

Lavalla Catholic College



ISSUE 7
June 08
2012

this issue

FROM THE PRINCIPAL P.1

CAMPUS UPDATES P.2 - P.5

CHAMPAGNAT DAY P.6

SPORTS UPDATE P.7

JUNE EVENTS P.8

Middle Time

Between the exhilaration of Beginning...
and the satisfaction of Concluding
Is the Middle-Time
of Enduring ... Changing ... Trying ...
Despairing ... Continuing ... Becoming
Jesus Christ was the Person of God's Middle-
Time
Between Creation and ... Accomplishment
Through him God said of Creation 'Without
mistake'
And of Accomplishment 'Without Doubt'
And we in our Middle-Times of Wondering
and Waiting
Hurrying and Hesitating, Regretting and
Revising -
Who have begun many things ... and see but
few completed -
We who are becoming more ... and less -
Through the evidence of God's Middle-Time
Have a stabilising hint that we are not
mistakes
That we are Irreplaceable that our Being is
of interest
and our Doing is of purpose
That our Being and our Doing are surrounded
by Amen
Jesus Christ is the Completer
of unfinished people
with unfinished work
in unfinished times
May he keep us from sinking, from ceasing
from wasting, from solidifying
That we may be for him
Experimenters, Enablers, Encouragers
and Associates in Accomplishment
(Lona Fowler)



From the Principal

I like the poem from Lana Fowler as we are in many ways in the 'middle' – in the middle of the year; almost the middle of winter; half way through year 12 or half way through the first year of secondary school; even half way through the football session! For our students their teenage years are the middle years – childhood on one side and adulthood on the other and they find themselves swirling in no-man's land trying to find the path that best suits them. . Being in the middle is like being at the fork of the road. A time to make a choice between which way to continue the journey. For our students it's a time to think about performing well in their exams and completing all work that's due. For the teachers it is a time of review and ensuring that students are meeting their academic targets and behaving well for the good of the community. At this time of year, teachers are stressed and weary trying their utmost to engage and motivate students until the end and students themselves can feel unmotivated and aimless because being in the 'middle' can sometimes feel that the end is too far out of reach.

As Lona Fowler says, "we have begun many things... and see but few completed". So as we prepare to move on from the half-way mark, let's focus on the things we have begun and help provide direction and focus for our students.

This week we have paused to celebrate so many historically significant anniversaries. The 23rd anniversary of Tiananmen Square in China where hundreds of civilians were massacred on the 4th June 1989; last weekend we celebrated the Queen's 60th Jubilee; this week was the 20th anniversary of the MABO decision where the high court decision extinguished terra nullius which finally recognised the legal existence of indigenous Australia and it is also 50th anniversary of Vatican II where practises in the Church were modernised.

For me personally watching the documentaries

on television or reading the historical accounts in the papers has brought home yet again how some events have a transforming and profound effect on each one of us even if we were not part of it. I am drawn to make a parallels between what St Marcellin Champagnat tried to do all those years ago and the effect his teachings has on us as teachers and students of a Catholic and Marist school. Fundamentally, our work is to Make Jesus Known and Loved and we do this through the five pillars of presence, family spirit, simplicity, love of work and responding as Mary did. Bishop Prowse, in our Champagnat mass this week also drew upon this mission. He spoke to us about the need to be open to Jesus' work and presence in our lives and to see the face of Jesus in the simplest of places. He encouraged us to look for the good that people do and to open our own hearts to his light within us. These inspiring and hopeful words were the backdrop within which our Champagnat Medal recipients were announced. These students and teachers do good quietly and exemplify in their daily interactions the noble work of St Marcellin Champagnat. The details of the recipients can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and I extend my congratulations to all of them and note the achievements of Mr DiCesare and Ms Couling as the teacher recipients of this award this year.

We keep in our prayers a former member of staff Mrs Vivian Haupt on the recent passing of her mother, Irma, after a long illness. Also Mr Daniel Bryce, a former teacher of St Paul's Catholic College in the 1970s. In need of our prayers and support is also Mrs Anne Symes who is seriously ill. May they feel the love, warmth and affection of our community as they face these challenging times.

Enjoy the respite of the long weekend.

God Bless

Ms Erica Pegorer

Principal



St Paul's Campus Update

Mr Andrew Martin - Campus Director

Water, water, everywhere!

