

Lavalla Catholic College

4 March 2011

Dear parents, students and teachers

As always the year moves along quickly and we are at the mid point of term 1. Recent highlights have been our Commissioning mass held on Wednesday 2nd March. The three campuses of the College community gathered to commission the new leaders for 2011 and to formally celebrate the beginning of the school year. Official Guests were Mr Paul Herrick and Brother Mark Paul (representing Marist Schools Australia) The Mass was con-celebrated by Father Matthew Joseph and Father Bernie O'Brien. The College community was particularly pleased to welcome Father Matthew as he takes up his new role in the St Michael's parish. In his homily Father Matthew reminded us that leadership is being of service to others and is not about personal gain or prestige.

Congratulations in particular to **Mrs Tamsin McCormack** who has been appointed to the role of Campus Director of Presentation Campus and was commissioned at the mass. Mrs McCormack has been a staff member at the College since 1998, and until this year had been a House Co-ordinator on the Kildare Campus.

Her proud family, including husband Brian attended the mass. She was presented with the College pin and a bible during the ceremony.

The student leaders for 2011 are:

COLLEGE CAPTAINS

Rhiley Wentworth
Katrina Barrett
Rhys McDonald
Jessica Lewis

ST PAULS CAMPUS LEADERS

Sam Clavarino
Kayla Massaro
Aaron Wall
Lily Nash

PRESENTATION CAMPUS LEADERS

Nicole Sommerville
Melanie Renninson
Tyler Briggs

These students were presented with their badges and made a public pledge to the student body to be of service and offer leadership to the College community.

All students are to be commended for the respectful reverence they displayed during the mass, and in particular thanks to those students who took on significant roles i.e delivering readings or prayers of the Faithful. The senior choir, conducted by Mr Shane Reid lead the College through a prayerful celebration. Mr Mike Hansen, assisted by Mrs Theresa Denny prepared a significant liturgy. My thanks to all these people for the contribution to our Commissioning mass.

The College is as usual a busy place, Kildare Campus held a very successful swimming carnival on Friday 25th of February. Presentation and St Paul's campuses have struggled to find suitable weather for their carnivals and both have been postponed; please check the website for new dates. The Year 7 students from Presentation Campus as well as the current group of Master Survivor Program (MSP) students have all attended very successful camps. Both groups spent at least part of their time at Venus Bay.

Year 8 students will be heading to our chalet at Tamboritha for their camp experience. This site is particularly significant to the College, most past students have fond memories of camps and hikes at Tamboritha. We are most grateful to the band of very willing committee members who volunteer their time to ensure that the chalet and environment are well maintained and ready for student use.

A long standing tradition within the College is the Debutante Balls. This year the balls will be held on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th April at Kernot Hall. Mr DiCesare reports that the organising committee is making good progress.

LENT

Next week we begin the Lenten season. In recent years Shrove Tuesday has become closely associated with fund raising for Caritas, particularly through pancake Tuesday. The 9th of March is Ash Wednesday, a time when we turn our thoughts towards God and begin preparations for Easter. This Year Pope Benedict in his Lenten letter encourages us to embrace this time to renew our relationship with God.

"Dear brothers and sisters, through the personal encounter with our Redeemer and through fasting, almsgiving and prayer, the journey of conversion towards Easter leads us to rediscover our Baptism. This Lent, let us renew our acceptance of the Grace that God bestowed upon us at that moment, so that it may illuminate and guide all of our actions. What the Sacrament signifies and realises, we are called to experience every day by following Christ in an ever more generous and authentic manner".

During the season of Lent we have been asked to consider the importance of supporting the anti-abortion campaign - 40 days for life - from 9 March (ash Wed) to 17 April (Palm Sunday). www.40daysforlife.com/melbourne, communities will be joining together for a faith-filled, groundbreaking, coordinated pro-life movement. It is a focused pro-life effort that consists of:

- 40 days of prayer and fasting
- 40 days of peaceful vigil
- 40 days of community outreach

I ask that you make this a point of family discussion and discernment with your young people who are the people most likely to face the reality of abortion in coming years.

Yours faithfully

Erica Pegorer
Principal

Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.- Melvin Schleeds

COMMISSIONING MASS 2011



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY*by Ben Verghese, Manager of Educational Resources*

Wow! What a start to a new year! February saw us issuing Netbooks to all our new Year 7 students.

