



NEWSLETTER

Lavalla Catholic College

26 May 2006

Dear Parents and Students

Today begins our focus for *Reconciliation Week* and we are drawn to keep the troubles of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in our hearts and in our prayers. It is also the 10th anniversary of *Sorry Day*. In 1997 a report was tabled in Federal Parliament that without a doubt changed the view of Australians and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people of this nation. You will remember that the report, *Bringing Them Home*, outlined the abuse that was perpetrated on our marginalised indigenous people by the removal of children from their families.

We all now seem to at least know about the appalling violence inflicted on Aboriginal children and understand the term 'stolen generation'. With sadness we have tuned into the media as we have come to realise that the conditions of Aboriginal people and Aboriginal children in Central Australia in particular has not greatly improved. In fact, we are left in dismay that innocent children could be exposed to the traumas of poverty and violence. Current Affair documentaries and newspaper editorials remind us that indigenous Australians have a life expectancy twenty years below other Australians. They suffer from ill health and poor living conditions; are early school leavers and disproportionately represented in our legal system.

Perhaps 10 years ago we had great hopes that the reconciliation process would heal the wounds and set us on a pathway filled with hope. Well meaning and hard working, Federal and State politicians and other community organisations have tried to rectify a seemingly hopeless situation, with some gains and many losses along this long history. It is a complex situation for both indigenous and non-indigenous Australians. It is important that we improve our understanding of indigenous history, culture and situation before we engage in well informed action.



Hands are a powerful symbol. They can signify hard work, peace, harmony and friendship. It is important that we are respectful of our marginalised, that we listen with open hearts and that we work together to ensure that we protect the innocence of our children and they all – black and white - feel the arms of the Nation around them, holding them lovingly and with strength.

Erica Pegorer
Principal

COLLEGE KILT

Parents and students were advised in an earlier newsletter (5 May) that there was a slight variation in the colour of the fabric of the new kilt. After discussions with the manufacturers of the fabric and kilt, the issue has now been resolved and the kilt as supplied by Riggall's stores is the official uniform.

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS

The campus has been busy this week with teachers turning their attention to assessment and reporting for the end of semester. Students have been focused on completing tasks. As you are aware there are some mandated changes to reporting and this has increased the work load for all teachers and the ICT staff.. In the midst of this, teachers have also had to continue with their primary tasks of preparing, delivering and assessing lessons. I thank them all for their dedication and professionalism. To further assist with this process there will be a curriculum day on **June 2nd** - this will naturally be a **pupil free day**.

Yr 8 Camps

Beginning on 19 July, Yr 8's will be attending camps in Melbourne. These camps will provide an opportunity to learn about life in the City, e.g. using public transport, as well as providing learning experiences connected to the curriculum. These camps are **compulsory for all Yr 8 students**. Families may make contact with Mrs Rita Albanese to arrange for periodic payment of the camp fee.

Morwell Parish

Congratulations to the Morwell Parish on a very successful inaugural Parish Concert. Special congratulations to Ms Huang and the Junior Choir who also participated in the concert.

School Photos

I remind all families to attend to the envelopes you have received regarding school photos. The Photographer will be here on **Wednesday 31 May**, all students must be in full winter uniform regardless of their timetabled classes. Students who have PE that day should bring their PE gear to school with them. Students should not come wearing noticeable make up or inappropriate jewellery. Please ensure that your child brings the completed photograph order form on the day.

Bullying

Each class will be completing an on-line bullying survey in coming weeks. This allows us to obtain a snap shot of the state of relationships on the campus. It also gives students an anonymous way of informing us of any concerns that they may have. Whilst it is always best that we hear about these directly, sometimes students are reluctant to come forward and the survey will give them a forum. Following the survey there may be some discussions with various students and their families, regrading their treatment of others.

Asking seems to come naturally to children. As God's children, we can freely talk to Him and ask Him for anything. And like any caring parent, He will say, "Yes" to some of our requests, "No" some of the time and at times, He will say, "Wait."

*Lee McKenzie
Head of St Paul's Campus*

PRESENTATION CAMPUS

Open Morning and Information Evening

The Open Day and Information Evening held on Wednesday of last week were both well attended. The feedback from those who

attended used adjectives such as *Open, Caring, Friendly and Welcoming* to describe their experience.

Our student leaders are to be congratulated for their contribution to the day. During the Open Morning the Campus Leaders and SRC representatives conducted tours of the Campus. In the evening they led the prayers, introduced the speakers and escorted parents on tours of the Campus. They all showed a pride in themselves, a pride in the school and an ownership of the College. Well Done.

Kildare Campus Visit

On Thursday last week Mr Schneider, Mrs Clarke and the House Co-ordinators accompanied by year 10 students spent the Pastoral Care lesson with our Year 9's discussing the many options and subject selections available at the Kildare Campus. In 2006, over the coming weeks and into term 3 the focus for our year 9's will be the transition to the senior school.

My thanks to the Kildare Campus staff for their time and support last week.

Uniform

The uniform is being worn very well at the moment. Our thanks to the parents who support the school in this regard. One comment to make in regards to notes giving permission to wear coloured coats and etc. The note does not give permission to wear the garment. The note needs to explain why it may be necessary to have it on that day. The uniform rules and regulations are clearly outlined in the planner. Please support us in this matter.