What a week it was in Gippsland, with endless rain and the subsequent flooding dominating the news cycle. The effects of the deluge impacted on our daily lives, reminding us that we have only so much control over the world and the elements can threatened the world we live with.

Many of our students and staff were directly affected by rising water, curtailing the usual routines in favour of protecting property and family in danger. At school, the show went on, despite the challenges of running classes with many absent. In particular, our Champagnat Day mass, celebrating the ten year anniversary of the College was a great success and a triumph of organisation in the circumstances.

Mr Michael Hansen, our Faith Leader, demonstrated again that he is a master of harnessing the human resources of the College to the task of presenting God to us in a layered and sophisticated fashion that was accessible to all present. Broad student participation throughout the mass and a reflection by Mr Marco Di Cesare on his personal faith journey drew the attention of those gathered to their own faith journey and experience.

Our Bishop, Christopher Prowse, then challenged the students to take heed of Mother Theresa of Calcuttas' simple philosophy of Catholicism – "make your school a place where Jesus is known and loved and greet people in a positive fashion which confirms that they are loved and accepted in our community", he preached. A presentation of Champagnat Medals to their worthy recipients enhanced the significance of St Marcellin Champagnat's presence within our school.

In other news, we look toward the end of semester and encouraging students to focus on achieving the goals they set for themselves early in the year. For some, this amounts to continuing to implement successful learning strategies, while for others, the academic review process is a mechanism employed to instill a foundation of work habits which will maximise their success in future.

Finally, I would like to thank all those parents who are supportive of the little things which allow us to build a sense of solidarity in our cohort. To this end, punctuality, uniform and meeting obligations when we fail are all integral to building a culture of respect and excellence.



Kildare Campus Canteen Helpers

Monday 11th June –

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Tuesday 12th June –

L Zalesiak

Wednesday 13^h June –

W Whelan

Thursday 14th June –

M Johnson

Friday 15th June –

REPORT WRITING DAY

Monday 18th June –

C Jackiw

Tuesday 19th June –

L Bennison

Wednesday 20th June –

K Licciardi

Thursday 21st June –

A Slavin

Friday 22nd June –

T Birch

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

NEXT OPEN

Thursday 21st June

Thursday 19th July

3.30pm – 6.00pm

Shop located at: St. Paul's
Campus

Payment options: Cash,
Cheque or EFTPOS

(Please note Kilts/Skirts
must be tried on. They are
not sized)



Kildare Update Mr Marco DiCesare - Campus Director

The next few weeks see us minimising campus interruptions so that students can focus on their exam. Professional Development Sessions, excursions and other events are cancelled over the next few weeks as we emphasise exams. Exams are an important Assessment Task and are now a part of each subjects overall grade and an important opportunity for students to demonstrate their learning for the semester.

RACV SpinChat Session

Our Year 12 students recently attended a seminar run by Selena - a representative of the RACV SpinChat Program. A program that aims to raise awareness, promote prevention and educate secondary school students about spinal cord injury.

Selena took students through her tragic story involving a motorbike accident. She was left a paraplegic, paralysed from the mid waist down. She spoke about the consequences of her spinal cord injury and how it affects her day-to-day life, as well as the dangers involved with high-risk activities such as dangerous driving and diving into shallow water.

The presentation opened the eyes of our Year 12s to the many alarming statistics involved with young people and spinal cord injuries;

- Those at highest risk of suffering a spinal cord injury are aged between 15-34 years old (80% male, 20% female)
- There is no cure for a spinal cord injury
- 350 to 400 new cases of spinal cord injury are reported in Australia each year; more than one every day

Selena answered questions regarding her life before the accident and how her life has changed since. Selena was only a few years older than most of the students present when the accident occurred and many of the Year 12s could relate to her life before the crash. While one could focus on the disadvantages of being in a wheelchair, Selena considers herself lucky that she only lost movement in her legs and feels her accident could have been much worse. Many students were also surprised to find that Selena is still able to drive (both cars and motorbikes) and is still able to have children.

SpinChat was especially important for the Year 12s, particularly during this year in their lives when most turn 18 and are able to drive and to live independently. Selena and many other 18-year-olds believe that spinal cord injury would never happen to them. The RACV SpinChat program makes people aware of how to minimise the risks.

