

# LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE

# NEWSLETTER



17 OCTOBER 2008

Dear parents and students

A hearty welcome back to Term 4 and hopefully both students and teachers have had a restful break. Term 3 ended with two magnificent Debutante Balls and our congratulations are extended to all those who were presented.

At the senior end of the College, this is quite an unusual term in many respects. Our Year 12 students are focusing on their final exams and finishing their formal schooling. Our Year 11s are positioning themselves for their senior roles. By mid November the Year 10s will be the only students on the Kildare campus and we have over the years sensed in them an excitement about entering the senior years. This time can be unsettling for students as the warmer weather invites a festive air and students sense that the routine is different and the end of the year is close.

We ask for parental support to make certain that students come to school in correct uniform **EVERY DAY** and that homework and attendance is checked and monitored. It is important that they remain focused and that we take a gauge on behaviour and attitude to ensure that all finishes well.

## Abortion Law Reform Bill

In recent months and weeks the Catholic conscience has been called upon to defend the life of the unborn child. Being a Catholic compels us not only to sit quietly with our values but to speak up and be heard, especially on the issue of Abortion. The **Abortion Law Reform Bill** is currently before Parliament and if passed will allow abortions to be performed up to 24 weeks after conception. Premature babies born at 24 weeks are afforded all the medical expertise available to ensure survival. The provision of medical intervention in ensuring this premature baby survives is never questioned despite the high possibility of deformity or long term effects. And yet..... that same baby could be aborted at 24 weeks and if this Law is ultimately passed then State of Victoria says this is not a criminal act. It defies logic!



Such political attention on Abortion is an excellent opportunity to speak with your children about the sanctity of life, about the need to protect the unborn child who has no voice and about God's Grace upon all humans. Our students are certainly aware of this public debate and in order to make sense of the mixed messages that flood our media; they need our full understanding of the value of human life. Such discussions will support and guide their own decision making and help them reach a position that also appreciates the miracle of conception, birth and life.

## Welcomed response from our State Government

Over the Term 3 break, the State government struck an agreement that will see Catholic schools benefit from an extra \$38.9million. There is no doubt that this redirection has come from the unrelenting lobbying from Principals, parents and teachers. On 6th October the **Herald Sun** reported

*"VICTORIA'S Catholic schools will receive an extra \$38.9 million funding after the State Government succumbed to pressure from the Archbishop and angry principals and parents. The grant for rebuilding and upgrades at needy Catholic schools will help free up money for teacher pay rises, and ease threats of fee increases and program cuts because of funding shortfalls. The Brumby Government struck the deal with the Catholic Education Office yesterday after unrest and petitions from almost 50,000 parents".*

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It is important to acknowledge the participation of you the parents and families, parish priests, teachers, parishioners and CEO staff who supported the campaign which highlighted the unjust principles of funding that currently exist between schooling systems. I would like to thank parents for taking the initiative and signing the petition and for those who actually wrote letters to Members of Parliament. Unfortunately, the issue is not yet over as we move to fixing the new funding arrangement for 2010.

#### **Memorable finish for our Year 12s.**

Parents, extended family and friends are invited to participate in the **Year 12 Graduation Mass on Wednesday 22 October at 6.00pm at St Michael's Church.** It is the last time that this group of students will come together to give thanks for their education and the opportunities presented to them. Parents who have accompanied their child to this Mass in the past have reported the surprising sense of closure that comes with this celebration for them too. It is an important and necessary transition for parents as well. We extend a genuine welcome to all parents and Year 12 students to this final celebration and farewell.

God Bless

**Ms Erica Pegorer  
Principal**

## Presentation Campus

Welcome to this final term for 2008 and sadly for our community the final term for our Year 9's to be located at Presentation Campus. We can though, greatly appreciate their readiness to move on and their potential to enrich and be enriched by the learning environment at Kildare.

Thank you to those who attended the parent/student/teacher meeting at the end of term. It is a wonderful chance to form a stronger partnership with us in regard to the development of your child.

On the last day of last term we took the opportunity to hold a Charity Event. To the many families who could see their way clear to help us with this fundraising goes a huge thank you. On our return from the walk along the Moe/Yallourn rail trail, Mr Connor sat calmly as he became clean shaven for the first time in 23 years. The proceeds of the day were forwarded to Guide Dogs Australia and to St Jude's School in Tanzania where several Australians work with local teachers to provide basic educational opportunities. Our support will help to change lives and open up possibilities for their students' communities

Once again I want to highlight the opportunity that the planner presents as a communication tool. It can be a valuable link between home and school, parents and teachers, to record homework, convey messages and record positive feedback to students. We will continue to encourage students to utilise them more effectively.

## Bus Travellers 2009

Country Bus forms have been distributed to all current travellers; there is only one form per family and it was given to the youngest sibling to take home. These forms need to be returned by the end of October. Travellers on Lavalla buses do not need to submit a form.

### **Franklin Park Bus**

A reminder that the survey sheet for Franklin Park residents needs to be returned to Mr. Van Berkel by the end of October. So far we have received 17 returns indicating a use of the proposed service by 21 students. This is less than a 50% return.

