

LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



15 May 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers

It was a privilege to participate in the Leadership course conducted by Melbourne University and the Hay Group. As a group of Principals from around Australia it was both enlightening and supportive to listen and learn from each others' experiences. We have been challenged to apply some of the latest leadership theories to our own contexts and to report back when next we meet in August.



The College warmly welcomes **Br Mark Needham (FMS)**. He commenced with us last week and has already begun work as our College Chaplain for staff and students. Br Mark has many years of experience working as a teacher and Principal in many parts of Australia and recently in the Philippines. We are fortunate to have the added presence of Br Mark, who together with Br Bill, will continue to deepen our understanding of the Marist Charism.

We have entered our enrolment period for our new intake of year 7 students for 2010. This week we experienced an excellent Twilight Open session at the Presentation Campus. The Campus was alive with wonderful interactive displays with students on hand to offer advice and to speak of their educational experiences at Lavalla Catholic College.

Twilight Open Session

Next Tuesday - 19 May at the St Paul's Campus between 5pm-7pm

Teachers will be conducting classes so families are able to see the curriculum delivery first hand and ask direct questions about the diverse programmes we offer. A formal presentation and guided tour are also on offer. This is a reminder to all families that enrolments for 2010 close on 29th May 2009. If you have yet to receive your enrolment package or know friends who are seeking more information please direct their enquiries to the College Registrar, **Mrs Jean Jennings**.

Diocesan Education Council

Mr Marco DiCesare, Campus Director of the Kildare Campus was recently invited to participate in the Diocesan Education Council. This is an influential committee in the Diocese made up of primary and secondary representatives as well as parents and members of the Catholic Education Office. This Council meets regularly and its function is to set and evaluate policies and procedures that will guide school practices. We congratulate Mr DiCesare on this appointment.



Living Witness Awards

Congratulations are extended to **Mrs Mary Giddens**, receptionist at the Kildare Campus who was the worthy recipient of the Living Witness Award, offered by the Catholic Education Office during Catholic Education Week. The College was delighted to nominate her, having experienced the pastoral care, leadership, faith and spiritual dimension of her work with all our students and teachers. Unfortunately, Mary was not able to receive her award in person as she is on Long Service Leave but two of her children were present to collect the award on her behalf.

Emma Marino, a Year 12 student in 2008, was also acknowledged for her unit 3-4 VCE result in Religion and Society. In fact, Emma received the highest score in this subject in our Diocese. Congratulations to Emma and her teacher **Maria Hagggett** on this wonderful achievement.

Acknowledging Schools who have helped us:

In a few weeks, I will travel to Canberra with two Year 12 student representatives, **Caitlin Platt and Jaryd Rankin**, to offer our thanks to the three schools in Canberra who raised enormous amounts of money for the families in our College who lost their homes in the bushfires. **MacKillop Catholic College** in Tuggeranong, **Marist College** in Pearce and the **Good Shepherd Primary School** in Amaroo are welcoming us into their communities. Our students will present to the Principals of these schools a certificate of appreciation and thanks from Lavalla Catholic College. We also hope to have lunch at Parliament House with our Federal Member, **Mr Darren Chester**. As you know we also received donations from many other schools. Certificates of appreciation will also be sent or delivered in person to all schools who remembered our families.

Ms Erica Pegorer
PRINCIPAL

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Pride in Our National Schools

The College was able to secure \$200,000 for this programme and we hope to begin work on our project as soon as we are able. New and shaded netball courts and some outdoor gym equipment for the St Paul's Campus and a new ropes course for the Presentation Campus are the two projects we have earmarked for this Federal Government Grant.

New Curriculum Development

A dedicated and creative Curriculum group has been investigating the possibility of offering our Yr 9 students a new course in 2010. The group is almost ready to launch this programme and hope to trial some units of work this year. The new programme will make use of the unique environment at the Presentation Campus as well as

explore other 'bush' and 'city' environments. Parents of year 8 and year 9 students will be invited to an information night in due course.

