



Lavalla Catholic College

ISSUE 9
July 27
2012

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From the Principal

Dear members of the Lavalla Community

We are moments away from the excitement and patriotic fervour of the 30th Olympiad. Baron Pierre de Coubertin, as the founder of the modern Olympics in 1896 thought that the games should be about bringing together sport, culture and education.

Despite all the advertising, sponsorships and modern hype that surrounds our Olympic games our modern athletes stay true to the original goals of the true spirit of competition. Our athletes are united in the pride they exhibit for their country and as spectators we revel in the competition. We are in awe of the world records that are broken and the standard of excellence achieved. We are equally if not more impressed and inspired by our Para-Olympians who capture our imagination of what the human spirit can endure and achieve despite the odds.

We can be proud of the Australian athletes that will be our ambassadors and of course we wish them every success as they try to achieve their personal bests. In this light, I invite you to read an article regarding the recent scathing attack on Liesel Jones. It is a very good reminder that we need to treasure our people and not allow our distinguished people to become victims of a throw-away society.

Arts Building at St Paul's

In August 2007 the Art Centre at St Paul's was burnt down in an act of arson. It has taken quite some time to arrange funds and plans for the much awaited rebuild. Our excitement at beginning the work on the Arts Centre has been dampened a little this week.

No doubt you would have seen the recent article in the media regarding the Expression of Interest process for tendering. Unfortunately, it was reported that the process was seen as unfair or discriminatory towards our local community. Lavalla has strong links to the Latrobe Valley community and we endeavour to support the area which supports us.

The College had placed the project in the hands of our architects to manage. Rather than our previous practice of a selective tender process we opted for an open Expression of Interest which meant that all and any builders could apply and address the selection criteria. The architects then short listed builders to be invited to tender, based upon the responses to the criteria.

In this pool of builders who have been invited to tender there are a number of Latrobe Valley and Gippsland companies as well as metropolitan companies. At this stage the tender process has not been completed and the contract has not been awarded to any particular company.

Assembly to Recognise Excellence

The full College gathered to enjoy the achievements of its community last week. The College Leaders play a major part in organising this assembly and we thank them for their efforts in ensuring that the Assembly captured significant moments in the year and that it recognised those students who were receiving excellence, diligence and merit awards with a certificate and a badge for their academic and sporting achievements to date.

It was so very pleasing to see almost 300 parents, grandparents and friends who came

Psalm 127

Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labour in vain.

Unless the Lord guards the city,
the guard keeps watch in vain.

It is in vain that you rise up
early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;
for he gives sleep to his
beloved.

Sons are indeed a heritage from
the Lord,
the fruit of the womb a reward.

Like arrows in the hand of a
warrior
are the sons of one's youth.
Happy is the man who has
his quiver full of them.

He shall not be put to shame
when he speaks with his enemies
in the gate.

to support their child/children in receiving their award. It certainly makes the occasion all that more significant for our community. Save the date - Monday 3rd December – will be the Awards ceremony at the end of the year.

Moment of Silence

As a way to acknowledge and in response to the Bishop's call for the Year of Grace, Lavalla will observe a minute of silence to give thanks for all our blessings and to place ourselves in the presence of God each day. If we take time to show gratitude or appreciation we find in ourselves that there is a shift inside of us... our focus moves from what our life is lacking to an appreciation of the abundance that is already present. In addition, research has shown the surprising life improvements that can stem from the practice of gratitude. Giving thanks makes people happier and more resilient, it strengthens relationships, it improves health, and it reduces stress

Meister Eckhart said "If the only prayer you say in your life is 'thank you God,' that would suffice". –

Gratitude means thankfulness, counting your blessings, noticing simple pleasures, and acknowledging everything that you receive. It means learning to live your life as if everything were a miracle, and being aware on a continuous basis of how much you've been given. Saying 'thank you' in silence reminds us that God is present in our everyday.

This year is also the year of Grace and expressing gratitude for what we have is an excellent way to understand what grace means in our lives. We join with a number of Catholic Secondary schools who also practice this observance and thank them for this inspired idea.

We keep in our prayers the 12 who were killed in Aurora last weekend. What a shocking thing to endure.

God bless

Ms Erica Pegorer
Principal

Beyond the Liesel Jones fat spat

Catherine Marshall

The brutal media critique of swimmer Liesel Jones on the eve of her record fourth Olympics was a typical example of society's tendency to chew up and spit out its heroes once it deems them to be no longer useful.

