

LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

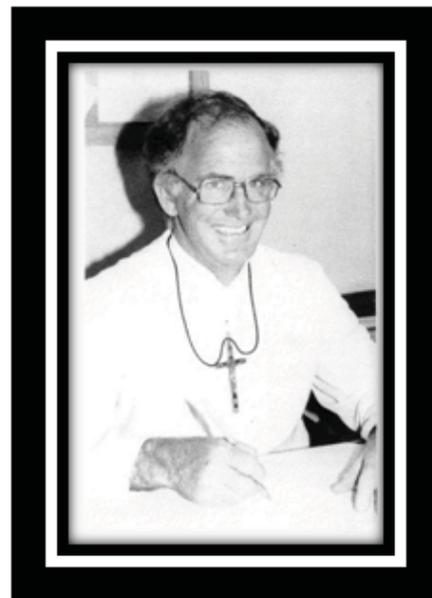


12 June 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers

From the Principal's Desk

We are pleased to announce that **Br Doug Walsh** was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for his services to the poor and the needy and his work within the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul. For those of us who have the pleasure of knowing Br Doug, we understand the extent of his tireless work for young people on the fringes and can truly celebrate this great honour. Br Doug was Principal of St Paul's College Traralgon in the 1980's and was always able to empathise with young people, especially those in need. Br Doug was a champion for the cause and he raised monies for international and local ventures. We are very proud of Br Doug and his achievement and wish him the very best for the next project that he undoubtedly has in mind.



The College's Annual General Meeting

The AGM for the College will be held on **Tuesday 23 June** in the Virtual Services Centre at the Kildare Campus. All families and staff are welcome to attend. The chair of the Council, **Mr Peter Cefala** has decided to complete his term after six years as a parent representative and most of those years as the Council Chair. I sincerely thank Mr Cefala for his work and dedication and for his generous availability to attend official College functions. The College is now seeking nominations for the College Council from the Morwell and Traralgon districts. If you are interested in serving the College in this way, I would be happy to take your call and discuss with you what's required. Nominations will close on Friday 19 June.

Year 8 City Experience

At this stage the College plans to go ahead with the Year 8 City Experience excursion to Melbourne in July-August, despite some uncertainty regarding the impact of the Swine Flu. The College has received constant updates from the government authorities and the Catholic Education Office who advise that programmes should go ahead as planned, taking extra care with hygiene. Should you have any concerns about sending your child on the excursion please contact me or the Campus Directors, **Mr Chris Roga** or **Mrs Leanne Mills**.

Rest in Peace

The College offers our deepest sympathy to the **Gregg family** for the loss of their father and husband **Mr Andrew Gregg**. Mr Gregg was taken suddenly and prematurely and we keep in our prayers and thoughts, his sons Daniel in Year 9 and Corey in Year 7 and wife Joanne who will deeply feel their loss.

Mrs Jeananne Brown is grieving the loss of her brother **Graham Price** who died last week after a long illness. We offer her our condolences and sympathy, prayers and support and hope that his wonderful memory will help her through her loss.

Clarifying Calendar Dates

We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the publication of different or incorrect dates in either our newsletters or student planners. Please be advised that:-

- all students are expected at school on **Friday 26 June (last day of term 2)** but will be dismissed at 2.30pm in keeping with the dismissal time of our local government schools.
- Student Free Days in term 3 are **Monday 13 July and Monday 17 August**.
- Year 12 Graduation Dinner is on **Friday 27 November at the Champagnat Centre**.

Semester Reports

Teaching staff are currently finalising assessments and writing reports. Semester one reports will be available for families on Tuesday 23 June and this will be followed by parent-teacher interviews on Thursday 25 June (4-7.30pm). You will need to make appointments with your child's or children's teachers in the usual way.

Ms Erica Pegorer

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Continue page 2...

