



From the Principal

Dear Lavalla Families

This coming Tuesday is a very special day for our community. It is the day we celebrate the feast day of the founder of Marist education, St. Marcellin Champagnat. St Marcellin's vision for Catholic education and for his schools is as relevant today as it was all those years ago in nineteenth century rural France; to make Jesus known and loved to young people.

Educating young people in the Marist tradition has a distinctive style. All Marist educators share a common understanding that to bring up children properly, we must love them all and love them all equally. The approach to doing this has five key characteristics that are referred to as the pillars of Marist education. They are Presence; Simplicity; Family Spirit; Love of Work and following the Way of Mary. St Marcellin wanted his schools to be places more akin to families, where care for one another and respect for the dignity of every member is always present.

As we gather as a whole school community next Tuesday to celebrate Mass, we will present this year's Champagnat award winners. Throughout Marist schools around Australia, these are awarded to students and staff who animate, or bring to life, the pillars of Marist education and help shape and mould a caring and inclusive community.

The Mass will also serve as my official commissioning as Principal at Lavalla. Whilst parents and carers of Champagnat award winners will be able to attend, I invite all parents and carers who wish to be part of the Mass, to join us via a livestream of the event. Further details about the Mass and livestream including specific times will be emailed home separately to all families.

Winter Challenges

As we enter the winter season it is important to remember that the spectre of COVID, influenza and other illnesses is ever present. Lavalla staff are doing an incredible job and are going above and beyond to ensure that the College continues to offer face-to-face learning as well as a suite of extra-curricular opportunities and camp experiences. We are currently utilising a variety of approaches to ensure staff absences can be managed effectively, including collapsing and combining classes where necessary.

The College's obligation regarding duty-of-care means that if due to illness related staff absence, we are

unable to safely accommodate students on-site, then all options for schooling including temporary and/or staged remote learning may have to be considered if the need arises. Whilst this is not currently the case and we are managing the situation effectively, it is important that parents and carers are aware of the difficulties faced.

We continue to develop plans and contingencies to manage staff absence and I thank you in advance for your understanding and support regarding the need for flexibility in how we deliver a quality Lavalla education, amidst a very challenging environment.

Feedback Survey

Thank you to all of those parents and carers who submitted feedback via our School Feedback survey over the last few weeks. Combined with contributions from College staff and students, we received a wealth of constructive feedback and ideas. I look forward to sharing some of this feedback with the community in due course, particularly how it relates to our upcoming Master Plan process and how it may be used to drive school improvement.

Exams

This week our Year 9 students undertook exams on the St Paul's Campus. Congratulations to Year 9 students for their mature approach to this form of assessment. It is wonderful to see students taking control of their preparation, focusing their study efforts and demonstrating understanding of their learning through the examination process.

The focus now shifts to our senior students who are undertaking their Unit 3 trial exams. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate the challenges of their demanding senior school program of assessment.

May St. Marcellin and Mary our Good Mother continue to guide us with both wisdom and strength over the coming weeks.

Regards

RYAN GREER

Principal



Catholic Teachers Shine at Award Night

Teachers from local Catholic schools were recognised for their commitment to Catholic Education at the Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Ltd (DOSCEL) Leadership Dinner in Traralgon on Friday May 27, 2022.

Ms Claire Fabris from Lavalla Catholic College, Traralgon was awarded a prestigious Spirit of Catholic Education Award for Inspiring Learning.

Mr David Cooper, Principal of St Vincent de Paul Primary School at Morwell, and Lavalla parent received a Service Award in recognition of 25 years or more of service to Australian Catholic education.

They joined 11 staff members and three students from Catholic schools across the Diocese of Sale who received awards on the night.

Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of Sale, Ms Maria Kirkwood, said Ms Fabris and Mr Cooper were outstanding leaders who made significant contributions to their school communities.

“Claire Fabris has held a number of leadership roles at Lavalla College, including Director of Learning and Teaching (Years 7-10), Director of Learning Innovations and more recently Assistant Principal of Staff Wellbeing and Development.

Claire has led improvement in the creation and delivery of differentiated learning, offering success for all students. Her leadership in the development of Staff Wellbeing Strategic

Plans has improved staff clarity and support, aimed at nurturing a culture where all staff and students can be safe, happy and successful.

David Cooper has a strong connection to the Latrobe Valley having worked at five Catholic primary schools for more than two decades. He started as a graduate teacher at St Michael’s Catholic Primary School in Traralgon, before a move to St Gabriel’s, Sacred Heart and Lumen Christi Catholic primary schools. David is currently Principal at St Vincent de Paul Catholic Primary School at Morwell East.

Director Maria Kirkwood congratulated the award recipients for the wonderful work they do in inspiring faith and learning.

“Our schools are led by teachers who are passionately committed to the learning, safety and well-being of each student in their care. We are very proud of their commitment, achievements, and service,” she said.

