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15 October 2010

# Lavalla Catholic College

Excellence In Everything We Do

## *Dear parents, students and staff*

Welcome back to blossoming of Spring and to term 4.

We have had an exciting start to an already very busy term. We welcomed our tired Italian travellers back home on one day and welcomed to Australia a lovely group of 10 students and one teacher from Brazil on the next. We were fortunate that everyone arrived safely. Our Year 12 students are entering their final week and it is important that they remain focused on finishing well. The campus has many fitting and appropriate celebrations in hand and it is a joyous time of for all involved. We look forward to the celebrations next week where we can wish our Year 12s well for their exams.

## *St Mary of the Cross MacKillop*

With our every blessing Mikaela Ryan and David Moulton will represent the College and the Diocese at the canonisation of Mary MacKillop which will be held in Rome this Sunday – 17th October. They will join 10 other students from the Diocese of Sale, 12 from the Diocese of Sandhurst and 78 from the Diocese of Melbourne for this significant event for both the Church and for Australian. Significant too that our first Saint is a female and is gaining a reputation as a brave, feisty woman, a feminist before her time, a woman who resisted clerical tyranny, who fought against paedophilia and was an activist for the poor. Central of course was her deep faith and her commitment to improve the lives of many. If nothing else, let us hope that the great celebrations that surround the canonisation deepen our commitment to the marginalised in our community and I hope that Mikaela and David, inspired by Mary MacKillop, will return with open hearts and energy to continue their good work.

## *International Marist Exchange*

We have much pleasure in welcoming student visitors from four Marist schools in Brazil. They are here for 12 days and will immerse themselves in the life of the school as well as use this opportunity to deepen their understanding of Marist works in Australia. Lavalla is keen to develop such an international network as it could open doors for our students and school in the future. Already we have learnt so much about the differences and similarities of our cultures



## Mary MacKillop Prayer

Ever generous God,  
You inspired Saint Mary MacKillop  
To live her life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus  
Christ  
and constant in bringing hope and  
encouragement  
to those who were disheartened, lonely or  
needy.  
With confidence in your generous providence  
and through the intercession of Saint Mary  
MacKillop  
We ask that you grant our request.....  
We ask that our faith and hope be fired  
afresh by the Holy Spirit  
so that we too, like Mary MacKillop, may live  
with courage, trust and openness.  
Ever generous God hear our prayer.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Shane Reid - Acting Director of Ministry**



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(...continued from page 1) and the connection between the host families and students from Brazil has been evident. We thank the **Franz, Malone, Weckmann and Van Der Staay families** for hosting

- Raíssa Gonçalves Rosa - Rio de Janeiro
- Cíntia Carvalho de Melo - Varginha
- Henrique Mendonça Passos de Faria - Belo Horizonte
- Juliana Caeiro Chaves - Rio de Janeiro
- Murillo Rezende Moraes- Varginha
- Maria Luiza Leão Fonseca- Montes Claros
- Vitor Vieira França -Belo Horizonte
- Evandro Leite Garcia Filho - Montes Claros
- Ohanna Teixeira Barchi Severo - Montes Claros
- José Donizeti Franco Junior - Varginha

.. and also warmly welcome their teacher **Mrs Andrea Castilho Leal de Mourino**.

## Italian Immersion Experience

We thank Ms Maria Doganieri and Ms Mattia Mercurio for accompanying our students to Italy over the holiday period. It would seem that it was an excellent excursion and that the students were able to fully immerse themselves in the language. In fact, Ms Doganieri reports that they were fortunate to encounter in some cases, the same tour guides and bus drivers that they did two years ago. It is indeed becoming a small world.

## New System for Second Hand Books

We are pleased to announce that we will introduce a new system for the exchange of text books and other related items this year. After an excellent presentation, the two Parents and Friends Committees as well as some members of the Leadership Team are able to highly recommend to you Sustainable School Shop. This is a safe and innovative on-line exchange programme that gives you full control of your sales. **You should expect to receive information in the mail this week with a brochure that fully explains the programme's capabilities.**

## May they Rest in Peace

**Mr Russell Savage** and **Ms Mattia Mercurio** are sorrowful, grieving the loss of their mothers. Their deaths occurred over the holiday period and sadly Ms Mercurio was on the Italian immersion experience when her mother died. **Lisa Phillips**, a student in Year 11 learnt of her brother's tragic death over the weekend. We pray for the restful repose of these souls and especially for those surviving them who are suffering the loss and missing their loved ones. May they find some strength in their memories.