Staffing Changes

Most of these staffing changes affect the students at the St Paul's campus. Please be assured that the College is working to maintain stability in the transition period. At the end of the term we will farewell a number of staff. Amongst these is **Ms Alison Teychenne** who has been an important member of the Music Department for the past six years. She has accepted the position of Music Director in Ballarat. We will miss Ms Teychenne's energy and commitment to the music department and the students will miss her dedication and commitment to them. She goes with our blessing and we wish her well in her new leadership role. Ms Teychenne will be replaced by **Mr John Wilkie**. For health reasons, **Mrs Nirmala Roga** will not be returning in semester two. Mrs Roga has worked at both the Presentation Campus and the St Paul's Campus. We thank her for her work, particularly as the RE liaison person at St Paul's. Unfortunately **Mr Michael McKenna** will also need to take a period of approx 12 months sick leave beginning in semester two. We keep Mr McKenna in our prayers as he faces a serious medical condition and wish him a speedy recovery. For personal reasons, **Ms Johanna Burt** and **Mr Ed Trumino** tendered their resignations over the last few weeks. We thank **Mrs Terry Archipow** and **Mrs Maureen McIntosh** for making themselves available to our students while the College seeks a more permanent arrangement.

Kildare Campus

Congratulations to all our students on their wearing of the Winter Uniform. Last week, after some warnings and gentle reminders, the Campus has moved to ensuring that ties are worn correctly and shirts are buttoned up to the collar. Walking around the campus, I must say that students look good in their uniforms. Some have even begrudgingly agreed with me. Our appearance both inside and outside of the campus grounds speaks volumes and as a campus we will continue to insist that all members of the community look their best.

Exams

These last two weeks have seen all students in Years 10-12 sit examinations. It has been an important time for our students and allows them to stop and measure where they are at in their learning. Over the next couple of weeks students will receive feedback and areas for improvement in examination techniques. Please sit with your child and discuss the exams with them. Now is also the time where final semester assignments and grades are finalised and I encourage all students to use these last few weeks wisely.

Returning Staff

Welcome back **Mr Prigg** and **Mrs Giddens** from your well-earned long service leave. At this time in the semester it is always refreshing to see staff members arrive with so much energy and enthusiasm.

Information Services Centre

The day is nearly upon us. On the 22nd June we will commence the closure of our current ISC as we move into our newly built facilities. It is an exciting time for our librarians and I wish them well as we commence moving our stock across the buildings. On the 29th June our builders will commence demolition of the current building.

A Student Leader

As College Vice-Captain, Jessica Lowe oversees the Sports and House area of our Student Leadership Structure. Jessica plays a lead role in organising house activities, campus sports and Marist sporting teams.

Mrs Johanne Lyons, to be replaced by **Ms Carmel Oldham**, will be taking time for Long Service Leave in semester two. We hope the time will be a refreshing and rewarding break. **Ms Cathie Sampson** continues her sick leave, and we are grateful to **Ms Diane Hammond** for replacing her. **Mr Jose Illippampil** should be returning from sick leave in term 3 and therefore we will farewell his replacement **Mr Anil Krishna**. Since the official start of the year, a number of new staff have joined the Lavalla community. We welcome

- **Ms Marina Cooper** who commenced in the Information Services Centre a few weeks ago
- **Ms Kate Duxbury** – Kildare (English, Humanities, RE)
- **Dianne Hammond** – St Paul's (Technology- materials)
- **Mr Anil Krishna** - St Paul's (Science, Mathematics)
- **Br Mark Needham** – Kildare, St Paul's and Presentation
- **Ms Toni Milbourne** – St Paul's Campus (Integration Aide)

It is often difficult to commence the year part way through and I would like to acknowledge the good will and commitment evident in each of these staff members to immerse themselves into the life of the College.

This is our last newsletter for the semester. Students, staff and parents are generally quite tired at this time of the year and the break is very welcome as we all recoup our energies.

Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal

Jessica attended Torquay Primary School for most of her primary schooling until arriving in the Latrobe City where she attended Glengarry Primary School. This year Jessica is studying Biology, Chemistry, Math Methods, Outdoor Education and English. She completed VCE Units 3 / 4 Physical Education last year. After this year Jessica plans on going to university after deferring for at least a year to work, save and possibly travel.



