



From the Principal

Welcome Back

It was a delight to commence my role as Principal of Lavalla Catholic College over the last several weeks. To date, I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of this community and its warm extension of welcome and acceptance. I am truly grateful for the blessing and privilege to work and lead within this wonderful community and over the coming weeks and months, look forward to listening and learning from our staff, parents and students, with my focus being on developing real and authentic relationships and connections.

Gratitude

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor Mr John Freeman, for his wonderful contribution to the Lavalla community over eight years of esteemed service and leadership. John's legacy will continue to endure at this school. John worked diligently over a long period of time to ensure that students at the College always had and will continue to have, the best learning opportunities and most importantly, the best opportunities to grow and develop into well rounded young people. Graduates from Lavalla genuinely know that they are known and loved and are ready to make positive contributions to society. It is these strong minds and compassionate hearts that a Catholic education in the Marist tradition places at the centre of our Lavalla mission; a mission that John succeeded so well in animating throughout his leadership of the community.

I would also like to thank Mr Doug Doherty for his leadership of the College as Acting Principal in Term 1. Doug is selflessly committed to Lavalla and his work in Term 1 in re-establishing routines and overseeing the safe return to classrooms of our students and staff under the ongoing scourge of the COVID-19 pandemic, has been excellent.

Additionally, to other College staff who stepped up to backfill positions of leadership and other duties in Term 1, on behalf of the community, I offer my thanks to you for your valued efforts and contributions.

May – The Month of Mary our Good Mother

May is a very special month for Catholics and particularly for Marists. The word Marist actually means of Mary and recognises the fact that Marian spirituality is an example for all Christians about unwavering devotion to our God. As a young woman, Mary said yes to God and accepted her role as the Mother of Christ with grace, humility and gentleness.

As Pope Francis says in his Papal Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*, "She teaches us the way of Holiness and she walks ever at our side. She does not let us remain fallen and at times takes us into her arms without judging us."

Our Mother Mary is the true embodiment of God's unconditional love. Traditionally, Catholic's pray the Rosary during the month of May to ask Mary's intercession in bringing us closer to Jesus. It is a beautiful and meditative prayer, which I encourage our community to warmly embrace this month.



Partnership

One of the essential ingredients for successful schools is the presence of authentic stakeholder partnership between staff, parents, students and school leadership. Over the coming week, and in addition to the Insight SRC School Survey that members of our community complete annually, I will also be inviting our community to offer their views and feedback on many important areas of our school. This opportunity for constructive consultation, will help inform me and guide our leadership team and our school improvement agenda.

All successful schools continuously ask questions around school improvement; a process that allows our community to continually strive to be the best that it can be. More information will be forthcoming shortly and I encourage students and parents to engage in the process and offer constructive feedback on how you would like to see our school grow, develop and flourish.

Master Plan

As you may be aware, the College is in the early stages of the development of a new Master Plan. Master planning processes are central to the aforementioned school improvement agenda. They allow our community to shape the direction of the school over the next 10-20 years, explicitly linking the development of school facilities with a best-practice approach to learning and teaching and the culture that we wish to nurture.

I will be updating the community regularly on the progress of the master-planning process and in conjunction with our Master Planning Working Group, will be providing opportunities for consultation and input, so that our master-planning process is informed by the collective wisdom and input of the Lavalla community.

Student Progress and Reporting

I trust the feedback from parent/teacher interviews this week will assist parents in their discussions with students in regards to areas of focus for the term ahead.

Parent/Teacher interviews are wonderful opportunities for parents to make meaningful connections with teachers and put into place strategies for student improvement. Focusing on specific and understandable strategies allows students to focus on changeable behaviour. Such an approach allows students to adopt a learning focus rather than an outcome focus. This involves encouraging young people to achieve personal bests, avoiding comparisons between themselves and others and recognising what they have accomplished and what they may be able to do better to achieve even more. Research informs us that such an approach can be just as, or if not more important than the performance itself.

COVID-safe Protocols

As per my email last week, there are some important changes to COVID-safe protocols that are in place for Term 2 at the College. If you are unsure about the new protocols or would like further clarification, please [click here](#) for more information.