Mentoring Programme

Earlier this year we invited parents to consider becoming mentors for some of students. We were very pleased with the generous offers and will in the next couple of weeks hold an information session for those who indicated an interest. If you would like to be part of this programme and have not indicated this in the parent surveys, please make contact with **Ms Sandy Francois** at the St Paul's Campus.

Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal

The Gifted and Talented Program at Lavalla Catholic College

The Gifted and Talented program at Lavalla is lead by **Mrs Kim Widrich** with assistance from **Ms. Gloria Zahra**. Students from year 7 are identified through a combination of processes including results on the Ravens Test, teacher recommendation and parent application. Chosen students join a withdrawal session once a week where they undertake a wide range of activities that encourage higher level thinking skills. At Year 8 the withdrawal group has a project focus. Each member negotiates their individual projects with the staff facilitators. Students create their own research questions, problem solve, consult experts, research and finally deliver a product to a specific audience.

It should be noted that these withdrawal groups do not operate in isolation. Another aspects of the Gifted and Talented program includes involvement in the Tournament of the Minds. This is a team competition which challenges students to work cooperatively, problem solve and think creatively. **Mrs. Widrich and Ms. Zahra** also work with the Curriculum teams and class room teachers to ensure that there is a range of differentiated tasks to cater for individual student needs across the curriculum. Staff are always on the

alert for competitions and other learning opportunities within the community that may be suitable for our students. For example, on May 8, a group of interested Year 7 & 8 students went to the Morwell RSL to participate in the Remembrance Outreach Program which allows students to handle real artefacts, work in small groups, talk to veterans [eye witnesses] and interpret documents and photos.

At our senior campus at Kildare, suitable year 10 students have the opportunity to apply for a variety of VCE, VET and Applied subjects as part of our accelerated program. This acceleration can then be carried through in Years 11 and 12 with the possibility of University studies as part of a year 12 program. This year, three year 12 students are studying first year university psychology with **Mrs. Mara Bormanis** acting as their tutor.

The Gifted and Talented program is growing in both breadth and depth each year and planning has already begun for a further extension in 2010.

Presentation Campus

There is a great buzz around the Campus as I write this with our Twilight Enrolment session this evening. Our staff and their classes have been busy finishing work tasks, preparing rooms and planning the activities on offer for families.

The other increased interest has been related to our Sustainability program with **Mr Rod Williams, Miss Adriana Bianconi** and **Mr Chris Rea** dedicating themselves to preparing their co-operative learning Field Study program. Our vegetable gardens, new compost facility are all planned, materials purchased with work due to commence within the week. Thanks to the many families who have donated money and/or goods to support this project.

The arrival of our chooks has also added interest with a competition to name them, raising the funds to purchase their feed. Though not all are laying yet "their minders" **Beaudine Hunt, Simon Jackiw** and **Katelyn Harrison**, are enjoying adding each day's gatherings to the cartons. The eggs will be raffled to students or used in the Food Technology classes. Thanks to family members **Mr Gary Mitchell** and to **Mr Rodney and Mrs Kathryn Harrison** for their help in sourcing the birds. Thanks also to the Parents and Friends Auxilliary whose Mother's Day

raffle raised \$365 for projects around the Campus. The winners were **Jon Noy, Mr Chris Rea and Alex Corrigan**. Parents from this group will also take a hospitality role this evening and we thank them for this.

Student enrichment activities in recent days have included

- The start of the Gifted and Talented program with **Mrs Kim Widrich**
- Leadership/ mentoring involvement of past students in the St Mary's Newborough Sports Day.
- The Flying Bookworm theatre performance- a presentation to Yr7 about personal safety issues related to bullying
- Spinout - a visiting interactive performance group for Year 8&9. Their presentation dealt with harm minimisation strategies in relation to Drugs and Alcohol. We acknowledge the \$410 grant received through The Arts Centre, from the State Government, which helped us to access this group.

