



## From the Principal

John M Freeman

Principal



### Senior School SRC Representatives and Leaders for 2019

We have now finalised the Student Leadership Team at the Kildare Campus.

I congratulate the following students:

- Liturgy Leader Maddison Knowles
- Justice Leader Madalynne Lyons
- Campus Mentor Leader Brilee Harrison
- Environment Leader Annie Little
- Mental Health Peer Leader Antionette Sanchez
- Events Leaders Sophia Richmond, Natasha Richards, Anneke Ernst
- Cross Age Tutor Leaders Mubasshir Murshed, Maliat Monir, Mobarrat Monir

### House Leaders

- Champagnat Audrey Lee and Benjamin Grumley
- Delany Kiajah Noda and Alysha Sommerville
- MacKillop Todd Elliott and Larni Jackson
- Nagle Chelsea Livingstone and Madeleine Whiting

Thank you Ms Tamsin McCormack and our 2019 School Captains- Julien Alesi, Lily Bond, Lincoln Ingravalle and Lori Scholtes- for their work in regard to determining the appointments.

## Bushfire Season

We are now in bushfire season so you will find included in this newsletter the notice to all families regarding our Bushfire Procedures. This information can also be found on our website under the Community section under Important Procedures and Information tab - <https://www.lavalla.vic.edu.au/students-parents/important-procedures-and-information>. This summer season is developing as one where the threat of fire is high and I urge all families to consider both their own personal bushfire plans as well as related issues that might impact on your family if a fire threat occurs during school time.

## VCE 2018 Results

Please note that VCE Results will be available from the VCAA to students on the morning of Friday, 14 December and all Year 12s are invited to attend a celebration morning tea will be held in the Kildare Student Services Centre commencing at 10.00am until 11.30am to celebrate with staff who accompanied them over the last six years.

## Awards Night

Please note that our Awards Night takes place on Thursday, 6th December, commencing at 6.00pm in the Champagnat Centre. This is a significant event for the College because we have the opportunity to celebrate our students in Years 7 to 11 for their academic, cultural and sporting achievements. I look forward to seeing you then.

## Transition and End of Year Program

Currently we are in the process of transitioning to 2019. Year 10 and 11 students are undertaking exams and will then move to Flying Start classes until 7 December. Year 9 classes formally conclude at St Paul's Campus on Friday 30 November with a liturgy in the morning and an assembly in the afternoon. They will commence Year 10 transition classes on Monday, 3 December until Friday 7 December. Year 7s and 8s will also conclude classes on Friday 7 December.

On Tuesday 11 December we welcome our Year 7s for 2019 for their transition day.

## Staff News

### *Farewell and thank you:*



It is a sad reality for every school that eventually our colleagues will retire and it is with enormous gratitude that I want to recognise the services of Birgit Sim who has been an important part of our community since 1981.

Birgit has an outstanding history of service to the College. Whilst she commenced as a German language and textiles teacher Birgit has primarily taught Food Technology during her time at the College. However, whilst her work as a teacher has been outstanding she has also made significant contributions to the school in a number of leadership roles ranging from Assistant Campus Director, Daily Organiser and Timetabler and Subject Co-ordinator. Birgit has also been instrumental in recent years assisting the College to meet a myriad of compliance requirements. She has always been willing to provide her knowledge and skills to best meet the needs of the school. However, she will be best remembered as a loyal and reliable friend to those she has worked with and a supportive and expert teacher to her students.

Whilst the following staff have not served the community of Lavalla Catholic College for as long as Birgit, we do want to acknowledge with appreciation their service and wish them the best of success for the future. Thank you to:

- Len Clarke
- Jane Doherty
- Rosemary Drenen
- Cristiano Grosso
- David Moulton
- Tenielle Talbot
- Jade Smith
- Doug Wright

We also congratulate and wish every happiness to Stephanie Sola on her marriage to John Aliotta on Saturday, 1 December 2018.

## Retreats

The Year 8 Retreat was held last week. This was a successful day organised by Monica Justin who was assisted by senior students: Megan Stanway, Maddison Knowles and Madison Burns.

Year 9 Retreat was held in early November. This was also a successful and engaging experience organised and delivered by Monica Justin and she was assisted by the following students: From Year 11-Tyler Morley, Colby Morley, Julien Alesi, Ben Grumley, Quinn Hall, Isla Mc Crae, Lori Scholtes, Lily Bond, Lincoln Ingravalle, Maddi Lyons and Chloe Dicorato; and from Year 10- Jye Tactor, Niamh Williams, , Tiannah Goodwin

Finally, we also had our Year 7 Retreats taking place on 29 November 2018. Once again thank you Monica for your work.

## Student News

Thank you to our Senior Choir students who sang as part of a special Ecumenical Advent Liturgy on Tuesday 20 November at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church on Kay Street in Traralgon.

