

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear parents, teachers and students

It was an important spiritual experience for us all this week to be part of the Ash Wednesday liturgies that took part on all campuses. Students were reverent and listened intently to the Gospel message that urged us to reach out to the marginalised and to be mindful of what others need. Lent is also a time to renew our own commitment to our faith and to our own betterment. Reaching out to the marginalised and being present to the poor are important threads in the fabric of this College. Woven into our tapestry are images of our young people being self-less in times of need; teachers being present and making a difference to the child who is reaching out for support and understanding and parents generously giving of their time for the stewardship of the College. During Lent we are asked to do more, to be outward looking and to support poor communities in Africa and Asia. The Diocesan Co-ordinator of Caritas Australia, Ms Sue Grout captivated us with her impassioned appeal for our help and concern for those in need. She challenged us to \$2 a week or 40 cents a day over these six weeks of lent. We are a community of over 1300 people. We have been challenged to meet this target. We can do it, I am sure! A special thank you too to all those who cooked pancakes for Shrove Tuesday.

Gonski Report

The Gonski Report, overshadowed this week by our political agenda is the most significant report about funding to schools in recent times. Generally, the report has been well received by the education sector, even though the Government's commitment to it is still unclear.

The key recommendations of the Gonski Report include:

- An increase in overall government funding for schools
- Improved funding arrangements for all students with a disability, regardless of the type of school attended
- Development of a more accurate measure of the cost of educating a student to an accepted level
- The need to base all funding decisions on robust and comparable data

The recognition of that increased funding for those with learning disabilities was most pleasing because as you know we have struggled with the disparity in level of funding between Catholic schools and State schools, for many years now. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a brief outline of the main findings of the report for your interest. We are now left with wondering how the Government might respond and no doubt this will unfold in the months ahead.

Welcome Evenings

Throughout this week, each campus invited parents to attend an evening where teachers and parents met informally to discuss the goals and aspirations of their children. The nights were extremely well attended and it was a pleasure to see the level of engagement by both parents and students. It is important to establish good relationship at this time of year so that we can support each other in the education of your child, especially during those hard months in the middle of the year.

On Tuesday 6th March you are most welcome to attend our Commissioning Mass where not only the College student leaders will receive their badges but we also welcome into our community the new Campus Director at St Paul's, Mr Andrew Martin.

Keep in our Prayers

We were saddened to learn of the death of Michael Flahavin, brother of Mr Peter Flahavin, last Saturday. Michael will be sadly missed by his children wife and extended family. Please keep these families in your prayers as they come to terms with their loss and may Michael Rest in Peace.

Have a good week

Yours faithfully
Erica Pegorer
Principal



Prayer for Lent

God of all our journey,
be with us as we travel
these weeks of lent.

Turn to ash all that
makes us selfish, bitter,
negative fearful, critical
and apathetic towards
you and one another.

Help us to remember the
Ash Wednesday touch
as a call to change and
a chance to rekindle the
fire of your love within
us.

We ask this in name
of him whose dreams
seemed reduced to ashes,
but who rose in glory
on Easter morning, Jesus,
your only Son, our
Lord and brother.
Amen.



NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

KEY MESSAGES ON CATHOLIC SCHOOL FUNDING FROM 2014

1. The success of Australia's education system relies on increased government support for schools in all education sectors—government and non-government.
2. One in five Australian children attends a Catholic school, and Catholic schools operate with an average of 10% less recurrent funding than government schools.
3. Government support for all Catholic school students guarantees real parental choice in education and delivers value for taxpayers.
4. It costs governments much less to educate a student in a Catholic school than it does to fund a student at a government school, because parents share the cost. This saves the Australian taxpayer \$2.2 billion a year.
5. Inadequate funding for Catholic schools would see school fees rise with the possibility of many students transferring to government schools, adding pressure to already tight budgets.
6. Improved funding for all students is critical to education quality and these funds must be increased each year to reflect actual increases in school costs.

20 February 2012

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS REPORT

Andrew Martin - Campus Director

Homework Club:

St Paul's Campus are beginning a Homework Club on Wednesday afternoons, from 3:30 – 4:30pm in the ISC. All students are welcome to come along and join in – this is an excellent opportunity to get help from staff and other students, with class or home work. Thanks to our student Learning Leaders who have volunteered to give up their time after school to help other students out.