Invitation

Finally, I extend a warm invitation to any parents or carers who would like to meet with me this term to discuss any aspect of Lavalla Catholic College life. Please feel free to contact my office pa@lavalla.vic.edu.au to make an appointment.

I look forward to connecting with as many parents and carers as possible over the coming weeks and months, as I continue to learn about this wonderful community and the people that make it so.

Happy Mothers' Day for this Sunday to all Lavalla Mothers and may St Marcellin and Mary our Good Mother continue to watch over us all and guide us with both wisdom and strength.

RYAN GREER

Principal



*Love liberates.
... She liberated
me to life.*

— MAYA ANGELOU ON
HER MOTHER



DOUG DOHERTY
Deputy Principal
Student Wellbeing & Operations

Be Your Best

This quote from St. Paul to the Galatians was the focal point of my assembly with Year 7 students this week. As we begin term two and truly begin to settle back to normal school life, it is important that we remember that we are expected to strive to follow the example of Jesus in our daily lives and these qualities will help us to do this.



It is also these qualities or virtues that will help us be our best in how we treat ourselves and others. It is these qualities or virtues that will assist each student and staff member to be able to work together for the success of each student at our school.

Next week we will have an assembly for both campuses that will focus on the ways in which every student can be there best, both inside and outside of the classroom. I would encourage parents and guardians to begin this conversation with their child at their earliest convenience.

Getting back into school life and working successfully in a classroom has been challenging for many students who have had little experience of this during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, some areas for focus for our students in order to succeed back in the classroom are:

- Follow instructions immediately and do not argue back
- Remain seated, unless directed to move
- Speak respectfully at all times to teachers and each other
- Try your best with your studies and ask for help if you need it
- Use the Support Structure if needed

Winter Uniform:

From Monday 9th May, all students are required to wear their full winter uniform. Every student has had two weeks grace period this term to change from the summer uniform to the winter uniform.

This information will also be emailed to all parents/guardians, students and staff.

Students must wear their blazer with the winter uniform.

Please see the full uniform brochure [HERE](#):

And the Uniform Policy [HERE](#)



There are pictures of what the uniform should look like with some of our past Captains and Leaders. Please note that a shirt top button must be done and the tie not hanging down. No boots should be worn as part of the girl's winter uniform. No facial piercings or hooped earrings are permitted.

It is important that all students wear the correct uniform with pride to show that they are part of our wonderful Catholic Educational family. As a College we appreciate the support of parents/guardians in assisting us to ensure that your children are dressed with this mentality to belong and succeed at our College.

If families are having difficulties sourcing some uniform, we are happy to inform you that we do have some further options with our second-hand uniform store. The Lavalla Catholic College Second-Hand Uniform Shop is open by appointment only on Thursdays and Fridays. Please email groucat1@lavalla.vic.edu.au or call 5134 3011 for an appointment.

We are well stocked on most uniform items but are often limited in smaller sizes. For a full list of stock and availability please see the website listing [HERE](#)

There is also a LOWES store situated at the Grubb Avenue entrance of St. Paul's Campus, for new uniforms. Their opening hours are Tuesdays 8am – 11am and Thursdays 1.30pm-4.30pm.

The LOWES Morwell store is open for usual retail hours, 7 days a week. Their hours can be found on their website.

Enrolments and Exits:

Our Year 7 2023 enrolments have now closed and we have had an extremely positive response. We have had great response to our amazing student tour guides who have given up their own time to take families around our College to witness normal daily school life. They are a real credit to ourselves as a College for their in-depth knowledge of our strategic goals and daily operational functions.

I would also like to say a big thank-you to the Transition Team and in particular, Ms Allison Foster (Registrar) for her tireless work to ensure we can assist those applying to join our wonderful College.