Mr Marco Di Cesare
Campus Director

Second Hand Book and Uniform Shop

NEXT OPEN

Thursday 18th June

and

Thursday 16th July

New Hours: 3.30pm – 6.00pm

Shop located at: St.Paul's Campus
Payment options: Cash, Cheque or EFTPOS

Presentation Campus

Our commitment to educating our students in a holistic sense was realised this past fortnight through the opportunity to engage in environmental, gymnastics, Christian Decision Making, cultural/spiritual and career related activities. *To highlight just a couple...*

Our celebration of **World Environment Day** on June 5th commenced with the chance to preview the Year 9 Field Study projects.



issues and the VISEN petition. worked together to improve the citrus trees in the orchard, tidied up some established trees and shrubs, planted an understory in some established areas, refreshed some garden beds, made the final preparations of our vegetable gardens and enjoyed a sausage sizzle in the sunshine.

Yet other students, on the day had the chance to gain greater knowledge of the environment through a series of quizzes or to develop their creativity through a card making activity. Much was achieved and the weekend's rain was a welcome blessing on our efforts!

As well at our assembly that morning, along with **Ms Pegorer**, we had the chance to celebrate the success in the 2009 National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition of **Damon Bednarski** (Yr 8) who earned a High Distinction in the Intermediate category. Also, **Stephanie Schena** (Yr 8)

St Paul's Campus

The past two weeks have appeared to be quiet. However, a lot of hard work has gone on; students have been handing in major work for the term, teachers have been teaching and marking work for the reports. This is the business end of the term and we will get a clear picture of the learning performance of each student. We will have parent teacher meetings on the evening of Thursday 25th June and it is an opportunity to meet with the teachers to discuss ways of improving learning performance.

Mentoring at Lavalla

Lavalla plans to begin a mentoring programme on the Year 7-9 campuses to help students engage better and build up resilience skills. An information Session on the **Mentoring Programme** was held on 9th June at St. Paul's. **Ms Francois**, the college psychologist addressed more than 25 prospective mentors. Mentors will undergo training before actually mentoring students from Years 7, 8 and 9. For parents who could not attend on the 9th and who wish to be mentors, or who know other people – preferably male – who could be good mentors, please contact the office by Friday, 19th June.

Student Conference on Global Warming

The L.E.P (Learning Enhancement Programme) students attended a 'Survivor Climate Change' Student

achieved a Distinction, **Anthony Wiebenga** (Yr 7) a Credit and **Ryan Prekop** (Yr 7) a High Distinction in the Junior level.

Our Careers Program offered to Years 8&9 and organized by **Mrs Anne English** (Careers Co-ord) and **Mr Rod Williams** (Curriculum Team member) was a most valuable day. In all, nine guest presenters spoke of their individual career highlights and motivation for their role. Then it was time for some investigative work of their own, trying to explore other career choices through a "speed dating for a Career" activity.

This experience was greatly appreciated by the students who will soon need to make their learning pathway choices for 2010.

An invitation into the calmer, spiritual world was a whole Campus excursion on Wednesday 10th. Our visit to the "**The Sacred Footsteps**" the **Buddhist Monks**" enabled us to see them working on creating a mandala at the Latrobe Regional Gallery. Their dedication to the intricate work, along with the story passed on by their Australian guide raised our awareness of the spiritual component of their work as well as alerting us to the difficulty many Tibetans face in trying to live within their cultural setting.



Our thanks as well to Campus Captains **Simon Noy** and **Katelyn Somerville** and SRC Rep for Yr 8 **Chynche Laurins** who represented us at the recent SRC Enrichment Program at Leongatha, part of a state wide network to improve the effectiveness of student action groups in schools.

Mrs Leanne Mills
Campus Director

Conference at the Melbourne Zoo on June 10th. They had the opportunity to listen to Raylene Hobbs, the Zoo's frog expert talk about the effects of climate change as well as explore the Zoo while completing a range of challenges within small groups. These activities covered all learning areas including; maths, science, English and geography. A highlight of the day was the chance to go behind the scenes with Zoo Keepers to see animals close-up. Accompanying staff; **Kim Widrich**, **Gloria Zahra** and **Tim Campbell** were impressed by the behaviour of students as they worked together to try to explain how certain adaptations could secure the survival of their chosen animal.

Year 7 Enrolment Interviews

One of the happy aspects of my job is to interview applicants to Lavalla from the government schools. These young people impress me with their passion for learning and their portfolios. Of course, I am pleased when they state that they chose Lavalla because the teachers care and because there are different things they can learn at Lavalla.