I am sure we have been touched by the jubilant scenes coming out of Chile this week as the miners have been painstakingly rescued. May their courage and will to live remind us all of the power of God's love.

**God Bless**

Erica Pegorer  
Principal

Second Hand Book and Uniform Shop  
**NEXT OPEN**

Thursday 21st October

3.30pm - 6.00pm

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



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## Marist Focus

### *Mary MacKillop (1842 - 1909) and Marcellin Champagnat (1789 – 1840)*

One of the issues dominating the media at the moment is the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop on October 17. I find there are striking similarities between Mary MacKillop and Marcellin Champagnat as Founders of Religious Orders.

- i. Both were passionate about providing education for the poor, especially in rural areas;
- ii. both had huge obstacles – Mary MacKillop was excommunicated (for four months) and told to leave 2 Diocese because she wanted her Sisters free from the control of Bishops so they could respond to specific needs; Marcellin was deemed a fool by other priests for taking financial risks (buying property without enough resources) and for daring to do manual work (it was beneath priests to do such work at that time). He also ran foul of the Vicar General of the Diocese for refusing to join his Brothers with the VG's group.
- iii. Both had a vision beyond their own place – the Josephites spread from South Australia to Victoria, to Queensland, to NSW, to NZ in Mary's lifetime; Marists spread from France to the Pacific in Champagnat's time.



- iv. Both relied on the assistance of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in all their endeavours.
- v. Both are now world-wide Religious Orders as a result of that vision.
- vi. Both wore themselves out physically in ensuring that the original dream and vision



they had was acted out. They were very compassionate in the process.

vii. Mary MacKillop's theme – "never see a need without doing something about it". Champagnat's theme for teachers – "you must love your students and love them all equally".

viii. Mary MacKillop: "Love one another, bear with one another and let charity guide you in all your life". Champagnat: Let it be said of the Little Brothers of Mary as of the first Christians – see how they love one another".

So there is much in both Founders that can inspire us in the way we live our daily lives, so let's take this moment of Mary's Canonisation to be encouraged and also grateful for our life as we experience it.

**Br Mark Needham**



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## St Paul's Campus

### ***Champions and role models are found in many, sometimes unexpected, places***

The story of the day is the rescue of the Chilean miners who have been trapped underground for 68 days at 650 metres. It is a heart warming story of human endurance and courage, as well as human ingenuity, engineering skill and international cooperation. As I write seven miners have been rescued; another 26 remain underground with 3 rescue workers who went down before the rescue operation began. The scenes of joy and reunion with waiting family members are infectious.

The Commonwealth Games in Delhi end today. It is good to see the Australian medal tally, ahead of England, South Africa, Canada and India. While not as competitive as the Olympics, an important aim is to build ties. It is heartening to see smaller nations that would otherwise not participate in international sporting extravaganzas, send athletes to the Commonwealth Games. There is more to sport than just high performance and competition. Collaboration is equally important.

The canonisation of Mary MacKillop on Sunday is something I look forward to. Mary MacKillop is truly extraordinary in her love for Jesus that drove her to care for the downtrodden. As is the case with all saints, she was practical, down to earth, connecting with people of all kinds, and drawing them to God. Her words ring with wisdom and truth, even today. People who are interested in watching the canonisation live from Rome should come to St. Michael's where, after the 6 pm Mass, there will be a live TV feed from Rome. Mikaela Ryan and David Moulton from the Kildare Campus are among the Gippsland group that have gone to Rome. We might catch a glimpse of them and of the other pilgrims.

Let us bring up our children to be global citizens and champions, each in their own right.

### ***Year 8.1 visits Melbourne***

8.1 visited Melbourne on Tuesday 12 October. The class visited the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre where they learned about the issues surrounding asylum seekers.

The asylum seeker scheduled to speak to the group got cold feet at the last moment. That is entirely understandable, one of the realities of being an asylum seeker; feeling awkward about language skills, feeling under-confident and inadequate before the inhabitants of the country of refuge.

After lunch on Swanston Street, the class headed to the MCG for a guided tour and a session in the 'Game On' area. The students travelled by public transport. It was delightful to watch them interact with each other and with other passengers.

### ***St. Mary's House of Welcome***

Brittany Harrington, Aaron Wall-Rickwood, Queenie Fitzpatrick and Chloe Bransgrove visited the St. Mary's House of Welcome on Tuesday 12th October with Br. Mark. The students reported that they felt sad to see the homeless because they had nothing. They were comforted by people who volunteered to help and got things done for them. The homeless, generally men, were well cared for; there were lots of activities like archery, pool, and a dancing competition. The students felt the experience was valuable and they encourage others to volunteer and help as well.