Presentation Campus Update

Ms Tamsin McCormack - Campus Director



Bush Camp

On the 9th of May 2012, half of the year 9 Bush MSP students went to spend the next three days at the Sambain Chalet at Mt Tamboritha. We did many activities, involving teamwork, leadership, stealth, camouflage and bushcraft. The camp gave students responsibilities and opportunities to exercise their team and leadership skills.

Some of the activities on the camp were: a 14km hike with magnificent views along the way, building survival shelters, purifying water to make it safe to drink, a lantern stalk, in which the goal is to reach the objective without being spotted, learning how to navigate at night, and building tables and shelters using square lashings.

We departed St Paul's at about 9.30am on Wednesday the 9th of May. After a twisting bus ride through the Alpine National Park, driving around mountains and ridges with breathtaking views of the surrounding land, we arrived and were allocated to our "luxury" accommodation, with the males sleeping in a loft above the kitchen and the females having their own private hut.

While on camp students were broken up into small groups and were responsible with cooking their own meals, and dividing the cleaning and cooking duties amongst themselves. This was a great opportunity and was thoroughly enjoyed by all, getting your favourite meal each night and a chance to get away from mum's "exotic kitchen creations".

Overall camp was a wonderful experience, enjoyed by all. We learnt a lot and grew closer together as a group, while also learning more about stepping out of our comfort zones and leading others.

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

On Thursday the 22nd of May, it was Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, and students from Lavalla Presentation Campus took part in the event.

Karlee Dal Pra, Jessica Lucas, Chloe McDonald, Amelia Charlton, Airlie Bond, Madeline Lang and Jazmine Nilo-Willett helped in preparing and selling the food.

In the end we had a great day and raised \$258.20 for Cancer Research, which was a brilliant effort.

Thanks to Michael Buckley, Kaylah Thorburn, Sophie Trewin, Tanatswa Ruzive-Makura and Chloe Catherwood who also helped with the baking.



Melbourne City Camp - Joanne, Sophia and Ripley (MSP Students)

Our MSP camp started on the 30th of May and ended on the 1st of June and I think all would agree when I say that it was the three best days we've had this year! We had to do our work during the day, in the evening we shopped and at night activities were organised by the teachers for us to do as a group.

We got to Melbourne by train, then we caught a tram, then we walked for what seemed like a long time (because of all our heavy bags!) to the YHA hostel. Then we departed from there to do our work. During school hours we were required to do our surveys in our PE uniforms, each group had their own question (our survey question was 'Do people shop for comfort or fashion?'). After school hours we were allowed to change and either return to our hostel or go shopping, of course most students chose shopping! After that we walked down to La Porchetta and had dinner. Then we caught a tram to Crown to go to the Galactic Circus (a games arcade). Some students went in not expecting to like it (such as myself) but ended up having a really good time. We got back at about 10:00 and were expected to go to bed in 20 minutes.

On the second day we were to get up at 7:00am and go down for breakfast at 8:00am (though most students were ready at 7:00am!). At around 9:00am we left to do our surveys. We met up at Federation Square, where we were given lunch money and then we were back to our surveys. We met back at the hostel at 5:00pm to get ready for dinner. We went to a restaurant called The Kitchen Workshop in Crown, they had a buffet there with a wide range of foods. Then we went to the movies at Crown to watch Men in Black 3 in 3D (unfortunately gold class was unavailable), which we enjoyed a lot! Then we caught a tram back to the hostel. It was 10:30pm so unlike the previous night we were only given 10 minutes to be ready for bed.

Before we knew it, it was the final day and we were heading home in a few hours. After we were packed, we met up for breakfast with our bags and lugged them to South Cross Station where the teachers watched them. We did our last set of surveys, spent the rest of our money and roamed freely. Then at 2:00pm we caught the train back home.

Those three days of camp helped us to get to know each other better (especially for us three as we were the only three from Presentation Campus) and allowed us to grow and become more independent. I'm speaking for everyone who went on the second city camp when I say it was an amazing camp!



Dante Alighieri Competition

- by Quinn Scott (Yr 9 Student)

On Monday, the 28th of June, Italian students from years 9, 10, 11 and 12 travelled to Melbourne to compete in the Dante Alighieri competition. Months before, students had been asked to choose an Italian poem to memorise. When the students reached the University of Melbourne, they had to recite their poem to a judge. It was a very nervous and exciting time.