Finally, just a reminder that full winter uniform as described in the planner is needed. Blazers are to be worn to and from school and scarves need to be navy blue. Ties are a compulsory item with the winter uniform.

Mrs Leanne Mills
Campus Director

Kildare Campus

The days have become colder. Students have quickly acclimatised themselves to our winter uniform. I see the uniform as an important part of College life and as a staff will be ensuring that all students wear it well. I was particularly pleased this week with the wearing of the blazers and ties. We have implemented a system at the Kildare Campus where students receive 3 separate warnings for minor transgressions. Please refer to our earlier mail-out or the student planners for expectations on the wearing of the uniform.

Year 12's Studying University Subjects

Mrs Bormanis is currently supporting 3 of our students in Year 12 who are also completing University Subjects in Psychology. She was more than please with their results so far and in her words "by my calculations, all three students are currently sitting on High Distinctions. We will do our best to 'keep up the good work'." Well done Mara and well done to all our students involved in all University Subjects in Year 12. We will continue to promote the College motto of 'Strong Minds and Compassionate Hearts'.

Year 12 Retreats

There were some tired staff last week as they returned from our annual Year 12 Retreats. The students seemed to fare better!! Even so, all staff returned with positive reports of how students interacted and involved themselves in the various activities while away. Retreats are a memorable and important time for our community as they come to realise more about themselves and share their faith

St Paul's Campus

Winter is here with its chilly winds, hint of rain and warm rooms. The past two weeks have seen the staff and students getting ready for the "Open School: Twilight Session" on the 19th May. The NAPLAN testing was also scheduled for the 12th -14th May for Yr 7 & 9 students. The campus has become very busy with a number of activities designed to enhance learning.

Grade 6 Visits

Mrs. Haupt, the Transition Co-ordinator has completed a round of visits to the Catholic Primary Schools to meet with the Grade 6 students. She was accompanied by some of the Year 7 students who came from the Primary Schools.

Mrs. Haupt, Mrs. French and Ms. McCullagh, the Year 7 Co-ordinators, in turn welcomed the Grade 6 students from the Catholic Primary Schools to the St. Paul's Campus. The Grade 6 students have spent a morning at the campus, engaging in some activities including Food, Art and PE and getting a feel for learning at Lavalla. The students have responded very well, and are a credit to their teachers and schools. We hope to see many of them next year.

"Open School: Twilight Session"

The inaugural 'Open School: Twilight Session' will be held on 19th May from 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm. The idea is to let all visitors experience what happens at St. Paul's. So staff and some students will take part in a variety of learning activities. The evening has three parts: **Session 1** - 5.00pm–5.45pm - Visitors are encouraged to tour the campus and observe/take part in some learning activities. **Session 2** - 5.45pm – 6.15pm - Information session takes place in the Lecture Theatre. **Session 3** - 6.15 pm–7.00pm - second round of activities and tours takes place. This initiative allows visitors to not just get information about the Campus, but to actually experience what happens here between teachers and students.

Medieval Day

On 30th April a time warp turned Presentation's green Campus

as well as a time to enjoy the company of others. Thankyou to the staff and students for the way they entered into the experience. Each year **Mr Hansen** prepares and re-writes the aspects of the retreats. Thank-you once again **Mr Hansen** for your hard work and dedication in ensuring that the Retreats continue to be a huge success.

Primary School Retreats

Mrs Gaye Jenkins and her student supporters will be running Grade 6 Confirmation Retreats for Sacred Heart and St Vincent's Primary Schools next week. This is recognised as part of their Religious Education programme. Please keep them in your prayers as they join the Grade 6's in this important part of their faith and spiritual journey.