Yours in the Spirit of Strong Minds and Compassionate Hearts.

Chris O'Brien
Head of Presentation Campus

KILDARE CAMPUS

Congratulations:

Jordan Breed, last year's winner of the prestigious Monash Academic Award, has been awarded the Australian Defence Forces Academy (ADFA) education award. Jordan will be awarded with his prize, including a certificate and a plaque presented to the College early next term. Jordan intends to apply for the Air Force Aerospace Engineering Degree, which is conducted by the University of New South Wales in Canberra at the Academy. This award is open to all Year 11 students who are considering University through admission to any of the Defence Forces after completing Year 12. Congratulations again, Jordan.

CAS Basketball – Ballarat:

On Tuesday, May 16 the College took five teams to Ballarat to compete in the Regional Catholic All Schools' (CAS) Basketball Competition. Four of the five teams (Senior

girls, Intermediate girls, Intermediate boys and Junior boys) won all their games making it through to the finals. However, only the Senior girls and the Intermediate girls were able to win their finals and progress through to the CAS finals. These finals are to be held in Bendigo today. All teams tried their best and represented themselves and the College well.

Members of all teams would like to thank their coaches: Shayne Burns (Senior boys), Karen Joyce (Senior girls), Mark Warnock (Intermediate boys), David McDonald (Intermediate girls) and Wayne Buyxz-Smith (Junior boys) and the other parents who helped out on the day. Well done to all players and good luck to our girls' teams. More next week.

Peter Schneider
Head of Kildare Campus

CURRICULUM NEWS **The Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS)**

Hopefully you have been keeping up to date through articles in our newsletters of 5th and 19th May.

With the end of Term 2 rapidly approaching, teachers are working very hard to finalise

assessment procedures and the New Reports for Yr 7-10 English and Mathematics, in accordance with Federal Government directives. **Friday 1st June**, which is a **pupil free day**, will be mainly used for this purpose.

Curriculum News (contd...)

While students have been receiving ongoing information in classes, **special information workshops** are also being conducted to ensure that all students are made aware of the implications of these changes. Please ask your child to share their perspective with you.

A blend of classroom observations and prescribed assessment tasks will be used by teachers to determine the rating (A-E) your child will be awarded for this semester in **each of 3 dimensions for English and up to 5 dimensions for Mathematics**. The focus is on skills and knowledge acquired and feedback to students on their strengths and weaknesses is built into the process in a variety of ways.

It is important to realise that across Victoria, students are expected to progress towards **VELS Level 5 by the end of Year 8** and **VELS Level 6 by the end of Year 10**. So, at the end of each semester, it is the degree of progress that will be reported. While 'C' indicates that a student's progress is firmly on track, we expect that students who receive other ratings are progressing at their own pace either by ensuring that their foundations

are well established or by advancing their learning in different ways.

The Federal Government has also directed that parents should be provided access to information about the **overall distribution of A-E ratings** for their child's English and Maths year groups. This summary information will be made available to parents on request at the *Parent Teacher evening on 15th June*, when *parent information workshops* will also be provided at particular times. These times will be indicated on the interview sheets which you will receive shortly.

Assessment Tasks in VCE

Semester examinations will be conducted next week for Yr 11 students, while all VCE Unit 3 & 4 students will be sitting the GAT a little later. Students enrolled in VCE Units 3 & 4 Accounting, Biology, Psychology, Physics and Chemistry should be consolidating their preparation for their mid year examination as well. Please keep these students in your prayers as they endeavour to build up their ENTER scores

Rita Nainie
Director of Curriculum

LOTE TRIVIA NIGHT

The LOTE department and all our students are very excited because this year we will be embarking on a trip to Italy from 25th November to 16th December 2006. A group of 20 LOTE students (from year 9 to year 11) will participate in this once in a lifetime opportunity and three teachers will be accompanying them on this wonderful trip. The students will tour Italy for 9 days and then will stay in Venice for 10 days as guests of the liceo classico Foscarini. They will be attending the school and staying with Venetian families. The students are very keen

to raise money for the trip so they are organizing a number of fundraising activities.

The first one will be a **TRIVIA NIGHT**. It will be held at Kildare Campus Hall on Friday 2nd June at 7.30pm. \$10.00 per person. The students have done a wonderful job collecting great prizes from very generous local businesses so if you come on the night you will not be disappointed!

For bookings or information please contact:
Raffaella Cataldo 51745272 or Maria Doganieri 51747355

CANTEEN ROSTER

	St Paul's	Kildare
Mon 29 May	L Stockdale, T Roberts	B McNulty (help needed)
Tue 30 May	C Asbock, K Licciardi	J Clarke, M Byl
Wed 31 May	R Crowle (help wanted)	(help wanted)
Thu 1 June	F Webb (help wanted)	M Johnston (help wanted)

Postal address PO Box 1080 Traralgon 3844		Kildare Campus Kosciuszko St Traralgon Ph 5174 8111	Presentation Campus John Field Drive Newborough Ph 5127 1311	St Paul's Campus Grey St Traralgon Ph 5174 7355
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