

LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER



19 SEPTEMBER 2008

Dear parents and students

Schools these days have to report to various authorities all sorts of information about the school's operation and data that reflects upon our performance. You have already received some of this information via our compliance report. As a result of this work some generalisations can be made regarding student's attendance. As you are aware, each teacher takes the class attendance during each and every lesson. This is done through an automated system and data is easily collated so that a student's attendance pattern can be tracked very easily. Recently, while examining this attendance a few disturbing trends came to the fore.

Sickness aside, students' absence from school interrupts the building of knowledge and skill development which is obviously detrimental to a student's educational progress if left unchecked. Further, if a family holiday is taken during the term it can give the message that the child's educational progress is of a low priority but it is important to remember that despite notification of an intended absence, the College will still record this non-attendance as an absence. Another factor seems to be chronic lateness for some senior students. The reason given is often that either their part-time job finished at 11pm or later most nights or that sporting commitments take them to Melbourne on a regular basis.

Through the Promotion policy which applies to all year levels, the College makes it clear that **regular and uninterrupted** attendance is vital for promotion to the next level. We say that if a student has missed **10%-15% of class time**, then readiness to succeed at the next level is seriously compromised. Depending on the frequency of each class, this translates to only 3-5 lessons per subject per term.

The College's promotion policy clearly states that successful completion of a unit of work (either semester or year long) and/or a year level is determined by:

- satisfactorily completing the learning outcomes of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards or the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority
- demonstrating appropriate learning behaviours
- attending 85% of all classes in Years 7-12

Campus Directors are currently determining which students are at risk of not being promoted to the next level for any of the reasons mentioned above. Should this be the case a Serious Academic Review meeting will take place with the student, parents, appropriate teachers and Campus Director. Campus Directors can call on a number of options to assist students to rectify the gap in learning, one of which is to recommend that the student repeat the unit or year level or part thereof.

It is vital that students put their education above all else. After all, it is their core business. The student's role is to be present at school every day and to be alert enough to fully engage in the learning programme. I am aware that families have actively chosen to send their children to the College seeking a quality education; it is crucial that teachers have the opportunity to deliver this to attentive, focused young minds.

Your guidance and support in monitoring absences and energy levels is fundamental to your child's success. I would also suggest that teaching young people habits of punctual, regular attendance are valuable life skills which will serve them well beyond their school years. If you have any concerns of this nature or you want to check your child's attendance rates in each class, the **parent-teacher interview time** on Thursday night is a perfect opportunity to assure yourself that your child is comfortably within the attendance range.

Debutante Balls

By the time you receive this, our Year 11 Debutantes will be preparing for their big night. This is a wonderful occasion for families as they witness perhaps for the first time, their children not only dress beautifully but also dancing formally in public. Despite its old fashioned notion of our young women coming out in society for the first time, the night is held in high regard by those who participate. Lavalla Catholic College congratulates those Year 11's and their families and wish them well for their special night.

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Br Peter Howes

Last time I mentioned that in September Br Peter would be attending an extended retreat in Rome and that he would return in December. Since then, we have learnt from Br Julian Casey, Marist Brothers Provincial, that **Br Peter will not be returning to the Traralgon community** and instead will take up residence in Templestowe. At the superb music concert last week, Br Peter was praised for his contribution to the College and for his many years of dedicated and loyal service. Students and families who have had a long association with the music programme were able to personally wish Br Peter well and to thank him for his contribution to their child's education. After 19 years at the College we will miss his beautiful baritone voice, his cheerful nature and his light step around the College as he performed his many tasks. Good bye and good luck Br Peter.

(Left: Br Peter wearing the honorary Senior Wind Ensemble Vest presented from the Music staff and students at the recent Music Concert)

NAPLAN 2008 Reporting Packages

At the time of writing we were yet to receive students' results with regard to the NAPLAN tests. However, we have been notified that the reporting packages **should** arrive at the College this week. The College will make every attempt to distribute this data to parents as soon as is practical.

For your information the Reporting Package will contain a covering letter, confidential student reports for schools to distribute to parents and information pamphlets for parents.

Parent Reports will be the same for all states and territories and each will include information such as:

- individual student results for all NAPLAN tests on the ten-band National Achievement Scale
- an indicator for each assessment area that shows the national average and the middle 60% of national results
- a written description for each assessment area identifying the types of skills assessed
- a summary table describing the skills and understandings students are likely to demonstrate in each of the bands.

This is the first year of **national literacy and numeracy testing**. Should you need, the College will be able to provide you with assistance in assimilating the information you receive in Term 3, please ring the appropriate Campus to make an appointment.

May you enjoy this Spring Break and recharge for a busy Term 4.

Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal

Presentation Campus

As the term draws to an end and we meet with parents once again, it is such a pleasure to be able to pass on and celebrate the achievements and the growth, both personal and academic, of so many of our students.