CLAIRE FABRIS

Assit. Principal

Staff Wellbeing & Development

Congratulations:

As a College we continually aim to acknowledge and affirm our students when they achieve success. So it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the following students in gaining an apprenticeship in the past two weeks and embarking on the next step in their career pathway:



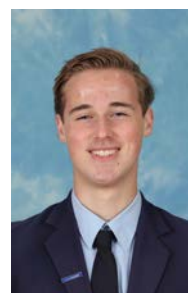
Tristan Van der Meer

Hughs Land and
Earthmoving



Piper Loprese

Winston Brown
Hairdressing



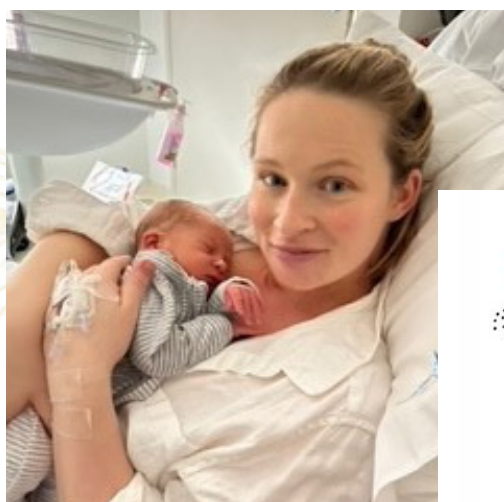
Dustin Wells

Luddeni Electrical



I am absolutely delighted to be able to share the news that **Jasmine Santamaria & Alex Rathbone** have welcomed their gorgeous son, **Alfie John Santamaria Rathbone** into the world at 12:15am on Sunday 15th April. Mum & bubs are both doing well and Jas and Alex are both understandably smitten.

We are also thrilled to pass on to the Lavalla Catholic College community that **Maddy & Daniel Arbuthnot** also welcomed their baby girl, **Izabelle Erika Rose**, weighing 3.7 kg born at 739 am on Saturday the 23rd of April at Warragul hospital. Mum and bubs doing really well and now settling in at home.





MEGAN STEWART-NORTH
Student Leadership Coordinator

ANZAC Day

On Monday 25th April, some of our student leaders volunteered and had the honour of representing our college at local ANZAC Day events. A wreath was laid on our behalf at Traralgon, Morwell, Glengarry, Moe and Newborough services. The students in attendance have said it felt wonderful to be amongst the community to commemorate such an important part of our history and ongoing culture.

Thank-you to the following students and staff that made themselves available for this event. Apologies to anyone I have missed.

Staff: Kim Widrich, Daniel Scholes, Adriana Bianconi, Doug Doherty

Students: Isobel Georgeson, Oliver Becker, Joie Evans, Billy Turner, Campbell Thain, Hollie Gibson, Aine Doherty, Benjamin Frith, Summer Moretti, Miles Verschuur, Melody Paulet, Harvey Brown, Finn Blizzard, Isabel Ford



Remembrance Day

Lest We Forget

"At the going down of the
sun and in the morning,
We will remember them"



JAMES TOWNSEND
College Captain

Marist Schools Student Leaders Day

On Monday 2nd May, our senior student leaders attended a leadership event in Warragul. This event was hosted at Marist-Sion and included the Marist-Sion Leaders as well as the facilitator of the event, Brother Tony. While fulfilling their roles, the student leaders undergo training to help them be the best leaders they can be. This day out at Marist-Sion was a day for them to learn about listening.

"The best form of Leadership is Listening", and with this in mind they practiced their listening skills on each other. The aim is to be an "active Listener" and to think about the timid member of the school that might not open up unless they are really listened to.

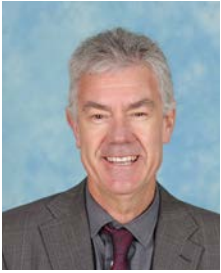
It was a great opportunity for the student leaders to visit another school, learn some leadership skills and share ideas with the Marist-Sion Captains and leaders.

Upcoming House Challenges & Events

There are many house challenges on the cards at both campuses throughout term 2. All students should keep an eye out for emails, and have a look at their notice boards to get all of the information.

The college will also acknowledge Reconciliation Week toward the end of the term.





STEPHEN ERDELY
Geography Teacher

Yr 11 Geography Field Trip

During the final week of term 1, the Year 11 Geography class participated in a field trip to East Gippsland as part of their studies into Hazards and Disasters. The focus of the trip was to observe as well as meet people in the community who were impacted by the horrific 2019- 2020 bushfires which raged throughout East Gippsland and how they are recovering 2 years later. The major towns we visited were Bairnsdale and Buchan with an over night stay at Whiter's Holiday Village in Lakes Entrance.