Since then, the netbooks have been used in classes on both campuses, and it is great to see some students personalise their desktops to reflect their interests and passions. Year 7 teachers have also been taking advantage of the data projectors installed in the Year 7 classrooms.

All teaching and learning support staff members were provided with access to a dedicated computer each to assist with their professional development and the creation of online courses.

All students in Years 10, 11 and 12 have access to a laptop each for use during the day. Whilst this has been of great benefit for some students, we are experiencing battery problems for a number of laptops. Orders have been placed for replacement of these batteries, but we have encountered manufacturing delays. The College now manages about 1190 computers on the one College network across three campuses. The College wireless network installed last year has coped very well with some 800 student computers accessing wireless services at any one time. From time to time, older equipment has to be replaced and this year will see the exit of some 100 older computers and the renewal of the College servers at the end of the year.

Music Department CD

Last year our Senior Wind Ensemble, Senior Jazz Ensemble and Senior Choir recorded a CD of their 2010 repertoire. This recording stands as a wonderful monument to the standards of excellence reached by these ensembles last year. It includes the program that saw our Senior Jazz Ensemble win both the Gold Shield and Monash Award as one of the state's finest musical ensembles at the Melbourne Bands Festival last year. There is also a recording of the work 'Gunnai Dreaming' which was composed for our Senior Choir by the highly esteemed Mark Clement Pollard. We still have copies available if any members of our college community would like to purchase one or more of these discs. A single disc costs \$10 while generous discounts can be negotiated for bulk purchases. The whole process of producing this CD was a wonderful experience for our students, the voices or performances of over one hundred students appear on this recording. Purchases can be made through any of the music staff or at any campus reception.

Shane Reid, Director of Music

INFORMATION SESSION

Palms Australia is seeking qualified and experienced volunteers willing to live in another country to share skills to reduce poverty. Positions exist in education, health, administration, agriculture (farming), trades and other professional or technical areas. Live simply on a volunteer allowance in Africa, Timor-Leste or the Pacific. You will be well prepared with

all expenses, including travel, insurance and health covered. Positions range from 6mths – 2 years starting after July 2011.

2 Information Sessions available:

Saturday 2 APRIL – 10.30am to 12.30pm

Ross House Association – 247-251 Flinders Lane, Melb
OR

Sunday 3 APRIL 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Collingwood Library - Stanton Street, Abbotsford Vic

ENQUIRIES: Marie Gilbert email: marie@palms.org.au tel: (02) 9518 9551; fax: (02) 9518 9550
website: www.palms.org.au

Greetings from Presentation Campus

It has been a busy couple of weeks! Last week we had the MSP students attending their Beach Camp and by all accounts it was enjoyed by all. The year 7's were also on camp last week. The year 7's had the opportunity to race Cathy Freeman at Science-works, with some sprinters in the making, and climb a rock face at Hard Rock Climbing centre, with Chris scaling the walls with ease. Surfing at Inverloch was enjoyed by all, with all students managing to stand up on their boards by the end of their surfing sessions. Rock pooling was particularly eye opening for the students, with the opportunity to explore the rock pools that line the shore, they discovered many different examples of sea creatures, their enthusiasm was contagious as they called out continuously to the volunteer and each other to see what they had discovered. A big thank-you to Miss Kimberley Stewart, Mr Byron Chen, Mr Tony Van Rossum, and Miss Jaimee Salleh for ensuring the students came back having had such a great time, but also ensuring that they would sleep well for their parents.

Students would have seen Leading Senior Constable Darren Anderson on campus Friday lunchtime. Darren is the local Youth Resource Officer, he will be working with the Campus throughout the year. To start, Darren is going to assist the Campus in implementing our "Stand up don't Stand by!"

anti-bullying programme. We will begin with ensuring that all students understand what bullying is, why people bully and what others can do to prevent bullying. Darren will be spending time in and out of classes with the students, so that students can get to know him better and he can get to know them. I would ask that all students make him feel welcome.

It has been an exciting time in the lead up to the Campus Swimming Carnival, students have been working hard to prepare their House chants and costumes. Miss Kerlin has even managed to ensure that all students in Delany have tie dyed t-shirts in keeping with their theme. We have heard of many other students who have been working hard preparing different aspects of their costumes and look forward to seeing what I'm sure will be a colourful and amazing sight.

