

LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER



22 FEBRUARY 2008

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THE NEWSLETTER
WILL NO LONGER BE
SENT HOME BUT WILL
BE AVAILABLE ON-LINE
FROM TERM 2

E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION FORMS
WILL BE SENT TO
ALL FAMILIES WITH
YOUR SCHOOL FEES ACCOUNT
NEXT WEEK

From the Principal's Desk

Dear parents and students

In the words of our Prime Minister Mr Kevin Rudd, Wednesday 13 February – Sorry Day was a '**great day for the Nation**'. It was also a great day for Lavalla Catholic College. The whole community, in a respectful and dignified manner, marked the significance of the occasion by proudly raising the Aboriginal flag. At Assemblies, our students spent time in silent reflection to acknowledge the pain suffered by generations of broken families as a result of government policies. The words that matter the most are these:

We apologise for the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians.

We apologise especially for the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, their communities and their country.

For the pain, suffering and hurt of these Stolen Generations, their descendants and for their families left behind, we say sorry.

To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry.

And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry.

This apology sits well with our Catholic Tradition and I share with you a reflection from Pope Benedict XVI in a paper he wrote in 2005 entitled *God is Love*, which although not written in this context reminds us that our unconditional love of God by implication necessitates us to take action against injustices towards humanity: He says,

The unbreakable bond between love of God and love of neighbour must be emphasised. One is so closely connected to the other that to say we love God becomes a lie if we are closed to our neighbour or hate them altogether. St John's words should rather be interpreted to mean that love of neighbour is a path that leads to the encounter with God, and that closing our eyes to our neighbour also blinds us to God.

Everyone recognises that this apology is an important first step only and that we now need to face many challenges before we can confidently say that the conditions of our indigenous people are in parity with the rest of Australia. The apology brought great hope to our nation and to our indigenous people. Let us pray that in this humbling experience we do not lose sight of the hard work that now needs to come.



Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal

Kildare Campus

Every year the first few weeks of school rush by. This year is no different. It is good to see that students and staff have settled in well and are underway with their courses for 2008.

At the first official Assembly for the year, we acknowledged the Stolen Generation's years of anguish. Ms Pegorer's address put into context the historical build-up to the apology. The Aboriginal flag was flown in recognition and respect. Some of the families of our staff and students were acknowledged to have experienced these injustices as well.

The Kildare community has embraced the 4 period day and with a little tweaking students have worked out their daily schedules. This year we introduced new combination locks for lockers across the campus. All students have been provided with a lock and are expected to maintain these on their lockers. Should students lose these locks they will need to purchase another lock via the front office. The cost for a replacement will be \$12.

Australian Business Week 2008

This week we received news from Deakin University that Nicole Bortignon was successful in gaining a place in the Australian Business Week 2008. The selection process for this event was very competitive with Nicole being one of the 60 lucky students selected to form 6 teams. Nicole will learn many skills as she assumes a simulated managerial position of an established company. This will occur over 5 days. Well done Nicole and Mrs Seabrook for your successful application. We look forward to your experiences on your return.

Latrobe City Youth Council 2008

We congratulate the following students on their selection to the Latrobe City Youth Council:

Youth Council Programme:

Sarah Lewis, Lesley-Anne Firth, David Beltrame

Youth Leadership Programme:

Arliah Lappin, Jade Shepley

Presentation Campus

Welcome to what has been a very busy start to the 2008 school year. My sincere thanks to Ms Pegorer, the Leadership Team and the newly formed Campus Team for their warm welcome and support as I settle into this role.

Ms Maria Doganieri (Student Contact Person) and I have been pleased to meet your sons/daughters and to be introduced to many of you, as you call past the Campus. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to meet with some of you and gather at the Welcome Evening held at St Paul's Campus last week.

At the Campus, Shrove Tuesday was fittingly celebrated and the pancakes served up with style by Mrs Di Savia, Mrs Fredrickson and their team of enthusiastic Year 9 helpers. The money raised began our efforts to support CARITAS and their mission to improve the lives of those in many poorer communities through out the world.

On the same day, our Campus Captains Hannah Maunder and Ryan Mizzi along with representatives from St Paul's Campus attended the regional launch of Project Compassion in Cranbourne. They certainly are proving to be worthy ambassadors for us.

On Ash Wednesday we gathered as a community to renew our understanding of this Lenten season and to publicly acknowledge our commitment to live more faithfully as Christian people.

New Student Leadership Structure

This year, in consultation with our College Captains, the Kildare Campus has released a new student leadership structure. Students were introduced to this new model in our first Campus Assembly. I encourage students to get involved in activities around the campus and the student decision making process. Any parents who are interested in the evolving document are welcome to a copy via their student. Copies are available in the Information Services Centre.

Sharing our Knowledge

Each year our staff participate in many Professional Development activities. They are committed to their profession and work hard for our students. We often share our experiences and offer advice to other teachers. I would like to acknowledge two of our hard-working staff who will be presenting at Teacher Conferences and Workshops over the next few weeks. Mrs Mara Bormanis will be presenting at the VCE Psychology Teachers workshop. Mrs Tamsin McCormack will be presenting to the VCE Home Economics Teachers Association.