When they finished, Lavalla students spent the rest of their day in Lygon Street. Students enjoyed delicious Italian lunches, and were then able to look at the shops. And to top it all off, some students may have been selected to go to the next round of the competition, but we won't know until July 16th!

Everyone had a great time and the younger students are looking forward to it again next year.

Champagnat Day

Champagnat Day, June 6th is a day of celebration for Marist schools around the world. On this day the founder of the Marist Brothers Institute, St Marcellin Champagnat (1789-1840), is honoured for his work. Our College, Lavalla, is named after the village where St Marcellin founded his first school in the Loire Valley in France. Marcellin Champagnat was not known as a scholarly priest, but more a man of action who saw needs and worked to meet them. He was called to the death bed of a young boy, Jean Baptiste Montaigne, and realised how little the boy knew of Jesus and salvation. This stirred Marcellin to action and he began recruiting young men to help educate local youth in matters of faith, letters and numbers.

From this simple beginning grew an institute of nearly 4,000 Marist Brothers worldwide. Each day in large cities and remote villages, across 79 countries on six continents Marist Brothers, Lay Marists and their co-workers work to educate young people, to make Jesus known and loved and to work with the marginalised.

Our Champagnat Mass this year was special in that it marked 10 years of Lavalla Catholic College. The College was born of the amalgamation of Catholic Regional College Traralgon and Presentation Regional College. We were honoured to have Bishop Prowse celebrate mass for the students, staff and guests who joined us on the day. Representatives from the Marist Brothers; brothers Rod, Mark Paul and Doug were welcome visitors, as well as Mr Peter Ryan Director of Catholic Education, Sale. College Council chairperson, Kathleen Roberts and council member Trish Symes along with past Champagnat medal recipients: Nicole Xuerub, Andrew Ware and Adam Bermingham also took time to attend our special day.

As usual the mass was beautifully crafted by liturgist Mike Hansen. Gerard English acted as Master of Ceremonies. A group of students performed a liturgical dance and our wonderful liturgical choir added to the prayerfulness of the occasion. Bishop Prowse spoke to the students about emulating Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta, by saying yes to Jesus and making a life commitment to their faith.

At the conclusion of the Mass, our past Champagnat medal winners took to the podium and explained to the student body the significance of the Champagnat medals. This year's winners were

Year 7: Dylan Sibly, Caitlin Mihaly and Peter Sung
Year 8: Emily Grumley, Jack Law and Mersina Gelagotis
Year 9: Zach Neilson and Quinn Scott
Year 10: Matthew James and Sophie Membrey
Year 11: Damon Bednarski and Teneille Hecker
Year 12: Domenic Germano and Mikaela Ryan

In recent years students have taken the initiative of nominating staff members to receive Champagnat medals, this year the proud staff recipients were Ms Claire Couling and Mr Marco Di Cesare.

At the end of the mass family and friends of the medal winners were invited to the ISC at St Paul's for morning tea.



Lavalla Net Positive Results

Lavalla Catholic College had four school teams travel to Sale to compete in the SSV Netball competition at the Gippsland Regional Sports Centre on Wednesday, May 30th and returned home with some outstanding results.

The senior girl's team had a day of mixed results after succumbing to defeat to Kurnai College in their opening match of the day. The girls recovered after their early disappointment and made it through to the final but endured a narrow two goal loss to Catholic College Sale.

The senior boys pieced together some better form than 12 months ago and displayed some great team work against some strong opposition to progress through to the next round with an undefeated record.

The year 7 boys only had two teams enter the section and it was our boys who prevailed over Kurnai College by recording a comfortable win. The two teams also played a couple of other matches to build up their team play throughout various times of the day.

The year 7 girls had a great day winning all their matches to progress through to the final where they would meet Catholic College Sale. The girls persevered throughout a gripping encounter that went to triple extra time and Lavalla prevailed by the required two goal margin to secure a berth in the Regional Finals next term.

An outstanding achievement by our netball comrades who look forward to more success when they compete at the next round.



Sporting Achievements

Congratulations to the following student athletes who have recently been recognised for excellence in their fields.