Using as its evidence grossly unflattering photographs of Jones in her swimmers, the media suggested she wasn't fit to compete in the games, and that she was taking a taxpayer-funded holiday to London before retiring from competition.

When a public outcry over this treatment of Jones ensued, the outlets ran with the story's momentum, analysing it from new angles, polling readers on their opinions of Jones' physique, and losing no opportunity to republish the offensive pictures.

Fuelled by a relentless news cycle, the social media frenzy and the anonymity afforded online commentators, our natural curiosity has morphed into rabid voyeurism. Journalists, knowing they cater

to an increasingly desensitised readership, have responded by doling out the kind of insensitive reporting that has seen one of our champion swimmers reduced to the sum of her 'fat' content.

The Olympics are about fairness and sportsmanship rather than the fit of one's swimmers. As Jones prepares to make history herself, becoming the first Australian swimmer to qualify for four Olympics, I hope she will know that her supporters far outweigh the people who have chosen to denigrate her.



SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

NEXT OPEN

Thursday 2nd August
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)



St Paul's Campus Update

Mr Andrew Martin - Campus Director

As Dickens eloquently said "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." The best of times happened as recently as on the 18th and 20th of July. Lavalla's Intermediate Concert Band, Junior Jazz Band and Junior Choir travelled to the Catholic primary schools in the local area to engage younger children in the art and wonder of music.

These three musical groups visited St. Michaels Traralgon, St. Gabriel's Traralgon, Sacred Heart Morwell, St. Vincent's Morwell and Lumen Christi Churchill; and went to the Presentation campus to perform for St. Kieran's Moe and St. Mary's Newborough. The worst times were the exhausting and rigorous days travelling and performing throughout Latrobe Valley Catholic Primary Schools.

The school children were captivated and highly enjoyed all the performances; individuals were showing off their instruments and they even laughed at our Conductor's rather mediocre sense of humour. The school received great feedback, not only for the musical stylings of Mr. Harris' Intermediate Band, but the harmonic tenor of Mr. Reid's Junior Choir and the Jazzy harmonies from Mr. Wilke's Jazz Band. Every school that our Musical Groups visited left children in joyous and jovial moods after being culturally stimulated by music and Mr. Harris's jokes.

The ensembles played a varied programme with the Intermediate Band playing 'Nashville Express', amid Primary school students shouting 'Toot-Toot' like a train. The Choir sang a multi-layered song of 'Oh when the Saints', 'Swing-Low' and 'Mamma don't like' that got faster and faster amidst squeals of delight from the children. The Jazz Band wooed the audience with various improvisations over the blues-based song 'Louis-Louis'.

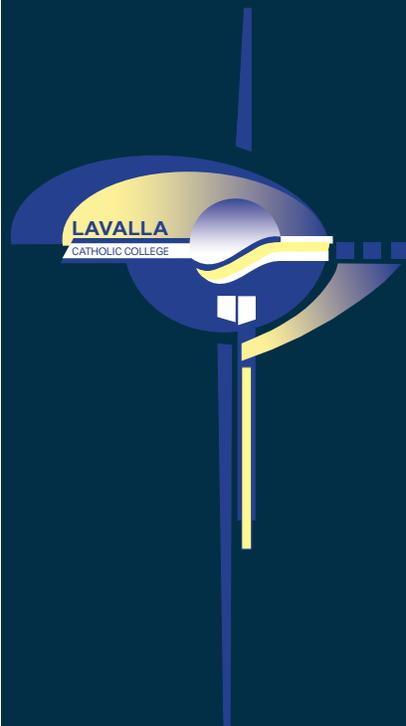
However, it wasn't all work. We had lunch time at McDonald's and a great time celebrating Presentation student Caitlyn Gill's birthday in the multi-purpose hall at Sacred Heart.

Our music students all thoroughly enjoyed the two days, getting further experience in performance and by seeing all of their hard work and dedication come to fruition and the ecstatic expression of the children. As usual Lavalla's ever persistent and hard-working Music Students powered through their Primary school performances with superior piquancy and zest.

Upcoming events in the Music department will include the Melbourne Band's Festival for the Intermediate Band and the School Concert in September for all College ensembles.

Student from St Paul's and Presentation Campus also recently participated in a Mock Court case at the Morwell Magistrates Court. The case focused on a young person who had passed on a nude photograph of his girlfriend to his friend. The hearing had a sense of realism with the offender and his pretend parents, a Sgt Detective, a legal aid representative and the Magistrate. The scene was set to state the serious nature of the case. All participants played their part well ensuring a sense of realism for the students viewing the case. Sexting has become a serious issue amongst teenagers and the mock court case was an opportunity for students to learn the legalities behind what can otherwise be perceived by teenagers as a silly mistake. The devastating results of the sexting and the court case on the young teenager, the girl involved and the parents of the teenager were made real by the court case. It was a moving experience for all involved.