## Parents & Friends Meeting

Monday 20 October 2009  
Held at ISC St Paul's Campus  
commencing at 7.30pm

Mention does need to be made of the excellent manner in which students have participated in and conducted themselves during the activities offered so far this term.

- Last Thursday 9th October year 7&8 classes attended a presentation by Peta Mullens and our Police Youth Resource Officer as part of VicRoads Helmet Wearing Program. It is to be hoped that the valuable lessons presented there will be applied by the students as they use the roads in the future.
- As well that day, as part of their Science studies, year 7 students started their PowerWorks experience with a lecture from Dale Simmons the company's Education Officer. On Tuesday 14th they took part in a tour of the Yallourn Power Station and the energy technology Centre. They discussed the impact it has on the Valley and possible future power production strategies.
- Years 7 & 9 have also participated in presentations by Ms.Sue Collis who spoke to them about Decision Making from a Christian Perspective, care of their personal health and acting in a socially responsible manner.

The term ahead looks again to be a busy one, full of many opportunities for the enrichment of our students.

**Mrs Leanne Mills  
Campus Director**

# St Paul's Campus

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Coming to the end of a race, the temptation is to slacken and cruise home. Big mistake; the race is nearly always won in the last few steps. The footy team that huffs and puffs at three-quarter time is lost. Therefore, it is important to make the effort to finish well. This message is for all our children but especially for our Year 9's who are finishing at the campus. It is best to finish on a note of success. There will be plenty of time to celebrate later in the holidays.

We also remember in our prayers, the Year 12 students who will be sitting the VCE exams soon, and their parents and families who support them at this stressful time. We wish them the very best for the exams.

It is our desire to raise standards at the College. Our expectation is that students are in correct uniform at all times. Parents will receive a letter when students are out of uniform. Three infringements will earn an after school detention. We start with uniform and we will continue to raise standards in other areas as well.

**Shrine of Remembrance: Young Ambassadors Program**  
Congratulations to Mitchell Turnbull who was accepted into the Young Ambassador program for his enthusiasm and commitment to Australian History. He will take part in ceremonies held at the Shrine, submit articles for publication and be an ambassador for the Shrine in the school community.

## Kildare Campus

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### Future Leaders Awards 2008

The Helen Handbury Leadership Awards mark the outstanding contribution that the late Mrs Helen Handbury has made to community development in rural and regional Australia. The Awards recognise Year 12 students in rural and regional Australia who have shown outstanding community leadership.

We congratulate Jessica Edwards on winning the Helen Handbury Leadership award who will receive a fully funded international trip to experience community development in another culture. Jessica has been able to demonstrate her leadership skills this year as the Lavalla Catholic College Vice-Captain. Well done Jessica!

### Schools Cycling Cup

We congratulate the following students on their achievements in the Schools Cycling Cup:

Ashley Thornton – 1st in Zone Final

Sky Hammer – 2nd in Zone Final

Shannon McCurley – 1st in Under 17 Racing

Shannon McCurley – 5th in Womens Open

A large number of Under 17 boys participated and did well. We thank Bicycle Superstore for their sponsorship and support of our students.

### New Mentor Programme

At Lavalla Catholic College we are constantly investigating ways to enhance the learning of our staff and students.

### Campus Leaders and SRC

The Campus Leaders and SRC participated in the 40 hour Famine and raised over \$2700.00. What is remarkable is that students either ate nothing for 40 hours, or gave up something important like watching TV, mobile phones, computers. It speaks highly of the generosity of our young people and their willingness to help others.

### Family Life

About 30 parents attended the Family Life talks given by Sue Collis. Family Life is an educational approach to teenagers and their sexuality. While all our students will attend Sue's presentation and talk in the course of the next few days, it is good to see parents connect with such a program that will help them understand and guide their children through adolescence.

### Year 9 Camps

After a gap of a year, the Year 9 camps are returning to Tamboritha. It is great to see the regrowth after the bushfires, and the new roads around Licola. At Tamboritha the students will camp in the chalet and participate in walks, horse-riding and mountain bike riding, besides activities and games in the chalet.

**Mr Chris Roga**  
Campus Director

Next year we will be implementing an innovative programme that we believe will improve communication between home and the College. Ms Maria Hagggett was chosen to represent our College and the Diocese of Sale at a **Flexible Learning Conference in Canada**. We keep Mrs Hagggett in our prayers as she takes on the responsibility of this project and represents us in Canada.

### 2009 Debutante Ball Committee

Last term ended with the Lavalla Catholic College Debutante Balls. The presentations went splendidly. I am often amazed at the transformation that takes place in our students – from the first lesson early in the term to their actual presentation on the nights. I congratulate each debutante and their partner. I would especially like to thank Mrs Claire Marino and the Debutante Ball Committee for their hard work and dedication to the success of these nights.