The Leadership Eucharist Dinner and Awards presentation launched the beginning of Catholic Education Week (May 27 – June 3) in the Diocese of Sale. This year’s theme is ‘Go out into the world and spread the Good News to all creation’ from the Gospel of Mark16:15.

Congratulations Claire and David.

(Abridged Media Release from Latrobe Valley Express)



Year 10 Looking for History



On Friday, May 20th both the Rights and Freedoms History class and the World War II History class travelled to Melbourne to visit a number of significant sites relevant to their areas of study.

Mrs. VanderKooch's class visited the State Library and learned that its greatest supporter, Redmond Barry, was devoted to education being made available to all Victorian citizens whether they were rich or poor. The irony of Ned Kelly's armour being housed in the building that Redmond Barry fought to establish was discussed. Barry was the judge who famously, or infamously depending on your perspective, sentenced Ned Kelly to death on November 11, 1880.

'I saw . . . artworks of Australian flowers, maps of old Melbourne, maps of Paris and many more . . . primary sources.' [Phoebe]

'Some of the primary sources I encountered (included) . . . the 'Letter on The Abolition of the Slave Trade', written by William Wilberforce and Ned Kelly's armour. . . Martin Luther King's book 'Where do we go from here: Chaos or Community?' which as well as (being) his last book, advocated a guaranteed minimum wage for all no matter the colour of their skin.' [Mitchell]

Students also participated in a workshop at the Koori Heritage Museum in Federation Square. Lucas, the presenter demonstrated how certain weapons and tools were used and how significant objects such as possum skin cloaks were to First Nations people. He advocated strongly for the importance of young people learning about First Nations peoples' heritage and culture.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mack and his class were familiarising themselves with the Shrine of Remembrance. ***'We got to explore an extremely valuable and beautiful piece of architecture, created in honour of everyone who fought during the World Wars.'*** [Robert]

Students were able to view primary sources linked to their study of World War II and had the benefit of a guided tour of the vast collection housed on this site. The exhibit For Kin and Country which presented stories relating to First Nations peoples' involvement in the armed forces was also viewed. 'I loved being able to see real relics and items used during the war, seeing the photos, weapons, and uniforms gives you a real sense of what it was like and the conditions people had to go through during that time.' [Mia]

KIM WIDRICH Humanities Leader / Coach



Year 9 Geography Field Trips



Year 9 Geography students had the opportunity to collect primary data for their upcoming Field Report. They visited a number of sites including the ecological restoration project at the Victorian Desalination Plant, the Bunerung Environment Centre, Screw Creek Walk, and the Broadbeach residential development at Inverloch. The focus of this activity is to assess land use and the human impact on biomes in the Bass Coast region.

Mike and Pip Cleeland, at the Bunerung Environment Centre, presented each group with information on the local environment in particular the effect of foxes on the Phillip Island penguin population and invasive plants and their impact on indigenous flora and fauna in and around the Inverloch area.

Students finally had the chance to 'do Geography' in the field. This included note-taking, using an app to identify both indigenous and non-indigenous plants, completing environmental surveys, and most importantly observing such things as plant distribution, the presence of animals, and many types of human activity.

Presently this data is being processed and, now that Year 9 Examinations have concluded, students will be constructing their Field Reports ready for submission before the end of Term Two. We are looking forward to reading their findings.

KIM WIDRICH Humanities Leader / Coach



Year 11 Teaching Year 7

The Year 11 Ministry class have just completing their first teaching experience in the Year 7 Religious Education classrooms. Their lessons were based on the Marist Value of Family Spirit. There was lots of reflection, discussion and activity happening in each classroom as the Year 7's explored this theme of family spirit within their own lives and the life of our school community. This was a fantastic opportunity for both year levels and it was wonderful to see the interactions between the younger students and the senior students. The Ministry students are to be commended on their preparation and their engagement in the classroom. Congratulations to all.



Game Changers Day

Friday 27th May saw 80 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 participate in our first ever combined Game Changers Retreat Day at the St Pauls campus.

Game Changers is the new and exciting program in Marist Youth Ministry.

Currently we run groups in Year 9, 10 and 11 and we are aiming to start off new groups in Year 7 and 8 which is very exciting for our school community.

Friday was a fantastic opportunity for interested students in Year 7 and 8 to be introduced to this Marist Program and for our current Year 9s to be involved in a retreat day.

The students were all engaged in opportunities for prayer, reflection, discussion, games and activities based around "being Marist and what it means to be Marist and a leader of change in our Lavalla school community"

The day was run by Edwin Bakker (Marist Youth Ministry National Leader) Ruby and Grace (Marist Youth Leaders) and a group of our amazing Year 11s that are part of the Year 11 Game Changers Group and/or the Year 11 Youth Ministry class.

This group of young people were exceptional in guiding and running small groups of students throughout the day and were all highly commended by Edwin throughout the day. This was valuable and very positive feedback to them.