Josh Charlton on recently receiving the David Drane Award for his achievements in tennis at the Gippsland Sports Academy Awards Night on Friday the 25th of May. The David Drane Award is an encouragement award named after the man who initiated the development of the Gippsland Sport Academy. The award is presented to an athlete who has shown consistent improvement in their sport and Josh's impressive list of achievements over the past year show that he is a worthy recipient.

Josh has won 2 tournaments that have gained him points that count towards his Australian ranking. He has come runner up in another and has also won three doubles titles. He has qualified for all 4 Nationals over the past year and has played in Mildura, Sydney, Queensland and Melbourne. Josh represented Gippsland in the John Fitzgerald Cup (Victorian Championships) and led the team to victory without losing a singles or doubles match. His outstanding performance resulted in him being chosen to lead Victoria in the Foundation Cup in Sydney in January.

Isabella Scott who made the Schools Sport Victoria Under 19 Girls Soccer team. Isabella will represent Victoria in the National Championships in Townsville, Queensland. Isabella has been an avid soccer player and watcher and we wish her well as she represents our State.

Phoebe Trembath who won the Tim Forsyth Award for sporting excellence in volleyball.

Phoebe has had an outstanding year after being selected as Australia's number one volleyball specialist defensive player in the Australian Youth team. The national team competed in the Trans-Tasman series the highest competition in 2011 seeing Australia taking on traditional rivals New Zealand. As a result of her great efforts she was invited to two lead up National team selection camps in preparation for the 2012 Asian Championships. Phoebe has been selected in the Victorian Schoolgirls under 16 team for 2012 and regularly attends State under 16 team sessions in Melbourne where she also travels for additional elite development sessions. Just to add to Phoebe's big night, when the family arrived home from the awards evening her mum noticed an unread email from the Australian Volleyball Federation announcing that Phoebe had been selected in the squad of 14 to compete in this year's Trans Tasman Tri series against New Zealand. Described as one of the most important events to participate in, a squad of 12 athletes will be selected for the Asian Youth Championship 2012 in China this October from the Trans Tasman Tri series.



June Events

Monday, June 11

Queen's birthday holiday

Friday, June 15

Report writing day - student free day

Sunday, June 17

Marist netball carnival commences

Monday, June 18

Yr 12 retreat commences

Friday, June 22

Yr 12 photos

Monday, June 25

LA parent meetings

Thursday, June 28

Last day of term 2

Yr 9 Monash Visit

Congratulations again to our 2012 Champagnat Medal recipients



Mathletics

All students at Lavalla from Year 7 to 9 have been enrolled in the Mathletics Program. Mathletics is a web-based learning program which integrates home and school learning via the internet. It is currently used in over 4000 Australian schools.

The benefits of Mathletics include:

- Students are engaged and motivated to learn.
- Mathletics is adaptive and responds to your child's strengths and weaknesses.
- Students instantly know if they are on the right track and can work through the curriculum at their own pace.
- Allows you to monitor your child's progress.

Brendan Colley from Mathletics will be in Traralgon on August 15th to run a teacher workshop. He has also agreed to run an information session in the evening for Lavalla parents. If you are interested in attending this session to find out more about the program and how you can help your child improve their Maths skills, could you please email Mr. Van Berkel [vanbalb1@lavalla.vic.edu.au]; he will get back to you with details of times and places.

In Loving Memory - Daniel John Bryce

We mourn the death of Mr Daniel Bryce, a past teacher of our Community. Daniel was employed as a teacher at St Paul's Catholic College (now known as our St Paul's campus) in the 1970s.

Daniel is grandfather to Lauren (Yr10) & Stephanie (Yr 8) currently attending Lavalla Catholic College.

Our prayers are with Daniel & his family, may he rest in peace.

MARCELLIN HOUSE
(ADMINISTRATION)
Costa Circle TRARALGON
Ph. (03) 5174 5272
Fax. (03) 5174 9235

KILDARE CAMPUS
Kosciuszko Street TRARALGON
Ph. (03) 5174 8111
Fax. (03) 5174 0783

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS
Grey Street TRARALGON
Ph. (03) 5174 7355
Fax. (03) 5174 1827

PRESENTATION CAMPUS
John Field Drive NEWBOROUGH
Ph. (03) 5127 1311
Fax. (03) 5127 7110