Congratulations to our students who competed in the finals of the 2018 Quantum Victoria PrintACar Final. The final was held on Wednesday at La Trobe University during the Engineering and IT Showcase. Sixteen teams from across Victoria competed and our two teams achieved the following awards: Best Poster: Lavalla's Little Einsteins,; and Best Car Finish: Fusion Warriors, Thank you to Julian Zhu for all his work in guiding and supporting the students in this endeavour.

## Hampers for Vinnies

One of our longstanding traditions on St Paul's campus is the collection of goods and toys by each homeroom to be donated to St Vincent de Paul to needy families in our community. Once again we will endeavour to gather a large number of hampers and hand them over at an assembly on Thursday, 6 December.

We will also hand over a cheque for what we raise by our St Paul's musicians when they take to the streets of Traralgon carolling on Monday morning, 3 December. The Junior Music students will then head to Federation University to perform a Christmas Concert for staff and students there.

## Sport News

Below are our most recent results from SSV Basketball finals:

- Year 7 boys lost 1 game to the team that went on to win the State final
- Year 7 girls lost 2 games
- Year 9/10 girls made the grand final but lost by 5 points.

Our Year 8 Boys' Cricket team play today in the state finals. We wish them and their coach, Bill Antonopoulos, the best of success.

## Marist Cricket

We wish Brett van Berkel (Coach), Peter Flahavin (Team Manager) and Alex Rathbone (Assistant Team Manager) well as they accompany our Marist Cricket team to Sacred Heart Adelaide for the Annual Marist Cricket Competition which commences Monday 3 December and concludes on Tuesday 11 December. The team comprises:

From Year 12 - 2019 : Ewan Williams (Captain), Isaac Brown, William Caod, Brandon Hamilton, Nathan Harrup, Jack Lynch, Kade Marsh, Lachlan Patterson, Nathan Williams; from Year 11- 2019 Liam Little; and Year 10 – 2019 Darion Duncan, Joshua Monacella and Tyron Bramwell.

## Condolences

Finally, can I please ask that you keep the following people who have passed away as well as their family and friends in your prayers:

- Jenny Lewis who is Dwayne Tibballs aunt and great aunt to Kody (8), Damon (7), and she will also be missed by Karen Joyce.
- Michael Doherty, who is Jade Smith's great-uncle,

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



# Faith & Ministry Matters



Chris Roga

December 3rd is the feast day of St Francis Xavier. In 1974, I attend an Exposition of his body in the cathedral of Bom Jesu in Goa.. He is recognized as one of the greatest missionaries in Christian history, albeit quite a difficult one at times.



Francis was born in 1506 at Castle Xavier in Navarre, the youngest of five, but his father died when he was six. At nineteen, he went to the University of Paris where he had a good time. One of the more serious companions boarding in the same house was another Spaniard named Ignatius. He slowly began to influence Xavier. In 1534, he joined Ignatius and five others in founding the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

In 1541, Xavier was sent on mission to the Portuguese colonies in the East. Based in Goa, he established missions in Melindi and Socotra (Africa), Goa (India) and the Moluccas (Indonesia). In 1549, he began the first Christian mission to Japan. Refused entry into China, he succumbed to severe illness and is buried on an island off Canton. His body was buried there but later brought to Goa, where it is kept in a silver casket in the cathedral of Bom Jesus.



Left: Francis Xavier: Cathedral of Bom Jesu, Goa.

His passion for Christ drove him tirelessly in his achievement. He was charismatic, joyful, calm, laughed a lot and decisive, and as his heart was touched increasingly deeply, he was transformed to recognize God in the differences. The Church regards him as the patron saint of the Missions.

As we approach 25 December, Xavier reminds us to recognize and affirm the Christ in Christmas.

## Taize Under the Southern Cross Ecumenical Service



In what has become a fine tradition, the Lavalla Catholic College Liturgical choir recently shared its talents at the 'Taize' Ecumenical service held at The Good Shepherd Lutheran church. In his welcome Pastor Tony reminded us, as Christians there is much that we have in common, particularly our baptism in Christ and that we were praying together as a Christian family.

Taize' chanting has been a part of the College choir's repertoire for many years. Taize chanting leads both the listeners and the chanters to a calm, meditative space where they can be more open to the spirit of God working within them. A Taize' service is a mixture of repetitive forms of simple musical lines and core biblical texts interspersed with prayers and silence.

The current choir members are adept at singing barely above a whisper, holding notes or creating just the right silences, to move the congregation in very special ways. Special mention needs to be made of solist Rose Mirtschin. Pastor Tony, Fr Francis and the congregation were truly moved by this beautiful form of worship. We thank Mr Shane Reid (conductor) Mrs Christina Medhurst (accompanist) and the choir for the hours of rehearsal that led to such a beautiful form of worship for those gathered.



# Engineers Without Borders



Mark Judd

Students from Melbourne University travelled to the Kildare Campus to deliver a hands-on program called "Engineers Without Borders". The program presented a range of engineering projects that Australian engineers are delivering in other countries around the world. Much of the presentation focussed upon the challenges faced in Cambodia.

