggi

When: 5.30pm Sunday October 25th

How much: Free

www.sale.catholic.org.au