



From the Principal

John M Freeman

ISSUE TEN

2021

This is our last Newsletter for Term 2. I hope that everyone has a safe and refreshing break

The term has provided many challenges for all of us, and I want to thank everyone in our community for their support, perseverance, and valuable contributions.

Last week at an assembly with the staff and students at the St Paul's Campus, I reminded everyone of the two expectations and one hope that I express to all students when they start in Year 7. The first expectation is simple to say but a challenge to live out – "do the right thing." The second expectation is that "we look after one another." I know our students do not really need to have these expectations explained in detail. They get it because they come from loving families who have great values, they have good friends, and I believe that God gifts us with a "moral compass," and we need only to use it to find the right direction.

The one hope I have is that we all learn together as a community so that we can have the knowledge and skills to make choices for ourselves about the life we want to live and not have options pressed on us.

My belief is that if we strive to live out the expectations to the best of our ability, then the hope can be realised, not just for ourselves. By working collaboratively, we can all enjoy the privilege of choosing our pathway.

My observation this term is that we all have tried to do this in trying circumstances, and that should give us all hope that we can keep improving.

Term 3

Please note that staff will return for Term 3 on Monday, 12 July, and students will return on Tuesday, 13 July.

Floods

If you have been directly impacted by the damage caused by the recent flooding, fallen trees, and loss of power, please do not hesitate to contact us if there is any support we can provide.

Year 7 2022 Enrolments

As advised, we had a large number of applications, over 270, for a Year 7 place in 2022. Therefore we requested permission from our Governors to add a class group in Year 7 for 2022. This was approved last Thursday; therefore, we will have 252 Year 7 students in nine classes starting next year.

However, this has meant that we have had to place unsuccessful families on a waitlist. Accordingly, I ask that if you have received an offer but may not be able to accept it, please advise us as soon as possible so we can extend an offer to a waiting family.

PRINCIPAL cont....

Year 12 Retreat

Our Year 12s participated in their Retreat from Monday to Wednesday this week. We were able to take away the whole cohort this year, and it provided a valuable opportunity for the group to be together.

The Retreat format was also changed this year and provided students more time to work in small groups, share ideas and deepen their appreciation of the relationships with family, friends, staff, and their faith.

Thank you to all the staff who supported the program, and I congratulate Monica Justin on the great work she did preparing, organising, and leading this important event.

Student News

Congratulations to Jasmine Young (Year 10), who has been accepted into the Monash Scholars program for high-achieving secondary school students. Monash University offers the program to give high potential students a unique head start into university life. This is a great achievement.



INDIANA DE DIOS



BEN WALLER



EMILY SCHOLTES

Congratulations to Indiana de Dios (Year 8), Emily Scholtes (Year 9), and Ben Waller (Year 9), who were recently selected as members of the U16 Victorian Country State Basketball teams and were to play at the Australian U16 National Competition over the holidays. Unfortunately, due to travel restrictions enforced by the Western Australian Government, the team will not be able to compete, but nevertheless this is a great achievement by these students.

Congratulations to the recipients of the most recent round of the **Three Violets Award** that were presented at last week's assembly at St Paul's Campus.



Jackson Lia, Lara Noblett, Mr FREEMAN, Esther Allani, Mia Tosin

AWARDS

Humility

Esther Allani (Yr7)
Jackson Lea (Yr9)

Modesty

Lara Noblett (Yr7)
Olivia Smith (Yr9)

Simplicity

Mia Tosin (Yr9)



Olivia Smith

Staff News

Carmel Walker will commence Long Service Leave at the start of next term for the remainder of the year. We wish Carmel and her family well during this time.

CONDOLENCES

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

- Bert Large, father-in-law to Alison Teychenne (Staff Member)

Let's pray
for our
departed
loved
ones.

Eternal
rest, grant
unto them
O Lord,
and let
perpetual
light shine
upon them.
Amen.