Each of the four presenters are studying Engineering at the University of Melbourne and each are specialising in a different field. Physics and Systems Engineering students from Lavalla were presented with a hands-on engineering scenario, being a floating housing structure. Students were provided with a limited range of supplies and had to design the ultimate floating structure that could carry a load. This relatively simple activity presented numerous

challenges for the participants and highlighted several engineering principles.

Participants of the two-hour program were also provided with the opportunity to program a Raspberry Pi processor using the programming language Python. Certain students already had experience in Python programming, whilst for others it was their first time using a new code.

The experience was very much appreciated by those in attendance and provided a valuable insight into the complex challenges faced by engineers. Presenters Ninad, Will, Alvin and Alyssa were engaging and energetic. The four presenters also took the opportunity to explain how Melbourne University offers an Access program for rural students across the state.

The Engineers Without Borders visit was arranged by VCE Systems Engineering teacher Mr Dan Caffrey. It is hoped that Year 11 students in 2019 will also be given the same experience.



# Student Leadership



Jasmine Santamaria

On Thursday the 22nd of November 2018 the 2019 College Captains: Lily Bond, Lincoln Ingravalle, Lori Scholtes and Julien Alesi, as well as the Liturgy Leader Maddison Knowles, and Justice Leader Madalynne Lyons travelled to Warragul to attend a gathering of student leaders and participated in dialogue with Bishop Patrick.

Much of the day was spent listening and sharing about the needs and opportunities that each school faces as our individual, but deeply connected, communities prepare for a new school year. The purpose of the gathering was to share resources, ideas, hopes and dreams with likeminded leaders with the intention of building networks and support structures that will allow student leaders to flourish in their roles. The Diocese of Sale is lucky to have a large network of Catholic Schools who are able to work together to build a culture of servant leadership amongst staff and students.

Each school group was given the opportunity to share about their community, highlighting the hopes and fears students in years 7 – 12 have for the future of Catholic Education on a personal level. A common thread among schools was the need to continue growing positive, inclusive and non-judgemental spaces for people to deepen their spirituality.

Students were given the opportunity to ask their questions in a private conversation with Bishop Patrick. This was a

chance to question without pressure or judgement and receive some advice for their future leadership roles. Students reported that they appreciated the freedom to clarify their understanding of the beliefs and traditions of the Catholic Church. This chance to share concerns and raise questions mirrors the approach the Catholic Church in Australia is taking as it journeys towards The Plenary Council in 2020. If you would like to be part of this significant renewal of the Church the Plenary 2020 website a great starting place. The website can be found here: <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/news/>

On the bus ride home, Lily, Lincoln, Lori, Julien, Maddi and Maddy were alight with enthusiasm, passion and ideas for the ways in which they hope to touch the hearts and spirit of Lavalla in their respective roles. After much discussion, all students agreed that their vision for 2019 could be captured in a single sentence:

***“Our goal is to put service before self and acceptance before judgement and above all, love of neighbour.”***

Lily Bond said “something I have taken away from dialogue with the Bishop today is that being a good person is not about what you say but what you do.”

The College Captains, Liturgy and Justice leaders hope to continue to make the College a safe and enjoyable place for all, continue to develop a culture of learning and love of God and give students from all parts of the school a voice.





# Student Leadership



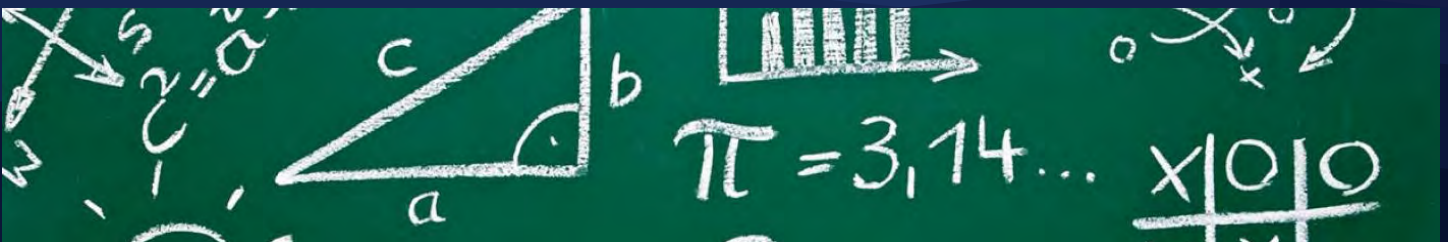
Alex Rathbone

On Sunday 25th of November, our 2019 College Leaders travelled to Amberley Retreat Centre in Lower Plenty for the 2018 Marist Student Leaders' Gathering. The three-day experience challenged students in their exploration of what it means to be a Marist leader.

