



From the Principal

Dear Lavalla Families

Last week we celebrated our College Feast day, Champagnat day, with a wonderful whole school Mass on the St Paul's Campus. Due to COVID, it was the first time we have been able to gather for the Mass in several years. Being able to gather as a community in prayer was an incredibly nurturing experience, that enabled us to reclaim a sense of the belonging and connection that whole-school liturgy can bring.

The Mass also facilitated my commissioning as Principal at Lavalla and was followed by the official opening of the Hermitage Administration Centre and the Marian Learning Centre. We also presented the annual winners of our Champagnat awards; the most prestigious awards that students or staff at Lavalla can receive. These winners are celebrated elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter and I congratulate all of our winners for their exemplary contributions to our community.

We were very fortunate to have Bishop Greg Bennet celebrate our Mass alongside Priests from our local Parishes. At the Mass, Bishop Greg spoke to our students about the central role of Love in a Catholic school. Love of course, underpins a deep sense of care that we have towards others and is the beating pulse that connects our community here at Lavalla. The Bishop evoked Jesus' words from the Gospel of Mark, calling us to Love your neighbour as yourself; a commandment inextricably linked to our College theme this year of known and loved; a dignity for all.

The challenge for our community is of course to ensure that we remain people of others and people for others; people that love, care and consider others and their needs as they do their own. It is a call to us to unite not divide; to include, not exclude; to be selfless, not selfish; and of course to love and not hate. It was a powerful message to our students who are challenged to continue to bring those words to life here in our community through their everyday actions.

My thanks go to all involved for the significant amount of organisation required to ensure the smooth running of the Mass and of Champagnat day. Special mention must go to our students; I was so proud at how they



engaged, the respect they showed for the Mass and for each other and for the wonderful pride they displayed in belonging to this school and being part of this community. We were fortunate enough to be joined by previous leaders and Principals of Lavalla, St Paul's and Catholic Regional College. Each spoke in glowing terms of our students and heaped deserving affirmation upon them.



Year 12 Retreat

Next week our Year 12's embark upon their final retreat. It is a special time and opportunity for them. They will gather, reflect and celebrate their time at the College, the contribution they have made and importantly, focus on the contribution that they are going to make to society as they transition from school to the world which awaits them. Our thoughts and prayers remain with them and I trust that the experience will be reflective, invigorating and of course special for them as a cohort.

Acknowledgements and End-of-Semester

With the semester coming to an end next week, I take this opportunity to say thank you for all your support this term. School's like ours rely upon caring, respectful and productive relationships with parents and families. At our Marist school, where family spirit is a key characteristic of our expression, it is certainly very evident.

On a personal note, I thank parents, staff and of course students for the very warm way in which you have welcomed me into this community. I look forward to continuing working together as passionate advocates for our school and to ensure that young people who attend Lavalla Catholic College have the best opportunities to grow, learn and to become fine young examples of the power of strong minds and compassionate hearts.

Finally, I know I have your support in thanking our hard working staff, both teaching and non-teaching, for their efforts this semester. Time and time again they have gone+ above and beyond in very challenging circumstances, to ensure that the school is not only able to function and have student's onsite, but also for students to experience the high quality of teaching and learning that Lavalla prides itself on.

I wish the community a refreshing semester break commencing at the end of next week, safe passage for those travelling and look forward to welcoming students back in Term 3.

May St. Marcellin and Mary our Good Mother continue to watch over us and guide us with their wisdom and strength

Regards
RYAN GREER

Champagnat Awards Recipients



Summer Moretti	Year 7	Sally Lloyd-Webb	Year 10	Vashon Weaver	Staff
Aine Doherty	Year 7	Jocelyn Heenan	Year 10	Shane Lebbe	Staff
Billee-Rose Hodgskiss	Year 8	Miles Verschuur	Year 11		
Kaylah Gridley	Year 8	Cohen Campbell	Year 11		
Christiana Olayemi	Year 9	Anna Derham	Year 12		
Charlie Hamilton	Year 9	Sophie Melbourne	Year 12		

Known and Loved
dignity for all



Known and Loved
dignity for all



Duke of Edinburgh Camp

In the first two weeks of term two, 126 year nine students who are completing their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award headed off on their practice journeys. Across four camps, the students first stopped in Port Albert where they walked the Old Port Trail into town and then ordered themselves Fish & Chips for lunch. In the early afternoon they were bussed to their accommodation, Illawong Lodge by the Sea in Robertson's Beach. Dependent on the weather, students spent the afternoon participating in a range of different beach games including Finska, Bocce and Volleyball.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award requires students to demonstrate their ability to be a leader among their peers and to develop their teamwork skills. On camp, students were challenged by working within a team they might not regularly work with at school. Students were allocated duties within their group which required them to work together in order to succeed.