Mr Marco Di Cesare
Campus Director

Readak Parent Information Session

Date: Tuesday 8th April 2008
Time: 7.30pm
Where: Lecture Theatre, St Paul's Campus

This will be followed by a 3 week Program to commence in April.

All parents should have received information from Readak about this programme last year.

In our first assembly which started with a "recognition of country" ritual, Ms Stewart gave a moving presentation about Richard and Rick Hoyt. In it we were challenged to maximise our potential, to set goals and then to dedicate ourselves to achieving them. A most inspirational approach to have to a new educational year which holds so much promise!

The Federal Government's proclamation about the Stolen Generation and the move to say Sorry gave us another good reason to gather. This time it was to take advantage of the incredible setting we are in and so much of our ceremony was conducted on the Boardwalk near our Lake.

In the next publication there will be news about the fun and triumphs from the Swimming Sports, the Year 7 Camp February 25th-27th and our ongoing commitment to Project Compassion.

As you would realise, it has been a very busy but exciting beginning. We look forward to working with you in partnership as we support the growth and development of each student in our care.

Mrs Leanne Mills
Campus Director

St Paul's Campus

Welcome to 2008!! Term 1 has begun smoothly.

The Year 7 students have started remarkably well. On 31 January, the first day, the bell rang at 9.00 am. One mother looked at her watch, said, "Oh! does that mean we have to go?" and all quietly left. The children went to class without a fuss. The calm acceptance of change was quite astonishing. The students spent a large part of the day with their homeroom teachers and later participated in an affirming liturgy.

The Year 8s and 9s began the next day, a little more knowing, a little more grown up than last year. They slipped into the College schedule smoothly and efficiently. Their comment on the 4-period day is that it finishes fast!

This year we welcome Ms. Farley and Mrs. Zomer to the campus staff. We also welcome new faces from Presentation and Kildare campuses: Ms. Bianconi, Mrs. Gaulton, Mr. De Van Der Scheuren, Mr. Schneider and Ms. Valentine. We welcome back Mr. Gerald, Mrs. Varghese and Ms. Zahra.

While this term is only 8 weeks long, and we want all our children to grow into fine young men and women, the focus remains firmly on raising learning standards. Therefore, I have asked teachers to communicate regularly with parents. In turn, I ask all parents to sign the planners weekly – say on a Friday/Saturday and to support your children in their learning.

Please write comments and ask questions in the planner for the teacher to respond to. The most successful students are those who have parents and teachers working together and communicating frequently.

Campus Student Leadership 2008

We wish Joshua Hanrahan, Bryce Hill, Emily Murphy and Sarah O'Dowd all the best as they carry out their additional responsibilities this year.

Shrove Tuesday



The four Campus Leaders, the two campus Leaders from Presentation Campus, Mrs. Roga and Br. Peter represented the College at the formal launch of Project Compassion at St. Peter's College, Cranbourne. By all accounts they did the College proud.



Meanwhile at St. Paul's, a number of Year 9 students, Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Haupt, made and sold Shrove Tuesday pancakes to the students in keeping with tradition.

Ash Wednesday

St. Paul's launched the season of Lent at a moving liturgy. Staff and students participated actively and ashes were distributed. A highlight of the ceremony was the launch of Project Compassion on the campus. This year the focus is on urban poverty in the Philippines and the campus 'EDUTAS' INITIATIVE underlines the importance of education in breaking the cycle of poverty. Mrs. Susan Grout, Diocesan Director of CARITAS, was the guest speaker. The Campus leaders signed the commitment to Project Compassion on behalf of the campus.

Welcome Evening

The College celebrated 'Welcome Evening' for all new families and students. It was heartening to see the Lecture Theatre nearly full. After the 'Lampighter' liturgy, families were given information pertinent to being part of the Lavalla Catholic College Community. Michael Morgan and the Year 7 Co-ordinators presented Year 7 Camp information. A light supper was welcome!

Marking the Federal Government's Apology to the Stolen Generations staff and students participated in marking this historic day. The Year 9 students gathered for the hoisting of the Aboriginal flag at the start of the day. Mrs Di Sisto and the Campus Leaders had prepared an information sheet for each Homeroom to inform them of the background to this apology.

At the Campus Assembly the next day, the students participated in a Liturgy to mark the occasion. Ms Pegorer spoke about the issues of justice the apology addressed. The students viewed an extract of the Prime Minister's speech to Parliament. Did the students pay attention? From the observation that they sat still, looked at the screen and the speakers, maintained eye contact, the answer is 'Yes'. They responded very well. Congratulations! A brief clip of the occasion was shown on local TV that evening.

Mr Chris Roga
Campus Director

Education Maintenance Allowance Eligibility

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 you must on the first day of 1st Term (29 January 2008) for the first instalment and on the first day of 3rd Term (14 July 2008) for the second instalment:

- 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 the school by the date/s listed.