Our Captains; Lincoln Ingravalle, Lily Bond, Julien Alessi and Lori Scholtes; gave a presentation, illustrating the Lavalla Catholic College community and how we are Marist. Throughout the Camp, the four leaders learnt about the five Marist characteristics and how they influence the way in which our school is distinctly Catholic and Marist.

The captains came away from the experience energized with a passion to be a voice for their peers that can inspire a positive change in our college community, setting goals of ways to increase our college, campus and house pride.

As the 2018 year draws to a close, the team are well poised to begin their planning for how they want to be remembered by their peers, as positive and dedicated leaders of the Lavalla Catholic College community.



## Mathematics is kicking goals at Lavalla!

Lavalla students showed greater improvement in their Mathematical capability from Year 7 to Year 9, when compared with the rest of Victoria. Students and teachers deserve a round of applause for this achievement.

The 2018 Year 9 NAPLAN results for numeracy were compared with the 2016 Year 7 NAPLAN results for Lavalla Catholic College and schools across the state. That is we looked at the same group of students and compared their results when they were in Year 7 and when they were in Year 9 to see if there was any improvement. Of course there was improvement and we are delighted to tell you that the Lavalla improvement was measurably better than that of the state.

If you would like to know more details of this, please contact Deborah Murrell. [murrdeb1@lavalla.vic.edu.au](mailto:murrdeb1@lavalla.vic.edu.au)

# Marist Cricket Carnival



Peter Flahavin

The College Community extends its congratulations to each student on their selection, safe in the knowledge that each student will be proud ambassadors for the College at the forthcoming Adelaide Marist Cricket Carnival. The College Community wishes the players all the best and looks forward to seeing each boy play to his ability throughout the Carnival.

This is thirteenth Carnival in which Lavalla will have participated and the selected boys under the astute coaching of Brett Van Berkel and the captaincy of Ewan Williams look forward to forging new friendships within the broader Marist community. As well, the Lavalla Team is keen to maintain the standard it has set over the last six years with the view to competing in the top four crossover pool on the Sunday.

The team as listed, has a depth of experience with Ewan Williams playing his fifth Carnival and captain for the second time, Nathan Harrup, Lachlan Patterson and Jack Lynch playing in their third Carnival and two year 9 students, Darion Duncan and Tyron Bramwell playing in their second Carnival.

Team List: Tyron Bramwell, Isaac Brown, Will Coad, Darion Duncan, Brandon Hamilton, Nathan Harrup, Liam Little, Jack Lynch, Kade Marsh, Joshua Monacella, Lachlan Patterson, Ewan Williams (captain) and Nathan Williams.

Members of the Lavalla Community who are interested in following the fortunes of the Lavalla Cricket team in the Adelaide can do so through Facebook by using the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/Lavalla-Marist-Cricket-Team-136049103117653/>

or information will be able to accessed through the College Website.

Finally, it is appropriate to acknowledge the generous sponsorship from

- Steve Kay – East State Credit
- Matt Coad- The Marlo Hotel
- Alan Wilson – Alan Wilson Property

These sponsorships of \$250 from each of the businesses have defrayed some of the cost for each student and are very much appreciated.

## Marist Cricket Carnival Draw

**Pool A: Bendigo, Bunbury, Canberra, Warragul**

Date/ Ground	Ground 1	Ground 2	Ground 3	Ground 4	Ground 5 (Reserve) + Hard Wickets
Wed 5th	Sacred Main Bunbury vs Bendigo	Gliderol Stadium Adelaide vs Traralgon	Camden Oval Alice Springs vs Newcastle	Champagnat Campus Warragul vs Canberra	Sacred BRO Champagnat Campus, Marymount, Mitchell Park Reserve, St Michaels
Thurs 6th	Sacred Main Adelaide vs Alice Springs	Gleneagles Reserve Bunbury vs Canberra	Camden Oval Warragul vs Bendigo	Sacred BRO Traralgon vs Newcastle	Champagnat Campus Champagnat Campus, Marymount, Mitchell Park Reserve, St Michaels
Fri 7th	Champagnat Campus Alice Springs vs Traralgon	Park 25 Adelaide vs Newcastle	Waite Oval Bunbury vs Warragul	Sacred BRO Bendigo vs Canberra	Sacred Main Champagnat Campus, Marymount, Mitchell Park Reserve, St Michaels
Sun 9th	Sacred Main SF1: 1st Pool A vs 2nd Pool B	Gleneagles Reserve Plate 2: 3rd Pool B vs 4th Pool A	Champagnat Campus Plate1: 3rd Pool A vs 4th Pool B	Sacred BRO SF2: 1st Pool B vs 2nd Pool A	Champagnat Campus, Marymount, Mitchell Park Reserve, St Michaels
Mon 10th	Sacred Main 1st/2nd: Winner SF1 vs Winner SF2	Gleneagles Reserve 7th/8th: Loser Plate 1 vs Loser Plate 2	Champagnat Campus 3rd/4th: Loser SF1 vs Loser SF2	Sacred BRO 5th/6th: Winner Plate 1 vs Winner Plate 2	Champagnat Campus, Marymount, Mitchell Park Reserve, St Michaels