I wish all students well in all events they are taking part in and thank the parents who have volunteered to help in advance for their assistance, without their help the Carnival would fail to run as smoothly or as efficiently.

Mrs Tamsin McCormack
Presentation Campus Director

Master Survivor Program

by Kimberley Stewart

Students completing the Master Survivor Programme recently participated in a three day beach camp at Venus Bay, Inverloch and Cape Patterson. This experience built upon previously developed skills and knowledge and prepared students for work once they returned to school. Over the three days students participated in a range of activities that incorporated the seven components of MSP. One night was spent camping in tents and the other students stayed in bunkrooms at the surf lifesaving club. As part of the Physical Challenge component students participated in surfing lessons at Inverloch and were involved in a number of beach games. The Peer Activity Leadership Program was conducted at St Joseph's Primary School in Wonthaggi. This activity developed responsibility and independence as part of the Personal Growth component. Students taught games to the grade 4's and conducted surveys to investigate the differences between coastal and rural lifestyles.

A visit to the Bunurong Marine Park involved the Environmental component with students undertaking rock pooling and visiting the dinosaur dig site. The indigenous culture component was covered during the ranger talks at the Penguin Parade. In the lead up to the camp students were provided with a budget and were responsible for planning their menu and then shopping for food for the camp. Risk management, group development, leadership, and planning a camp were topics covered prior to camp. As a follow up from camp students will be responsible for planning and running an activity of their choice later in this term. This will involve pitching a proposal to staff and then organising all the finer details including budget, transportation, risk management, equipment, liaising with external providers, participant research and producing newsletters with information for parents.



The routine is now established and students have settled into classes. Our excursions have commenced and guest speakers are attending various classes. Teachers are working hard to ensure that students are focussed and aware. Education is more than what happens at the campus. I encourage you to ask your children what homework they have each night, what they liked about their day and areas where they may benefit from change.

GEN Y PARENTING AND THE VCE

Parents of Year 12 students received a letter this week outlining the Year 12 Information Night on Monday. While Mr Erdely will present some general information for Year 12 parents, a presenter from VCE Help will examine key characteristics of Generation Y students and cover specific strategies parents and students can apply to help them through their VCE (and beyond). Please ensure that you respond to the letter.

PAST STUDENTS

We received news that Christine Armatas – a Year 12 in 2007 who completed Certificate II in

Hairdressing while at the College - won the GippsTAFE 2nd Year Apprentice in Hairdressing. Christine is now working at Valley Headway. Congratulations Christine. Brooke Ward, our 2010 College Dux also received news recently that she was successful in her application last year for a Scholarship from the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank. Brooke will receive \$5000 towards her residential costs at Queen's College while studying in Melbourne. Brooke was recently at the College speaking to students. Well done Brooke and we wish you all the best as you start your studies.

TAEKWONDO BLACK BELT

Jordan Effenberg from MacKillop 2 achieved his First Dan Black Belt in Taekwondo. Jordan has been involved in Taekwondo since 2000 and is currently helping to teach other students in his training classes. Congratulations Jordan.

- Mr Marco DiCesare, Campus Director - Kildare Campus

Curriculum Development

by Suzanne Farley, Learning and Teaching Leader

This year all students in years 10-12 have been allocated a laptop for their daily use. Some students have taken advantage of the Laptop Loan Program, while others are making use of school-based laptops during the day. Laptops are a very powerful learning tool allowing teachers to, among other things, personalise learning for our students. This situation is new for both students and staff and making the most effective use of these laptops will be a focus for all during this year.

By now all senior students should have received information in all of their subjects regarding courses of study, details about home study and assessment tasks. I encourage you to take the time to ask your child about their classes. Many areas of study are now using Moodle (an online eLearning system) to allow student access to important information at and outside school. This system can be accessed via the school website with the use of your child's password. It is the expectation that students will

be spending somewhere between 1 hour (year 10) and 3 hours (year 12) per night on home study. This will include formally set tasks but should also include reflecting on daily learning, identifying gaps in understanding, and preparing questions for teachers. Perhaps you can encourage your son or daughter with some simple questions like those below:

Think you have no home study?