Academic Competitions:

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is the largest independent assessment program for schools in the world with more than 2 million entries annually. Students from over 20 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, Pacific and the USA actively participate in ICAS each year.

Students from Years 7-10 can opt to participate in the areas of :

- Computer Skills
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Spelling (Yr 7 only)
- Writing

There is also the opportunity for students to participate in the following academic competitions:

- National Geographic Geography Competition
- National History Competition

Students who would like to participate in any of the above competitions need to approach their subject teachers to discuss their nomination.

deavours!



KILDARE CAMPUS REPORT

Mr Marco Di Cesare - Campus Director

There has been a palpable buzz around the campus – this year in particular. I have been impressed by the attitude of most students as they go about the business of learning. Students are committing to the Student Choice times on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our Year 12 Cross-Age tutors are out in full support and there has been little need to guide students or correct behaviours. Congratulations to the community. The focus and determination of our students is evident and I am encouraged by this.

Campus Activities

It has been a particularly busy fortnight for many of our students. Our talented Senior Wind Ensemble attended a camp for three days and headed to Rawson. From all reports, it was an exhausting few days with our talented musicians practised their art.

Our Outdoor Education and Outdoor Recreation students have commenced their Canoe Skills Training, experiencing some of the fine balancing that is needed in a canoe.

Student Leadership Council

Thank-you to Christina Psinas of Year 12 for taking on the role of Chair of the Student Leadership Council. Christina will guide this group through many activities this year – all aiming at Campus Improvement. Please speak to your child about joining this important group. Any enquiries can be directed to Christina.

Welcome

This week we welcomed Mr Mark DiCorletto to the teaching staff at the Kildare Campus. Mark is a former student of the College and will join the Religious Education and Physical Education team. Welcome Mark.

Lent

Our Ash Wednesday Liturgy marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

We were fortunate to have Mrs Susan Grout join us for our liturgy. Mrs Grout is the Diocesan Representative for Caritas Australia. She shared with us some practical ways to help those less fortunate and inspired students and staff towards reaching their targets.

'So it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead' - Luke 24:46



VCE Update - Kildare

Mr Stephen Erdely

A very warm welcome back to our Year 11 and 12 students and families as we begin our 2012 school year at Kildare. In addition, congratulations to all those Year 10 students who were accepted into the enhancement program and are studying Unit 1 subjects this semester.

On behalf of the VCE Staff, I encourage all students to approach their studies with enthusiasm and commitment. By now all students will have received the Assessment Calendar for Units 1 and 3 via e-mail. For parents a copy will be placed on the College website which we hope will assist you in supporting your child in preparation and management of their work and time during the year.

As a way of supporting our VCE students and their families in their adjustment to the demands and expectations which face them this year, a series of student seminars and a parent gathering were organised over the past few weeks. David Morris, an Olympic freestyle skier and Heath McGregor, a VCE teacher from VCEHelp, engaged the students in a range of presentations covering goal-setting, health and wellness, time mastery, as well as learning how to learn. The Year 12's were also given valuable information on how to prepare for SACs and examination, which was timely given the first assessment week begins on Monday. The feedback from students and staff was extremely positive with many students now better prepared and skilled on how to approach their VCE.

On Tuesday evening a series of very successful parent information workshops were held on campus. Heath presented parents with a range of skills and strategies through his workshop on Gen Y Parenting and the VCE, whilst the Academic Development Team conducted sessions on ATAR & Study Scores, VCAL & VET at Lavalla as well as Changes to the VCE in 2012. Please be aware that these changes will be formally communicated to parents of VCE students in an upcoming Newsletter as well as on the College website.

VCE



SWIMMING CARNIVALS TO MAKE A SPLASH!

The Lavalla Catholic College swimming carnivals are the first big sporting event to take place in 2012 and this year Presentation Campus Newborough will join in the festivities with the St. Paul's Campus Traralgon to be held at the Traralgon Outdoor Swimming Pool on Friday, March 2.