While celebrating the success of the 2008 Debutante Balls I am calling for Committee Members for the 2009 Debutante Ball Committee. Next year will mark a change in the timing of the Debutante Balls – Please note the 3rd and 4th of April as the new dates for the Debutante Balls. It is important for the new committee to form soon so that we can begin planning next year's event. Please read and return the Committee Invitation letter that is on our Web Page

**Mr Marco Di Cesare**  
Campus Director

## Forthcoming Events

### TERM 4

#### OCTOBER

- 20 Oct FULL SUMMER UNIFORM  
Parents & Friends (7.30pm ISC [Library] StPaul's)
- 20-22 Oct Year 9.4 Camp at Tamboritha [St Paul's]  
22-24 Oct Year 9.5 Camp at Tamboritha [St Paul's]  
22 Oct Year 12 Evening Mass  
2009 Year 7 State School Transition
- 23 Oct Year 12 College Assembly  
Last Day for Year 12
- 24 Oct Staff Professional Development [Student Free Day]**
- 27-29 Oct Year 9.6 Camp at Tamboritha [St Paul's]  
29-31 Oct Year 9.7 Camp at Tamboritha [St Paul's]  
31 Oct Units 3 & 4 Exams Commence

#### NOVEMBER

- 3-5 Nov Year 9 Camp at Tamboritha [Presentation]  
3-5 Nov VCAL Year 11 Excursion  
7 Nov Last Day of Year 11 Classes  
CAS Tennis
- 10 Nov 2009 Year 12 Classes  
13 Nov Melbourne Symphony Concert [Kildare]  
17 Nov Year 10 Exams & 2009 Subject Week [Kildare]  
20-26 Nov Year 10 and 11 Exams  
20-27 Nov VCAL Year 11 Work Experience  
20 Nov Secondhand Uniform Shop OPEN (3.30-4.30pm St Paul's)  
21 Nov Youth Mission Team for Year 9  
23-24 Nov VCAL Excursion - Year 11  
24 Nov Lavalla Christmas Concert  
26 Nov Parents & Friends Thank you Supper (7.00pm Staff room St Paul's)  
27 Nov Year 12 Graduation Dinner
- 28 Nov Traralgon Show Day - Student Free Day**

#### DECEMBER

- 1 Dec Curriculum Day  
Awards Ceremony
- 2 Dec 2009 Year 9 Orientation Day  
2009 Year 7 Orientation Day
- 3 Dec Graduation Mass and Supper [Presentation]  
4 Dec Graduation Mass and Supper [St Paul's]  
4 Dec Last Day for Years 9 and Years 10  
5 Dec Last Day for Years 7 and Years 8  
9 Dec Secondhand Uniform Shop OPEN (12noon-2.30pm St Paul's)  
Night Time Secondhand Uniform Shop OPEN
- 10 Dec Second Hand Book Sale  
Distribution of Reports [Kildare]

## Secondhand Uniform Shop OPEN

Thursday 20th November 2008  
from 3.30pm-4.30pm  
St Paul's Campus

## Canteen Roster

### ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

- Mon 20 Oct T. Roberts, R. Bermingham  
Tue 21 Oct R. Diaz, (help needed)  
Wed 22 Oct H. Stoddart, K. Lowden  
Thu 23 Oct M. Johnston, L. Elliott  
Fri 24 Oct **Student Free Day**
- Mon 27 Oct W. Heiser, (help needed)  
Tue 28 Oct K. Hildebrand, (help needed)  
Wed 29 Oct R. Crowle, (help needed)  
Thu 30 Oct K. Licciardi, L. Barrett  
Fri 31 Oct M. Holt, (help needed)

### KILDARE CAMPUS

- Mon 20 Oct C. Jackiw, (help needed)  
Tue 21 Oct C. Templeton, (help needed)  
Wed 22 Oct S. Pistrin, (help needed)  
Thu 23 Oct H. Stoddart, (help needed)  
Fri 24 Oct **Student Free Day**
- Mon 27 Oct S. Jacobs, (help needed)  
Tue 28 Oct A. Mooney, (help needed)  
Wed 29 Oct G. Fiddelaers, (help needed)  
Thu 30 Oct S. Bridges, (help needed)  
Fri 31 Oct M. Byl, (help needed)



All parents of children in Catholic Schools are invited by the Victorian Catholic Schools Parent Body to attend a regional Parent Forum in Traralgon on Saturday 25 October 2008. The forum will be attended by education professionals as well as parents to enable a true sharing of thoughts and ideas.

#### Topics of Discussion:

- Role of Parents in Catholic Schools
- Catholic Identity in today's schools
- Role of School Boards and how to make them effective
- The Funding System: How it works and what parents can do to improve it
- Any issues of importance to you as a parent in 2008

**Venue:** Lavalla Catholic College Traralgon  
Lecture Theatre St Paul's Campus, Grey Street

**Time:** Saturday 25th October 2008  
Registrations begin at 9.30 am.  
Forum held from 10.30am -1.15pm then lunch.

**RSVP:** 17th October (For catering purposes)

**For further details or to Register contact:**  
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