Submission dates

The application form must be lodged at the school by:

29 February 2008 for the first instalment or
1 August 2008 for the second 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 rates – 2008

1st instalment - \$301
2nd instalment - \$129
Total payment - \$430.00

**** Forms are available at Marcellin House ****

Forthcoming Events

TERM 1

FEBRUARY

25-27 Feb Year 7 Camp [Presentation]
 25-27 Feb Year 12 Outdoor Education
 29 Feb Swimming Carnival [St Paul's]

MARCH

4 March Commissioning Mass held at St Paul's @ 11.00am
 7 March Presentation Campus Parents & Friends (7.00pm)
 9-14 Mar Catholic Education Week
 10 Mar **Labour Day Public Holiday**
 11 Mar Year 10 Work Experience
 14 Mar Year 12 Orals
 19 Mar Parent Teacher Student Interview (4.00pm-7.30pm)
 20 Mar Last Day Term 1 - **Student Free Day**
 Parent Teacher Student Interview (9.30am-12.00pm)
 21Mar-6Apr Marist Mexico Trip
 24-26 Mar AMSA Basketball - Cairns, QLD

TERM 2

APRIL

7 Apr Term 2 Commence
 8 Apr Readak Parent Information Session (7.30pm Lecture Theatre StP's)
 17 Apr Second Hand Uniform Shop Open (3.30pm-4.30pm)
 20 Apr Arrival of Cross and Icon
 21 Apr FULL WINTER UNIFORM
 22 Apr Outdoor Education - Alp
 24 Apr Nagle Day
 25 Apr Anzac Day
 30 Apr Outdoor Education Walk

MAY

2 May Lavalla Athletics Carnival
 4-7 May AMSA Netball Carnival - Shepparton
 8 May Year 7 2009 Information Evening [St Paul's]

St Paul's, Kildare & Lourdes (CRDC) REUNION

Students who attended St Paul's, Kildare & Lourdes (CRC) in the group that started Year 7 in 1982 and completed Year 12 in 1987; including those who left before completing Yr 12 or who joined the group after 1982.

Reunion will be held on **Labour Day weekend** (March 8,9 &10). evening event on **Saturday March 8** (partners welcome) and a Picnic lunch on **Sunday March 9** (families welcome).

For more **information phone Mary on 0429025015 or Kelly 51761341 or 0421210795**. Email lourdes_crc87@yahoo.com with your mailing address or email address so that further information and an invitation can be sent to you.

Parish Mission (February 25 - March 14)

Conducted by Redemptorist Priest Pat Keenan
 Theme: "COME LET GOD LOVE YOU!"

There will be eight Home Masses in the Parish, one in Glengarry, one in Traralgon South the other six will be in the Traralgon area. Home Masses will commence Monday 25 February until Wednesday 5 March. Times and dates to be advertised through St Michael's Church.

Mission in the Church (March 6 - March 14)

3 sessions daily:- 6.00am; 9.15am; and 7.30pm.

Ample opportunities for Sacrament of Reconciliation and for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Draw closer to God during the Lenten season in preparation for Easter.

Canteen Roster

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

Mon 25 Feb T. Roberts, R. Bermingham
 Tue 26 Feb T. Pledge, S. Garrett
 Wed 27 Feb T. Grunwald, D. Arandt
 Thu 28 Feb R. Petrucci, G. Breed
 Fri 29 Feb K. Nelson, K. Arbuthnot

Mon 3 Mar W. Heiser, (help needed)
 Tue 4 Mar R. Farmer, (help needed)
 Wed 5 Mar T. Thornton, (help needed)
 Thu 6 Mar M. Johnston, L. Elliott
 Fri 7 Mar D. Buckley, (help needed)

KILDARE CAMPUS

Mon 25 Feb D. Buckley, I. Gregson
 Tue 26 Feb L. Calabrese, (help needed)
 Wed 27 Feb A. Scully, (help needed)
 Thu 28 Feb M. Johnson, (help needed)
 Fri 29 Feb L. Clarke, R. Salleh

Mon 3 Mar D. Buckley, (help needed)
 Tue 4 Mar K. Dugan, H. Vanberkel
 Wed 5 Mar G. Fiddelaers, (help needed)
 Thu 6 Mar H. Stoddart, (help needed)
 Fri 7 Mar M. Byl, (help needed)

Private Car Conveyance Allowance Applications

Any parent who needs to travel more than 4.8 km to get their child to school or bus stop can claim a conveyance allowance to help cover the cost involved. This claim can be made provided there is no bus service running at that time or place. This applies particularly to music students who need to come in early for rehearsals. **Could I ask that if music rehearsal days/times have changed this year for your son/daughter, could you please inform Mr. Van Berkel in writing of the new arrangements.** New claims can be made by filling in the blue Private Car Conveyance Allowance Application form, obtainable from the **Campus office**.

Breakfast Club @ Kildare

Every Wednesday from 7.45am-8.45am

Held in the Food Technology room

All Welcome!!

Enquiries contact: Mike Hansen

2008 Term Dates

Term 1 31 January - 20 March
 Term 2 7 April - 27 June
 Term 3 15 July - 19 September
 Term 4 6 October - 5 December