All this is tinged with the sadness of knowing that as this next holiday block ends, we will be welcoming our Year 9's back to their final term at the Campus. Currently, they are making their tiles for the Memorial Pathway. This is part of the traditional ritual as they move on to the Kildare Campus.

Our music students once again shone at the recent Eisteddfod and credit must go to the dedicated work of the staff in our Music department. The commitment the students involved and their parents make to attend the formation groups, the practices and the eventual performances is surely to be marvelled at.

We congratulate **Erin Tatlow** and **Sarah Aquilina** on their recent success in the Churchill and District Writing Competition. Also to **Reece Storie** for his success in the recent Clay Shooting Competition held in Bendigo and congratulate him receiving an offer to compete at International level in February/March 2009.

On the 10th September a group of Year 8 & 9 students participated in the second Melbourne Dance series titled

"Dance Moves" including a workshop session. By all accounts our students were stars!

Our thanks to **Frs Bernie O'Brien** and **John Dunlea** for their ministry with our Year 7's during the recent Reconciliation celebration and to **Fr Mark Godridge** for his on-going support of the College and the work we do.

This week we welcomed students from Grade 4&5 at both **St Kieran's** and **St Mary's** who worked with **Nikki Schroeter, Laura Joyce** and **Rod Williams**. Integral to our program were our House Captains are **Amy Dickason, Letitia McGown, Jonathan Noy, Jayden Shaw, William Troy, Sherrie Hibbs** and **Lucy Stephens** and the Deputies **Katrina Barrett, Steven Hibbs, Sarah Aquilina, Adele Hirsch, Jack Sheedy** and **Nathan Snelten**.

The competition though friendly, was also quite fiercely contested with students showing themselves to be passionate about striving to do their best. Great candidates for Lavalla's community as it is exactly what we are asking of those who come here everyday.

Wishing you God's blessings for the family these holidays.

Mrs Leanne Mills
Campus Director

St Paul's Campus

The students and staff have put in a lot of hard work in Term 3 and it has paid off. The academic results, the Year 8 Camps, EXPO, re-enrolment and a host of other activities have been very successful.

Low temperatures, cold winds and rain storms had a subconscious effect on mood and feelings. However, we are looking forward to bright sun shine and warm days. And more importantly, two weeks of holidays!

Term 4 begins on 6th October. Students should start coming to school in the summer uniform. We do have a two (2) week changeover period, which means that all students should be in full summer uniform by 20 October. A caution to parents; please ensure that the children wear the right shoes and the right shorts.

We wish all students, staff, parents and the Lavalla Community a happy and safe holiday.

Spelling

Sam Farmer (Year 8) and **Tessa Crawford** (Year 7) represented Lavalla at the Gippsell Finals held at St. Paul's Grammar, Traralgon. Students from six regions across Gippsland competed from Grade 5 – Grade 8.

Kildare Campus

While there are some weary faces emerging around the campus, I have noticed the look of excitement, trepidation and a fear of forgetting dance steps on the faces of our Year 11 Debutantes and their partners. Students have finalised their enrolments for 2009 and while some are looking outside of the Campus for their futures in 2009, most are settled into their choices for next year.

Soccer Champions

On Tuesday 2 September, Lavalla Catholic College hosted the annual Catholic All Schools (CAS) Soccer Championships. The defending champions, our senior boys, were aiming for their fifth consecutive championship. They won against St Joseph's College, Geelong. After a 5 minute break, the boys were back in action against Notre Dame College, Shepparton. This win saw them into the finals.

The final was against rivals Penola Catholic College, Broadmeadows. The Lavalla Senior boys finished as the undefeated champions. The best players of the day were **Simon Mclean**, **Daniel Dunne** and captain **Taylor Jackson**. The boys now go to the Victorian All School champions in Melbourne.

Staff Recognition

At Lavalla Catholic College, all our staff work hard at promoting and encouraging teaching and learning. While this is often done quietly and without recognition, I would like to congratulate **Mrs Melanie Williams**. Mrs Williams will be presenting workshops at the Victorian Association of Teachers of English. She will be sharing her experiences and knowledge in the following workshops; *Literature at Year 10 - Meaningful and fun and; Using the student's technology to motivate*.

In our inaugural foray Tessa Crawford was eliminated in sudden death Round 4, while Sam won the Spell off with the word 'capuccino' to become the Year 8 Gippsell champion. Both were fine ambassadors for the College, being smartly turned out and behaving impeccably. Congratulations, Sam and Tessa.

Athletics

A strong Athletics squad went to Olympic Park, Melbourne for the Catholic All Schools Meet. The team won a number of gold and silver medals. Unfortunately inclement weather and high winds caused an early closure to the Meet.