**Pool B: Adelaide, Alice Springs, Newcastle, Traralgon**



# Important Dates

## DECEMBER

### Monday, 3

- Junior Music Busking & Carols
- Year 11 to 12 Transition Begins

### Tuesday, 4

- Marist Cricket Carnival Adelaide (Tue 4-Tue 11)
- Year 10 to 11 Transition Begins

### Thursday, 6

- **College Awards Night 6pm - 9pm**
- 2nd Hand Uniform Shop Open from 3.30pm

### Friday, 7

- Transition Year 8 & 9 2019
- **STUDENTS LAST DAY 7-11**

### Tuesday, 11

- Year 7 2019- Orientation Day



## Parent Access Module (PAM)

As we continue to improve our usage of Lavalla's Learning Management System (SIMON) we are now ready to roll-out the Parent Access Module (PAM). This will enable parents to access real time information relating to their child at Lavalla Catholic College and will initially include:

### Attendance records with the ability to notify of absences

- Timetable
- Daily notices
- Calendar for College events and assessment task dates

### At a later date other options will be released including:

- Medical details update and confirmation
- Excursion permission forms
- Individual class learning areas
- Assessment task results and feedback
- Online reporting system

In preparation to send out login details to all parents we are currently in the process of confirming the validity of all email addresses.

Please note that to utilise the PAM, parents must individually have a unique email address which cannot be shared.

If you are contacted in the next two weeks to supply or confirm an email address, I encourage you to act immediately in order to utilise this new system before the end of the 2018 school year.

If you require any assistance please feel free to contact Doug Wright [doug.wright@lavalla.vic.edu.au](mailto:doug.wright@lavalla.vic.edu.au)



Dear Parents/Guardians

At Lavalla Catholic College we are constantly reviewing programs, experiences and learning prospects to ensure we give our students the best possible opportunities.

Throughout 2017-2018 a review of the Year 9 programs has taken place. In the past, the College has split the Year 9's into two distinct programs. Mastery Learning and ATLAS9. Each of these programs has enabled students to gain key skills for their future.

We have taken the key learning from both Year 9 programs and created a yearlong program called the 'The Bridge'.

## The Bridge - Subjects

English, Maths, Science, Humanities, Physical Education and Religious Education will benefit from a yearlong approach building towards the rigors of Senior School. Students will have selected a Humanities focus area of either Geography (Coastal) or History (Urban).

## The Bridge - Electives

Students will also experience more choice in electives, with 6-month active learning based electives, including:

- Design and Technology- Food Specialisation
- Design and Technology Non- Resistant Materials
- Design and Technology- Resistant Material
- STEM- (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)
- Digital Tinkerer
- Health and PE- Exercise & Sports Science
- Health and PE- Sports Enrichment
- Humanities- Economics and Business
- Italian
- Media Arts
- Music
- Theatre Performance
- Visual Arts
- Visual Communication and Design

Further, students will have the flexibility to study Music and Italian for the entire year.

These changes will provide exciting opportunities for Year 9 Lavalla Catholic College students as they begin 2019.

Regards

**Brett Van Berkel**  
Director of Learning and Teaching Years 7-12

**Candice Ford**  
Year 9 The Bridge - Facilitator



# Bushfire Season

## Procedures

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Fire danger ratings and warnings in Victoria aim to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life. Schools and children's services identified as being at high fire risk will be closed on days declared by fire authorities to be Code Red.

**Lavalla Catholic College has not been identified as being at high fire risk**, so we will **not** be closed on a Code Red day. In reality, the school is a safer place than many of our families' homes, some of which are located in fire-prone areas.

While our school has not been identified as being at high fire risk, offsite activities such as excursions, camps and field trips, are planned to occur during the fire season. If such activities are considered to be at risk from fire, they will be rescheduled or cancelled.

Our school is well positioned to respond to emergencies, including an unpredicted breakout of a fire or a known fire unexpectedly changing course. If this occurs, our school's emergency management plan will ensure that we respond to the threat in a timely and appropriate manner.

As part of preparing for the fire season, we have completed the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria's (CECV) self-assessment of our emergency preparedness. We have also reviewed our emergency management plan and conducted maintenance works aimed at helping reduce the threat of fire.

In the unlikely event that fire threatens the school, the staff and students will be evacuated from classrooms to a safe refuge, consistent with our emergency management plan. The College's SMS messaging service will be the primary media used to inform families of critical incidents such as fire threats should they occur. We will also send emails and place information on the main page of our website, but this will only be done after sending an SMS. Accordingly, if you have changed your mobile number and have not updated the College you are asked to do so by sending an email to [registrar@lavalla.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrar@lavalla.vic.edu.au).