Students participated in a before and after survey which will assist in developing the initiative further.



Kildare Update Mr Marco DiCesare - Campus Director

As we prepare for our Courses and Career Expo, I encourage all parents to continue to talk to your children about their future study and career options. Our current Year 9 and 10 families will have received a letter outlining the process for the information night next week. Please ensure that you reply to this letter promptly.

The Italian Poetry Competition Finalists

A number of our talented LOTE students will travel to Melbourne this weekend to compete as finalists in the Dante Alighieri Poetry. We were fortunate this year to have 5 students progress to the finals. Well done on reaching the finals and our prayers are with you this weekend:

- Tanatswa Ruzive-Makura
- Molly Campbell
- Korey Kavadias
- Katia Marotta
- Laura Metlikovec
- Ryan Ward

United Nations Student Convention - Lauren Birt & Dale Maruzza (students)

At the end of last term we were given the opportunity to experience a taste of how a United Nations debate would be held. Representing Egypt, we were faced with the challenge of successfully debating topics on behalf of our country, whilst not incorporating personal views into the debate. Along the way we met some amazing people who had travelled the world through the sponsorship of the Rotary Club. Over the weekend we debated nuclear weapons, the death penalty, the rights of women and refugees. The opportunity to participate in this even allowed us to view the world through the eyes of a different culture

Future Leaders Photography Prize

Pictured below is a photo taken by year 12 student Jessica Wall. This picture has been entered by Jessica into the Future Leaders Photography competition.



Kildare Campus Canteen Helpers

Monday 30th July –

R Crowle

Tuesday 31st July –

L Bennison

Wednesday 1st August –

J Croydon

Thursday 2nd August –

D Doust

Friday 3rd August –

D Buckley

Monday 6th August –

I Gregson

Tuesday 7th August –

J Rowe

Wednesday 8th August –

W Whelan

Thursday 9th August –

M Prosser

Friday 10th August –

P Richardson

J Groves

Presentation Campus Update

Ms Tamsin McCormack - Campus Director



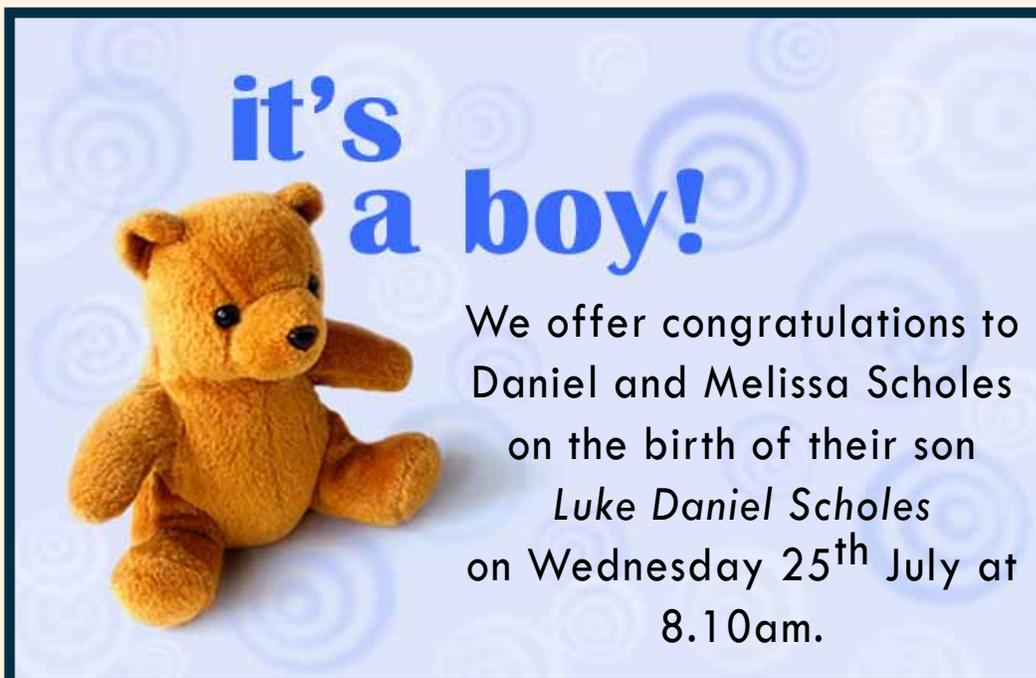
Greetings from Presentation Campus.