The junior students were all very positive about their experiences on the day as they journeyed through the sessions and activities on the day that culminated in a pizza lunch. Game Changers is alive and well in our school and will continue to grow. If you are interested in hearing more about Game Changers please feel free to contact me.

SUE COSTELLO Religious Education Leader / Coach



Music News

The week of the 13th of June will see our Music Department holding three soiree evenings featuring our instrumental and vocal musicians. The goal of these evening is to provide students undertaking vocal and instrumental lessons with the opportunity to gain some valuable performance experience in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Students are invited to perform as soloists or small groups, and our Vocal Soiree evening will also feature a debut performance from our Junior Choir. Throughout the year our tutors have been working with students to help them prepare for what will be some enjoyable evenings of music making. Parents, family and friends are very welcome to come along and be a part of the audience to support our music students.

Each of these Soiree evenings will be held in the Lourdes Performing Arts Centre (Lecture Theatre) of the St. Paul's Campus, commencing at 6:00pm and concluding by 7:00pm.

Tuesday 14th June

Brass, Percussion and Bass Guitar Soiree

(Joseph Bonnici, Wes Hopkins and John DiSisto's students)

Wednesday 15th June

Vocal Soiree

(Junior Choir and Mary Mirtschin's students)

Thursday 16th June

Woodwind Soiree

(Alison Teychenne and Chris Higgins students) Our Music

Department would also like to extend a really big thank you to our Music Support Group and parent helpers who attended the Bunnings BBQ on Sunday the 29th of May. It was a productive day with great weather! Our Music Support Group would also like to remind our community that they are invited to help raise funds for our music students by purchasing Krispy Kreme donuts. Orders can be given to reception of either campus and are due by Tuesday the 7th June. Please find our order form attached and don't hesitate to contact us on music@lavalla.vic.edu.au if you would like any further details.

Shane Lebbe - Dir of Music & Liturgy



We are selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts to raise money for the Lavalla Catholic College Music Support Group.

This group subsidizes the cost of excursions, uniforms and musical equipment for the choirs and bands of Lavalla Catholic College.

Ask your friends! They may like to share a dozen between them.

Order forms to be returned to your campus MUSIC office by **TUESDAY 7TH OF JUNE**

Doughnuts will arrive on Thursday 23rd June: Collect between 2.45pm and 3.45pm

PLEASE RETURN ORDER FORMS AND MONEY TO:

CARLY MARSLAND (Music Department)

**CAN YOU HELP US
RAISE SOME DOUGH?**

**Krispy Kreme
DOUGHNUTS
FUND
RAISING**



General Notices

Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF)

Payment - Applications Close 22th June, 2022

Parent / carers who are current Healthcare Card or Pension card holders may be eligible for the Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund rebate.

The claim form is available here [HERE](#) or by contacting the Finance Officer at The Hermitage Administration Centre or email

ar@lavalla.vic.edu.au

Rapid Antigen Tests

The Rapid Antigen Testing Screening Program concluded at the end of the fourth week of this term. As per the announcements made by the State Government, we are making RATs available to students through to the end of this term. If a student requires more Rapid Antigen Tests during this period then a supply is available for students who have been COVID free for 12 weeks from Students Services at each campus. These can be collected by the student before and after school, during recess, lunchtime and study periods.

Interchange Gippsland

Interchange Gippsland is arranging another ROADIES Camp in July 2022 at Grantville.

Out of pocket expense will be \$100 and the NDIS charges will be discussed with you to ensure your specific support needs are met.

The dates are Wednesday 6th July 2022- Friday 8th July 2022. And the last day for the RSVP is 29th June 2022.

Please see the attached flyer for more information and give call to 1300 736 765 / email us on Jiya.Joy@icg.as.au / sophie.johnston@icg.asn.au for more details or to register.

Flu Vaccinations

The Victorian Government is providing free influenza (flu) vaccinations for all Victorians aged six months and over from Wednesday 1 June 2022.

Over 3,000 General Practice Clinics (GP's) and community pharmacies across Victoria will offer free flu vaccinations until Saturday 30 June 2022.

Laptop Chargers at St Paul's Campus

This notice is for parents of students at the St Paul's campus of Lavalla Catholic College.

The college policy for student laptops is that a **student starts each day with a fully charged laptop**. This will normally allow each student to engage in their learning during the school day.

However, we seem to have an increasing number of students, at the St Paul's campus, with laptops that have lost charge with students requesting a charger to charge their device. Due to the volume of requests and the increasing variety of chargers and laptop charging connections, **we will no longer be supplying students with a charger at school beyond the end of Term 2**.

If their laptop charge is not lasting out the whole school day then there **is a 15 bay charging tower available in the Marian Learning Centre that can be self-managed** and each laptop bay is electronically secured by a pin number created by the student. To make use of this, students will need to bring their laptop charger and laptop to school each day. A good time to recharge laptops is during recess and lunchtime. Our IT staff are happy to help students with managing this resource.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Chris Denny - Director of Digital Technology