• **“Can you summarize the main points of what you are studying in each subject?”**

• **“Can you identify key words that you should know in each subject area? Can you even brainstorm a few?”**

• **“Do you have questions about what you are learning in class?” Prepare some questions to ask your teacher.**

• **“Are there some areas in which you think you need practice?” Try some extra questions or make a note to ask**

your teacher for additional work on this.

• **“What do you want to know more about?” Prepare some questions to ask your teacher.**

A final reminder about the upcoming visit by the VCE Help Team on Monday 7th March. We are always looking for ways to better prepare and encourage our senior students during their final years of study and we look forward to hosting the team as they help our students map out a road to success.

VCE can be a very stressful time for parents too. It can be very difficult to identify the best ways to help your student make the most of this time. That is why the “VCE Help Team” have prepared a special presentation for parents on “Parenting and Ingredients for VCE Success”. Please feel welcome to come along. **Monday 7th March, 7pm in the Student Services Centre at the Kildare Campus.**

The staff and students have got into campus life in full swing. It is as if the holidays never were. Bells ring and the masses move in carefully orchestrated directions, following a timetable. The campus is quiet for large periods of the day, and then the sound of nearly six hundred students at play at recess and lunch brings life to the campus.

In some ways, the campus is a quiet oasis, far from the madding crowd, far removed from revolutions, disasters and other upheavals, where daily life, playing, learning, and growing continues quietly with little fuss.

40KM RIDE FOR MS

Aman Bhatti rode 40 km from Carlton in a loop around Melbourne city in 2 hours 12 minutes to raise funds for Multiple Sclerosis. Aman was in a group of 30 riders from Gippsland. Altogether, more than 7000 riders from different parts of the state took part.



He found riding up the West Gate Bridge awesome; going up was hard as it was so long and steep, but coming down was fun! He wishes that more students take part in this event next year. (Aman Bhatti, Year 9)

YEAR 7 INFORMATION EVENING

On Wednesday 23 February the Year 7 Homeroom Teacher's welcomed parents and students to an informal get together. Teachers greeted the parents of their new Year 7 students in the Year 7 Centre. Parents were able to explore their child's homeroom, see the work they had completed thus far and chat with other parents as well.

The evening was quite relaxed with parents asking questions about student lockers, netbooks and classes. Parents and students casually toured the school led by their confident and proud children. Showing parents the food rooms, the science labs, the ISC (Information Services Centre) and the art and technology area demonstrated how comfortable the students have become with the school. Students were busily introducing their parents to homeroom teachers and to their new friends; it was great for parents to put faces to the names their children have been using over the last 3 weeks.

Parents were extremely happy to see the displays in each homeroom, not only of class work, but of show-

cases of the students in their homeroom. Homeroom teachers have created warm welcoming rooms where every student is named and known. The house colours are proudly displayed for Delany (green), MacKillop (red), Champagnat (blue) and Nagle (gold), with students knowing where they belong and proud to support their house at the upcoming Swim Carnival.

Mr Van Berkel organised an information session on Mathematics, ensuring parents are well-versed in the new maths program that all Year 7s are undertaking on their netbooks. This was well attended with many parents welcoming the experience to learn more about the program and hopefully help their children at home. Homeroom teachers introduced the camp, with many showing the Photo Story of last year's camp. This also showed parents the program that many students have been working on in ICT.

The evening proved a success. Conversations flourished between teachers, parents and students. Students were excited to see their school photos on the door and everyone happily chatted in a friendly, positive environment.

YEAR 8 LA AND CAMP INFORMATION EVENING

On 24th February, a substantial number of Year 8 parents attended an Information Evening in the Lecture Theatre from 7.00 – 8.00 pm. Parents learned that the program is about helping students perform better through regular meetings with the Learner Advisor.

The Year 8 students will be going on camp to Tamboritha from the middle of March. Horse riding and mountain bike riding are two of the activities at Tamboritha. This information was given to parents.

There is also a possibility of a tour to the Red Centre, Tasmania or the Gold Coast. For more information, or to express interest in this opportunity, please contact Mr. McKenna or Mr. Archipow at the Campus.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The weather is playing havoc with the Swimming Sports. It was postponed to the 4th March due to wet and windy weather and with Friday now upon us we have had no further luck. We will reschedule another date on Monday and hopefully mother nature will be kind!