### ***Grade 5 visits***

The Grade 5 students will visit St. Paul's on 22 October for a day of activities at the campus. The students will arrive at about 9.15 am and leave at 2.15 pm after taking part in activities that might include, food, wood, music, art, english, math, humanities and science.

### ***Quiet Achiever***

**David Diaz** is a quiet, soft spoken young man. He is known on the campus for his passion and expertise at computer technology. Very few know that he has an equally strong passion for the piano as well. This year he won the Intermediate championship Piano Solo (Yr. 7-9) at the Sale Eisteddfod as well as the Piano solo Section. At Traralgon he won not only the Encouragement Award, but also the Verna Ladson Award as the most promising pianist aged 12-18 years. We congratulate David on his achievements.

**Chris Roga - Campus Director**



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## Kildare Campus



Welcome back to term 4. I thank all staff and parents for their work during my absence while on Long Service Leave. Thankyou Mrs McKenzie and the Campus Administration Team for leading the Campus during the term. Welcome back to Mrs Clarke and Mrs Justin who were also on Long Service Leave last term.

### Our Year 12's

Parents of Year 12 have received a letter this week outlining our expectations and planned activities for Year 12 students in Term 4. The next few weeks will see our year 12's conclude formal classes, begin exams and seek out opportunities for their future. It is critical for them to remain focussed during this time. Please take the time to mark the dates in this letter on your calendar. **Graduation tickets are now available at the Kildare Campus.**

### Official Opening

Bishop Prowse presided over the opening of our new facilities at the Kildare Campus. While the weather altered some of our plans, it was an important event for us. These two new buildings have had an enormous impact on the Campus. Congratulations to our College Captains who were heavily involved in the planning and running of this event.

### 2011 College Captain Speeches

In the tradition of St Marcellin Champagnat, we believe each person is called to Leadership. Leaders in our College offer service; encourage good communication and through collaboration, provide direction and a supportive environment. While the Campus sees many students offering leadership, 10 students have nominated for the role of 2011 College Captains. On Monday we heard them clearly articulate their vision for the role. Voting forms have been released to all present at the assembly. Congratulations to all of the nominating students.

**Marco DiCesare**  
Campus Director





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## Presentation Campus

With just a few weeks left it is vital that we settled to work quickly and made the most of all that this term has to offer.

It was great to see Ms Bianconi back from her honeymoon and to welcome students from St Paul's (9.4 & 9.5) to join the Presentation Campus Year 9's in the Master Survivor Program. They have already had the first of their off campus "Personal Challenge" components at the Summit and from all reports it was a hugely successful day. Plans are well under way for their camps and with a larger number of participants in total, students this term are able to choose from the Beach, Bush and City themes as their main study.

Our Year 7's and 8's are busy with new units of work. Year 8's in particular are involved in their new elective subjects chosen from Design - Textiles, Design - Fabrics, Wood, Music and projects You and the Law and Budgeting in the 21st Century.

Currently, our Religious Education program is focussed on the good work done by people throughout history and trying to broaden our view of Catholic custom and tradition. With Mary MacKillop's life in the spotlight, there is much to draw from as we witness her proclamation as a Saint. The **compassionate heart** she showed in caring for those who were struggling to live a good life and her **strength of mind** and body to first establish the Sisters of St Joseph and then the dedication of her life to improving opportunities for early Australians is certainly inspirational.

We were grateful for the invitation from Kildare this week to have some of our prospective leaders attend their assembly. They heard senior students speak about their goals for the role and their vision of the College if they were to be elected College Captain. Very shortly those who attended will have their chance to address their peers about Campus and Sports leadership roles at Presentation.

Several students this week will have the opportunity to participate in the Straighttalk program, an initiative of the Smith Family and the Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network. It is a great opportunity for schools

"to connect with their local community and establish long lasting partnerships. Through it students are able to network with key members of the community, increasing their awareness of educational and career pathways and opportunities in the local region."

Again this term, there are so many opportunities and ways to enrich a student's experience of learning. Our hope is that many will embrace them and learn much from them.

Leanne Mills  
Campus Director

### Notice

#### Student Free Day

Friday 22nd October

Friday 22nd October is the last day for Year 12 students. It is a student free day at all campuses, and a farewell day at Kildare Campus for the Year 12 students.



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## A Note from our Students

The 2010 school year is drawing to a close with the final weeks of Year 12 quickly approaching. While this is a stressful time for both staff and students the Kildare Campus has continued to produce an energetic vibe in the first weeks of term four.

