

LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



4 September 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Teachers

From the Principal's Desk

When you receive this newsletter our principal, **Erica Pegorer**, will be in Rome attending the Chapter of the Marist Institute. This will be an historic meeting as it is the first time lay people have had a place at this gathering. The Chapter is a meeting from Marist representatives from all over the world who meet to map out the future of the Institute. We keep Erica and all the delegates in our prayers.

As always there is much to report. The Yr 11 students have been on their overnight house retreats. These are important opportunities for young people; they can explore their faith and extend their relationships with teachers and other students. At a very simple level, the retreats allow the students time to simply 'be', away from technology and the intrusion of mobile phones. My thanks to **Mr Mike Hansen** and the staff members, for providing our young people with this opportunity for personal and spiritual growth. The St Paul's and Presentation campuses have also had students away: the Yr 8 students on the Melbourne camp. The goals here are also on learning to manage in a group, handling public transport and learning about significant landmarks in Melbourne. All overnight activities take staff members away from their families, and create extra work both for them and the teachers left behind at school. I thank all those staff members most warmly and encourage you to do the same when the opportunity arises.

Enrolments

I urge all families to ensure that their sons and daughters have returned all paperwork and paid all necessary deposits to secure a place and particular subjects for 2010. It is always disappointing for students to miss out on particular subjects because of tardiness with re-enrolment. If there is some reason why deposits cannot be paid promptly please contact the appropriate Campus Director to discuss this.

Master Survivor / Mastering Learning 2010

Last week we offered families the opportunity to attend a briefing session. Naturally there were many questions and these have been noted as they will really help with our planning for the **Master Survivor** at Presentation, and the Mastering Learning at both St Paul's and Presentation. At this point the pilot for Master Survivor, which is being run over two weeks, is proving a great success and bodes well for the 2010 introduction of the program.

On Tuesday this week the College was abuzz with two evening activities, the Yr 7 On Show, (please see the letter from **Rosemary Copeland** from the Catholic Education Office in Warragul) and the VCAL Fashion Parade, raising funds for Latrobe Regional Hospital. The Fashion Parade was very professional, with students ensuring a sophisticated level of catering, garments and presentation. It was a delight to see our young people strutting on the catwalk, organising catering and generally running the evening in a very proficient way. My thanks to all staff involved who supported the students in the work for both evenings and particularly to the Yr 7 staff who set up rooms and stayed until 7pm to give parents the opportunity to view student work.

Raffle

We have launched the College raffle thanks to the hard work of the Parents and Friends group led by **Anita Both**. As you are aware this fund raiser is seeking to supply climate control to the classrooms across the College. I urge you to sell as many tickets as possible and/or to take your turn on the ticket selling roster for the local shopping centres. It has been very heartening to see the level of student involvement in the ticket sales. Please work with us to ensure that as many classrooms as possible can be made more comfortable.

Annual Music Concert

You are invited to attend this concert on the **9th September**, 7pm in the Kildare hall. This concert comes at the end of a very fruitful time for our musicians and singers. They have spent considerable time preparing for and competing in various contests and Eisteddfods, and the concert gives our wider school community the opportunity to experience the talent they have to offer.

"All successful people, men and women, are big dreamers. They imagine what their future could be, ideal in every respect, and then they work every day toward their distant vision, that goal or purpose". - Brian Tracy

Ms Lee McKenzie
Acting Principal

Ms Erica Pegorer

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Kildare Campus

Clearly our Course and Careers Expo has met all of its aims as students begin the re-enrolment process. Their decisions are informed and their confidence in the process is high. Congratulations to all our students.

Tertiary Visits

We have had visits from university faculties informing our students about courses that are offered at a tertiary level. These sessions have encouraged our students to look beyond their years at Lavalla and plan for further studies. Well done **Mrs English** on your work in this area and for keeping our students abreast of the developments at a tertiary level.

Year 11 Retreats and Alternative Programme

Last week was a busy one for our Year 11's. They participated in the House Retreats – by all accounts the retreats continue to be a focal point for our students. They are questioned about their faith and encouraged to share their own personal journey with others in small groups. Congratulations once again to **Mr Hansen** and to all the staff who supported this important part of our College life.

The Year 11 House based day was also run in conjunction with the retreats. This programme saw our Year 11's have an opportunity to focus on future directions. We were privileged to have our past students return to share their working life journey with us. Students appreciated hearing from past students who represented their workforces – Australian Federal Police, Law, Apprenticeships Australia and Education. Students then refined their career choices.

St Paul's Campus

After EXPO it was the turn of the Year 7s to put on a dazzling display of collaborative learning at its most exciting. On the same day the CAS Touch Footy teams won the championship. This newsletter has been put together by **Mr Carmody, Mrs Widrich** and **Mrs Sharman**. My thanks to each one of them.