On the second day of camp, students completed rotations including a town walk, a scavenger hunt and stand up paddle boarding. Stand up paddle boarding was by far the most popular activity amongst students.

With half of the students over 50% complete for their Bronze Award we are excited to have our highest completion rate ever.

Overall, the camps were a great success and enjoyed by students and staff who attended. A huge thank you to the following staff who attended and helped out.

Matt Harris, Sue Pickett, Bree Guttridge, Joel Dickason, Lisa Williams, Megan Stewart-North, Nat Macpherson, Michael Archipow, Karina Cassar, Nikki Schroeter and Laura Mainella.

Camps are not possible without you.

SOPHIE MEMBREY & CANDICE FORD
Camp Coordinators



Roberstons Beach Camp

The OE camp in Robertson's bay, Victoria was a great success. On my camp 9.6 and 9.7 went. To start off the camp we were driven in busses to the beginning of the old port trail. The walk altogether took us to the town centre of port albert and took up approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. As a treat we were able to get some fish and chips from the wharf fish and chips. Then we hopped back on the bus and were driven to the Illawong lodge in Robertson's beach. After we arrived, we did a number of fun activities outside on the mud and then came inside to get cleaned up and have some dinner. Dished up we had lasagne and salad. In the morning we were split up into groups of our own choice and had three rotations for the day before we went home I did, scavenger hunt, walk and clean up and paddle boarding. During this camp I was challenged with the aspect of friends and being comfortable. None of my close friends from school went on this camp so I had to hang out with people I don't usually, this was something I was quite nervous for but luckily I had some good people to hang out with and actually had a blast. I liked the freedom of this camp and the fact we had to fend for ourselves and how we had some free time to get to know people that we usually never speak to.

CHARLIE JUSTICE 9.6

I really enjoyed camp. The staff on my camp were all great as I attended with Ms. Ford, Mr. Dickason, Mr. Harris, and Mrs. Pickett. I completed the duty of breakfast dishes with my group of Hunter, Katie and Alice. We worked very well as a team, but I think we picked the wrong job, there were a lot of dishes to do!! I really liked the location of the camp and the walk that we did. The activity I enjoyed most was paddle boarding. We travelled from the port of Mann's beach over to St Margaret's island. I was a little bit slow but I was going pretty fast by the end. Something I would change on the camp is to be there for longer and have some night activities. Otherwise I really enjoyed camp I would rate it a 9/10.

WYATT ROWLEY 9.1

I attended camp 1 (27th-28th April) as I had to change camps. I was with a few of my friends and Mr Harris, Mrs Ford, Mrs Pickett and Mr Dickason were as well on the camp. For duty groups, I was in group 1 and in charge of lunch dishes. I liked the paddle boarding and the beach activities as well as hanging with everyone. My dislikes were that it was only one night and would be cool if we got the chance to do more water-based activities. The biggest challenge for me was the walk through the bush and the continuous trail.

KATIE FURMSTON 9.7



Year 8 Camp

This term the Year 8s were finally able to experience a camp after missing camp in Year 7.

Students arrived bright and early for their three day venture to Phillip Island to stay at CYC – The Island. They were eager to create new friendships, have adventures and make lasting memories.

We connected with each other to unpack how we have been created in the image of God, perfect in every way. We reminded that each that “everyone is a work of art” and we are all “beautiful.” They explored what it means to be a good friend, to have trust in and to look out for one another.

We were lucky enough to witness the joy of nature, as the little blue penguins made the dangerous trek from the shore’s edge back to their borrows to share the news of their day’s escapades with their penguin families and neighbours. Not unlike the chatting, laughter and excitement shared by the students when in their cabins preparing for bed!

Students were divided into activity groups where they joined together to experience the thrills of the giant swing, flying fox, archery, frisbee golf, jumping on the trampolines, having a Just dance – dance off and a battle of the brains to discover the

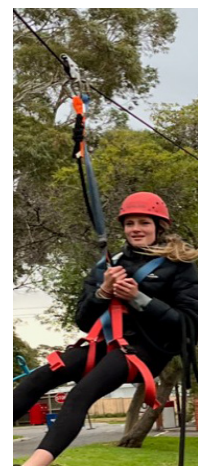
winners of camp trivia. After a final visit to the Nobbies, students boarded the bus for the trip home.

