

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear parents, students and teachers

As we draw close to the conclusion of the year 12 celebration period, students feel a great sense of freedom and excitement about the end of the school life. All of us, parents and teachers alike would not deny our students the opportunity for celebrating this milestone but this time can also be one of great anxiety, especially when our young people engage in 'schoolies' week'. This pertinent and relevant article from Br Michael Green, Director of MSA, articulates the traps and tensions that surround the whole question of 'schoolies week'. Regardless of the year level, this article is a good stimulus for discussion with your child about celebrating responsibly whatever's the occasion.

It's a curious, ironic and regrettable phenomenon, what has come to be called "schoolies". Curious because its hedonism and indulgence contradict so much of the value-base that parents and schools have been diligently nurturing in students for all their lives; ironic because it is typically juxtaposed to meaning-laden and uplifting graduation liturgies and rituals (often as closely the day before!); and regrettable because it does not have to happen. But for the rest of this month, it's all on again, folks!

Tempting though it might be for us to take a benign view of this hyped school-leavers' party week – to believe that it is all going to be like a PG-rated "Spring break" movie, and that really it's only kids having some well-deserved and mainly innocent fun – to do so would be at least naïve, if not negligent. Yes, some people are reluctant to throw a wet blanket over what they judge to be the kind of legitimate hijinx that teenagers innocently get up to, and they may even feel a twinge of hypocrisy in doing so when they recall some of their own adolescent antics. Naïve. Negligent.

The various events around the country (and in other places such as Bali and on cruise ships) are fuelled from a number of sources: from tourist operators out to make a quick buck; from smart marketing to an easily targeted and exploited group; from media outlets given to prurient and populist reporting; from peer pressure and the need that younger people feel to do whatever their conventional wisdom judges to be cool; and of course from the natural human desire to ritualise and to celebrate. Most media coverage will centre, as usual, on the Gold Coast, and the images are likely to be ugly.

The fact that it occurs diminishes us all, not least we who have the role of educators within our Australian society, and even more so in Catholic schools where in other contexts we slip so easily into rhetoric about bringing about the reign of God in the minds and hearts of young people.

Adults' responses range from exasperated surrender at one end of the spectrum, through damage management (such as the 'Red Frogs'), to the promotion of positive alternative at the other end. They tend to bunch around surrender and/or management. While that is understandable, we may do well to ask if we could do more. Relatively few people or schools are doing much by way of encouraging students to consider positive alternatives. But there are some inspirational exceptions, including in a number of our Marist schools. Wonderful!

It is worth remembering that while tens of thousands of school leavers plunge recklessly into the deep-end of the schoolies events, statistically most do not. Many, perhaps most, opt for something quieter or more personal, or are unable to do so because of other commitments. Then, there are the group of young people who embrace something different altogether. The 'alternative schoolies' events and projects, often centred around solidarity and outreach experiences, are growing. Yes, they do take some effort and resources at a time of year when these are most stretched, and at a point when teachers might reasonably want to say that their responsibilities with Year 12s are done, but it is so encouraging to see.



God bless

Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal

We are aware that Bishop Coffey has been unwell for some time and recently he has undergone major surgery. He is recuperating at the Epworth Hospital and is in need of our prayers.

Please pray for his speedy recovery so that he might be amongst us once again.



What do you see? This puzzle illustrates the issue of perception. We see what we expect see; to see something different takes a deliberate effort. But it is a worthwhile effort because we get to see the whole picture. And when we see the whole picture it is very easy to decide. Young people never cease to amaze me. Often they appear brash, abrasive, and self-centred, sometimes with a blatant disregard for rules. What is frustrating is their inability to see what adults see. At other times they show depths of care, wisdom, maturity and selflessness. I have great hope in the young people at this campus. This newsletter highlights some of their achievements in the last two weeks.

CLASS MASS

Twice a week, the priests from St. Michael's parish say Mass in our campus chapel. Classes plan, prepare and participate in the Mass in turn. Students do the readings, prayers and music for the Mass. The classes have shown an impressive level of involvement, sharing of tasks, reverence and attention. The priest, too, has been educative for the students while the Religious Education teacher has been responsible for the preparation.

MUSIC CAMP

A group of 19 students and three teachers went on the Training Band Camp to Rawson in 14-15 November. They practised a new piece of music. In the beginning there was cacophony as the players grappled with notes, rhythm and timing. With repetition and practice and the work from the conductors, the piece of music took shape and the competence increased. What is definite, is that every student had a whale of a time and they are waiting for the next camp.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

One of the practices at this campus is the collection of Christmas hampers. Each makes up a Christmas Hamper which is given to St. Vincent de Paul for their Christmas appeal. The hampers are then distributed by the Vinnies to families in need at Christmas. The first classes have completed their shopping and have got their hampers ready.