Year 7 On Show

A Display of Science and Humanities Models, Projects and Learning The Year 7 'On Show' night, last Tuesday evening, was a wonderful success. Parents commented that they had an informative and interesting night with the highlight being the viewing of student achievement through their work and performances.

Many new parents, and prospective Year 7 students in 2010 attended and were amazed at the breadth of programs and subjects covered. They commented on the excellent presentations and the high standard of work produced by our Year 7s. The displays were colourful, professional and reflected a sound knowledge of the units of work covered. Homerooms were filled with exciting Science Fair exhibits and publications as well as models and artefacts depicting life in ancient times. All the technology electives were represented displaying the artistic flair and creativity of our students. The Learning Enhancement display featured a range of thought provoking social messages about climate change and LOTE students performed their play Avanti in front of an enthralled audience.

The atmosphere in the Year 7 Centre was festive and joyful as all members of our learning community helped celebrate the achievements of all year 7 students. I enjoyed touring the displays and viewing the work.

The Year 7 SRC will proudly hand over the proceeds of their highly successful cake stall which amounted to \$221.05. A fantastic effort! I would like to thank the teachers and students who worked together to organise and present this event

They finished the day hearing about the College's future directions and offering input and advice as to where, as students, they would like us to direct our energies.

VCAL Fashion Show

What a fantastic night. As part of their main project for VCAL a small group of students organised a fashion extravaganza. The night had professional dancers, singers and then, of course, our models. Congratulations to **Ashleigh Albanese, Meagan Softley** and **Amber Stennings** for your leading of this night. **Well done!**

Mr Marco DiCesare
Campus Director

Big Prize Raffle

A reminder to all parents, students and staff to continue with the great effort so far in selling tickets! Tickets will be sold in the coming weeks at the following venues:

Mid Valley Shopping Centre:

11th-13th Sep, 25th-27th Sep and 2nd-4th Oct

Stockland Plaza Traralgon:

18th-20th Sep and 9th-11th Oct

We wish to thank **Mid Valley Shopping Centre** and **Stockland Plaza Traralgon** for their generous support, allowing us to use their facilities free of charge.



Mrs. Kim Widrich

Year 7-8 Curriculum Team Member

CAS Touch Footy Champions

On September 1st, five teams competed in the Catholic All Schools Championships in Melbourne. The results are astounding; the Junior Boys, Junior Girls, Intermediate Boys, Intermediate girls teams won convincingly. In the Intermediate Boys finals two Lavalla teams played each other! The Senior Boys did not go and the Senior Girls missed out by a whisker. Congratulations to the **students** and **Mr Sizeland, Ms Joyce, and Ms Morrow** for the training and the coaching.

Mr Chris Roga
Campus Director

Presentation Campus

With a Writer's Forum, Meditation and Mentoring Programs in progress, Music Eisteddfods, Public Speaking and sport events in the offing, student learning continues to have many facets. These diverse opportunities continue to enrich the standard curriculum and were celebrated at our assemblies in recent weeks.

Students were fortunate to have **Mayor Lisa Price** speak to them about local council services for youth in the region. Lisa generously fielded impromptu questions and the interest of the students indicated their concern about and willingness to engage in issues that affect their community. At the most recent gathering **Katelyn Somerville** (Yr9) spoke about the opportunity that the Rostrum Club of Morwell had opened up for a small group from the Campus and Madeline Pollard (Yr9) skilfully presented one of the speeches that she had delivered to the Rostrum group. The critique given as feedback to each student involved, continues to promote the skills needed and selection of content for public speaking presentations. Awards for participation, credit and distinction were passed on to several students in relation to their ICAS testing and performances in Geography testing.

Work begun during the Green Day activities (June 09) is now taking hold with many new shoots beginning to show and several plants flowering. Phase 2 of the Campus Improvement Initiative undertaken by parents, staff and students will be implemented during this spring.

Many students have worked well throughout the term, so there will be much to celebrate at the soon to be held parent/student/teacher evening.

Master Survivor Program

It was a great pleasure to be able to meet with parents and share the plan for our new **Mastering Learning @ year 9 program** last Wednesday evening. The component that will see more effective utilisation of the wonderful facility that the College's Presentation Campus offers is the Master Survivor Program. This will see all Year 9 students in 2010 and beyond spending one term enrolled in the program which focuses on interactive and experiential activities. The program has seven major components: Marist commitment and community project, Personal Evaluation, Physical Challenge, Construction, Environment, Indigenous Culture and World Culture along with Personal Growth.

Music News

Our **Senior Choir**, **Senior Wind Ensemble** and **Senior Jazz Ensemble** have all enjoyed some wonderful success and acclaim as a result of recent performances. For the fifth consecutive year our **Senior Choir** has been awarded the **International Power Gippsland Cup** as the winner of the secondary school section of the Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod. This is a magnificent achievement for the many students across this time who have been able to create and maintain a standard of musical excellence within this ensemble.



