

Lavalla Catholic College

ISSUE 4
April 27
2012

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From Marcellin
Champagnat

O Mary, my Good Mother,

I give into your sacred
keeping

and commend to your special
care and protection my body,
mind and spirit for this day
and for every day of my life.

To you I entrust my hopes and
consolations,

my difficulties and sorrows,
my life and my death;

that through your prayers
and your merits

all my actions may be
directed and disposed

according to your will and the
will of your son.

All: Amen.

From the Principal

Dear members of the Lavalla community.

Welcome back to term 2 which is already well under way. Students are focused and purposeful in their work and the campuses are projecting quite some energy, which judging by our calendar is not surprising. There have already been quite a number of excursions and workshop for students, guest speakers and a remembrance of ANZAC day. This week we have also welcomed students from grade 6 classes from our local primary school as they begin to think about secondary school for 2013. More and more I realise that we are a place of flourishing!

Over the holiday break I attended the National Conference for Catholic Secondary Principals in Canberra. The theme for the Conference was Meeting Christ in Self and Others and in what has become a customary sign of respect, the conference was open by the Aboriginal elders of the Canberra region, the Ngannawal people. David had his family with him and they lead us through the opening ceremony and shared with all, the story of his family.

Like you, I have been to a number of conference or ceremonies where we pay our respect to the Aboriginal people through a welcome ceremony such as the one in Canberra. However, none have touched me as deeply as this one. It was clear that David and his family were very proud of their tradition and heritage and generous in sharing it with us but the difference was that he spoke about the integration of the aboriginal culture in all our lives. He dreams a time when white Australians of all the various nationalities are so immersed in the aboriginal culture that they too could perform the welcome dance and tell the dreamtime stories to our younger generations.

continued next page...

Prayer for Fr Bernie O'Brien

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayer for Father Bernie O'Brien who has begun Chemotherapy treatment for his Lymphoma.

Amid his physical distress may he find consolation in your healing presence. Restore strength to his body and joy to his spirit, so that in his renewed health, he may continue to bless and serve you, now and into the future.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord and brother.

Amen

I admit to being a passive receiver and observer of the aboriginal ceremonies. I do not feel confident to be able to adequately pass on the aboriginal culture and stories as part of my own; I wouldn't be able to sing any of their songs or recite with any real knowing any of their dreamtime or creation stories. With research I could theoretically discuss this but I could speak from the heart.

David gave me pause to think but the message came home so very clearly when on the next day the 10 New Zealand delegates lead the morning prayer singing two or three Maori hymns. They were not Maori themselves but they sang with pride and were able to talk knowing about the songs, their history and their culture. This is what David was talking about.... the full integration of the aboriginal culture into our own; a sense of ownership and knowing that speaks with pride about our indigenous people; an ability to share and promote a rich and deep culture with our children so they feel at one with our true story. We have something to learn from our New Zealand neighbours in this respect. I hope for David and all those who he represents that many of us there heard his message and that we can be more deliberate in accepting the aboriginal culture as part of who we are as Australians.

Another such example of remembering who we are is of course ANZAC day. Many participated and many observed ceremonies that honoured our service men and women both in our past and currently. While it is important to keep the memory of the devastation of the Two World Wars alive it is also a reminder that the world still suffers the effects of war each and every day. Our own soldiers are currently fighting on many international fronts and they too need to be honoured for the work they are currently. Let us keep in our prayers and thoughts not only those who have fought fearlessly in the past but those at the fronts today and for their families who fear for their safety each day. May they return safely home.

We launched this week Catholic Education Week and some of us attended a fitting mass and celebration in Pakenham this week. We recognised the achievements of many teachers across the Diocese as well as prizing some young people with awards that would support their further education. Bishop Prowse spoke passionately about the need to promote the work we do as Catholic schools and while accepting that nurturing faith development in our young people can be a difficult journey he was also encouraging and complimentary for the work that we do. Mr Peter Ryan in his opening address spoke of the hard journey travelled by our predecessors in relation to funding for catholic schools, let alone the battles for equity and parity in pay and conditions that we take for granted now.