We are now reaching the business end of the school year as the Year 12s continue on with their study in preparation for the exams. All Year 12s should now be focusing completely on their studies to ensure that by the exam period they are able to remain calm and confident within themselves that they will be able to do well. By remaining positive about exams it will help everyone to maintain their upbeat spirit which has been seen throughout this year at Lavalla.

This week the candidates for the College Captain positions of next year finished the final process of nomination by conducting a speech to their fellow peers of the College. All candidates should be congratulated on their positive attitude which was seen in their nomination form, interview and also the speeches. We are sure that Lavalla will remain in very capable hands in the years to come.

As College Captains we have had the privilege of working with various people who have made our job so much easier. In particular, we would like to thank Mr. DiCesare and Mrs. Clarke for their ongoing support and dedication to the student body. Their positive attitude has allowed for us to implement different policies and ideas within the school. Without both Mr. DiCesare and Mrs. Clarke this school would not be the place it is today.

We would also like to thank the lovely office ladies Mrs. O'Brien and Mrs. Giddens for all the help they have provided us this year which has made our lives so much easier. There are countless people we need to thank but we need to thank the student body for allowing us to be your College Captains for 2010. It has been a privilege to lead such a wonderful group of people this year.

**Good luck to everybody for the rest of the year!**

**Andrew, Joey, Kosta and Brooke**

## Resources

### Laptops for Year 12 students in 2011

As a direct result of the Federal Government "Digital Education Revolution" which has seen the roll out of laptops to secondary schools, we are delighted that we are now in a position to begin allocating laptops to individual students through a Laptop Loan Programme. Current Year 11 students who are returning to Lavalla in 2011 have been given an opportunity to have personal use of a College laptop that can be used both at home and at school with all the College software loaded.



These laptops are capable of accessing wireless outside the College and so are suitable for use in homes where such a service is already available.

At a total cost of \$250 (which covers insurance), students will be provided with a protective bag that they can use to pack the laptop in their school bag or to carry safely from one class to another.

### Netbooks for Year 7 Students in 2011

On 1st September, parents of all Year 7 students beginning at either campus in 2011 were notified that their children will be using a netbook computer to engage with the curriculum. On **Wednesday, 27 October**, we will have an information session announcing which netbook has been chosen for this purpose, as well as having three of them on display. Details of costs and how payment can be made will be given at that session and then posted on the College website.

**Ben Verghese**  
**Director of Educational Resources**



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## Curriculum Update

### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNISED

During the final campus assembly (SPC) last term many students were recognised for the efforts in a range of ICAS Competitions as well as the National Geography Competition. Each year the number of students receiving Distinctions and High Distinctions grows which shows that students are rising to the challenge of completing these enrichment activities and are striving to do their best. Pictured right, David Diaz, Nathanael Georgeson and Cayde Dixon with their awards.



### YEAR 7 TARRA BULGA FIELD TRIPS

During October and November Year 7 students will go to our region's own cool temperate rainforest located at Tarra Bulga National Park. Parks ranger, Craig Campbell will once again take the time to show our students the unique nature of this reserve. Students will complete a range of tasks incorporating many cross curriculum skills from areas such as Science, Geography, History and English.

Year 7 students are currently studying 'Rainforests' as part of an inquiry into endangered species in the Asia Pacific region. This will enrich their understanding of why it is important that they work to become 'caretakers' of our environment. Good stewardship is a recurring theme in our curriculum and central to our College ethos.

relief supplies for more than 350,000 people. They expect to reach a further 2 million people over the coming weeks. Year 7 students have just finished learning about the United Nations and its origins. They have created informative posters which will be judged as we approach United Nations Day on October 24th.



### A THANK YOU FROM 'AUSTRALIA FOR UNHCR'

(United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the SRC cake stall at the Year 7 On Show evening was a huge success. A donation of \$375.00 was sent to the Australia for UNHCR Pakistan Flood Appeal. Naomi Steer (National Director, Australia for UNHCR) forwarded her thanks for this offering. The UNHCR, was the first agency to respond to the disaster, and has already provided shelter and emergency



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## Curriculum Update

### WHAT'S THE 'ATTRACTION' IN SCIENCE?

In Year 7 this term students are studying static electricity, building basic electrical circuits and researching alternative energy sources for the Latrobe Valley. Students explored static electricity.