For the first time the two junior campuses combined their swimming carnivals which was a great day of swimming, especially for the year 7 students who experienced their very first Lavalla Catholic College swimming carnival.

The Kildare Campus kicked off the year with its swimming carnival on Friday, February 24 as the competitive rivalry between the houses of Champagnat, Delany, MacKillop and Nagle began.

For those students who did well will go on to represent Lavalla at the SSV Wellington Carnival on Wednesday, March 7 in Traralgon.

Champagnat has claimed the seniors swimming shield for the past two years and made it three in a row.

Final placings were...

- 1st Champagnat**
- 2nd MacKillop**
- 3rd Delany**
- 4th Nagle**



Age group champions were...

- 16yrs Girls Rhiannon Georgeson**
- 16yrs Boys Sam Roberts**
- 17yrs Girls Lily Collins**
- 17yrs Boys Jacob Mulqueen**
- 18yrs Girls Rebecca Jennings**
- 18yrs Boys Mitchell Watson**



PRESENTATION CAMPUS REPORT

Mrs Tamsin McCormack - Campus Director

Greetings from Presentation Campus

It is very rewarding to see students hard at work in their classes and contributing well to the Presentation Campus community. We are only up to week 4 and the calendar seems already very busy. This week in particular has been an important one for the Catholic Calendar.

Together with other students, our representatives travelled to Nagle Catholic College in Bairnsdale for the launch of Project Compassion. In the usual tradition of Shrove Tuesday, students enjoyed pancakes, with proceeds raised going to Project Compassion.

I am very proud of the students at Presentation Campus as we have managed to raise funds of over 140% per head. Ash Wednesday was observed through a liturgy, requiring students to listen to the words of Matthew, and to think about what the time of Lent means to them personally. A

As a College we have been challenged to support the causes sustained by Caritas and each homeroom will respond in their unique way.

An exciting initiative we are pleased to continue with is the Homework Club beginning on Wednesday 29th February from 3.30 to 4.30pm. This is targeting students who feel they need some extra assistance or for students who can take advantage of some quiet study time. Please encourage your child to attend, especially if she or he could benefit from learning time management skills. The expectation for the completion of homework should be evident from here on in.

Today the year 8 science students all launched their recycled material boats on the lake, to see who had the best hull and sail design. It was a lesson on balance and boat design and it has been great fun to see the students learning in such an engaged and proactive manner. Our students are looking forward to the combined Swimming Carnival with St Paul's next week. If the volume of them learning their chants is anything to go by, it will be a noisy and energetic day. Let's hope that it is a nice warm day for the fun.



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

We all do things to enhance our lives; Fitness programs and diets to improve our health ; Professional Development programs to improve our job skills. We offer you an opportunity for married couples to give a wonderful gift to your children by enhancing your marriage through a Marriage Encounter weekend. Good marriages need some attention occasionally. Please join us in 2012.

Take a look at our website on www.wwme.org.au

Our weekends in 2012 are: 20-22 April, 15-17 June, 10-12 August and 12-14 October.

For further information and bookings contact Marianne & Marcel Van den Bronk (03)9733 0997 or Email vic-bookings@wwme.org.au

Kildare Campus Canteen Helpers

MONDAY 27- I.GREGSON
TUESDAY 28 - L.BENNISON
WEDNESDAY 29 - L.WARE
THURSDAY 01 - A.SLAVIN
FRIDAY 02 - D.BUCKLEY

Uniform Shop Hours

NEXT OPEN

Thursday 1st March
Thursday 16th March
3.30pm – 6.00pm

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

St Paul's Campus Canteen Opening Hours

Please note the St Paul's canteen will operate on different opening hours this term. Lunch orders will be available every day BUT the canteen will only open at lunch Wednesday to Friday.

REMINDER: Year 7 Immunisations

On Wednesday 7th March Year 7s at St Paul's Campus will have their first round of immunisations.

Parents are reminded that students must have a good breakfast before coming to school this day.

Also students are to wear PE.

Parents have the information sheets regarding what will happen and students will bring home another information sheet after having the immunisations.

March / April Events

Wednesday, March 07
Immunizations Yr 7

Friday, March 30
Debutante Ball

Thursday, March 29
Debutante Ball

Saturday, March 31
Debutante Ball