Term 3 has come around quickly.

Students have settled back into the routine of a small campus, with year 9 students participating in electives at St Paul's Campus two days a week. The year 9 students are now participating more actively in our transition program. This program requires them catch buses home from Traralgon each Tuesday and Thursday night. This is a great opportunity for them to learn which buses they need to catch next year when at Kildare.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Brother Jason Duck. Brother Jason had been working last term with the year 7 & 8 students at the Presentation Campus. He was the Oblate at St Kieran's Parish.

Students in year 9 are busy preparing to attend Expo on the 3rd of August and are encouraged to make use of all opportunities presented to them in preparing to choose their subjects for 2013.





Catholic School Renewal, 16th July 2012

Throughout 2012 Lavalla Catholic College has been undertaking Catholic School Renewal Program.

Like all modern organisations, the College needs to attend to its current practices and evaluate these in light of future needs. Renewal is a five year cycle and gives the College an opportunity to exam all facets of its operations from master planning, polices to Teaching and Learning issues. The end product of the Renewal Program is to formulate a Strategic Plan for the next five year which will see the College move confidently into the future.

At the beginning of term two all staff gathered to contribute to the Vision statement for the College, to examine our Catholic Identity and to develop goals and strategies around this area. Term three we reviewed Learning and Teaching along with Well being.

Mrs Rosemary Copeland from the Catholic Education office Warragul, has been working with a team of College Staff: Jo Alford, Adriana Bianconi, Byron Chen, Theresa Denny, Tim Lee, Bec Lindsay, Lee McKenzie; to ensure that all staff have opportunities to contribute to and own the Strategic Plan.

July 16th began with a liturgy which focused on the ten year History of Lavalla Catholic College. We then moved to an intensive focus on the Naplan and VCE results to help us identify areas for improvement. The afternoon session had people examining issues around well being for students, staff and the wider community.

In term four there will be curriculum and policy auditing and the final formulation of the Vision and Mission Statements with the strategies for implementing these. Education is constantly evolving and the Renewal process with the subsequent Strategic Plan will reflect the College's commitment to a cycle of continual improvement. Perhaps more importantly, it is part of our understanding that to provide the best possible education for our young people, we must be prepared to continually evolve, take on new practices and discard what is no longer useful.

Lavalla Catholic College is hosting a Careers & Course Expo

This expo is beneficial to students, parents and local businesses.

How can students and parents benefit?

Students from years 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 will be given the opportunity to plan their pathways to further education and training and to choose subjects best suited to those pathways. Parents and students are encouraged to use the day for planning future study, training and careers.

The aim of the expo is to raise student and parent awareness of VCAL and VCE as well as careers, VET courses and employment opportunities. The expo will also provide information about aptitude, skills, qualities, ATARs & prerequisites necessary for particular careers / courses / industry pathways

How can businesses benefit?

The expo will give your organisation access to approximately 1,100 year 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 students and their parents.

We are able to offer you approximately 2-3 square metres of space for display purposes. Tables, chairs and equipment will be set up for you. A light lunch of soup/rolls and morning/afternoon tea will be provided.

Venue: Kildare Campus, Kosciuszko St Traralgon.

Time: 11:00am until 4:30pm

CSI World

Enthusiasing Children Worldwide about 21st Century Science

On Thursday 26th July, 27 Year 9 students participated in a Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) workshop for the day.

Students worked in teams and assumed various roles – Lead Investigator, Fingerprint expert, Footwear expert, Trace Evidence specialist (hair and fibre) Blood spatter interpreter/UV Expert. Throughout the day students had mug shots taken, were instructed in fingerprinting, dusting for prints and collecting evidence. All of the students had the opportunity to work on their own crime scene, collecting and analysing evidence and making conclusions about the perpetrators of the crime.

From all accounts everyone had a fantastic day and all of the students were enthusiastic participants and excellent ambassadors for the college.