### WORKING TOWARDS DEVELOPING CURRICULUM

Parents of Year 7 and 9 students will have received their NAPLAN reports for 2010 recently. The following link will provide some information about these national tests and how to read the individual Student Report; [http://www.naplan.edu.au/reports/reports\\_landing\\_page.html](http://www.naplan.edu.au/reports/reports_landing_page.html)

There are several videos featured which clearly show how to interpret your child's report. Our students should be commended on the manner in which they completed the literacy and numeracy tests. Their results will be looked at closely as learning and teaching goals are reviewed for 2011 and beyond.

Also, Friday October 22nd will give local Catholic Primary School Year 5 students and State Primary School grade

6 students an opportunity to experience learning at both St Paul's and Presentation campuses. They will rotate through a range of sessions covering core and elective (Art and Technology) subjects. We look forward to meeting with these students and welcoming them to our College.

Finally, a number of staff will be attending professional development opportunities which are designed to enrich the way we, as a school community, learn and teach. Mr Van Berkel, Ms Valentine and Ms Zahra will be looking closely at flexible learning areas. Mrs Sharman and Mrs Widrich will be attending the eTeaching Excellence Conference in Melbourne in preparation for the introduction of Netbooks at Year 7 in 2011.

**Kim Widrich - Curriculum Coordinator 7-8**



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## Sport Update

### **INTERMEDIATE GIRLS FINISH THIRD IN STATE AT MCDONALDS CUP**

Lavalla's Intermediate basketball team entered in the State McDonalds Cup Championships at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre on Monday 13th September 2010 up against some of Victoria's elite schools. The team consisted of: Monique Tracey, Molly Clavarino, Shantelle Thorburn, Rach Drenen, Olivia Vincent, Michelle Clarke, Bec Jennings and Katelyn Somerville. The girls were exceptional on the court but just couldn't quite get there in the end to make finals but overall did Lavalla proud by making it this far. Thank you to coach Nikki Schroeter and Mrs Walker for helping on the day.



I would like to thank the staff who dedicated their time into coaching these students to be the best they can be, Karen Joyce, Nikki Schroeter, Fiona Morrow, Ross Sizeland and Tim Northe.

### **LAVALLA FINISH ON TOP AT GIPPSLAND TOUCH FOOTY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Lavalla entered into the Gippsland Schools Touch Football competition which was hosted by Nagle College Bairnsdale on Thursday 16th September 2010. Touch Football is one of Lavalla's elite sports, with a result of five championships out of six. Lavalla easily won the shield for the day beating Mallacoota Secondary, Nagle College and Gippsland Grammar. This is the fourth year Lavalla has won this title. Next year we hope to also take out the junior girl's competition and make it six out of six.

### **LAVALLA EQUESTRIAN TEAM HEADS TO BAIRNSDALE**

After a tremendous result in the Stratford Equestrian challenge Lavalla's four riders headed off to Bairnsdale to attend the team event up against 13 schools. Grace Garrett, Tanika McNamara, Steven Wilson and Samantha Bennison were the four riders to compete in this event. Lavalla ended up 5th out of 13 teams which was a great achievement considering it was our first time entered in this event. I would like to thank Sam Worley and the parents who organised the day.

**Nikki Schroeter - Sports Co-ordinator**



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## **Parents and Friends Raffle - Car Presentation**

Congratulations to Kathy Butler who is pictured here with Alan Witchell from Albroy's Car Centre and Parents and Friends representatives Wendy Glasson (left) and Melissa Wilson (right).



We warmly welcome students and teacher from four Marist schools in Brazil



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## ***Forth coming events...***

18 Oct	Full Summer Uniform
21 Oct	College Assembly Year 12 Farewell Mass (6.00pm St Michaels Parish)
<b>22 Oct</b>	<b>Year 12 last day</b> <b>Student Free Day</b>
28 Oct	VCE unit 4 exams commence
<b>1 Nov</b>	<b>Mid Term Break</b>
<b>2 Nov</b>	<b>Melbourne Cup public holiday</b>
4 Nov	VCAL dinner
12 Nov	Year 10 & 11 last class
15 Nov	Year 10 & 11 exams commence
22 Nov	Headstart commences
26 Nov	Year 12 graduation
2 Dec	Year 10 last day
<b>3 Dec</b>	<b>Student Free Day</b>
6 Dec	College Awards night
10 Dec	Last day for teaching staff
13 Dec	Year 12 results released
17 Dec	School closure

## ***Traralgon Rovers Cricket Club...***

are looking for boys and girls to come play cricket in the under 12 and under 14 age groups.

Training is Monday nights at 4:30pm  
players receive a free cap and playing shirt

For more info contact:  
U/12 Coach Darren Meyer - 0409 028 440  
U/14 Coach Josh Polo - 0422 287 416  
Secretary Steve Carney - 0402 865 974