



NEWSLETTER

Lavalla Catholic College

27 February 2004

Dear Parents,

As we move into the Season of Lent, you will no doubt hear about the Ash Wednesday Ceremonies on each Campus

The Symbol of Ashes

Daily in the newspapers and television we read of or see the heartbreak of people confronted with ashes where their homes once stood. Ashes symbolise devastation, loss, and pain. In some way we all know the taste of ashes:- broken hearts, crushed dreams, grief, tragedy, and anguish. We are marked with ashes in the Lenten ceremony. This gives us a sombre reminder that life includes pain, loss and death, which will come upon us all. As well, the ashes also remind us of those who eke out their existence in the grey, dirty corners of our society. During the season of Lent, there is much emphasis on giving to those in greater need than us and students will be urged to contribute to Project Compassion promoted by Caritas.

Thea Arnts RIP

Thea Arnts died last Saturday (21 February) after battling cancer for a number of years. She was a teacher at Catholic Regional College Traralgon for 15 years from 1984 to 1999 and taught with much patience, care and calmness over this time. We offer her friends and families our condolences.

Peter Schneider

As mentioned earlier, Peter will be taking an educational sabbatical for the rest of this term in order to look at developments in the education of senior students and separate senior campuses. We look forward to reading his report on his return in Term 2. In his absence, the campus will be lead by Mrs Annemarie Clarke, assisted by Mr Erdely and Mrs Anne Wilson.

Anne English

Anne will be taking long service leave and we wish her a relaxing and fruitful time. The arrangements for Vocational Education have been completed. Please refer matters of Vocational Education to Mr Dan Prigg.

March 3rd

Although we expect that a number of teachers will be participating in the Victorian wide industrial action there will be some disruption to the normal programme. The College will remain open. However there will be a number of classes which will be changed. We expect to have an amended timetable for the day completed by the end of this week. Please stand by for a separate information sheet.

Br Julian Casey
Principal

Dates for Coming Week

March

- 1 VCE Units 1 & 2 – Information Evening: 7.30pm VSC
CAS Golf Championships
- 2 Commissioning Mass – 9.30am
Parents of 7.4 & 7.8 – Information Evening
- 3 Yr 7.7 & 7.8 Orientation Camp
Presentation Campus Year 7 – Information Evening
Training Band Evening
- 4 Parents of Students in 7.5 & 7.6 – Information Evening

PRESENTATION CAMPUS

We began the **season of Lent** this week. On Wednesday all students and staff attended the Ash Wednesday Mass at St Mary's Newborough. On several occasions each year the Campus is involved in Parish Masses. This is an important part of our Religious Education development as it provides many students with their only true experience of parish-based liturgy.

On Tuesday our SRC representatives and Mrs Fredrickson cooked **pancakes** for **Shrove Tuesday**. My thanks to all students who supported this fundraiser for CARITAS missions.

The **Year 8 Canoeing** days were very successful. All students responded in an

enthusiastic and positive manner. My thanks to Mrs Allen and Mr Perona for their support and organisation of the days.

Records were set last Monday when thirteen enthusiastic and motivated parents attended the first Parent Support Group. A date to add to your calendar is the **29th March for the Parent Support Group Annual General Meeting**. It would be great to see as many parents as possible. "Be not afraid" - all positions are covered, come and enjoy the company and coffee!

Yours in the Spirit of Strong Minds and Compassionate Hearts.

Chris O'Brien
Head of Campus

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

Campus Leaders

This week we congratulate our newly elected Campus captains: **Melissa Germano** and **Tom Ferguson** along with the vice captains: **Belle Gardner** and **Vincent O'Mara**. While all the students who nominated for the positions were worthy of the roles, these students had the clear support of their peers. I look forward to working with them through the year.

Apologies

Our apologies to the parents of **Yr 8** students who set aside time to attend the Information Night this week. As there were a number of key staff attending camp, the evening has been rescheduled for the **16th March at 7:30pm**. Letters of invitation will be sent home in coming weeks as a reminder.

Swimming Carnival

Last week we enjoyed a very successful swimming carnival. We were pleased with attendance and participation on the day. Many students and staff had gone to a great deal of trouble to dress in house colours and be active supporters of their House. A vote of thanks goes to Mr Ryan and Mr DeFazio, who put the program together, the House Captains and all the staff and students who worked so hard to make the day a success. Congratulations to: **McKillop 670, Nagle 626, Champagnat 572, Delany 482.**

Age champions were Yr 9 **Damian Ferguson**, **Alia Brammall** Yr 8 **Tom Harlow** and **Caitlyn Hopley** Yr 7 **Tim Bedford** and **HollyWaanders**.

(St Paul's Campus contd....)

2004 House Captains and Vice Captains

	Captains		Vice Captains	
Champagna t	Dan McKenna	Darcy Byrne	Matt Scully	Katie Eastgate
Delany	Josh Kurrle	Melissa Germano	Tim Bellerby	Emily Haesler
MacKillop	Lachlan MacDougall	Maddie Black	Luke Vanstan	Emma Crawley
Nagle	David Van Berkel	Marlee Hillier	Daniel Yates	Kirsten Greensdale

Scandinavian Visit

This campus hosted the Scandinavian visitors last Friday. They commented on the 'openness' and friendliness of our students and were struck by the positive affirmation that students in Australia receive from teachers.

