

26 February 2010

Lavalla Catholic College

News



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Dear parents, students and teachers

No doubt you were shocked and saddened to learn about the stabbing death of **Elliot Fletcher**, a thirteen year old school boy in Queensland during the first week of school. The unfathomable heartache that both families must be feeling is difficult for us to grasp and as parents and teachers, we find it hard to imagine how the violent act of 'knife crime' can happen at school. We wonder about the safety of our own school community and cannot help but ask why would a year 7 student have a knife at school? Perhaps our new year 7 parents have a heightened sense of concern about this?

For a number of years now the College has been proactive in determining the students' level of concern about physical and cyber bullying and intimidation. We have also asked students questions about drug use and availability. Each campus anonymously surveys students and the information gleaned is used to directly address any issues that arise. We experience the best results of course when students themselves do not tolerate intimidating and bullying behaviour and work with teachers to stop unwanted and unwelcomed behaviour.

I do not wish to infer that what happened in Brisbane was a result of bullying but only to outline for parents the process in place to increase the safety of our students should they be concerned. At the same time we do not presume to take responsibility for actions or behaviours that are illegal. Cyber bullying is one example of this, as is the possession of a weapon/knife at school. Please be aware that it is illegal to carry a knife even if the intention is to use it in self defence and carrying a knife could mean being arrested, going to court and having a criminal record or prison sentence. As a College we would not hesitate to search a students' belongings or to contact the Police should we suspect that a student possesses a knife or any other weapon that would put our community at risk.

On behalf of us all at Lavalla a card was sent to St Patrick's in Queensland to offer our support and condolences as the Principal, teachers and parents try to heal a distraught community in dealing with their unspeakable grief.

[Exciting News for the Church in Australia](#)

ON 19 February Pope Benedict XVI announced that Mother Mary MacKillop, founder of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart would be canonised on 17 October in Rome. Mary MacKillop will become Australia's first saint.

Mary MacKillop, who was devoted to educating the young and helping the poor and disadvantaged, died in August 1909. Her sainthood will cap a remarkable turnaround for a woman who was once excommunicated after a dispute with the church hierarchy. She was a strong leader, a compassionate worker for the poor and a pioneer in education.

Erica Pegorer
Principal



Presentation Campus

2010 has certainly started well with our year 7's already proving to be a great asset to our community. It has been a pleasure to meet many parents new to the College, to welcome back those who worked in partnership with us last year and to interact with those parents whose children are involved in the Master Survivor experience.

The vertical Learner Advisor groups have set the scene for greater interaction between our year 8&9 groups as they explore their ability in the new electives on offer as well as furthering their knowledge and skills in their core studies.

Master Survivor Program

It has been exciting to see the first group of 52 students engage in the Master Survivor program initially piloted last year. Through it, they are challenged to explore their learning, tasked with confronting new ways of operating individually and given the opportunity to examine how they contribute as a team member. Their visit to The Summit for the "Best Day Thinking" experience and the complementary program provided by the MSP team has enabled many involved to better understand themselves and has invited them to develop new attitudes towards how they set their goals and how they can work to achieve them.

Ash Wednesday

We witnessed the beginning of the Lenten time through our Ash Wednesday liturgy. All present were asked to reflect on how they live and treat others. All were challenged to "listen" to the call of the Gospels (focus reading Matthew 5 1-12) to meet the challenge of our times as faith filled people and to give generously to others. It was a pleasure to have **Ms Pegorer** and **Mr Roga** join us for this important celebration of our religious tradition.

Technology Upgrade

All on campus are looking forward to the connection of our new, more efficient and greater capacity computer link and to the arrival of the new computers gained through Government Funding. With technology playing such an increasing role in our everyday lives it is vital that students through their development of skills in IT along with all other aspects of our curriculum are well prepared for life and future

employment. Our Campus leaders, **Emily Jeffries, Chynche Laurins, Stephanie Schena and Mark Larkins** have had a busy start to the year and are enthusiastically undertaking their roles. Their reports on two of the activities follow this.

