



## From the Principal

### Dear Lavalla Families

This week we welcomed back students for Semester 2. I trust that families were able to enjoy some downtime over the break and that students are feeling refreshed and renewed as they begin their studies for the final semester of the school year. A special welcome to those students, families and staff who are new to our community.

Each new term offers students the ability to reset and refocus their approach towards their studies. My hope for all students is that they set out to achieve their personal best in all that they do; set high self-expectations and continue to build and develop the maturity required to take the appropriate steps to realise these expectations. Our staff are committed to walking this journey with students and I encourage parents to continue to work together with staff to create an environment that prioritises and supports student academic achievement and success.

### Choices

Last Sunday's Gospel reading, the parable of the Good Samaritan, is one of the better known parables from the Gospel of Luke. The concept of choice permeates the scripture. In this instance a Samaritan man offers help, offers his time and invests himself personally into the wellbeing of a stranger; a stranger, as it turns out, who in those times was actually an enemy of the Samaritan's own people.

This act epitomises God's call for us to be people not only of compassion, but people of courage; making choices that are not simply convenient or easy for us, but choices that are right, even if they are difficult, require sacrifice or unexpected commitment. The message is that the easy choice in life is often the most personally justifiable; however the harder choice is one which challenges us on a deeper level and calls us at all times to genuinely consider what is right and just.

Whether it be placing others needs above our own, being the bigger person in any conflict, or simply choosing on a personal level to honour commitments at school, at work or even socially, we should always aspire to choose what is right, not just that which is easy.

### Master Plan Update

As you would be aware from previous communications, the College is in the process of developing a new Master Plan. I am pleased to be able to announce that after a thorough tender process, architectural firm Y2 have been chosen as our partner architects to develop the College Master Plan. Y2 bring a wealth of experience and have previously partnered with several other Victorian Marist Catholic schools. They understand Marist spirituality, they understand the needs of our community and we look forward to working with them to co-develop this vital document.

As part of our desire to ensure that the Master Plan is genuinely collaborative, we will be conducting a series of workshops with parents, students and staff over the coming months. More details will be forthcoming in the next few weeks and I encourage all parents to take an interest in the future development of our school and be part of this exciting process.

### Feedback Survey - Communication

Last term many parents participated in our school feedback survey. A wealth of insightful information was collected and I thank you for taking the time to contribute your ideas. Amongst the many trends that emerged as areas for improvement, communication featured prominently.

To further enhance communication with our community, I am pleased to announce the College now has a social media presence with dedicated pages on both Facebook and Instagram. The pages will be used to acknowledge and celebrate student achievement; provide valuable information to the community in a timely manner and also to help us better connect with current families and College alumni.

Please be assured that all current communicative channels will remain in use including email for official notifications to parents and carers, as well as the fortnightly newsletter and of course our school website. We hope that these social media pages are helpful and will provide an additional source of information and communication for our school community. We encourage you to connect with us and to visit the sites if you have a presence on these platforms, via the links below:



Click Button



Click Button



## COVID

COVID-19 continues to challenge the community in many ways. With a current spike in community infections, it is important that we all continue to monitor for symptoms carefully and meet all obligations in relation to minimising the risk of transmission. Importantly, this means students remaining at home if they do have cold or flu like symptoms.

The school will be providing families with Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) again this semester (distribution this coming Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July) and we ask you to utilise these as required to help identify any possible cases.

Further, please be aware that COVID pressures on College staffing are real and that should this pressure become a significant issue at times throughout the semester, the College may have to consider all options in relation to the provision of learning. This includes the possibility of periods of remote learning, if significant

staff absence means we are unable to provide meaningful and safe on-campus learning and teaching.

## Best wishes for the Semester

My best wishes are extended to all students and families for Semester 2. Please continue to keep those within our community who are currently experiencing challenges with their health in your thoughts and prayers and may St Marcellin and Mary our Good Mother continue to guide us with their wisdom and strength.