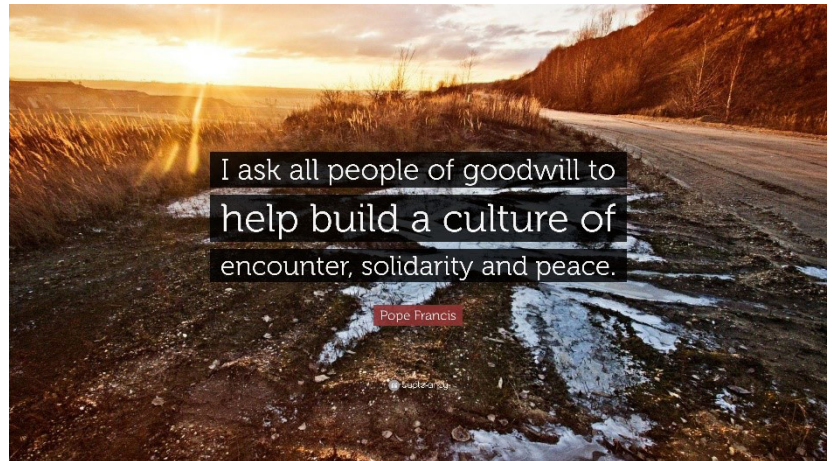


STUDENT WELLBEING & OPERATIONS



DOUG DOHERTY

Deputy Principal
Student Wellbeing &
Operations



Even as we approach the end of a strenuous term 2, the staff and students at Lavalla Catholic College continuously strive to further develop our culture of safety, happiness and success, founded on the love and direction of God. We have had some wonderful celebrations organised by the Wellbeing Team on both campuses, such as the Three Violets Awards and the Social Justice Forums.

Another example of how we are striving to achieve success with Pope Francis' commission to build a culture of encounter, solidarity and peace; is to begin the introduction of our Mental Health First Aid programme.

Mental Health First Aid

Last week, the first group of staff including myself, completed their Mental Health First aid training, which will allow the delivery of Mental Health First Aid to our Year 12, 11 and 8 students. Thank-you to Belinda Gathercole for organising this training in conjunction with our Mental Health Peer Leaders Hayley Tharle and Madison Matters. I would also like to thank the Mental Health Peer leaders last year (Sasha Milstein and Jordan Ross) as well as Riley Pearce who passed away at the beginning of this year; for beginning this process which was hampered by COVID-19.



Thank-you to Belinda Gathercole for organising this training in conjunction with our Mental Health Peer Leaders Hayley Tharle and Madison Matters. I would also like to thank the Mental Health Peer leaders last year (Sasha Milstein and Jordan Ross) as well as Riley Pearce who passed away at the beginning of this year; for beginning this process which was hampered by COVID-19. I have included a summary of the teen Mental Health First Aid for parents in this newsletter – please read carefully. There will also be opportunities for parents/guardians to learn more as the year progresses. Below is a copy of the email sent to all students by one of our Mental Health Peer Leaders – Hayley Tharle:

breathe
the Spirit of life (Rm 8:2)

STUDENT WELLBEING & OPERATIONS

TEEN Mental Health First Aid

Dear Students,

Ever wondered what to do after you ask, RUOK?

Teen Mental Health First Aid (tMHFA) gives teenagers the skills they need to recognise and help with mental health problems their friends may be experiencing, and when you should get an adult involved.

Young people will often turn to each other when stressed or upset, and sometimes take on too much. It is important not to take on these problems alone and to know how to work effectively with your teachers and other adults to help your friends.

Our school has been given the opportunity for both students and teachers to participate in tMHFA. On the first Thursday back in term 3, year 12 students will begin their first aid training. The College Counsellors and the Heads of House have already been trained in this area with other staff being given the chance to undertake training in the months to come. Years 11 and 8 students will begin their training later in term 3.

Specific details about training will be sent to students before each session and you can read further details in the attached document.

This opportunity wouldn't be available without constant and ongoing support of the College Counsellors, Heads of House and Mr Doherty. They have been working on this for a long time and all their hard work has now paid off. On behalf of the students, the Mental Health leaders would like to thank them for their hard work in making this happen and caring for our wellbeing.

We hope that this brings our school community together and further builds our safe and supportive environment for all students and teachers.

Regards,
Your Mental Health Leaders

Uniform and Behavioural Expectations

Term 3 will see the College continue to uphold our standards of excellence in behaviour and uniform. Please ensure that all students wear the correct uniform in accordance to the Uniform Policy. There will be regular uniform checks, especially in regards to wearing the full winter uniform, in particular the blazer.

It is also imperative that students remember that on return to term three, we expect all our students to continue to support each other with behaviour and language of excellence. It is important to remember that we have zero tolerance for any form of physical, verbal or on-line abuse or bullying.