Leanne Mills
Campus Director

*We represented our campus at the launch of this year's CARITAS appeal. Bishop Prowse explained the great need of people in poorer regions of Australia and in other countries. Simple things that we take for granted like food, shelter and clothing, access to health services and education are not readily available for so many. This is a really worthy cause and one we should all support so that the lives of others can improve. **Chynche Laurins.***

The Leadership Conference in Melbourne saw leaders from all over the state gathered to explore how to take on their roles. It was a very insightful program, giving lots of ideas to bring back to school. It included ideas about activities to run, how to set up a program and some clues on speaking in public. Most useful for us though, was the reminder that we need to be "doing" leaders not "saying" leaders.

Steph Schena

Tamboritha Committee of Management are having a Working Bee on 20th & 21st of March. Firewood cutting and general maintenance to be undertaken. Committee will supply lunch and evening meals. All interested parents and teachers are most welcome. If transport is required or any enquiries please contact Tony van Rossum, mobile 0438031879.

Kildare Campus

The term has barely begun and we are already observing Lent. The whole community was challenged to bring life to our motto, "Strong Minds and Compassionate Hearts" by "listening" to the words of the gospel. The trucks are gone. No temporary fences. No more builders. We are very appreciative of the new buildings at the Kildare Campus. We have facilities that will further support our students as they strive to be all that they can be. Our Year 12's have settled in well and have taken ownership of their new study centre. We will have an official opening later on in the semester – in the meantime we are more than happy to enjoy the new facilities.

College Leaders

Joey Black, Brooke Ward, Kosta Psinas and **Andrew Ware** attended a leadership training day in Melbourne recently. As College Captains they have a large role in the direction of the Campus and College this year. They are committed to our College and I congratulate and thank them for their impressive start to the year. Leading the student body can be daunting – all the while balancing school work, outside commitments and the other myriad of tasks they are involved in. I look forward to working with and supporting them this year.

House Swimming Carnival

We cannot complain about the weather this year. With our student selected theme of "Fantasy and Fairy tales", there were many pixies, cartoon characters and other combinations of outfits that helped in making the day a fun and enjoyable experience. This year we increased the number of team and novelty events – this proved very popular with the students. Seeing staff and students in the water competing for events and House points demonstrated the growing House spirit across the campus. **Congratulations to all involved!!**

Cyber-Safety Presentations

Greg Gebhart is one of Australia's leading experts in Internet Safety for children and works with the Australian Communications and Media Authority. This week he presented a workshop to our Year 7 and 10 students, our staff and our invited parents and guests. It was an informative workshop which highlighted some of the potential threats that our young people face living in this connected world. His advice and practical suggestions were certainly appreciated by students and I know that many staff and parents left feeling informed and more aware. The online world is becoming increasingly important to our students and it is important that our community keeps abreast of both the positive benefits and the potential threats.

Clay Target Nationals

Congratulations and the best of luck to **Leigh Stokes** who will be travelling to New Zealand to compete in the New Zealand Clay Target Nationals. Leigh has been a member of the College Clay Target team and is looking forward to the competition.



Lavalla Catholic College

St Paul's Campus

The academic year 2010 has begun well. The Year 9 Mastering Learning and Master Survivor and the Year 8 Learner Advisor have 'kicked off.' The vertical House Homerooms for Year 8 and 9 are proving to be quiet; students are adjusting to the fact that they are with students from another year level. Four weeks have passed and the campus is quietly buzzing along.

The uniform is being worn extremely well. Students are punctual to class. And there is a sense of purpose on the campus.

Ash Wednesday

The campus marked the beginning of the Lenten season on Ash Wednesday with a liturgy in period 1. Students and staff also committed to fund raising and raising awareness for Project Compassion in Term 1. This year the Project Compassion theme is "Blueprint for a better world". I hope this period provides our families with time for reflection and some action that will make our little corner of the world better.

Attention Parents: Students and Appointments

If your child needs to leave school early for an appointment, please send a letter/note with your child to the teacher. The teacher will not let the child leave class without the note from you.

Homework Club

If your child needs any assistance with school work or homework, the homework club meets on Monday and Wednesday nights in the Star's Room at St. Paul's Campus between 3.30 and 4.30 pm. There will be staff members to help.