Our first field site on Monday morning was the new Bairnsdale CFA where students were given an informative talk and tour of the headquarters by senior CFA member, Mr. Alan Cracknell. The aim of the presentation was to deepen students' understanding of the characteristics of fires, the impacts bushfires have had on the region over the past few decades as well as safety and preparedness in the event of a house or bushfire.

Our next major field site stop was Buchan, where the class were treated to a delicious lunch at the Buchan Caves hotel. The manager, Greg Brick then shared his stories and experiences about the bushfire and how the community rallied during the night and after it passed. After this, we were taken on a tour of the Buchan Royal Cave as well as observing the regeneration of the camping ground over the past few years.

Later that day, we visited the property of Donald and Bronwyn Graham, who sheltered in a bunker as the 2019 firestorm raged

over and sadly raised their new home before their eyes. Their inspiring story of resilience and hope touched the whole group and we wished them well as they consider how they will rebuild their lives moving forward.

As the sun began setting, we met at the Buchan Reserve to listen to our final speaker, Scott Cummings a local and CFA co-ordinator. Scott shared some of the challenges he and his team faced both during and after the fires as well as giving us insights into how the Buchan community has recovered over time.

To complete a jam-packed day, our bus driver Craig Perry took us to the Buchan Valley Golf course for a 'nearest the pin competition' which was won by Baxter Kennedy! After this we headed to Lakes Entrance for the night, buying our food for dinner and breakfast and enjoying a walk to the Lakes Entrance beach to finish off the first day of our field trip.

The next morning, we got up bright and early and completed a land use survey of the business area of Lakes after which we headed to Paynesville where we caught the ferry across to Raymond Island and walked the Koala Trail. Needless to say we spotted some beautiful koalas smiling down at us from up high in the trees. After our walk around island, we headed back to the mainland to enjoy some fish and chips as well as pastries before making the return journey to Traralgon.

Congratulations to the whole class on the way in which you engaged in the field trip and challenged yourselves with the activities presented. A special thankyou to Mrs Joeline McKenna for giving up her time to attend and support the class and also to Craig who was more than just a bus driver with his commentary as well as engagement in all the activities conducted.

We are all now looking forward to Term 4 and our Tourism unit field trip to the Yarra Valley!





CHRIS ROGA
Faith Formator

Known and Loved
dignity for all

dynamics of the situation? Should I have persuaded the bus driver to be flexible?

How do we put people first? Especially those who may not follow rules, processes, systems etc.?

Putting People First

Last night, after the parent teacher interviews, I watched David Speers interview Anthony Albanese on Q&A. One thing struck me; somewhere in the middle of a 'nondescript' interview, speaking about his plans for the NDIS were he elected, Albanese said that in his government the NDIS would "put people first." That made me sit up and listen.

I asked myself that question, "Do I put people first?" Let me share with you a missed opportunity. It came and went so quickly, I wasn't even aware of the opportunity.

Yesterday, after school I was on gate duty at Kildare. I finished and I was heading back to my car to get to St Paul's for the Parent Teacher Interviews. A bus rolled up and about six young men were refused entry; they had no bus passes. The driver was adamant. I spoke with him. He was still adamant. And so the young men had to get home some other way. They were not happy.

As I drove to St Paul's I reflected on what I could have done differently. I agree that rules need to be kept; in this instance you had to have a bus pass. But these young men had been boarding this bus for the past few years. Could the driver have let them get on with a warning? Would they have carried their bus passes from then on? Would the driver be condoning their carelessness if they had got on?

It was easy for me to think about the situation for the next five minutes. But in that split one second, was I even aware of the

An Example of People First

Jesus of Nazareth was trapped. The woman in front of him was caught in the act of adultery. The law stated such a woman should be stoned to death. The good men of the village had surrounded her and were going to carry out the sentence. They asked him what he would do. If he agreed with the sentence, he would go against what he had been preaching; if he rejected the sentence, he would be guilty of challenging his own religious Law. It was a trap. What would he do?