KILDARE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Friday 25th March 2010 Lavalla Catholic College Senior Campus hosted their annual swimming Carnival held at the local pool on Kay St Traralgon. The day started off with some extremely unusual outfits, but it was fantastic to see so much effort gone into the themes for the carnival dress ups. The weather was a very overcast morning with some dark clouds hovering which were a worry at first but luckily it still was not a cold morning. By 11:30am the sun made its appearance and this topped the day off making students even more eager to enter the pool to cool off. The atmosphere was fantastic poolside and also the participation of students in events was great. We had students swimming with snorkels, wet-suits, fairy wings and some very unusual swimming techniques which were hilarious to watch. The teachers also were heavily involved in this carnival which was fantastic to see them entering in the novelty events, although some cheating was happening with some teachers to name a few Mr DiCesare and Mr Flahavin were extremely competitive, but very funny to watch... Thank you to Mrs Schroeter, Jaimee Salleh and the yr 9 sports buddies who organised such a great day. Also thank you to all staff that were allocated jobs throughout the day to make this carnival such a successful day.

Age Group champions:

- 16YRS- Stephanie Spehar and Jacob Mulqueen
- 17YRS- Molly Clavarino and Leigh Jones
- 18YRS- Jack Sheedy and Gabby Henderson

RESULTS:

CHAMPAGNAT	2,352
MACKILLOP	1,717
DELANY	1,713
NAGLE	1,437

Lavalla's elite swimmers will compete next week on Tuesday 8th March against seven Gippsland colleges in the School Sport Victoria Wellington Swimming carnival. Good Luck to our team and also to our staff as Lavalla is hosting this major event.



ENROLMENT 2012

Students seeking places in Year 7 for 2012:

Students attending State / other non-Catholic primary schools who have a brother or sister currently at Lavalla College should telephone Jean Jennings at St Paul's Campus office (51747355) to register their names.

Students who do not have siblings attending Lavalla College and who attend State or other non-Catholic primary schools should telephone Jean Jennings at the St Paul's Campus office (51747355) to be placed on the list for enrolment applications.

Students in Grade 6 at Catholic Primary schools will automatically receive an enrolment package during April.

Enrolment applications will close in May.

UNIFORM SHOP

NEXT OPEN

Thursday 17 March

3.30 – 6.00pm

Shop located at: St.Paul's Campus
Payment options: Cash, Cheque
or EFTPOS

*****Please note Kilts/Skirts must
be tried on
as they are not sized*****

ST MICHAEL'S/ST GABRIEL'S COMBINED FETE INFORMATION

SCHOOL FETE
SATURDAY 19TH MARCH - 10AM - 4PM
ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHURCH ST. TRARALGON

activities include
kids craft
LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
rides 11am - 3pm
Petting zoo
face painting
SNOW BAGS
SPINNING WHEEL
COCO THE CLOWN
(between 12 - 2)
and more!

stalls include
garden stall
book stall
PRODUCE STALL
cake stall
baby stall
mystery bottle
craft stalls
trash and treasure
and more!

Win!
7 NIGHTS AT SEAWORLD RESORT
FOR A FAMILY A 4, INCLUDING
\$1000 AIRFARE VOUCHER,
ENTRY INTO PARKS,
FOOD VOUCHER, RAFFLE
DRAWN AT 3PM ON THE DAY.

Loads of food!
including bbq, Devonshire tea,
fairy floss, drinks and heaps more!

COMBINED SCHOOL FETE SUPPORTING ST MICHAEL'S AND ST GABRIEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOLS

upcoming dates

- March 7th - 7pm VCE HELP (Kildare Campus)
- March 9th - Ash Wednesday
- March 16th - Year 8 camp Group 1
- March 21st - LA meetings Commence (KILDARE)
- March 31st - Year 7 immunisations
- April 7th - Last day of term 1
- April 27th - Term 2 commences

YEAR 9 APPLICATIONS FOR TAX FILE NUMBERS

On the 28th of February, all year 9 students took part in an Australian Tax Office Seminar. They learned about the purpose of the tax file number, its connection with employment and curriculum links to subjects like Mathematics. Using the school process has made it easier to apply because the school has verified the data. Ms. Barrett is pleased to note that a number of applications have been completed and returned. She will spend about 3 minutes per form to ensure it is correct. Please note, that if you are unable to locate your child's birth certificate, the Australian Passport number will suffice. Students who do not complete and hand the form in this term, will have to make the application individually.