Currently engaged in the pilot of this program and helping to further develop the unit are the following Year 9 students **Chloe Backman, Carly Baudendistel, Alexander Bermingham, Molly Clavarino, Alex Corrigan, Jamie Ferguson, Claire Fleming, Ryan Frescura, Lucas Fry, Domenic Germano, Kyle Hornsby, Beaudine Hunt, Jasmine Langstaff, Harrison Lewis, Justin Moyes, Nathan O'Connor, Maddie Rickard, Katelyn Somerville, Kate Troy, Amelia Vincent, Emily Whitty**. The Writing Team members are very pleased to see the way they are engaging in the activities and are grateful for the rich feedback they are providing related to their interest level, timing and delivery, as well as the ideas about future areas for enrichment.

From Monday's Team Building activities, Orienteering and Great Race to working with Peta Minter and with the African drums, they showed how quickly a group committed to working together could produce powerful music using only drums. The initial beat patterns were quickly learnt and the students should be very proud of their ability to listen effectively, work in unison and create powerful rhythm.

"How we know the Bush" provided a rich learning experience of Australian music, film, art and poetry while the mapping out Australia and some significant landmarks created a real spatial challenge for some.

Focus was also given to the February bushfires when Boolarra became the focus of day 3. The School of the Road tape enabled the news reports/interviews to be heard once again. This set the scene for greater understanding of the fragility of our country towns and their flora, fauna and human populations. Ronald Edwards of the Gunnai-Kurnai people shared stories about his Art work and his people, while Jean Quick and her animal refuge centre brought home to some the impact the fire had had. Add to this campfire cooking, making damper, toasting marshmallows and foiled potatoes, constructing water filters and learning directional cues made for a busy, interactive school day.

With only 3 days of the pilot programme finished there is much still to experience and much to celebrate. **Leanne Mills on behalf of the Writing Team** Please see the next page for photos.

Mrs Leanne Mills
Campus Director

Our **Senior Wind Ensemble** and **Senior Jazz Ensemble** have returned from their performances at the **Melbourne School Bands Festival** with a silver and bronze shield respectively. These are all noteworthy results for our music department. Kudos to all of our musicians, in particular the year twelve students who have set sterling standards of excellence within our department. Congratulations also to our **Intermediate Concert Band** who performed for the first time under the baton of our new staff member **Mr John Wilkie** at the **Melbourne School Bands Festival**.

We are busy preparing for our final commitments at the Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod and also remind everyone in our college community of our **Annual Music Concert** which will be held on Wednesday the **9th of September** at 7.00pm in the Kildare Hall. **All are most welcome.**

Mr Shane Reid
Director of Music

MSP Pilot and Boolarra Excursion photos



Forthcoming Events

TERM 3

- 9 Sep Annual Music Concert (7pm Kildare Hall)
- 17 Sep Parent & Teacher Interviews
- 18 Sep Term 3 concludes
- Cross campus photographs (sport and music groups)
- Presentation Campus - finish at 2.10pm
- St Paul's & Kildare Campus - finish at 2.30pm

TERM 4

- 5 Oct Term 4 commences
- 19 Oct Full summer uniform
- 29 Oct Lavalla Restaurant
- 2 Nov Mid Term break
- 3 Nov Melbourne Cup Day (Public holiday)
- 5 Nov Big Prize Raffle Draw

Second Hand Book and Uniform Shop.

NEXT OPEN

Thursday 17th September

Hours: 3.30pm – 6.00pm

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

Dear Mrs McKenzie

On Tuesday evening, at the invitation of Mr Roga, I attended the "Year 7 on Show" evening at St. Paul's Campus.

Please pass on my congratulations to the students, staff and families of St Paul's year 7 students. The variety of work presented in all areas was wonderful, and I couldn't help but think that there must have been joy and pride in the students learning. I was impressed by the work in their core subject of Religious Education, and students' work on the issue of sustainability was wonderful! They clearly demonstrated that they understood the gift and value of water, and the importance of our need to be good and responsible stewards of our earth's resources. The Learning Enhancement students had explored the issue to great depths! Schools have an important role to play in educating our future citizens of the planet, and from what I saw in the evening's presentation, Lavalla staff have made a wonderful effort with their year 7s.

Art work was bright and creative; work in the technology area was very interesting, and it was terrific to read that students had worked in partnership with parents in the construction of their windmills. Ancient Greece revealed many of its secrets! Music played! The video of year 7 camp activities and the students' enjoyment of it was a joy to watch. The SRC were selling delicious goodies! There was a diary of a student's travels in the Northern Territory, and the sense of mystery and wonder of this part of our land was evident!

I could cite many more examples of wonderful work. Suffice to say that the evening was a very fine tribute to the students and their teachers, and I hope that the many parents who were there are very proud of their sons and daughters achievements.

Yours sincerely

Rosemary Copeland
*Education Consultant (Secondary)
Catholic Education Office,
Diocese of Sale.*