As catholic schools we are places of hope and flourishing and at Lavalla there is something more in this school than good learning and teaching; there is something about the way things are done here and the way we love and treat our students and each other. There is something deeper that draws us together and that is that we put Jesus at the centre of all we do. It is hard not to feel pride and connectedness to such a fine school.

Have a good fortnight.

Erica Pegorer
Principal

St. Michael's Youth Group

St. Michael's Youth Group is for all youth in Years 7-9.

Meeting fortnightly at St. Michael's Hall, Traralgon, they run a variety of fun activities at low cost for local youth.

The next youth night is a "Roller-skating Family Night" on Friday 4th May. Bring your friends and family to this ALL AGES skating session.

Meet at 6.30pm sharp at St. Michael's Hall for a 7pm start at Oz skate rink in Moe. Pick up 9.30pm at St. Michael's. Cost \$5 per person or \$10 a family including skates or BYO skates, scooter or ripstick.

Snacks/drinks available for purchase. Permission slip, RSVP & money required by 27th April. A minimum of 20 people for this activity or it will have to be cancelled.

Other activities this term will include a sports night and a trivia night. For more info about youth group phone Louise Varsaci on 51750877.

Kildare Campus Canteen Helpers

Monday 30th April –
I Gregson

Tuesday 1st May –
TBA

Wednesday 2nd May –
C Wilson

Thursday 3rd May –
H Stoddart

Friday 4th May –
D Buckley

Monday 7th May –
R Crowle

Tuesday 8th May –
L Bennison

Wednesday 9th May –
W Whelan

Thursday 10th May –
M Johnson

Friday 11th May –
R Sallah

Second Hand Uniform Shop

NEXT OPEN:

Thursday 3rd May
Thursday 17th May
3.30pm – 6.00pm

Shop located at:
St.Paul's Campus

Payment options:
Cash, Cheque or EFTPOS
(Please note Kilts/Skirts
must be tried on. They
are not sized)



Kildare Update Marco DiCesare - Campus Director

Congratulations to our year 11 students who recently completed their debutante ball. Held at the Premier Function Rooms, all three nights were deemed a great success.

A special thank you to the Debutante Ball committee for all their efforts in making this special occasion possible for our students.

Photos on the night were taken by John Ansell Photography and will be available shortly.





Presentation Campus Update

Tamsin McCormack - Campus Director

Greetings from Presentation Campus.

It was great to welcome the Master Survivor Program (MSP) students and staff to the campus last week. They have quickly settled in and it is encouraging to see so many students mixing well, regardless of their year level or original campus. The term has started well and we have already participated in a number of activities including the Master Survivor Programme which;

- assisted St Mary's Primary School with their Athletics Carnival
- travelled to Melbourne to take part in Arts Connect where students viewed Flying Monsters 3D
- a visit from the Black Snake Man with an opportunity to learn more about the reptiles and other creatures that we live with and how to live with them safely.

Next week the students will go to the Summit and take part in "The Best Day Thinking" program, an opportunity for students to extend their abilities and to push their own boundaries.



Presentation Campus Update - continued



The first of our year 8 students headed to Mt Tamboritha to take part in the annual camp. By all accounts it was an enjoyable experience and by the look of things, I do believe they got some sleep, as there were not too many bleary eyes when they returned. Thursday they will visit Monash University, where they will explore what opportunities university have to offer students and to learn more about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

While our year 7's have not travelled too far from the campus, except to listen to the important information on sexting, they have been working hard, getting used to a larger number of students on the campus. The students also assisted Nathan Forester celebrate his 18th Birthday, last Friday, along with the year 8's. The cupcakes appeared to be enjoyed by all.

As we are all aware, on ANZAC day we pause to remember the Australians and New Zealanders who fought to protect our country and ensure our freedom. Students behaved respectfully towards the ceremonies here at school and listened attentively to Ms Bianconi on Tuesday, when she explained some of the history of why we reflect on the past and how it influences the future.

Presentation Campus was represented at three local ANZAC services, with members of the campus leadership group laying wreaths at the Moe, Trafalgar and Newborough/Yallourn services Wednesday morning. Thank you to those students who gave up their time and represented the College with distinction.