The food was abundant, numerous games of table tennis, pool and alley ball were played, along with Connect 4, Jenga, and Uno while connecting with friends, sharing tales and delighting in each other’s company. The camp facilities were five star and all we could have wished for (maybe a little less rain and a tad bit more sunshine) and more.

As always, it is the highlight of teaching to be able to spend time with our students outside of the classroom, to interact, name and know them on another level. I would like to thank all the staff who attended camp and who helped behind the scenes to make it successful. Karina Cassar, Michael McKenna, Adriana Bianconi, Pam Goodall, Leigh Winter, Jamie Mack, Shayla Marsh, Molly Archibald, Peter Kelly, Matilda Van Berkel, Renee Eccels, Roma Valentine, Megan Stewart-North, Ross Sizeland, Brittany Paulet and Leanne Young. I know the students appreciated your presence as much as I did.

I look forward to seeing these students grow into their own work of art over the course of the year.

MEAGHAN AMBROSE Year 8 Wellbeing Leader



Italian Pop Up Cafe!

As part of their Italian studies this semester, Year 9 students explored the coffee culture of Italy, culminating in the planning of a pop up cafe/bar for the school community. Guests had the opportunity to experience a typical Italian breakfast and enjoy some traditional Italian music. There was also spontaneous dancing by some enthusiastic students – grazie Pia Farrar and Coral Poole!

A big thank you to the staff who were able to 'pop by' and visit. Your support for the activity was much appreciated by myself and the students, who were delighted to see their teachers and other staff 'pop in'.

Grazie mille! Bravissimi ragazzi!

JAN MASSARO-CHANDLER Italian Teacher



Year 11 Legal Studies Incursion

Recently the Year 11 Legal Studies class participated in the Court Education program with the Supreme Court.

The aim of these sessions is to provide students with an informative and engaging experience that complements the Legal Studies curriculum. Students prepared questions prior to the session and whilst the session was, delivered via Zoom rather than in person, it was a worthwhile experience for students to learn more about the operations of the Supreme Court, its personnel and possible careers.

Here are some student reflections.

"As part of our Legal Studies class we had the opportunity to listen to Justice James Elliot from the Supreme Court of Victoria. His Honour spoke to us about what his job entails and the many ups and downs of pursuing a career in law; he offered us a unique insight into his journey and the obstacles he overcame to become a Justice. Justice James was informative and demonstrated the back ways to a career in law, and by speaking about his personal backstory, it allowed us to connect better with him. Despite, COVID restrictions preventing us from attending the court in person we are hopeful of being able to attend as a class in the near future."

-- Paul Antonopoulos

"The presentation was very informative and insightful. It was excellent meeting with a real judge and associate. Miss Varcoe, Marcus and the education team were very welcoming. Justice Elliot was great to listen to, especially about his journey to becoming a judge. We are grateful that our questions were, answered in such an engaging way, and we appreciate being reminded that the legal system is made up of normal people, not just laws and regulations.

Thank you on behalf of our class and Lavalla Catholic Collage, to everyone that participated in the presentation, we hope to see you next year in court."

-- Ciara Weston &
Sienna Georgiou

Music News

Our Year 7 Training Band has completed their first term of rehearsals. Each Thursday morning this term we have seen an enthusiastic group of students bound into our 7:40am rehearsals to engage in focused ensemble rehearsals of classic beginner tunes, the pillars of musical practice and a range of bad jokes. We encourage our Training Band students to keep up the practice as they prepare for their debut performance as an ensemble next term.

We would also like to congratulate and thank our members of the Senior Choir for their contribution to the success of the Champagnat Mass on Tuesday the 7th of June. Our choir served the community by providing the music throughout the Mass, and it was through the dedication and commitment of our students that we were able to make such a high standard and meaningful contribution to this celebration. This ensemble now sets its sights towards preparing their performance repertoire for the Victorian Schools Music Festival in early August.