The Swimming Carnival!

Thursday the 18th of February was the swimming carnival. Despite the heat the Traralgon Outdoor Pool was festive. The house captains did a great job of preparing their houses for the big day with colour, balloons and tents. Students got into the mood and looked brilliant in their house colours, all dressed up and ready to go, some with fancy dress and face paint!

The first event was the year nine 50 metre freestyle; the boys kicked it off with a great race. Each race was contested and the swimmers cheered. The house spirit was the best seen for a few years. The novelty events were by far the most popular, and everyone got into it. The boogie board relay, the relays and the water polo attracted hosts of participants and saw some fierce competition and cheering. The cheering squads also did well. Towards the end everyone was really tired but had had a great time! Champagnat came out on top, with a great effort from all.

The House results are:

- 1st Champagnat House with 2346 points**
- 2nd MacKillop House with 1887 points**
- 3rd Nagle House with 1731 points**
- 4th Delany House with 1715 points**

Congratulations to our age champions:

**Chris Roga
Campus Director**



13 Year Champions
Georgia Tsebelis & Luke Mulqueen



14 Year Champions
Rhiannon Georgeson &
Sam Roberts



15 Year Champions
Stephanie Spehar &
Jacob Mulqueen

St Paul's Leadership Training Day

On Friday the 5th of February 2010 all the St Paul's campus leaders came together in the Lecture Theatre for a leadership training day. The 4 campus leaders, 3 SRC leaders, 4 sports captains and 25 house leaders spent the day learning how to be a leader, what it means to be a leader and some working in teams activities. We also set some house and SRC goals. The house goals are:

- ensuring every house has a house day
- to have lots of lunch time activities
- to organise some mini Olympics
- to plan events for the team

The SRC goals are:

- fundraise for captains
- get some seats and drink taps in the school
- to have a talent show and twister games

We also did some public speaking and had some pizzas for lunch. All of the leaders would like to thank **Ms Joyce, Ms Barrett** and **Ms Francois** for taking the time out to train us. Overall the day was a huge success and we all had a great day.

Continuing on with our leadership experience the SLG went to an Impact Leadership Conference at Flemington Racecourse. We interacted with other leaders from other schools. We got some good ideas and learnt valuable skills to help us in our leadership role.

Ryan Jones



President: Doug Drowley
Phone: 51272163
Vice President: Donna Perkins



Secretary: Natalie Sellings
Phone : 5127523
Assistant Secretary : Carol Wilson
Address : P.O Box 94
Newborough 3825

2010

Newborough Junior Football Club Inc.

**Sign up Night is on 9th March at 5.00pm
at the Newborough Football Club
Rooms**

- Under 14s will start training on this evening
- Under 12s will start training on the 16th March
- Under 10s will start training on the 23rd March

Club coaches for season are

Under 10 : Darren Mitchell & Brad Michie

Under 12 : Dean Caldow & Charles Weir

Under 14 : Rob Prestidge & Craig Skinner

Cost For season is \$40.00 per player or \$50.00 per Family

The **Education Maintenance Allowance** is paid to **eligible parents** of students under 16 years of age who attend a State or a Registered School in Victoria.

The Education Maintenance Allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible for the first instalment you must:

- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004: OR
- be a Veteran Affairs Pensioner (TPI), OR
- be a foster parent and
- submit your application to either Marcellin House or Presentation Campus by the date/s listed below

The application form must be lodged at the school by: **1st March 2010** for the first instalment.

Important Information

A separate application is required for each school if you have children attending different schools. If you transfer your child, you will need to make a new application at the new school. All staff are required to treat the information that you provide as confidential.

EMA rate – 2010 \$450.00

Second Hand Book and Uniform Shop

NEXT OPEN

Thursday 18th March

3.30pm – 6.00pm

UPCOMING LATE SESSION – UNIFORM

SEASON CHANGE

Thursday 15th April 3.30-8pm

Shop located at: St.Paul's Campus

Payment options: Cash, Cheque or EFTPOS

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