If, at the end of a school day, fire activity prevents parents/guardians from being available for their children, parents/guardians should make alternative arrangements for the supervision of their children, e.g. to go stay with a family member or friend. In the event that such alternatives cannot be arranged, volunteer staff will supervise students for a time at school in the St Paul's Campus ISC. Students at Kildare campus will be transported by the College to the St Paul's Campus by 4.30pm. By evening, if it appears that the children will need to be accommodated overnight, they will be taken to an emergency relief centre by the school staff, as directed by the **Latrobe Council Management Response Team**. The Incident Controller and Municipal Emergency Response Co-ordinator (Victoria Police) are the only **authorised personnel** that can authorise an evacuation. They will advise of an emergency relief centre when it is deemed safe to do so. Details of the centre will be notified via SMS, email and placed on the website when it is released. These centres are normally setup in either Traralgon, Morwell or Moe depending on circumstances ***as part of the Latrobe City's emergency management processes***. These will be staffed by people with responsibility for supervision and care of children without parents or guardians.





Parents are reminded that if students are to be collected prior to the normal end of day time that the children are to be signed out in the usual manner. If another person is required to pick up your son(s) and daughter(s) we require that they be registered with us as an emergency contact person or if an alternative person is required we be contacted by telephone or preferably email of this arrangement.

***What can parents do?***

Make sure the College has your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. These should be sent to the College Registrar by email - [registrar@lavalla.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrar@lavalla.vic.edu.au) .

Keep in touch with us by reading *our Newsletter*, by checking our website: [www.lavalla.vic.edu.au](http://www.lavalla.vic.edu.au) and by talking to your child's Learning Adviser or other members of the staff.

We suggest that you talk with your children about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan, particularly if you live in or are planning trips to fire-prone areas.

On days of high fire risk, children should never be left at home unattended or in the care of older children.

You can access more information about bushfires and schools on the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria's (CECV) website [www.cecv.catholic.edu.au](http://www.cecv.catholic.edu.au) .

For up-to-date information on this year's fire season, visit the Victorian Government Emergency website at [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au) or call the **24-hour VicEmergency Hotline** on **1800 226 226**.

**John M Freeman**  
Principal

# insights

## Technology holiday guide for parents

by Martine Oglethorpe



As holidays approach, the role that screens and devices will play becomes an increasing concern for parents. Days when kids are usually tied up with school and activities make way for many an idle hour and, as such, parents fear those hours will be spent largely engaged with a screen or gaming console. While there is certainly no harm in some well-balanced screen time and developmentally appropriate online activities, we must remember that, as parents, we have an important role in helping our kids manage and balance that screen time. Here are a few things we can do:

### Understand the battle

It is important parents know the beast they are dealing with. It is easy to shout from another room to get off a screen or whinge to our friends that 'kids of today' are all addicted to their phones, but we need to recognise the pull that many of these devices have. The social networks are designed to keep us liking, commenting and sharing. The games cajole us into having 'just one more' turn at being the last man standing. These technologies tempt us to reach just one more level, or to scroll for just a few minutes more. Our brains experience a dopamine release and a sense of insufficiency when we use a device. There is always something else to do or something else to scroll through, or one more YouTube video to watch. So our kids are up against it when trying to control their time on a device. We need to help them with that.

### Get outside

We can complain that kids never go outside and play anymore, but sometimes we have to physically get out there with them or offer opportunities in which being outside and active play are appealing. We have to work a little harder at this today because we are competing with a device that answers many of our kids' perceived needs. We need them to know that their needs are greater and more varied than what their screens can offer.

### Have some rules

Despite their apparent dislike of rules around technology, kids will (one day) appreciate having boundaries to help them manage their screen time. Rules can be established regarding time limits, devices in bedrooms, device-free meal times, etc. Whatever you decide is important, be sure that you have those discussions with your kids. And any discussion around rules or consequences should happen away from the screens so they are clear on the expectations. (Talking about their screen-time habits while they are just about to be the last man standing on Fortnite is probably not going to make for engaging conversation.)

### One console on one television outside the bedroom

Having only one television that is connected to a gaming console or to Netflix is a good way of ensuring that the

device gets shared and one child doesn't monopolise the screen. And leave consoles out of bedrooms where the appeal of just one more quick game can very quickly rob them of important sleep time.

## **Role model**

Make sure you are showing your kids how you want them to be. Have times when the devices are put away and you give full attention to the people around you. Don't answer calls or emails at the dinner table. Don't fall asleep with a device landing on your forehead. Take time to get outside and do things active and in nature. Don't ever use a phone while driving. Use the Screen Time feature on iOS products to monitor just how you are using your technology and whether you could be making some changes. Kids learn more from what we do than what we say.

We know the technology isn't going anywhere, and we know there are many wonderful benefits that screens provide. But ensure that holidays and downtime hours can be filled with many different experiences and in ways that leave your kids in control, even if you have to work a little harder to give them that.