A reminder to all that winter uniform need to be worn as of Monday, 30th April. To refresh your memory of our winter uniform policy, please visit our website.

Finally I would like to thank all the staff, students, parents and wider community for their support as I made the journey over Easter to becoming Catholic. I was greatly moved with the gift presented to me by the staff and students and impressed that every single student was able to keep the secret from me.



cyber(smart:)

Cyber Safety and your child

As a parent you play a crucial role in helping your child have safe and positive experiences online. By understanding how children and young people use the internet, the risks they face and the strategies to manage risks, you can help enable your children to enjoy the best of the online world.

Tagged is a resource that we are using at Lavalla to educate our young people. It is a short film developed by the Australian Communications and Media Authority's Cybersmart program, recommended for use with students aged 14 and over. It encourages young people to reflect on the real life consequences caused by cyberbullying, sexting, and a negative digital reputation. The themes of personal and peer safety and responsibility are crucial to maintaining positive online behaviour and digital reputation into adulthood.

Tagged tells the story of a group of high-school friends who post a rumour about a rival which sparks a chain reaction that leaves no one untouched. Cyberbullying, sexting, filmed fights and police action ensue — will these friends avoid being tagged forever?

Tagged is available free of charge to all families at: www.cybersmart.gov.au/tagged/

What you can do -

- Be aware of what your teenager is doing online and explore it with them.
- Try to locate the computer in a shared or visible place in the home.
- Discuss the kinds of sites that are okay to explore and those that are not, and have clear rules about online activities.
- If your child is using social networking sites ensure that they understand the privacy features—in particular how to set their profile to private and limit access to their information.
- Encourage them to screen online 'friends' and block anyone that sends offensive content.
- Keep the lines of communication open so your child will be comfortable to talk to you if something is worrying them.
- Help your child to develop the skills they need to interact safely and respectfully online.

What you do online could tag you for life

www.cybersmart.gov.au

LAVALLA 3rd BEST IN VICTORIA

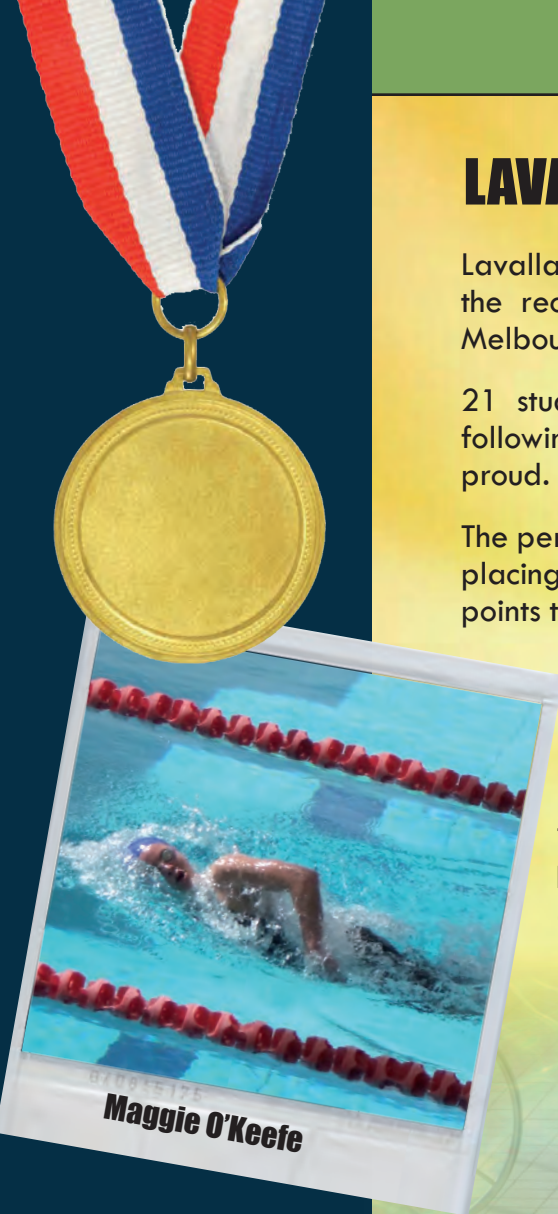
Lavalla Catholic College has capped off a remarkable term of swimming at the recent School Sport Victoria Swimming State Championships held at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre on Thursday, March 29.