This week, across three nights, our Music Department has held Soiree Evenings featuring solo and small group performances from our instrumental and vocal students, and Junior Choir. The focus of these events was to highlight the wonderful work of our students and their music tutors in preparing them for a range of different performance settings. These have been fantastic opportunities for our junior musicians to take to the stage for their first performance ever in a warm and supporting environment, and get to see our senior students showcasing the product of their accumulated practice and experience with some pretty high level performances. Thanks to our wonderful tutors: Mary Mirtschin; Alison Teychenne; Wes Hopkins; John Di Sisto; Chris Higgins; and Joseph Bonnici. Thanks to Ms Stella Felten for preparing our Junior Choir and accompanying our VCE performers, and Ms Megan Schellekens for accompanying our Junior Choir. Thanks also to all of our families for their support of our musical community.

SHANE LEBBE - Dir of Music & Liturgy



Formation Matters

Dear Readers,

This is my last newsletter article for Lavalla. I finish on 24 June 2022.

I have only good to say of Lavalla. It is a good school and it is driven to improve.

I wish you blessings in all your future endeavours.

Corpus Christi

For this article, I will focus on only one of the many aspects of this Feast.

Today is the Feast of 'Corpus Christi' (Body of Christ). The Gospel tells the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand with five small loaves and two fish. The story is one of God's abundance.

The Christian churches tell us that we form part of the Body of Christ.

Christ/God is everything. Therefore we are not isolated, but connected with everything through Christ/God who is the connector. Our tiny lives, joys and sufferings connect deeply with the joys and suffering of everyone else, through our communion with Christ/God who is everything. We connect with everything here and now.

That is why, once a week the Churches encourage us to go to Mass, to partake of the abundance God's life. When we receive Communion, we are agreeing to be divinized, agreeing to be part of everything, part of Christ/God and part of everyone and everything else. Hence, we go out from church to live intentional lives of meaning and significance.

Three Principles

Over the years, I have learned to live by three principles and one truth. I pass them on to you; if they help, good; if they do not, no worries. They will make you free and happy, but you will need to practise them.

1. I am responsible for my own learning.

This means that I take ownership of myself. I do not blame others for what I say or do. I make positive decisions for myself.

Learning is not just coming to school, attending classes, reading books and answering questions. This learning is observing myself, my thoughts, my feelings, my behaviour in everything I do and say in the day; at home, in school, at sport, etc. I learn to understand myself, what makes me tick.

2. I am responsible for building community.

It is my duty to make safe and positive connections with people around me, in class, at home, at work. So I praise and do not criticise; I smile and welcome people, and do not show anger or shout, fight, name-call or gossip. I help people whether they help back or not. If people are toxic for me, I leave them and find others who are positive.

3. I serve.

To serve is the way to achieve principles 1 and 2. I ask, "What does he/she need?" and I do that. Quietly. At the same time, I must not dodge doing my own tasks. This requires judgement and balance, which will come with practice.

Every night, I ask myself, "How have I done the three principles today? What have I done well? How can I do better tomorrow?"

One Truth

God is good. Always.

Therefore, I do not need to fear anything, not even the mistakes I make. It makes me free, courageous and willing to take risks.

How can I be good all the time with everyone, like God is with me? That is worth figuring out.

CHRIS ROGA - Faith Formator

Friday 24th June Last Day of Term

Classes will run as normal for periods one to four and the day will conclude at 1:31pm.

Students are free to leave from this time and buses will begin collecting students from 2:00pm.

Supervision will be provided in the yard until the final bus has departed.

Term 3 commences on Tuesday 12th July. Classes for all year levels recommence on this day.

HELP US, HELP THEM!

FUNDRAISING EVENT

TAMIA NODA IS A KIND, LOVING & CARING 16 YEAR OLD FROM TRARALGON. AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR THE FAMILY WERE FACED WITH THE DEVASTATING NEWS THAT TAMIA HAS MEDULLOBLASTOMA (A TYPE OF BRAIN CANCER). FOR THE NEXT TEN MONTHS TAMIA WILL BE UNDERTAKING TREATMENT AT PETER MACCULLUM CANCER CENTRE. IN HONOUR OF TAMIA & HER FAMILY WE HAVE DECIDED TO ORGANISE THIS FUNDRAISER WITH ALL MONEY RAISED TO GO TOWARDS THE FAMILY'S EXPENSES.

COME ALONG FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN, FOR A WONDERFUL CAUSE!

SATURDAY 9TH JULY

4pm onwards

WHERE:

Cowwarr Football
Netball Club

FEATURING:

- Live Music including Gecko and The Badgers
- Bar
- Sausage Sizzle
- Variety of stalls
- Food Vans

PLEASE WEAR BLUE FOR TAMIA

SCAN QR CODE BELOW
TO PURCHASE TICKETS