Regards RYAN GREER

## New Leader

Toward the end of last term we said good bye to one of our Campus Leaders, Addison Howe, which opened an opportunity for one of our student leaders to step up and fill this position.

As the usual selection process takes quite a long time, we decided to use the results from the previous vote to ensure student voices were still heard and that the new leader represented their wishes.

So with that said, I am very excited to announce that our new Campus Leader will be Maddison Reed. Congratulations, we know you will fulfil this role with pride and passion. Maddi will be working with our other Campus Leaders, Riley Sutton, Isabel Ford and Finn Blizzard, for the remainder of the year.

Congratulations again Maddison!

## House Points Update

Over the last semester we have engaged in many fun house challenges that have hopefully brought us a little closer together and inspired some friendly competition.

We have had a music Kahoot and a scavenger hunt, as well as skipping rope, Uno and footy kicking competitions. Information will be coming out soon regarding upcoming events, including the athletics carnival. But for now, let's see where the house points are at...

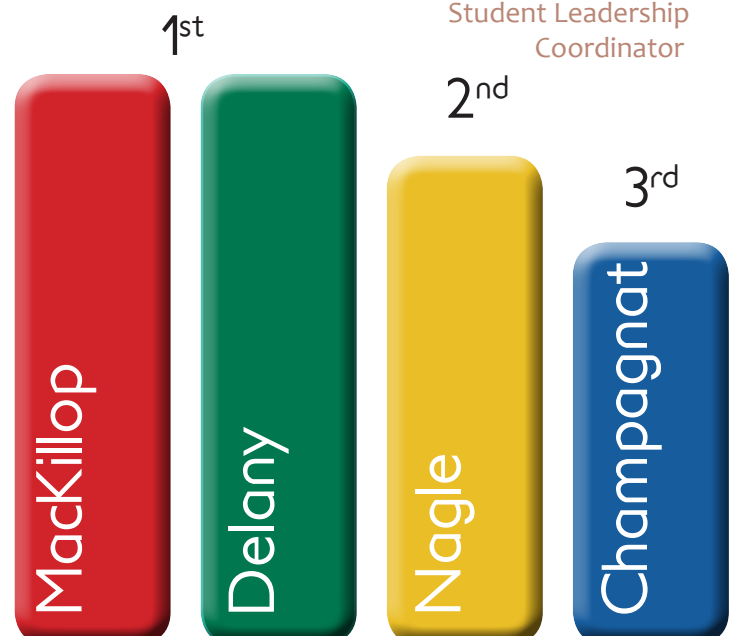
Based on the results from the challenges that were just mentioned, Champagnat is coming in last place with a total of 60 points.

Nagle is third with 100 points.

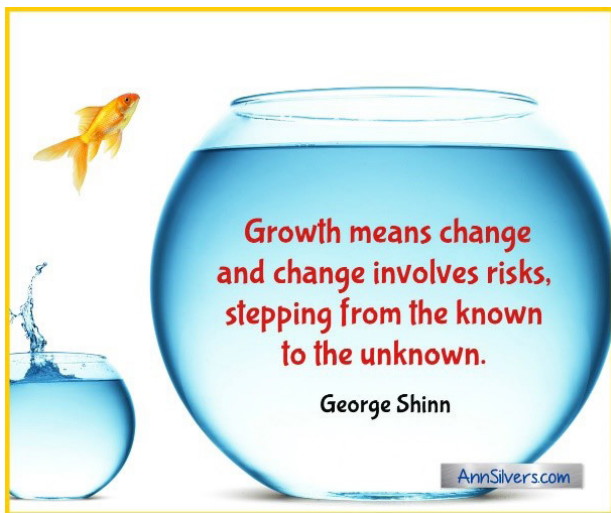
Mackillop and Delany are tied in first place with 120 points.

Well done to everyone that has participated so far!

MEGAN STEWART-NORTH  
Student Leadership  
Coordinator



# Wellbeing



As we begin our second semester at Lavalla Catholic College, we acknowledge the fact that this has been the first semester in two and a half years when we have not had some form of remote learning. Therefore, as a College we are striving to reinforce and re-establish normal school life for our students.

