



16 MAY 2008

Dear parents and students

It goes against our natural call not to be able to assist those in need but it is now more than 12 days since Cyclone Nargis struck Burma's delta region causing many thousands of deaths, with the number bound to increase due to sequential disease, starvation and exposure to the elements. Yet the Burmese Government continues to conduct business as usual, making no effort to speed up visas for foreign aid agencies desperate to get relief teams, supplies and infrastructure into disaster zones. This lack of action is beyond our comprehension. Taken from an eyewitness account the extract below captures the human tragedy that has unfolded in Burma:

"...I went far off to Phyapon, down the Irrawady river. With bodies of human beings and cattle floating alongside the boat, we reached a destroyed village...with tears in their eyes, women explained how the waves snatched their babes from their breasts. A mighty tidal wave became their grave. The mothers weep.

As our boat moved along, a body of a five-year-old boy drifted across our path. He is the child of a mourning mother somewhere. The boy drifts in unnamed waters, waiting for burial, unwept and unnamed... Decaying debris lies in the waterlogged terrain. Dead animals are spread out near the debris. The people have neither the energy nor the will to bury them. There are many refugees, living in roofless churches and monasteries. Help has not reached them."

Though China has its own earthquake now to deal with, we can only hope that the diplomatic processes with China and the UN General Assembly and Security Council are working furiously behind the scenes to put enough political pressure on the Burmese government so that the ones who are really suffering, the poor and destitute, get humanitarian support.

On the home front

In comparison to the devastation in Burma and in China over recent days, State Government Funding for Catholic schools seems insignificant. Nonetheless, it is a problem that continues to face us, especially now that teachers have been successful in their claim for improved pay and conditions. Attached to this newsletter is a letter addressed to you, highlighting the constraints that we are facing.

A few major points of interest include:

- Catholic schools in Victoria receive about \$578 less per child each year than children being educated in Catholic schools in NSW.
- The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) is asking the State Government to fund the Catholic sector an additional \$25.5 million per annum to ensure funding equity for Catholic disadvantaged students and communities. A student with a disability in a Catholic school receives just \$5,000, two thirds of which is funded by recurrent grants. The same student in a government school receives \$15,000. There are 5,500 students with disabilities in Catholic schools.
- The Catholic Education Commission of Victoria (CECV) is asking the State Government to fund Internet provision from \$1.95 million to \$5.9 million per annum to enable needy Catholic schools to have the same bandwidth connection as government schools. The budget showed, however, that the Government had decided not to renew the \$1.95 million previously provided, meaning that the overall State contribution will decline from 30 June 2008.
- There is no provision in 2008/2009 budget for additional recurrent funds to assist schools in matching the recent wage increases agreed to by the Government for State school teachers. Without real increases in State funding, Catholic schools will be forced to make two undesirable choices: reduce resources and programmes or increase school fees.

No doubt you recognise the lack of parity here – not only in the educational resourcing opportunities for your child but also in the lack of responsibility on the government's behalf to your child's education and future. I urge you to contact our political representatives, especially now as the bi-election has been called, and wield some political pressure of your own. Certainly, Principals in Catholic Schools are exploring every avenue possible to ensure the same.

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College Life



The entire College staff attended a Retreat at Rawson on Friday, as part of the renewal and effectiveness programme. **Sr Jane Francis O'Carroll**, a Marist sister from New Zealand facilitated the day

as we renewed our commitment to the Marist charism and the five education pillars that underlines our educational philosophy. Most found the day refreshing and useful and all valued the opportunity to spend an important work day to refocus on our true calling and mission. At the same time we stood in solidarity in spirit with the people of Burma. Funds from a collection for them will be sent to Caritas.

AMSA Netball success

Congratulations to our netball squad who represented us well in Shepparton. Lavalla Catholic College finished a convincing third, with second to Bendigo Catholic College and Notre Dame College (the host school) winner of the competition. Thanks to **Nikki Schroeter**, **Fiona Morrow** and **Laura Joyce** for their sustained efforts in our sporting competitions this year.

Music Festival

There is a call for families to billet our guests from Mexico. They will arrive on 26 July and Mr Steve Erdely is co-ordinating their home-stays. Please help if you can.

Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal

Presentation Campus

With the time for enrolments and the Campus Open Day here, it is with great pride that I have seen our students welcome, encourage and interact with our Primary School visitors and/or the family groups. It is these aspects of hospitality, as well as the educative care that the College offers that appears to most impress those who have joined us. Last week we welcomed St Mary's students. Their program included Art where under the direction of Mr Gerald they participated in applying dimensional understanding of the structure of the human face to construct some very creditable portraits.

Our Year 9 students were instrumental in presenting the Italian, Music, Technology Food and Technology Wood experiences which followed.

At lunchtime the circulation area took "centre stage" with the sound system providing the music and lots of energetic youngsters, the enthusiasm to capture the rhythm of the Bus Stop, the Macarena and other dances.

In the sporting arena congratulations to the many students who competed in our College Sports at the Joe Carmody track. There were several personal best times but most importantly the spirit of good sportsmanship was clearly evident.

Three of our campus students Lauren O'Hea, Stephanie Wise and Kate Troy were selected for the College Junior Netball for the recent competitions and need to be commended for their commitment to the team.

Congratulations as well to the Year 8 students who represented the College so well at the Sacred Heart Primary School sports day as assistant leaders. They should be very proud of their behaviour and of the way they helped with the smooth running of the day.

Individual achievements in the wider sporting community go to:

- Sherrie Hibbs who was chosen to read the Athlete's Oath at the Gipps Academy Presentation Night and who won the David Drane Encouragement Award.
- Lisa Phillips who received an Excellence Award for Lawn Bowls
- Steven Hibbs who won the Central Gippsland League's batting average award for the Under 17's.

We have welcomed another visitor to the campus in Naomi Elswyk. Naomi is a Presentation ex-student and will spend time in several classroom settings and be a support to staff.

At last week's Campus Staff Meeting, our professional reading and development focussed on Restorative Justice and the skills to implement it more fully into our discipline and management practices. Our thanks to Mrs Lee McKenzie, Director of Staff Development, for her contribution to this session.

Through this program we aim to further develop quality relationships, coupled with clear expectations and limits for our students. It provides a framework to resolve conflict and repair damaged relationships. In it, students are challenged to think about how they are personally affected and what impact their actions have on others.

This week our Year 9 Leaders will have their second training session focusing on the organisational skills needed for the role and about how to work in a team making the most of their personality in that role.

Finally, a word of thanks for the huge generosity, seen when so many wonderful donations arrived for the Mother's Day raffle. The winners drawn by the President, Parents and Friends Support Group were:

1st	Colleen Jackiw	8th	Hannah Maunder
2nd	Helen Mareska	9th	Sharni Simpson
3rd	Lauren O'Hea	10th	Maddi Rickard
4th	Rosie Sawyer	11th	Katelyn Somerville
5th	Cassie Rek	12th	Emily Jeffrey
6th	Anita Vicino	13th	Schena Family
7th	Kristian Aquilina		

Mrs Leanne Mills
Campus Director

Presentation Information Evening
Monday 19 May 2008 at 7.00pm-9.00pm

Year 7 2009 Enrolments
due Friday 30 May

St Paul's Campus

The Enrolment season is on. Grade 6 visits, Open Days and Information Evenings, are on the College collective mind, and occupy a fair bit of our time. However, it is also an enjoyable time when we see our College through the eyes of young people eager to experience something new. It is also a time to evaluate and see how we can best satisfy their needs to grow. It is also humbling and energising to sit together with other staff and see what and how they contribute to the whole package of growth experiences. We do have a committed staff. After all, though we just want our children to grow and be successful, the effort and input is quite complex.

From the 26th we begin our 'No Interruptions' period. While some activities and excursions we cannot avoid, the focus of the two weeks is on learning. We encourage students to approach teachers for help if necessary. We do have an after school study programme that operates from 3.30-4.30 pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Students who are behind in their assignments, or those who need help can access this facility. The Semester Reports will be written in mid-June and we want to see our students perform at the expected level, if not higher.