21 students from the College advanced through to the State Championships following the recent Region Championships. They did the College, and themselves, proud.

The performance and effort by the swimming team was rewarded with the College placing third overall, out of 163 schools from across Victoria, in the aggregate points tally and only missing out on a second placing by 12 points.

A couple of outstanding highlights from the meet saw Erin Roberts setting a new record in the women's 14 years 50m breaststroke with a time of 34.94, shaving half a second off the previous mark and Maggie O'Keefe winning gold medals in all three of her individual events.

The swimming team finished with 16 medals overall on what was another huge success for the participating students against a quality range of athletes who competed throughout the day.

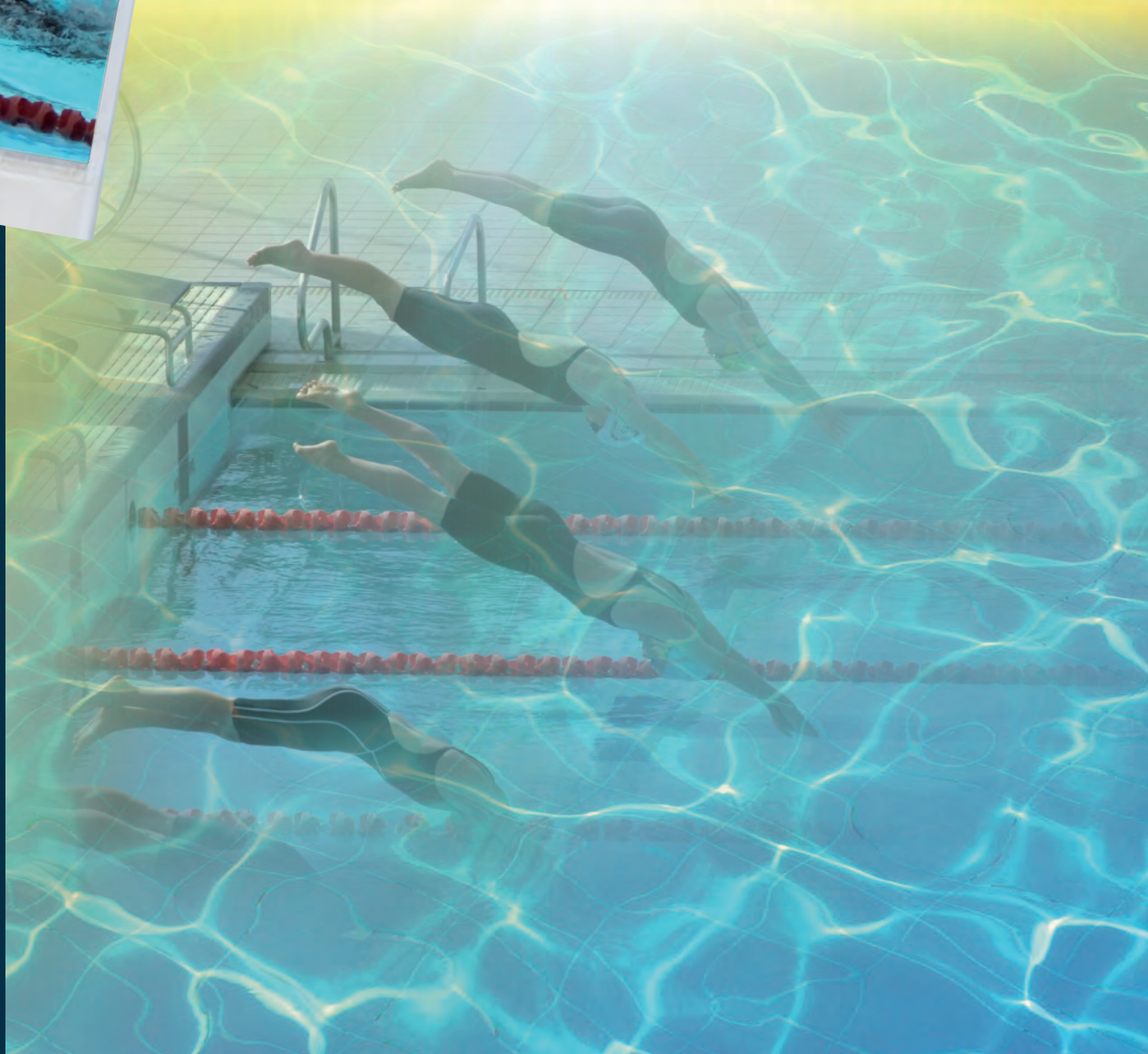


West End JFC

Wanted - Under 12 & Under 14 players for West End JFC.

Training nights are Mondays and Wednesdays – 4.30pm to 5.30pm at West End Complex, Grubb Avenue Traralgon.

Any queries please contact Sharleen Barry 5167 1551 or 0434 832 680.



April/May Events

Monday, April 30

SSV Tennis regional finals
MSP Summit
Grade 6 visit to Presentation Campus

Tuesday, May 1

Anti-bullying performance at Presentation Campus

Wednesday, May 2

Visit to primary schools (Yr 7s)

Thursday, May 3

Young Marist Formation Day (Yr 9s)

Monday, May 7

SSV Golf state finals (Yrs 11-12s)
Zoo Youth leadership day

Wednesday, May 9

Twilight opening for enrolment in 2013 at St Paul's

Thursday, May 10

Drama night (Yrs 10-11)
Kildare Campus Photos

Friday, May 10

SSV Tennis conference finals

Monday, May 14

Parent/Teacher meetings commence

Wednesday, May 16

NAPLAN testing (Yrs 7-9)

Monday, May 21

Cause Worth Week commences at Kildare



Parents Victoria Online Conference 2012

Parents of primary and secondary students, in all states, territories and countries, are warmly invited to take part in this year's online conference, to be held next month by Parents Victoria, in Australia.