On Wednesday and Thursday we held an assembly for the Senior and Junior campuses respectfully, at which we reminded students of the expectations to strive for excellence in all the do, say and think. We reminded our community of the need and ways to ensure that our College is a Safe, Happy and Successful place of learning. We also welcomed new students and staff, including the changes to staffing within the Wellbeing Team.

## Changes to Staffing within the Wellbeing Team:

Mr Alex Rathbone who was Head of Nagle House at the Kildare Campus, has embarked on a change of supporting students within our College family, as he takes the Position of Leadership of Educational Innovations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Rathbone for his service to Wellbeing Team and the student body of our College. Mr Rathbone made excellent contributions to the pastoral care of our students and led some exciting initiatives such as Game Aware.

To replace Mr Rathbone, Mrs Tina Weston very kindly has taken the position as Head of Nagle House and will be an amazing contribution to what is already a very successful and caring team.

To replace Mrs Weston as Year 7-9 Wellbeing Mentor Leader, we are very blessed to have Mrs Meaghan Ambrose move from Year 8 Wellbeing Leader to lead the St. Paul's Team in this very important role.

Therefore, to fulfil the position of Year 8 Wellbeing Leader role, we appointed Mr Troy O'Bree, a teacher from the Kildare Campus to lead the Year 8 students and team. Mr O'Bree has already proactively joined the St. Paul's campus by initiating and leading the 'Give A Damn, Give A Can' campaign.

Just as the quote says, I would like to thank those staff for making the step from the known to the unknown for the benefit of our students and their families.

## Child Safeguarding Consultation Group:

Child Safeguarding is key to everything we do at Lavalla Catholic College, ensuring that we provide Learning Environments that are 'Safe, Happy and Successful'. In order to do this, I would like to include representatives of all members of our College family to support and advise on our current and future safeguarding policies and practices. Therefore, I would invite Expressions of Interest from any parent/guardian to join our Child Safeguarding Consultation Group.

What will happen at the Child Safeguarding Consultation Group?:

The group will consist of two Wellbeing Representatives, Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing and Operations, Compliance Officer, six students and 2-4 parents/guardians.

The group will meet once per term during the school day. The date and agenda will be published at least four weeks in advance.

The group will review our current policies and practices that ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our stakeholders (staff, students and parents/guardians) within our Learning Environments.

If we have more than four applications, we may apply a selection process.

This will be an excellent way for parents/guardians to be involved in ensuring that our College strives to provide Safe, Happy and Successful Learning Environments for all students, including those most vulnerable and within multi-cultural (Race, Colour, Faith and Sexual Orientation) groups.

If you would like to learn more or submit an expression of interest, please email me at [doug.doherty@lavalla.vic.edu.au](mailto:doug.doherty@lavalla.vic.edu.au)

Thank-you and God Bless

DOUG DOHERTY  
Deputy Principal - Student Wellbeing & Operations

# Music News

Our Music Department is looking forward to a busy Term 3 with a range of exciting events back on the calendar. This term has traditionally been a time when our co-curricular ensembles have the opportunity to really showcase the hard work students put in during their regular early morning rehearsals, instrumental and vocal lessons, and daily practice. These events will see our musicians taking to the stage at the local Yarram and Latrobe Valley Eisteddfods as well as representing our College at the Victorian School Music Festival, where they will compete against schools from all around the state. The Term will culminate with our Annual Music Concert where families from our community are invited to come along and enjoy a fun evening of quality music making.

Just a reminder that all of our morning rehearsals are running as normal, and commence at 7:40am sharp. To make the most of the time we have, we ask that students are at each and every rehearsal and ready to go by this time. Please find below an overview of the events we are looking forward to this term. Thanks for your support and we are looking forward to a great term of music making.