A Student Leader

As school captain of the College, **Sky Hammer** heads the Events area of our Student Leadership Structure and works with the Student Leadership Council in organising promotions and public speaking. Sky is a former student of St Michael's Primary School in Traralgon and enjoys playing football for the Traralgon Football Club. Sky is currently studying English, Accounting, Economics, Legal Studies and Maths Methods and completed Units 3 and 4 PE in Year 11. After his time at the College, Sky would like to study Commerce and Law at Monash University.



Mr Marco Di Cesare
Campus Director

into a medieval village as all Year 8 students took part in Medieval Day. Students were organised into groups and participated in activities and workshops about Medieval Europe. Children had the opportunity of touching armour, weapons, playing medieval games, exploring crime and punishment and so on which gave them a fascinating insight into life in Medieval times. Thanks to the meticulous planning by **Mrs. Widrich** and her team and the hospitality of the Presentation staff, the students enjoyed watching history come to life.

Suessical: the Musical

Dozens of Year 9 and Year 10 students were involved in magical performances of 'Suessical Jr.' after months of dedicated practice and commitment. Both nights were 'sellouts' with people being turned away on the final night, which is testimony to the quality of the production of Lavalla's biannual musical. The passion, enthusiasm and skill of all performers captivated and charmed the audiences. Those working behind the scenes helped ensure a truly flawless production. A special word of thanks to **Mrs. Williams**, the choreographer, energiser and inspirer, to **Ms. Emma O'Brien** for her direction and set design, to **Ms. Rebekah King** her musical direction, and to **Russell Stewart, Hannah Degabrielle** and numerous staff members and parents for their help with a variety of supporting tasks.

Remembrance Box Programme

On Friday May 8th 26 year 7 & 8 students went to the Morwell RSL to participate in the Remembrance Box Programme organised by the Shrine. Students were able to hear eye witness accounts of the experiences of ex-service men and women who served in a range of conflicts. They were also able to view artefacts and interpret documents and photographs. This activity gave a rare insight into Australian History which was made available to students who have an interest in history.

Mr Chris Roga
Campus Director

Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Paul

To celebrate the Year of St. Paul the Catholic Education Office sponsored a Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Paul. I am **Miss Kathleen Matters** a long standing member of Lavalla Catholic College. I was an ambassador for the College when I joined a group of teachers from many schools in the Diocese. This experience for me was truly amazing. Following in the footsteps of St. Paul was a life-long dream of mine. The spiritual impact is very difficult for me to articulate. Turkey is one of the most treasured countries in the universe. The history and tradition was easily visible. Grandeur, ingenuity from the master craftsmen of that era was truly remarkable. The remnants of the buildings still stand erect with their brilliant architecture of the day, silhouetted against the horizons. These edifices are part of the Seven Wonders of the world. The respect and reverence from the Eastern Countries for their God was inspiring and visible. These are the people who eke out a very simple existence with very little money to cushion their journey. God is truly their ultimate mentor and Saviour.

St. Paul travelled through Turkey and Greece to preach the Gospel to all peoples. He was lucky to average thirty-four kilometres a day-a figure which takes into account sickness, injury, bad weather, rumours of bandits and wolves on the road or the need to wait for a caravan that would provide some measure of security. Can we understand "the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all of the Churches". 2 Corinthians 11:28. Paul was a humble tentmaker. He was a man for all men and he worked side by side from the poorest to the most influential. He encountered great opposition and persecution. St. Paul carried on regardless and his faith in Christ never wavered. Sardis, Ephesus, Thessaloniki, Gallipoli, Assos, Patmos (This was the Island where St. John was banished for 2 years) Kalambaka, Athens, Corinth. Many of these cities were a beauty to behold, perched on hillsides overlooking the Aegean Sea. One of the main highlights for me was stepping on the coast of the Aegean Sea where St Paul alighted to carry the Good News to all of mankind. The death of St. Paul was symbolic in the way he lived his life. He serenely bared his neck for the sword of execution. St Paul knew that his death would be the resonant proclamation that he has kept the Faith.