YEAR 7/8 SUPER 8'S CRICKET



Lavalla Catholic College recently participated in the Super 8's Cricket

run by Cricket Victoria at Sale on Monday, November 14th. We had three teams entered in the competition, 1 year 7/8 boy's team and 2 year 7/8 girl's teams.

The girls had a very up and down day with the A Team winning 3 out of 4 games, annihilating Maffra Secondary College in the play off for 5th and 6th by 111 runs.

The B Team won 2 out of 4 games, winning their first game by 109 runs to Nagle College Bairnsdale, but unfortunately just dropping short in the play off for 3rd and 4th losing by only 10 runs. Stand out players across the two teams were Amelia Charlton and Casey Sherriff, with all players displaying great team sportsmanship and a high level of cricket skills.

Special mention to Tiana Sharman who captured a hatrick against Maffra in the playoff final for 5th. The boys ripped up the competition winning all four games. They played Sale Catholic College, Kurnai College, Churchill and Nagle College, Bairnsdale. Winning all three qualifying matches the boys flew straight into the Grand Final against old rivalries Sale Catholic College. It was a close game but in the end Lavalla pulled away with a win of 106 to 79 runs.



The boys were undefeated for the whole day with best players Cameron Graham, Connor Ambler and Jake Bishop.

"GO LAVALLA".

PRESENTATION CAMPUS REPORT

Mrs Tamsin McCormack - Campus Director

Greetings from Presentation Campus.

Over the past two weeks MSP students enjoyed their days at Tamboritha, horse riding, bike riding, hiking, exploring and jumping off the giant swing. The students needed to avoid some storms and strong winds, but they all had a good time and completed the experience.

Unfortunately the same could not be said for the Year 8 camp. The year 8's made it to Licola, where we were warned that they were expecting between 100-150ml of rain. The students ironically, while at Licola were sunning themselves and enjoying the giant swing. When they made it to Tamboritha they received the unfortunate news that they needed to return, due to expected flash floods.

With year 8's having missed out on this experience, sStudents will be heading to Melbourne, observing and learning about some Melbourne's history at the Old Melbourne Gaol, Victorian Police Museum and State Library, much of which will be quite useful for their studies next year in Humanities. They will then be participating in the Zoo Snoozzz, where they will camp the night, enjoy camp activities and animal encounters.

MSP students have been busy organising their Student Led Activities. These include a Scavenger Hunt at Chadstone (with all items purchased being put towards hampers for St Vinnies), Go Kart riding, Swimming, an Amazing Race around Melbourne CBD and Laser Tag (requiring team work and cooperation). The process of organising these activities has been an enlightening one for the students. They have had to organise the transportation, conduct a risk analysis, develop the rules or code of conduct whilst attending, produce permission forms and contact the venues to confirm dates and costs. This is a great experience for the students, in learning about organisation, communication and negotiation skills.

MSP students have also had the opportunity to visit various activities around Melbourne as part of their Melbourne Experience. Wednesday saw them exploring the underwater world of the Aquarium and the many exhibits at the Museum. We were quite lucky at the Aquarium to see some of the newborns, particularly the penguins hiding under their parents and the turtles who just have to survive on their own.



Congratulations to all Year 10-11 students on your completion of exams. While our Year 12's continue their VCAA examinations, our Year 10 and 11 students have had the opportunity to consolidate what they have learnt throughout the semester and demonstrate this throughout the week. Now is not the time for post-mortems, rather a time to reflect on areas of weakness and learn from any mistakes that may have been made.

HEADSTART

Starting Monday, all 2012 classes for Year 11 and 12 will begin. Our 2012 VCE and VCAL students will spend two weeks experiencing the learning that will continue throughout 2012. All texts will be provided by staff with much of the resources moving online. This will give students an opportunity to continue some of their work and preparation over the holidays.

LOCKERS

A reminder to members of the community that all lockers need to be emptied during the next fortnight.

CHANGE OF SUBJECTS

The 2012 timetable for the Kildare Campus has been finalised. We have had some students already asking for subject changes. This is unfortunate considering how much preparation went into making their selections. Please understand that subject changes are not always possible – this is part of a student's learning.



WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU GET YOUR ATAR.

Those who are hoping to go to Uni and are waiting for their ATAR need to keep in mind that there is always a different way to get to the area of study which you are aiming for. ATARs will be available from December 16th on-line or by SMS or the 20th by post. Some of you will be very excited by your results while others will be disappointed.

REMEMBER - THE ATAR IS JUST A NUMBER.

It is not a reflection on the kind of person you are or where you will finish up in the world. Sometimes your first choice turns out differently than you expected. There is always another way to get to where you want to be. Often the less direct route on a journey is the most interesting. Be adventurous.