Regional SRC Meeting

Bryce Hill, Emily Murphy, Adrienne Annells, Kimberley French, Bradley Watson, Miranda Dyt and Ashley Bransgrove attended a Regional SRC meeting at the Traralgon Secondary College, West Campus on 8 May. They engaged in 'Getting to know you' activities, discussions and some lectures about working effectively in SRC clusters. They found the day interesting and beneficial. Ashley said, "It is good idea to collaborate more with other schools."

Kildare Campus

Deb Committee - 2nd Hand Dress Sale

The 2008 Debutante Ball Committee are calling on past debutantes interested in selling their Dresses to make contact via Mr DiCesare. Dresses need to be available on registration day - 26th May.

International Brain Bee Challenge

We wish Quinn McGenniken well as she prepares to represent Australasia in the The International Brain Bee Competition in Canada. The Competition is a three-tiered question and answer competition that tests the neuroscience knowledge of secondary school students. Young men and women from all over the world compete to determine who has the "best brain" on such topics as intelligence, memory, emotions, stress, aging, sleep, and neurological disease. All the best Quinn!!

We also congratulate Gemma Foster, Emily Robinson and Sarah Lewis who have entered the 2008 Victorian Brain Bee Challenge and have progressed to the next round where they will be competing as individuals and a team. Well done on your achievements so far. A big thank-you to Mrs Mara Bormanis who has mentored our students.

VCAL Mini Projects

A large number of Mini projects are underway all focussing upon personal development and work related skills. Majority of projects have a business focus with students coming together in small groups to develop Micro businesses. Examples of some of these are furniture restoration, Small engine restoration, "Cup Cake Delights" catering business, HB&S Quality builders specialising in chicken coops, LQL-Lavalla Quality Leaders, fly fishing group making surf leaders for local tackle shop to sell, "Splash of Kular" room interior designs. All students have roles within the business and have virtual budgets to run and have ownership over their business. The students have done all the planning and are now in the 'Doing' stage so look out for some great products.

Soccer

Lachlan Morland was recently selected to represent Country Victoria at the Friendship Games in Sydney during the second week of the July school holidays. The squad of 16 Under 13 boys from across regional Victoria will be competing against elite squads from all over Australia. We congratulate Lachlan on his selection and wish him every success in the tournament.

LAPT St Paul's

In a drive to improve effectiveness at the College level, staff at each Campus have formed action teams. Our LAPTeam's aim is to:

Create a positive educational community where all students, staff and parents are actively engaged and empowered to achieve their potential.

The team is working hard to reach this aim.

Mr Chris Roga
Campus Director

St Paul's Information Evening
Tuesday 20 May 2008 at 7.00pm-9.00pm

**Year 7 2009 Enrolments
due Friday 30 May**

Australian Schools Cycling Cup – Mr Brett VanBerkel

The inaugural Australian Schools Cycling Cup was held on Wednesday April 23 at Yarra Boulevard, Melbourne.

With over 30 schools competing in the race, Lavalla Catholic College fielded a team consisting of Shannon McCurley, Lauren Isles and Stephanie Hansen (Hailbury). The Individual Time Trial was contested by all 135 riders, with team times being averaged.

In the road race Lavalla's female team had an outstanding race placing 1st and 2nd in A grade. Lavalla held a lead of 16 seconds going into the Teams Time Trial. Lavalla had a great ride around the 5.3 km course clocking 10.16sec. However, after the times were triple checked the Yellow Jersey and trophy was awarded to Penleigh & Essendon Grammar/Emmaus College who had clinched the lead by a mere second over the gallant Lavalla team. The girls performed fantastically over the entire day. Well done girls and hopefully this will lift the profile of cycling within the school.

Breakfast Club

The weather has turned and the cold is upon us. Time to warm the urn, cook the toast, and turn on the hospitality.

Mr Hansen and his volunteers are once again starting this valuable service for our students (and the occasional staff member). Victoria Police have been strong supporters of this programme and we thank them in advance for their time and commitment to this service.

Any parents or groups who are interested in helping out, please make contact with Mr Michael Hansen. Come for breakfast... sit and chat with the students... cook some toast for us... become part of the hospitality we are famous for...