Thank-you to the Wellbeing, Administration, Transition and Operations Teams:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, students and families for their amazing work, cooperation and support during this last term. In particular I would like to proclaim the amazing work that the Wellbeing, Administration, Transition and Operations Teams do in order to ensure the culture of our school is one that promotes excellence in ensuring that all students can be safe, happy and successful.

I wish them and all our families a wonderful, relaxing and healthy holiday.

CELEBRATE SUCCESS

It is with great pride and celebration that we congratulate the following students for their successful achievement in gaining an apprenticeship, further training or employment:



Ashton Hall
Apprenticeship
BFN Developments



Alana Morley
Apprenticeship



Cameron Wright
Apprenticeship
Laser Electrical



Xavier Watson
Apprenticeship
Gaffke's Gardens &
Landscapes



Harry Van Rossum
Apprenticeship
BFN Developments



Rohan Fleming
Apprenticeship
Weldtek



Thomas Morton
Apprenticeship
WE Building Construction



Charlotte Kanavan
Full Time Employment
JP Conveyancing



Abby Murphy
Certificate III Aged Care



Trsita Duncan
Part-time Employment

Morgan Kuzer
TAFE Pathway

LEARNING & TEACHING



BRETT VANBERKEL

Deputy Principal
Learning & Teaching

Term Break

This term break, we encourage students to look after themselves and recharge after what has been a challenging term. Your child needs the time to focus upon their physical and mental health. We know the price we pay if we allow ourselves to burn out and become depleted to our innovation, creativity, resilience and empathy. Now more than ever, we would encourage students to do the things that bring them joy, filling their bucket in readiness for whatever the future may bring.

Student Reports

Student Semester One reports will be available on SIMON Friday, July 23. This will provide staff time to complete final assessments and mark exams, both of which are being completed this week. The Semester One Report is another opportunity to reflect and develop goals and actions for the future with your child. In addition, the reports will allow you ascertain how your child has progressed their learning. If you have any queries regarding your child's report, you are welcome to email individual teachers.

The GAT

GAT Rescheduled to Thursday July 29 2021.

The General Achievement Test (GAT) will now be held 10.00 am- 1.15 pm on Thursday, July 29 2021, at a venue TBC. I thank all Unit 3 & 4 students for their patience and understanding when the GAT was postponed due to the state lockdown. More specific details will be provided to the students early in Term 3.

Students have been completing GAT preparation sessions in Personal Learning across Term 2.

THINGS TO DO TODAY



News from the Parish

R.C.I.A.: These letters stand for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the ancient Rite of welcoming people into the Church.

St Michael's Parish warmly invites anyone interested in discovering more about the Catholic faith to attend our meetings on Thursdays, in St Michael's Parish Centre. We start at 7.30pm sharp, and finish by 9.00pm sharp. This year's starting date is July 22nd. **IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO MAY BE INTERESTED, ENCOURAGE THEM TO CONTACT EITHER Susan Grout (0412 671 308) or the Parish Office (5174 2060).** We need to know who is coming for Covid regulations.

ENGLISH



JASMINE SANTAMARIA

Welbeing Leader Yr 9



On Tuesday 22nd of June, Year 9 students spent a virtual hour with talented Australian scriptwriter and novelist Clare Atkins. Joining the author from three social distanced locations across the school, students asked questions and listened to Clare speak about her writing process and life experiences. Clare has written for a number of popular TV shows including All Saints, Home and Away, Wonderland and has published two Young Adult fiction novels Nona and Me and Between Us.

In term 2, Year 9 students have been studying the novel Between Us. Between Us is the tale of an Iranian refugee Ana, detention guard Kenny, and his rebellious son Jono. Exploring Australia's engagement and attitude towards people seeking asylum, Between Us asks complicated questions about what it means to be free, a teenager and Australian.

In class, students have been learning about text construction, character development, exploring authorial intention and developing analytical writing skills. Clare's presentation was the perfect last minute revision before the midyear English examination in which students are required to write an essay about Atkins' message to readers.

Speaking with students about the planning, researching and avoiding writer's block, Clare's urged students to see that writing is a powerful tool for starting important conversations and inciting change. Clare suggested that sharing experiences and stories with others leads to stronger communities and connections.

Hearing from Clare was a privilege and a wonderful culmination to a terrific term, students were excited and grateful to participate in the COVID safe incursion.

Comments from students in 9.5 and 9.7:

"It was really interesting to learn where Atkins' ideas for the novels came from"

"I really enjoyed the interview with Clare yesterday because I think it was helpful to learn more about the author's life and background"

"I learnt that author's also get help with their writing"

"It was a good learning experience"

Clare Atkins was really interesting, I learnt about the background of "Between Us" and I thought the experience was really worthwhile."