Art Excursion

Last Friday a group of students visited the McClelland Sculpture Park in Langwarrin. While it was a very hot day, students and staff had a wonderful time meandering through the Park and discovering various installations.

Student behaviour on the day was perfect. Thanks to **Mrs French and Ms Taylor** for arranging the tour.

We look forward to hosting the gathering of the entire College as we gather together next week for our **Commissioning Mass**.

"I can't do it" never yet accomplished anything. "I will try" has performed miracles ..
George P. Burnham

Lee McKenzie
Head of Campus

CANTEEN ROSTER

	St Paul's	Kildare
Mon 1 March	L Barrett	S Mills, R Greaves
Tue 2 March	C Hinds, D Webb	T Stratford (help wanted)
Wed 3 March	P Radovich, L Weckmann	K Daniels, B Boothman
Thu 4 March	S Eccles, D Buckley	R Freeman, M Johnston
Fri 5 March	A Molinari, P Brown (help wanted)	D Howe, J Hansch

THE AGE VCE & CAREERS EXPO 2004
Caulfield Racecourse, Station Street, Caulfield
Friday 19th March, 2pm to 7pm
Saturday 20th March and Sunday 21st March 10am to 5pm.

The Age VCE & Careers Expo 2004 brings together over 120 organisations including VCE publishers, booksellers, education organisations and Australia's major tertiary institutions.

A feature of the Expo is the extensive seminar program on career and VCE subject specific topics. Admission is \$6.00 or \$15.00 for families (children under 14 free). Admission includes all seminars and a copy of the AGE. For more details see the Expo feature in the Age's Education section of the Monday March 15th or go to www.education.theage.com.au

Postal address PO Box 1080 Traralgon 3844	Marcellin House Admin Coster Circle Traralgon Ph 5174 5272	Kildare Campus Kosciuszko St Traralgon Ph 5174 8111	Presentation Campus John Field Drive Newborough Ph 5127 1311	St Paul's Campus Grey St Traralgon Ph 5174 7355
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**Excerpts from Letter of Dr Therese D'Orsa,
Director of Catholic Education, Diocese of SALE**

Dear Parents

A very warm welcome to you all, and especially to those of you who are joining Catholic Education for the first time.

Catholic Education is undertaken by Catholic parish communities, which form the Diocese of Sale so that young people can be educated in all areas of their lives - spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional. We sometimes express this by saying that we endeavour to educate the whole child. Another expression of this same purpose is that we try to educate according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, through our total teaching and learning program.

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Sale

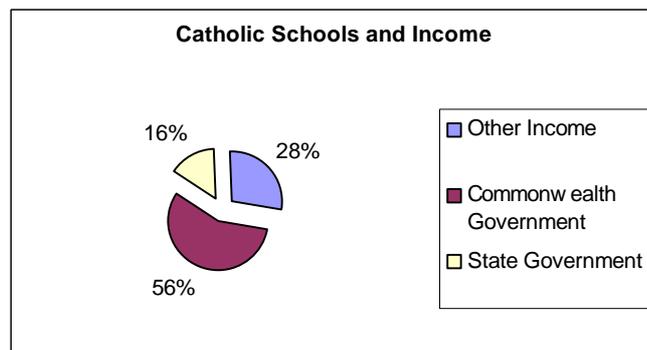
We are fortunate to have a strong system of 40 schools located from Orbost in the East to Narre Warren and Cranbourne in the West. These Schools educate young people in the Catholic faith and in the broad knowledge and skills they will need for their future lives as family members, citizens and workers. A strength of Catholic education in the Diocese is the quality of our teachers and principals. Good teachers make good learning happen. Our principals know that the community base of Catholic education is very important and work hard to make the schools safe, welcoming and happy places for students and families to be.

2004 Challenges

One of our key challenges for the future is securing enough funding so that all Catholic parents can afford to send their children to Catholic schools. Victoria is in the unfortunate position of having the lowest level of State Government funding for a decade. Funding discussions are complicated for Catholic schools in Australia, as we receive our funds from both the State and Commonwealth governments. We then make up the shortfall with fees from parents and fundraising.

We acknowledge that the current State Government has put an additional \$70m into Catholic education since 1999 until the end of the 2003 school year for a range of initiatives such as capital works and online connection. In the same period it has put an additional \$2.75billion into government schools.

However, 22% of Victorian students are in Victorian Catholic schools. We believe that the improvements the State Government has made to state schools are excellent and necessary, but we are now requesting that they turn some attention to Victorian Catholic schools so that the fee burden carried by parents can be relieved and reasonable funding made available for students in those schools. You can rest assured that we are communicating this message to the State Government as often as we can.



Catholic Education - A Journey in Faith

I look forward to the 2004 school year as one of consolidation of our strengths in Catholic education. This month we will launch a major historical study of Catholic Education in the diocese from the very early beginnings in 1852. This *Journey in Faith* by Mr Terry Synan tells a most wonderful story of faith hope and love for children, families and the community we call Church. The contribution to the broader society has been extraordinary. I strongly commend this book to all parents so that they can locate their present hopes and aspirations within this long and wonderful story.

Schools' partnership with parents recognises that they are the first and lifelong educators of their children. We in Catholic education take seriously our duty to help you form young citizens with a strong faith and optimism towards the future, a clear sense of justice and social responsibility, relevant knowledge and skills for the future and a commitment to democratic principles. This is a shared stake in our children's, Victoria's and Australia's future.

Dr Therese D'Orsa
DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION, Diocese of Sale