He stood still. Silent. He waited. He finally said, "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone," and he bent down and wrote in the dust. What did he write? No one knows. Feet shuffled away. He looked up and spoke to the woman. "Have they not condemned you?" "No," she said. "Nor do I; go and do not sin again." (Jn 8:1-12).

Jesus stood with the person. There was a very strong chance that he would fail. But he took the risk, made the men think and make up their own minds, and put the person first. Everyone in the story put the person first. The Gospels are full of stories of Jesus doing just that. I salute his awareness, his courage. It is difficult for anyone to do this.

We are naturally compassionate. Let us, instead of looking for spectacular acts of compassion, take the risk, become aware and put people first in our corner of the world, in our families and friends?

School Photos

St Paul's Campus
Wednesday 18th May

Kildare Campus
Thursday 19th May

**Full Winter school uniform
must be worn. No PE Uniforms.**

Secondhand Uniform Shop
[HERE](#)

LOWES
2 DAY VIP EVENT
MAY 5TH & 6TH
20% OFF
ORIGINAL PRICES
SCHOOLWEAR
& EVERYTHING ELSE!
SHOP INSTORE & ONLINE >
**ZERO & REWARDS CARD HOLDERS
USE YOUR CARD AT CHECKOUT!**
DON'T HAVE A ZERO OR REWARDS CARD? APPLY INSTORE OR ONLINE & START ENJOYING THE BENEFITS.
*T&C'S APPLY. SAVINGS OFF ORIGINAL PRICES.



LIAM FARLEY

Year 11

As you may know, starting roughly on the 25th of March I took part in the Australian Clay Target Association National Titles. This was a huge deal and a great learning opportunity for me in my chosen sport. I was also lucky to qualify for the Victorian Clay Target Junior Team, along with Tom Clark and Oliver Zeilezna. For the Victorian team I hit 25/25 targets gaining 74/75 possible points for my team.

Over that weekend, and the week that followed I shot very well, and on some days the best I've shot since I began shooting in year 7. By the end of this time, I had placed as the 6th best junior shooter (under 21) in the entire country!

I also placed 1st in C grade with 88/100 targets hit, for the Double Rise Event. In this event not only do you have to shoot one target, but two at a time.

I am very proud of how I ended up at the end of the week and I am very thankful for all the support that you and the school have provided for me.



SHANE LEBBE

Dir of Music & Liturgy

Our Music Department has had a great start to Term 2, with our ensembles back in rehearsal mode and the arrival of some new percussion equipment. Our Music Department has been lucky enough to have a Music Support Group made up of enthusiastic and encouraging parents who, over the years, have helped to raise funds for the purchase of significant instruments and equipment to help provide our students with the best music making experiences. We have recently received our new Tubular Bells, which will grace the stage of our upcoming performances, and we are really grateful for the support of our Music Support Group and the wider Lavalla community for their contribution to this purchase. Please look out for our next Bunnings BBQ, Hot Cross Bun Drive and Krispy Kreme Fund Raiser to keep supporting!

It has also been wonderful to hear the hard work our musicians put into our Term 1 Band Camp pay off as the Intermediate Concert Band, Senior Concert Band and Senior Jazz Ensembles make their final preparations for our upcoming Celebration concert at the Gippsland Performance Arts Centre on Saturday the 14th of May. In collaboration with the Latrobe Orchestra, our Music Department will be hosting an evening of music making for our wider community, to showcase the outstanding work of our musicians and to celebrate the return of music making as a community. For further information and to purchase tickets, please follow the link to the GPAC site, [HERE](#)





THE LATROBE ORCHESTRA INC.
AND LAVALLA CATHOLIC COLLEGE
MUSIC DEPARTMENT
PRESENT

CELEBRATION

Our celebration of music and community

DATE: Saturday 14 May

TIME: 5PM

VENUE: Gippsland Performing
Arts Centre

FULL PRICE: \$15

FAMILY: \$45

(2 ADULTS &
2 CHILDREN)



Proudly supported by:

<https://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/gpac/events/Celebration>



Latrobe City Community Arts Fund

Bows for Strings, Glen Waverley

Dr Peter Kingsbury

Mrs Judy Hall