The conference will be held non-stop on the internet from 6am Sunday, 20th May to midnight Saturday, 26th May.

No special software is needed, other than an internet-connected computer and a browser (speakers are an advantage but are optional). The online discussions will be very easy to join in, online resources will be provided, and guidelines about how to participate will be available. *You don't need to be a member of Parents Victoria to take part. Join in for all days, just some days, or even a few hours, depending on your lifestyle and other commitments.

Topics

The exact day-to-day conference program will be emailed to those who register shortly before the conference begins. Topics include Celebrating Public Education, Bullying, Multiculturalism, Languages Other Than English (LOTE), Mental Health, Travel to School and School Payments.

Register online at no cost

The Parents Victoria Online Conference 2012 website will open at exactly 6am on Sunday 20 May at www.cybertext.net.au/pv/

*Please note: The 'placeholder page' that is currently visible at this website address will automatically redirect to the live conference homepage, at precisely 6am on Sunday 20 May. Please register yourself online, at this website address, before you participate in the online conference.

Uniforms

A reminder to all students that full winter uniform must be worn as of Monday, 30th April.

Blazers need to be worn, shirts need to be done up to the top button, and ties must be worn correctly. All kilts need to be worn at knee length.

The college spray jacket may only be worn in wet weather, over the blazer.



MARCELLIN HOUSE
(ADMINISTRATION)
Costa Circle TRARALGON
Ph. (03) 5174 5272
Fax. (03) 5174 9235

KILDARE CAMPUS
Kosciuszko Street TRARALGON
Ph. (03) 5174 8111
Fax. (03) 5174 0783

ST PAUL'S CAMPUS
Grey Street TRARALGON
Ph. (03) 5174 7355
Fax. (03) 5174 1827

PRESENTATION CAMPUS
John Field Drive NEWBOROUGH
Ph. (03) 5127 1311
Fax. (03) 5127 7110

www.lavalla.edu.au