As a member of Lavalla Catholic College when I visit the Classrooms I will try to give the passion and the energy and the dedication to Jesus Christ that St. Paul offered. He was a man for all seasons and the students would be able to identify and have empathy with the values of this great man. I would like to finish with my favourite passage from 1 Corinthians Chapter 13.

"Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous, conceited or proud;
Love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable;
Love does not keep a record of wrongs;
Love never fails."

2010 Twilight Open Campus - St Paul's

Tuesday 19 May 2009 5.00pm to 7.00pm

5.00pm to 5.45pm & 6.15pm to 7.00pm - Tours conducted and Activity Sessions

5.45pm - 6.15pm - Information Sessions

Parents Victoria Online Conference 18-24 May 2009



PARENTS of primary and secondary students, in all locations, are warmly invited to take part in the third online conference to be held by Parents Victoria. The conference will be held non-stop on the internet from 6am Monday 18 May to midnight Sunday 24 May. No special software is needed, other than an internet-connected computer and a browser. The online discussions will be very easy to join in, and guidelines about how to participate will be provided. You don't need to be a member of Parents Victoria to take part. Join in for all days, just some days, or even a few hours, depending on your lifestyle and other commitments. The Parents Victoria Online Conference 2009 website will open from 6am on Monday 18 May at: http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv1_09/ but please register yourself online first at <http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv09.htm>. For full details see <http://www.lavalla.vic.edu.au/news/newsletters.asp>

St Kieran's Parish

In the coming weeks **St Kieran's Parish, Moe** will be celebrating its **Diamond Jubilee**. You are warmly welcomed to join in the following activities to help celebrate this milestone.

Thursday 21st May - Feast of St Eugene de Mazenod, Bishop and founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Feast Day Parish Mass at 9:00am.

Friday 22nd May - Jubilee Dance 7:30pm-midnight. Tables need to be booked and paid for prior to the night (\$10pp) BYO drinks and nibbles and a plate for a community supper. Bookings can be made through Lina (51278064), Monica (51273969) or Sr Joy (51271179). The band will be the Esquires.

Saturday 23rd May - A Car Boot Sale will be held in the Parish hall/car park area. Spaces available for \$10 through Lina (51278064), Monica (51273969) or Sr Joy (51271179).

Oblate Vocations Weekend (26-28 June)

Here is a live-in opportunity to talk with Oblate students and priests, to experience the community's prayer and liturgy, to reflect and relax. See brochures on next page or for more details visit www.oblates.com.au.

Second Hand Book and Uniform Shop.

NEXT OPEN

Thursday 21st May

New Hours: 3.30pm – 6.00pm

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

Forthcoming Events

TERM 2

MAY

- 19 May Open Day and Information Evening (St Paul's Campus)
- 21 May Second Hand Uniform Shop Open (3.30pm-6.00pm)
- 25 May Parents and Friends meeting (St Paul's Library 7.30pm)
- 29 May Campus photographs (St Paul's campus)

JUNE

- 8 Jun **Queens Birthday** (Public holiday)
- 12 Jun Student Free Day
- 26 Jun Last Day Term 2 - Student Free Day

Canteen Roster

KILDARE CAMPUS

Mon 11 May	R. Crowle
Tue 12 May	C. Templeton
Wed 13 May	G. Fiddelaers
Thu 14 May	H. Stoddart
Fri 15 May	T. Newton
Mon 18 May	C. Jackiw
Tue 19 May	C. Asbock
Wed 20 May	C. Hinds
Thu 21 May	Help needed
Fri 22 May	M. Tatlow



*Missionary
Oblate!*

*If not you...
Who?*

*Oblate Vocations Weekend 26-28 June 2009
Contact vocations@oblates.com.au, phone (03) 9795 5077*



*Missionary Oblate,
Oblate, OMI...*

*What is it?
Google it!*

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