Mr Chris Roga
Campus Director

Marist Charism

The month of June holds a special place in the Marist world. It was during the Brothers' morning prayers that Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Marist Brothers, died at the Hermitage in France in 1840.

As a young priest, Marcellin gathered around him a small group of rustic youths who were touched by the plight of the rural poor after the long night that was the French Revolution. Formal education in the countryside was in tatters and the traditional methods of handing on the faith had been sorely tested by lack of priests and the dismantling of religious structures by the revolutionaries.

Into this void stepped Marcellin and grew his vision with those early brothers into a distinctive way of life for themselves as a community which overflowed into the schools they opened, first around Lavalla and L'Hermitage and then throughout rural France and beyond.

The Marists were given responsibility for evangelization in the Pacific region quite early in the nineteenth century and it was in the islands that St Peter Chanel became the first of many Marist martyrs. The Brothers came to Sydney in the 1880's and spread to all states opening schools for boys over the next hundred years.

Of recent times, as a staff, we have been examining the distinctive nature of the Marist charism and the style of our educational endeavour. Our style of educating is based on a vision that is holistic and that consciously seeks to communicate values. As a Marist school we share the vision of the early Marists that "to bring up children properly, we must love them, and love them all equally."

Senior Choir News

Representatives from our **Senior Choir** have sung at a special service commemorating the role of indigenous men and women in Australia's history of service last Sunday at the **Shrine of Remembrance**. Our students sang Taize chants which have been translated into the recovered language of the Gunai/Kurnai people of Gippsland.



A unique partnership has been forged with the local indigenous community and our choir and this has now been recognised and celebrated at what was a very moving ceremony.

We have drawn particular praise for this partnership from Aunty Dot Peters (who initiated and helped to organise the service) and the state minister for Aboriginal Affairs Mr. Richard Wynne and his team. Richard actually promised that he would make the premier aware that he has heard the state's finest school choir. Lofty praise indeed!

From this principle flow the particular characteristics of our style of educating: presence, simplicity, family spirit, love of work and following in the way of Mary. We seek to adopt these attitudes and values in our way of inculcating the Gospel. It is their sum and their interaction which gives our Marist style its Spirit inspired originality.

Champagnat Festival

In honour of Marcellin, we hold our annual Champagnat Mass during which we award the 'Champagnat Medals' to students and staff who imbue the Marist spirit and en flesh the school motto of "**Strong Minds Compassionate Hearts**". We wish to make this occasion a day of festival where students and staff celebrate who we are. We will begin with the Mass followed by music and a sausage sizzle and activities on each campus.

Parents and families are most welcome to attend on the 28th July at 9.30am in the Champagnat Centre at the St Paul's campus.

Help Needed

If there are any parents and friends of the college who can assist in practical ways on this day please contact Mike Hansen at the Kildare campus.

Mr Mike Hansen
Director of Faith and Ministry

Forthcoming Events

TERM 2

JUNE

- 18 Jun Uniform Shop open (3.30pm to 6.00pm St Paul's)
- 26 Jun Last Day Term 2 (finish at 2.30pm) - **NOT a Student Free Day**
- 23 Jun College Council Annual General Meeting (5.30pm-7.30pm VSC Kildare Campus)

TERM 3

JULY

- 13 Jul Commence Term 3 - **Student Free Day**
- 16 Jul Uniform Shop open (3.30pm to 6.00pm St Paul's)
- 27 Jul Parents & Friends (7.30pm St Paul's Library)
- 28 Jul Champagnat Mass (9.30am to 12.00 noon)

AUGUST

- 5 Aug Year 9 Programme Information Evening
- 7 Aug EMA Applications due (Marcellin House)**
- 10 Aug Year 11 2010 Parent Information Session
- 12 Aug Year 10 2010 Parent Information Session
- 14 Aug Course and Career Expo (Kildare Campus)
- 17 Aug Student Free Day
- 20 Aug Uniform Shop open (3.30pm to 6.00pm St Paul's)
- 20 Aug Lavalla Catholic College Restuarant
- 24 Aug Parents & Friends (7.30pm St Paul's Library)
- 24 - 28 Aug Year 11 on-line enrolments
- 25-28 Aug Year 11 Retreat