"The presentation was really interesting and informative. The way in which Atkins began her career stood out to me"

"It was awesome to have a real author answer our questions"

"Clare Atkins characters are based on people she knows in real life and her experiences in an Indigenous community and detention centre."

"The presentation really helped us to understand "Between Us" better"

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FORMATION MATTERS



CHRIS ROGA

For the Young People of Year 12

The Year 12 students returned from their Retreat at Philip Island yesterday afternoon. They were tired, yet very happy with the experience. If anyone will experience liminality in a particular way, it is these young people; the finish with school and the launch not the next phase which is entirely foreign to them can be stressful. As they prepare to finish, let us be supportive, listen to them, affirm them when they need it and challenge them when they need it.

Liminal Space: BETWEEN Two Worlds

Do you want to go back to the 'way things were' normal' before COVID_19 and the lockdowns? Back to before February 2021? It is comforting to think that, if we just get our jabs, everything will be alright. It will in some ways, but it won't in other ways.

Liminal space is a shift in an outer situation that causes an inner shift where we have to begin to think and act in new ways. We are betwixt and between a past that has vanished and a future not yet born. This global pandemic we now face is an example of an immense, collective liminal space. In such space, we are not certain, nor in control, which can be a very good thing. We are vulnerable, empty, but we are also forced to be more open to new learning, humble, making choices in the present. We have only the present. Something new is about to be born and we are part of it. It is a graced time, but often does not feel "graced" in any way.

In liminal space we sometimes need to not-do and not-perform according to our usual successful patterns. We actually need to fail abruptly and deliberately falter to understand other dimensions of life. We need to be silent instead of speaking, experience emptiness instead of fullness, anonymity instead of persona, and pennilessness instead of plenty. In liminal space, we descend and intentionally do not come back out or up immediately. It takes time but this experience can help us re-enter the world with freedom and new, creative approaches to life.

William Butler Yeats captured this state powerfully in his poem (right). See if it makes sense.



The Second Coming

BY WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.
The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

FORMATION MATTERS

John the Baptist: Wild Wise Man

Excerpt from *Radical Grace* by Richard Rohr

Today is the Feast of the Birth of St John the Baptist. If anyone stands between two worlds, in liminal space, it is John. Except for Jesus, John alone has two feast days in the calendar of the Church; one celebrating his birth and one celebrating his death.

John the Baptist is the prophet who rejects the system without apology, eats the harsh food of that choice and wears the clothes of rejection. Like our native peoples here in New Mexico, he goes on his vision quest into the desert where he faces his aloneness, boredom and naked self. He returns with a message, a clarity, a surety of heart that reveals a totally surrendered man. First he listens long and self-forgetfully; then he speaks, acts and accepts the consequences. Surely he is the ultimate wild man! Or is it wise man? He is both.

Always pointing beyond himself, ready to get out of the way, finally beheaded by the powers that be, John represents the kind of liberation and the kind of prophecy that we need in our affluent culture. He is not just free from the system, he is amazingly free from himself. These are the only prophets God can use, the only prophets we can trust.

John is seen by his contemporaries and by Jesus himself as a return and image of Elijah the Prophet. Elijah, of course, is the contemplative on Mount Horeb who met the Holy One “not in the earthquake, not in the fire, but in the sound of a gentle breeze” (1 Kings 19:11-13.) He has fled to the prayer of the mountain from the hostility of king and queen, who see him as “the troubler of Israel” (1 Kings 18:17), who makes clear their idolatries. Who wants to be a troubler? Who would dare to think of himself as a prophet? What did we come out to the desert to see? John the Baptist seems to tell us that it is the only place bare enough, empty enough to mirror our own motives and disguises. The desert is the prophet to the prophet. We had to come here, we had to come to the quiet, and we have to trust men like John to begin to trust our own action and contemplation. Trouble us, John! You are our pointing-patron-prophet. We’re not wild yet.



MUSIC NEWS



SHANE LEBBE

Dir of Music

With Term 2 drawing to a close, it was disappointing that we had to postpone our Instrumental and Vocal Soirées in light of the current COVID restriction. However, it has been wonderful to see all of the diligent practice that our students have put into their preparation for this event, this has undoubtedly helped to shape students into stronger musicians and generate some real excitement around their improvements. Thank you also to our tutors for the wonderful support they have given to our students in their preparation.