### **Martine Oglethorpe**

Martine Oglethorpe is an accredited speaker with the Office of the eSafety Commissioner and has presented to numerous parent groups, schools and teachers. She is a speaker, counsellor and educator with a passion for building resilient kids in a digital world. Contact details: [info@martineoglethorpe.com.au](mailto:info@martineoglethorpe.com.au), [themodernparent.net](http://themodernparent.net), [facebook.com/themodernparent](https://facebook.com/themodernparent)



# secure funding

## FOR AFFORDABLE AND QUALITY EDUCATION

Dear Parents

**Catholic schools across Victoria have secured a major victory ahead of the 24 November state election.**

In an unprecedented move both the Labor Government and the Liberal Nationals Opposition have pledged \$400 million in funding over the next four years to upgrade and build new Catholic and other non-government schools.

Catholic education will be the big winners from this bipartisan funding guarantee, with our schools set to receive as much as 80 per cent of the available money.

In addition, the Liberals and Nationals have said funds from the \$400 million

will go towards land purchases for school sites, a new and very welcome measure that will not only assist with the development of new schools but enable us to meet the demand for places in Catholic education that current resources can simply not accommodate.

This is not only a huge announcement for Catholic education and the largest capital funding commitment the major parties in this state have made to our schools. It is also a huge vote of confidence in the quality and strength of our schools and their contribution to the community.

With Victoria growing in a way unseen since Gold Rush days, the major parties have acknowledged the significance of our system in providing essential education services.

'We simply couldn't educate all of our kids across Victoria without our partnership with Catholic schools,' Premier Daniel Andrews has said. Opposition Leader Matthew Guy has spoken of the importance of strategically-directed education funding 'that makes sure parents have a range of education options and choice so their children get the best possible opportunities'.

Both Labor and the Liberal Nationals have said the \$400 million can also be used to support the removal of asbestos and other hazardous materials where they exist, ensuring all our schools provide safe and healthy environments for learning. They have also pledged to streamline planning regulations to let our schools expand and grow with community needs.

This capital works support for Catholic education is a massive increase on the \$120 million Labor and the Liberal Nationals committed to at the 2014 state election.

It is an acknowledgment of all the hard work you do to help our schools maintain the best facilities and the way you have publicly fought for their interests, and an unambiguous acknowledgment: Catholic education matters.

I thank you for your continued support.



Stephen Elder  
Executive Director



Premier Daniel Andrews, Deputy Premier and Education Minister, James Merlino, and Member for Pascoe Vale, Lizzie Blandthorn, at Corpus Christi School, Glenroy for the ALP's funding announcement with Executive Director, Stephen Elder, school principal, Stephen Lucardie, and student leaders from the school.

**Bipartisan guarantee: \$400 million for non-government schools over the four-year life of the next government**



## Catholic education: the road to fair funding

Catholic education in Victoria has a long and proud history that dates back almost to the very beginnings of European settlement in the Port Phillip Bay area.

Following the establishment of our first schools in the 1840s, Melbourne's first bishop, Bishop James Goold, called for congregational orders from his homeland, Ireland for assistance. Many priests, nuns and brothers made the long journey south to help educate the children of the young colony and by 1858 there were over 100 schools in the diocese.

The introduction of the Victorian Education Act of 1872 had a significant impact on Catholic education, with government funds directed towards supporting the fledgling government school system at the expense of Catholic schools.

With the arrival of Daniel Mannix in 1912 the Catholic sector continued to grow, with a renewed focus on government support for Catholic schools.

The long boom and population growth of the 1950s and '60s put enormous strains on our schools. In 1963, the Menzies Liberal government provided financial aid to the non-government

sector for the first time in nearly 90 years. This was followed by support from the Victorian government led by Henry Bolte in 1967 and at the 1969 federal election, support for Catholic schools became a bipartisan policy when embraced by the Australian Labor Party, led by Gough Whitlam.

While immigration from Vietnam and other Asian countries and, more recently, Africa, has continued to change the face of Catholic education in Victoria, the mission of providing a quality, accessible, faith and values-based education, which stretches back to Bishop Goold, has not only made us the second largest school system in the state by far, responsible for almost one in four students, but continues to spur our schools forward.

State politicians have recognised the role of Catholic education and responded to your lobbying efforts. The \$400 million capital works package promised this year (risen from \$120 million in 2014) adds to the legislated funding commitment from 2014 that annual funding for each child in Victorian Catholic schools will equal 25% of the cost of an education in a government school, later legislated by the successful Labor Government.





## Why capital funding matters

The capital funding commitments by the Labor and Liberal-National Parties are of huge significance not just to Catholic schools, but to Victoria.

Over the next four years our schools will receive the lion's share of \$400 million for new and upgraded facilities.

This will not only assist our school communities and you as parents by providing the buildings, learning spaces and other infrastructure required to guarantee that Catholic schools can meet ever-evolving curriculum needs and the demands of a twenty-first century education system.

It will also cement Catholic education's role as the second most significant school system in the state.