The first round offers will come out on the 17th January. You should receive an offer for the course highest on your list that you have the score for. Generally the best thing to do is accept the first offer you get. You will receive a letter from the University or TAFE telling you how to enrol. You can also access this information by logging in to myinfo on the VTAC website. The Uni will ask if you wish to defer your course. Always keep your options open. Accept the offer. You can then defer it even if you think you won't want the place. You can pull out completely later on if you wish, but this will give you some thinking time. You may apply for an irregular offer if you decide that a course lower on your list would be preferred. This means that you call the Uni that you wish to get into and ask them if you can have an irregular offer and tell them which course you would like to take up.

You may receive a second round offer on February the 4th. If this offer suits you more then you should accept it and let the first Uni know that you are no longer interested in the place they offered you. Never underestimate the personal approach. Sometimes students have got into courses by going to the University and personally asking if there is anything they can do to get a place.

Good luck to all students. Feel free to call if you need further advice or assistance.

Anne English

IMPORTANT COLLEGE DATES

1st December Year 9 Mass - Presentation Campus

2nd December Student Free Day

5th December College Awards Evening - Champagnat Center, St. Paul's Campus

8th December Last day of classes for students

22nd December College officially closes for holiday period

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BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS By
MALCOLM SIRCOM

DIRECTING TEAM
ANNETTE O'SHEA
DENISE TWITE
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EBENEZER

A ROCK MUSICAL
2011

VENUE:
St Pauls Anglican
Grammar School Auditorium
Crosses Road Traralgon

DATES
NOVEMBER
Friday 25th evening
Saturday 26th
matinee & evening
Sunday 27th
matinee

By arrangement with
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Patrons should arrive from
7.00pm for complimentary drinks and nibbles for a
7.30pm start. Matinee arrive from 1pm for a 1.30pm start

Thanks to our valued sponsors:

Gippsland Carers Support Group

Gippsland Carers Association new monthly peer Support Group is open to all unpaid family carers in Gippsland. It's a great opportunity to take some time-out from caring and meet people who, like you, really understand what it's like to be a carer. The Support Group will meet on the first Wednesday each month. Support Group Meetings will feature speakers, social activities and group discussions.

If you are providing care and support to a family member or friend with a dependent disability, frail aged or mental illness then this Support Group is for you.

Time: 10am -12pm

Where: CCG (next to iGain), 58-60 Commercial Road, Morwell

Dates: Wednesday 7th December 2011

RSVP: Kate Buxton on 0439 377 001 or
gippscarer.kate@gmail.com

2012 YEAR 7 DEVICE

We have decided to continue using a Netbook for Year 7 students in 2012.

The details of this can be found on the College website.

At the recent information evening, the reasons offered for continuing to use the Netbook were:

The current Year 7 teachers have used the Netbook as a very effective and productive tool for the teaching and learning programme. There is a need to continue to improve on this programme for another year.

The Netbook has proved to be rugged and robust enough to withstand the harshness of early adolescent behaviour.

The College network and infrastructure has been a Windows based school for a considerable number of years and, whilst there are a number of changes being made, the Netbook is the best fit into the current and future environment.

When software costs are included, it still represents value for money, costing around \$330 per year for the life of the device.



2012 YEAR 10 DEVICE

The College will be supplying a new device for all Year 10 students to use in 2012. This is because the Federal funded laptops supplied three year ago are mostly reaching their end-of-life. There will be no need for parents of next year's Year 10 students to purchase anything as the device that the College supplies can be taken home during the course of the academic year.

VIRTUAL DESKTOP INFRASTRUCTURE

The College is piloting a change to its infrastructure that will allow the delivery of virtual desktop to most smart devices. For those of you who may not know what a virtual desktop is, hopefully you will be able to follow this explanation. When you turn a computer or laptop on, what you see on the screen is called a 'desktop'.



A typical desktop looks like this

A Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) is the ability to deliver screens (like the one above) to computers or I-pads or tablets or even to smart phones using an Internet connection. This VDI will allow the user to interact with the screen to complete school work. Students (and staff) will be able to use the internet to work on their College computer using the various "smart" devices they have.



Kildare Students.

2011 TEXTBOOKS.

2011 Textbooks are no longer required for classes after the **21st of November 2011.**

We recommend taking your textbooks home as soon as possible after this date to start listing them for sale on The Sustainable Schools Shop Website.

www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au

Information regarding The Sustainable Schools Shop Textbook Trading System is included with your 2012



St Paul's & Presentation Students.

2011 TEXTBOOKS.

2011 Textbooks are no longer required for classes after the **1st of December 2011.**

We recommend taking your textbooks home as soon as possible after this date to start listing them for sale on The Sustainable Schools Shop Website.

www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au

Information regarding The Sustainable Schools Shop Textbook Trading System is included with your 2012