We were able to hold our VCE Performance Recitals and this was a wonderful opportunity for our senior students to showcase their mid-year progress as they each presented a ten minute solo recital. Students performed with poise and professionalism, conveying musical expression and an entertaining evening of music marking. Congratulation of our VCE Music students and we are looking forward to hearing their final recitals later in the year.

Although our performances were limited this term, we are looking forward to Term 3 with a range a fun and exciting performance opportunities. For your calendar, please find below some of our upcoming Term 3 performance:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Thursday 15th July | Kildare Assembly | Concert Band |
| • Tuesday 27th July | Victorian Schools Music Festival | Concert Band |
| • Wednesday 4th August | Yarram Eisteddfod – Choral | Junior Choir |
| • Monday 9th August | Yarram Eisteddfod – Instrumental | Training Band & Junior Jazz |
| • Tuesday 31st August | Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod | All Ensembles |
| • Thursday 7th September | Annual Music Concert | All Ensembles |



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HEALTH CORNER



ASHLEIGH THAIN

School Nurse



Mask Hygiene & Care

Physical distancing, avoiding crowded, closed and close-contact settings, good ventilation, cleaning hands, covering sneezes and coughs, and MASKS are now a way of life for us all. Read on for some tips on mask use;

- A mask should cover your nose, mouth and chin.
- Don't pull your mask down over your chin. This increases the risk of infection to yourself as well as to others.
- Don't twist the straps or loops as this causes the mask to lift and form gaps and leaks. The mask is then useless and is not doing what it is designed to do. If it doesn't fit, seek out one that does.
- Wash your reusable mask regularly at least daily in hot soapy water.
- Avoid touching the mask while wearing it. If you touch it, clean your hands.
- Perform hand hygiene after touching your mask i.e. removing or applying your mask.
- Change your mask if it gets dirty or wet.
- Don't share your mask with others.

Keep it up – you are doing a great job at preventing the spread of infection.

Watch this video from the World Health organisation for more information [HERE](#)



SPORTS NEWS



DWAYNE TIBBALLS

Sports Coordinator

Netball

Lavalla student athletes have enjoyed the success of numerous teams winning through the Divisional Championships in SSV netball and soccer in Sale recently.

The Year 8 girls finally overcome a Catholic College Sale combination for the first time in many years to progress through to the Regional Championships. The girls got past Sale College (30-0), Traralgon SC (29-2), CC Sale (18-7) and Maffra SC (30-3).

The junior boy's netball team produced a couple of emphatic wins against Maffra SC (15-3) and Traralgon SC (17-1).

The Year 7 girls dropped one game against Catholic College Sale (11-18) but were able to capture some strong wins against Traralgon SC (34-0), Sale C (30-9) and Maffra SC (31-6). The Year 7 girls B team won three of their games before drawing even in their last game of the day.

Both the Year 8 girls and Junior boys advance through to the Regional Championships next term.

Soccer

Our college Year 7 and Year 8 boys' soccer teams joined our Year 7 and Year girls teams in advancing through to the Divisional Championships.

The Year 7 boys only had the one game, which turned into a fully timed game against Maffra SC and the boys produced an easy win in the extended match, prevailing 19-0.

The Year 8 boys secured a Regional Championships berth by eclipsing all comers with wins against Sale C (6-0), Catholic College Sale (7-0) and Traralgon SC (4-1).

The two girls' teams advanced through to the Regional Championships by being the only teams entered in their sections.



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the Spirit of life (Rm 8:2)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The College is seeking to appoint the following **casual** positions:

Casual Cleaner/s

- Previous experience preferred but not required
- Good attention to detail
- Cleaning and sanitising classrooms / offices / toilets and other rooms as required
- Hours of work are negotiable but are usually commences mid afternoon.
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Training will be provided
- Required for term 3 with the possibility of the role becoming ongoing

Casual Canteen Assistant/s - St Paul's & Kildare Campuses

- Assist with preparation of food including lunch orders
- Serve students at lunchtime / recess
- Use of coffee machine at Kildare Campus only
- Clean canteen including equipment
- Previous experience preferred but not essential
- Basic maths skills
- Food Handling Certificate
- Self motivated
- Ability to work in an efficient and timely manner
- Required to cover staff absences
- Training will be provided

Please refer to our website www.lavalla.vic.edu.au for relevant application information and position descriptions.