Victorian Touch Footy Team

Matt Royal (Year 9) Jordan Royal (Year 7), Jordan Symons (Year 9) and Josh Hanrahan (Year 9) have been selected to represent Victoria at the National Secondary School Under-15 Touch Football Championships in Tasmania in October. Ms. Joyce and the boys organised a barbecue to help raise funds for their trip to Tasmania. We wish the team and the four boys best of luck.

Mr Chris Roga
Campus Director

We congratulate Mrs Williams on her selection and wish her well as she continues to educate those around her.

Physics Excursion - Mr Mark Judd

To gain a better understanding of the Physics behind the Large Hadron Collider, and to prepare for their third and final SAC of the year, the Yr 12 Physics class travelled to Clayton to examine first hand the construction and uses of the Australian Synchrotron. The final part of the day's synchrotron tour took place at the Melbourne Museum. Melbourne University PhD student **Bryn Sobott**, who originates from Gippsland, arranged for our 24 students to attend an invitation only media launch of the LHC "switch on". The Kildare students took front row of the event and were acknowledged by Dr Rassool in his introduction. Questions from our students were answered by Dr Allan Clark (University De Geneva) located in Switzerland.

The most pleasing aspect of the day came right at the end of the day when the class held discussions with both Dr Rassool and Professor Taylor for over half an hour. It was a unique opportunity for students to meet and talk Physics with two of the most decorated Physicists in Australia. The day was indeed as inspirational as it was historic.

In closing, I wish to address the headline "Will a man made black hole consume the Earth?" The truth is I, like other Physicists, don't know. Wednesday the 10th of September was an historic day in the field of Physics. However, it was only a test of the LHC, a test which did not include the long awaited collision between two protons travelling at the speed of light. For this event, and answers to the question, we will all have to wait until October or later. The end of the Earth? Very unlikely, but not impossible.

Mr Marco Di Cesare
Campus Director

Forthcoming Events

TERM 4 OCTOBER

- 6 Oct Term 4 Begins - All Students Return
- 6-23 Oct Year 12 VCAL Work Experience
- 8-10 Oct Year 9.1 Camp at Tamboritha [St Paul's]
- 9 Oct Year 12 Practice English/Literature Exam
Night Time Second Hand Uniform Shop
- 12 Oct Schools Cycling Cup [Kildare]
- 13 Oct Parents & Friends (7.30pm ISC [Library] StPaul's)
Year 7 Family Life [St Paul's]
Guest Speaker - Dale Simmons, TRUenergy [P]
- 13-17 Oct Net Retreats - Year 10 [Kildare]
- 13-15 Oct Year 9.2 Camp at Tamboritha [St Paul's]
- 14 Oct Year 7 TRUenergy excursion [P]
- 15-17 Oct Year 9.3 Camp at Tamboritha [St Paul's]
- 20 Oct FULL SUMMER UNIFORM
- 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

Last Day Term 3:
Friday 19 September conclude at 2.30pm

First Day Term 4:
Monday 6 October

Parents & Friends Meeting

Monday 13 October 2009
Held at ISC St Paul's Campus
commencing at 7.30pm

**NIGHT TIME
SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP**

GET READY FOR THE
CHANGE OF SEASON

**OPEN ON
THURSDAY 9th October
6.30-8.00 PM**

Canteen Roster

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

- Mon 6 Oct Help Needed x 2
- Tue 7 Oct T. Pledge, S. Garrett
- Wed 8 Oct E. Panayiotou, L. Hodder
- Thu 9 Oct R. Petrucci, G. Breed
- Fri 10 Oct K. Nelson, K. Arbuthnot
- Mon 13 Oct M. Korsak, (help needed)
- Tue 14 Oct Help Needed x 2
- Wed 15 Oct T. Thornton, S. Fisher
- Thu 16 Oct A. Mooney, C. Richards
- Fri 17 Oct L. Weckman, (help needed)

KILDARE CAMPUS

- Mon 6 Oct D. Berryman, K. Manson
- Tue 7 Oct Help Needed x 2
- Wed 8 Oct S. Hillier, (help needed)
- Thu 9 Oct M. Johnson, (help needed)
- Fri 10 Oct L. Clarke, (help needed)
- Mon 13 Oct D. Buckley, I. Gregson
- Tue 14 Oct H. Van Berkel, K. Dugan
- Wed 15 Oct A. Scully, (help needed)
- Thu 16 Oct V. Sammut, (help needed)
- Fri 17 Oct A. Fogarty, C. Hinds



VCSPB
Victorian Catholic Schools Parent Body

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:
Pauline Low, CEO Warragul on Ph: 56226634
Jeff Robbins, VCSPB Sale Diocese on Ph 0438 468238
or e-mail jeffandliz@activ8.net.au
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