Mr Marco Di Cesare
Campus Director

Forthcoming Events

TERM 2

MAY

19 May	Year 7 2009 Information [Presentation] (7.00pm-9.00pm) Family Life [St Paul's]
20 May	Year 10 History excursion [Kildare] Year 7 2009 Information [St Paul's] (7.00pm-9.00pm) CAS Football [Kildare]
21 May	VCE Ensemble Performance [Kildare]
23 May	Year 7.1 Humanities Excursion
26 May	Year 7.4 Humanities Excursion Year 11 Solo Performance Evening
27 May	Photograph Day [Kildare]
28 May	Photograph Day [St Paul's]
29 May	Melbourne Symphony Concert [Kildare]
30 May	2009 Year 7 Enrolments due Year 7.7 Humanities Excursion GCSSSA Athletics

JUNE

2 June	Unit 4 VCE begins Years 10 & 11 Examination week Year 12 Solo Performance Evening
5 June	Yer 7.6 Humanities Excursion
9 June	Queen's Birthday - Public Holiday
11 June	VCE Unit 3 & 4 Exam week [Kildare]
13 June	GAT Examination [Kildare] Year 12 Group Photograph [Kildare]
16 June	Clay Shooting
17 June	P&F initiative: "Surviving Teenagers" Guest Speaker: Jeff Steedman [Lecture Theatre @ 7.30pm]
18 June	Year 10-12 Drama Performance
26 June	College Assembly

YEAR 7 2009 ENROLMENTS

Students seeking places in Year 7 for 2009:

Enrolment applications have been issued to parents for students attending **State Primary Schools** in Grade 6 who are siblings of Lavalla students and all Grade 6 students attending Catholic primary schools in our area.

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, please telephone Jean Jennings at the St Paul's Campus office immediately (5174 7355).

Other students attending State Primary Schools should register their name on the enrolment application list by telephoning St Paul's Campus.

Our **Information Evenings** are scheduled as follows:

Presentation Campus

Monday 19th May commencing at 7.00pm

St Paul's Campus

Tuesday 20th May commencing at 7.00pm

Enrolment deadline: Friday 30th May 2008

Canteen Roster

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

Mon 19 May	M. Korsak, (help needed)
Tue 20 May	J. Campbell, (help needed)
Wed 21 May	H. Stoddart, K. Lowden
Thu 22 May	K. Licciardi, L. Barrett
Fri 23 May	L. Zalesiak, (help needed)
Mon 26 May	L. Hare, L. McDonald
Tue 27 May	K. Hildebrand, (help needed)
Wed 28 May	S. Thompson, W. Whelan
Thu 29 May	A. Mooney, C. Richards
Fri 30 May	M. Holt, (help needed)

KILDARE CAMPUS

Mon 19 May	C. Jackiw, (help needed)
Tue 20 May	A. Mooney, (help needed)
Wed 21 May	S. Hillier, (help needed)
Thu 22 May	V. Sammut, (help needed)
Fri 23 May	M. Tatlow, (help needed)
Mon 26 May	Help Needed x2
Tue 27 May	Help Needed x 2
Wed 28 May	G. Fiddelaers, (help needed)
Thu 29 May	M. Johnson, (help needed)
Fri 30 May	C. Hinds, (help needed)

PARENTS & FRIENDS

You are all invited to hear
Jeff Steedman, Guest Speaker discuss

**** Surviving Teenagers ****

Tuesday 17 June at 7.30pm
at St Paul's Campus Lecture Theatre

Come and get to know some other parents.

Breakfast Club @ Kildare

Every Wednesday from 7.45am-8.45am
Held in the Food Technology room
All Welcome!!

Enquiries contact: Mike Hansen

SUPPORT YOUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Make contact with the candidates for the Gippsland by-election before the election in the near future.

Nationals: Darren Chester **ph:**5176 4988
e: darren.chester@nationals.org.au

Liberals: Rohan Fitzgerald **ph:**5176 4949
e: rohan.fitzgerald@vic.liberal.org.au.

Labour: Darren McCubbin **ph:** 5149 7024
e: daren.mccubbin@vic.alp.org.au.