Student Testimonials:

I think that the day was great...it was a really good experience! It would have been good for the whole school to do the program because it was so enjoyable! – Grace

Today was such a fantastic day. We learnt all about crime scene investigation, finger prints, DNA, blood spatter and how to solve a crime, linking the pieces together. It was very interesting tracing the evidence and determining who the suspect was. We also enjoyed dressing up in the forensic suits. Participating in CSI World was an amazing and rewarding experience which has made me want to further explore becoming a Forensic Scientist! We all had a great day! – Kelsey

I thought today was really good; very interesting and definitely worth going to. Thanks heaps! – Paxton



Kildare Student Choice Time

To use Student Choice Time effectively it is most important that you plan ahead by doing the following:

- Make a list of what you want to get done the day before (so Monday and Wednesday)

For Example

1. Find the quotes from chapter 3 in my English text
2. Work on my Maths summary book – make sure I get 10 examples entered
3. Write 2 sample introductions for my history essay

You need to be **SPECIFIC!**

- Make sure the room/space you go to helps you get the task done
- Make sure you come to the room with everything you need (all the books etc)
- Don't bring your Lap Top if it is going to distract you!
- Don't bring your friends if they are going to distract you!
- Try and use the same room each time so that you are not wasting time wandering!

KEEP IN MIND!

IF YOU WERE TO USE EACH STUDENT CHOICE TIME AND LA SESSION IN WEEK ONE YOU WOULD HAVE 3 HOURS AND 30 MINUTES TO COMPLETE HOMESTUDY, REVISION, CATCH UP WITH STAFF, WORK WITH CROSS AGE TUTORS WITHIN YOUR SCHOOL TIME!

AND IN WEEK TWO YOU WOULD HAVE 2 HOURS AND 30 MINUTES!

SO DON'T BE A FOOL - WORK SMART!

Specific Tutorials offered by teachers will be detailed in next week's Chronicle.

Mrs Clarke

Why don't you consider checking out the Herald Sun Career & Trade Expo this weekend. It is a great opportunity to check out jobs and courses that you might like to do when you leave school. It will also help with your subject selections for Year 10 etc.

Present your free ticket located beside (photo copies allowed).



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BUNNINGS
TRADE

GIPPSLAND SCHOOLS CLAY TARGET CHAMPIONSHIPS

On an overcast morning 23 shooters from the College clay target shooting squad ventured to the Morwell VCTA Gun Club for the Gippsland School Championships on Wednesday, July 18.

Over 150 competitors attended the event from a number of schools from across Gippsland and Lavalla was again amongst the individual placing's in the senior girls and junior boys sections.

Sam Bennison backed up her efforts from the previous shooting event to finish second overall in a rare way to determine a shoot off. Fortunately, 'lady luck' was with Sam in the senior girl's competition.

Blake Minster overcame some early jitters and managed to finish in a shoot-off for first place in the junior boys. After an early miss in the shoot-off by both competitors, Blake just caught the back end off the second target and this enabled him to capture the junior boys section.

While Lavalla didn't fare so well in the teams event, which was dominated by Gippsland Grammar in most sections, it provided the Clay Target team with a great lead-up to the South East Zone Schoolboy & Schoolgirl Championships to be held at Frankston on Thursday, August 2nd 2012.

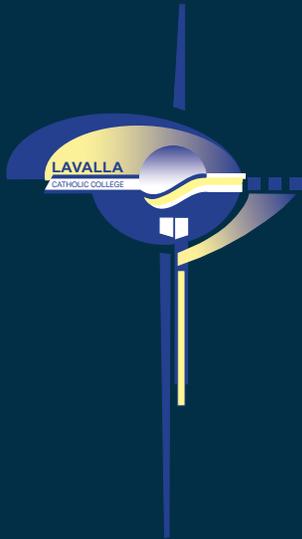
SSV SENIOR BASKETBALL – WELLINGTON DIVISION

Lavalla's senior boys and girls basketball teams commenced their competitions with victories in the SSV Wellington Division Championships and have advanced to the Regional Finals.

The girl's team seemingly waltzed through their games with great ease against Sale College, Maffra Secondary College, Traralgon Secondary College and Kurnai College.

The boys' team faced the same schools but had a tough challenge against Maffra SC before prevailing with a narrow victory to ensure they remained undefeated and make it through to the next round.





Upcoming Events

Monday, July 30

Alpine field trip

Tuesday, July 31

Yr 11 2013 info night

Wednesday, August 1

Yr 10 2013 info night

Friday, August 3

Careers expo

Grade 5 visits to St Paul's

Monday, August 6

Gippspell zone finals



NEW PIANO

Thanks to the wonderful fund raising efforts of our Music Support Group, a dedicated group of parent volunteers we are the proud owners of a new Yamaha upright piano. Our Music Support Group co-ordinated a pie drive earlier this year to supplement our 'piano wishing well' at last year's Annual Music Concert. We appreciate the support of all of the families who were involved in these initiatives. The piano has already been put to good use in our Senior Choir and Senior Jazz Ensemble rehearsals.

Pictured: Laura Dye from our Senior Jazz Ensemble



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