This year alone we opened five new schools across the Greater Melbourne region, from Torquay to Cowes on Phillip Island, providing vital community hubs as well as education facilities in rapidly developing areas.



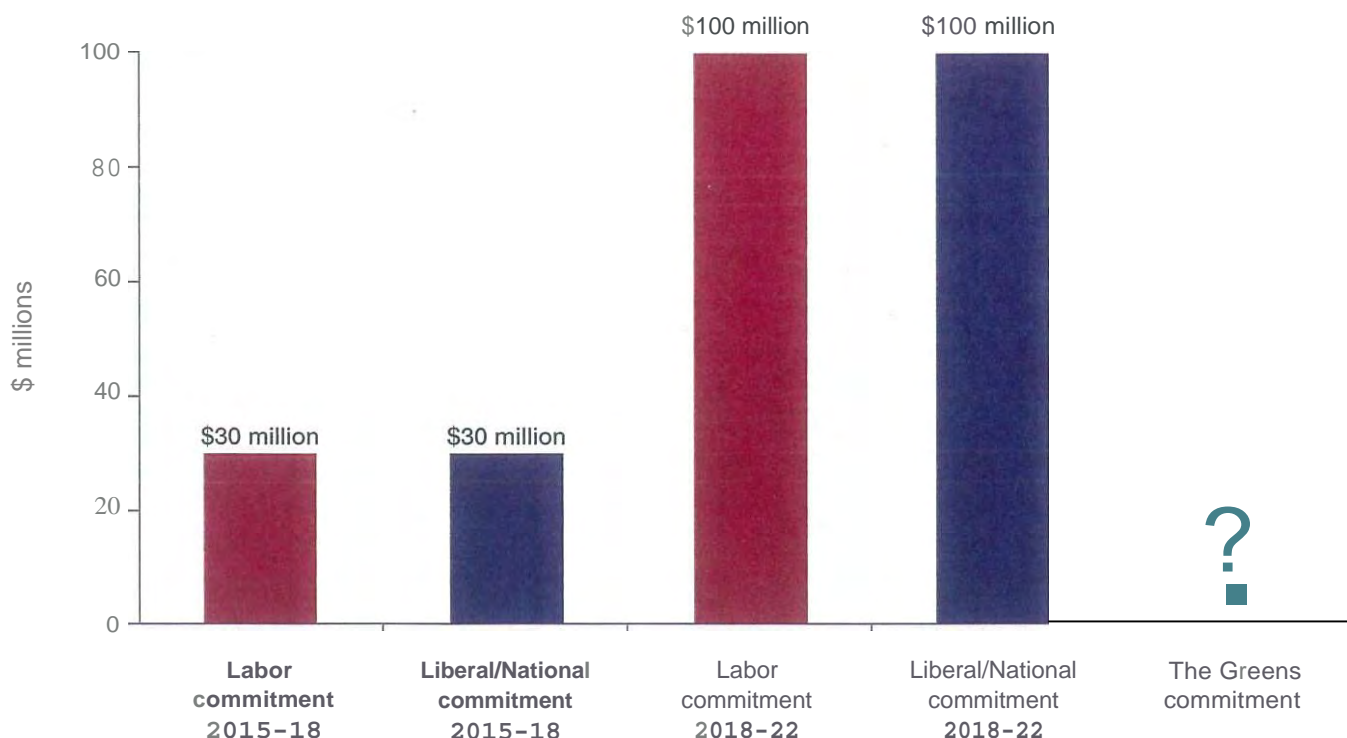
Liberal Leader Matthew Guy visiting St Louis de Montfort's School, Aspendale to announce the Liberal Nationals capital funding commitment, with Shadow Minister for Education, Tim Smith, Shadow Minister for Planning, David Davis, Liberal candidates for Mordialloc and Carrum, Geoff Gledhill and Donna Bauer, with student leaders from the school

The Labor and Liberal-National Parties have recognised the significance of our schools and the contribution they make to building communities.

We will now be better equipped to meet the demand for schools in the growth corridors of Greater Melbourne and in ever-growing regional centres. We will also be better able to support schools in established suburbs and parts of

the inner city where the number of families seeking a Catholic education continues to increase.

In short, the capital funding commitments will underpin the growth of a new, expanded and stronger Catholic school system able to maintain its timeless ~~good~~ values and traditions of quality, openness and inclusion into the future.





## Secure funding for affordable quality education



Deputy Premier James Merlino visits Mercy College, Coburg with Labor Member for Pascoe Vale, Lizzie Blandthorn.



School Leaders from St Patrick's School, Stawell, meeting Deputy Premier James Merlino during his visit to the school.



Shadow Minister for Education, Tim Smith, visiting Galilee Regional Catholic Primary School, South Melbourne with Albert Park candidate Andrew Bond and Upper House Member Margaret Fitzherbert.



Liberal Shadow Education Minister, Tim Smith, with Liberal candidate for Narre Warren South, Susan Serey and school leaders from St Kevin's School, Hampton Park.

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