SHANE LEBBE - Dir of Music & Liturgy

## **VSMF**

- Choral Session

### Senior Choir

Tuesday 2nd August

## **Yarram Eisteddfod**

- Choral Session

### Junior Choir

Thursday 4th August

- Instrumental Session

### Training Band

Friday 5th August

## **VSMF**

- Jazz Band Session

### Senior Jazz Band

Thursday 11th August

- Concert Band Session

### Senior Concert Band

Tuesday 26th August

## Upcoming Music Events

### **Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod**

- Choral Session

### Junior Choir

### Senior Choir

Monday 29th August

- Instrumental Session

### Training Band

### Senior Band

### Senior Jazz Ensemble

Wednesday 31st August

### **Annual Music Concert**

All Ensembles

Tuesday 6th September

# Year 9 Humanities

July signifies what is traditionally called midwinter, and while the mornings are frosty and the afternoons crisp, an Australian winter is not anywhere as bleak as the ones in Northern Europe. In his sublime poem- The Winters Walk. Doctor Johnson describes the stern, English winter in verse: What dreary prospects round us rise ... The hoary ground, the frowning skies.

Going to Waratah Bay in the dead of winter may seem like a dreary prospect to some of our Year 9's. The South Gippsland coast is wind-swept and stunning in any season, but in wintertime it can be bitter and blustery – particularly if the weather is intemperate.

9.1 to 9.4 will depart for their frigid beach experience on Monday August 15th and will return on the Wednesday. 9.5 – 9.8 will embark the bus on that Wednesday morning and alight, back home, on the following Friday. We are looking forward to a great time away – with physical activities, beach walks, and fun times together. Already in Geography,

Outdoor Education, and Geology we have studied the environment similar to this stretch of coastline, so there are indelible links to our learning here as well. The chance to get away with their peers is made even more poignant in light of the isolation and lack of community that we have had for so long.

In anticipation for our time at the beach – please ensure that student medical information is up-to-date on PAM.

Our Geography excursion, looking at the environment of the Bass coast, was a success. Thanks to Kim Widrich, our Humanities leader, for the wonderful experience. Notable were staff members, Steve Erdley, Molly Archibald, Jaimes Mack, Leigh Winter, Roma Valentine, Megan Stewart-North, and Jane Hall. Here are some photos of our time at the coast.

MATTHEW HARRIS - Wellbeing Leader Year 9



Do you want to see your teen transform in a matter of weeks

from

**SAD, ANXIOUS OR WITHDRAWN**

to

**CONFIDENT, CALM & HAPPY?**

Are they struggling with:

- \*Social anxiety
- \*Isolation
- \*Becoming overwhelmed
- \*Withdrawal

## GET YOUR TEEN DRUMMING FOR CALM & COMFORT!



A fun and engaging program using musical activities to help teenagers improve mood, manage worry and feel better.

In this program your teen will be supported with:

- 6 x 1 hr drumming workshops, facilitated by accredited Drum Beat Counsellor
- A safe and stimulating environment of like-minded teenagers with similar goals
- Ongoing support ensuring learning continues to be used in everyday life after completing the program
- Additional parent session midway of program included

Limited spaces only available, so you must register now!

REGISTER ON SOOTHE 2 SHINE FACEBOOK LINK BELOW  
OR CALL **0447 151 589**

### WORKSHOP DETAILS

**WHEN:** Starts Wed 3 August to Wed 7th September  
(weekly sessions)

**TIME:** 4:45PM – 6:00PM

**WHERE:** Soothe 2 Shine,  
17 Rocla Rd, Traralgon

- All materials included
- Less than half price of individual sessions\*

\*original individual cost \$840 for 6 week program



Soothe 2 Shine  
Counselling

## Give a Damn Give a Can 2022

### When?

- ▶ Cans are to be brought to school before 31 August.
- ▶ This gives us about 6 weeks to collect as many cans as possible.
- ▶ We would aim to be donating around 1000+ cans of food from our school.
- ▶ Cans can be taken to Homerooms and will be collected there and taken to the Wellbeing Hub for storage.
- ▶ If you gave 2 cans we would reach beyond the 1000 can target with almost zero effort, but would be helping many families with that generosity.

