2015 HSC ACHIEVERS

LaSalle Catholic College would like to congratulate the class of 2015 on building upon the already outstanding results that were achieved by our students in the 2014 HSC. In comparison to our 2014 results, our notable achievements for 2015 included:

- A higher percentage of Band 6s (marks above 90) per examination sat
- A 20% increase in the number of Band 5s received (marks above 80)
- More individual students received a Band 6
- More students received an ATAR above 90
- 95% of subjects performed at or above expected level of performance
- 10 subjects performed above the NSW average.

After Ash Wednesday’s Liturgy we held a High Achievers Assembly where we had invited our Year 12 2015 students and their families to attend followed by a morning tea with the LaSalle staff.

At the Assembly we recognised all the High Achievers including students who received ATARs over 90.00 and Dux of each Subject.

2016 DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 2016
19 Year 10 PDHPE Excursion
22 Lasallian Youth Leaders Training Day
24 Commencement Mass @ St Mary’s Cathedral
25 Year 11 Visual Arts Excursion
29 Year 7 Reflection Day

MARCH 2016
1 Years 11/12 Mass @ 9.00am
   Year 11 ITT Excursion
2 Year 11 Geography Excursion
3 Year 12 Modern History Excursion
4 College Swimming Carnival

LaSalle Catholic College
Commencement Mass 2016
St Mary’s Cathedral, Sydney
Wednesday, 24th February
10.00am

Celebrant: Bishop Terry Brady
“Here I am Lord; you called me.”
A new era begins
Please come and join us.
ARCHBISHOP ANTHONY FISHER OP

His Grace, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP was diagnosed with Guillain-Barre Syndrome, an auto-immune condition that causes the immune system to attack the body’s nerves. We ask our Lasallian community to pray for his full and speedy recovery.

*Almighty and Eternal God, You are the source of everlasting health for all who believe in You.*

*We ask the aid of Your tender mercy and healing grace for Archbishop Anthony,*

*so that he may be fully restored to bodily health and further serve Your Church.*

*Through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

FROM OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: Ms LEONIE DOWD

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY – KEYS TO SUCCESS

Our students have now had several opportunities to learn more about their personal organisation and the impact this can have on their studies and their future career paths. Be it in Homeroom, Year Group meetings, as well as during lessons, our students have had significant expectations and suggestions explained to them by their teachers - all with a view to our students striving to make the most of the opportunities our College provides.

To assist your child in their learning I would ask parents to consider the following and to work in partnership with us in the education of your child.

It is a proven fact that attendance to school every day, is the key to continual learning improvement.

I remind parents of your legal obligation to ensure your son or daughters are at school each day and are happy to work in partnership with you to ensure this happens. Some tips to ensure you and your daughter/son keep on top of attendance.

**Punctuality and attendance** are crucial to your child’s education. If your child is absent please notify the College Office as soon as possible on that day.

I would encourage all students to use their diaries for all homework, assessment tasks and dates to remember.

Please check **your child’s diary** and encourage them to use this important organizational resource.

Students who develop such good organizational skills demonstrate **commitment**, develop **confidence** and significantly increase their potential for **success**.

INVITATION TO PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

Students were given a copy of this invitation during Homeroom. They were encouraged to take it home and show you. We warmly welcome you to this special occasion and please contact Mrs Anne Saliba if you require bus transportation.

A College permission slip will be sent home - please sign and return it to your child’s Homeroom Teacher as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you on this special day.

Ms Leonie Dowd
FROM OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR:  MR ANDREW CHRISTOFORIDIS

**PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING: WHAT DO THEY MEAN?**

Lent is a time to identify the things we think, feel and do, that prevent us from moving closer to God and which stop us from living like Jesus. Lent is about conversion – moving into practices in which we grow more like Christ and help us live His way of life.

As Catholics, we use prayer, fasting and almsgiving to bring us closer to God and prepare ourselves for the Easter Season. All three of these Lenten practices link together to allow the Holy Spirit to bring about the conversion we seek during Lent.

**PRAYER:** Prayer is our communication with God. It is through prayer that we develop a closer, more intimate relationship with God. During Lent, we try and pray more by talking to God, as well as by being silent with God, so that we may hear God speak to us.

**FASTING:** Fasting is one of the most ancient actions linked to Lent, although the rules have changed through the ages, it is still considered a sacred practice. When we hear the word ‘fast’ we straight away think of ‘giving up’ something like lollies, chocolate or our favourite food. Fasting is about limiting the amount we eat and/or denying ourselves certain foods. It is primarily a spiritual discipline designed to allow us to concentrate less on our body and more on prayer. It is important to remember, fasting should lead to a deeper relationship with God and others. Fasting is not a selfish act, rather an act that allows us to focus less on ourselves and more on strengthening our relationship with God and others.

**ALMSGIVING:** Almsgiving is a sign of our care for those in need and an expression of our gratitude for all God has given to us. Works of charity and the promotion of justice are integral elements of the Christian way of life. When we look carefully, we will find Christ in our neighbours, especially the poor and needy. One way we usually support those in need during Lent is by giving money to the annual Project Compassion Appeal.

I pray you have a holy Lenten season that brings you closer to God.

Andrew Christoforidis

Snapshots of our
Ash Wednesday
Ligurgy
MARGARET CROUCHER

Congratulations to our Mrs Margaret Croucher, Science Lab Technician, being the recipient of the Parliament of NSW Award for Volunteer Work with the Association of Science Education Technicians. This award was presented by Ms Linda Burney at State Parliament House. NSW Chief Scientist, Prof Mary O’Kane AC (recently awarded) was also there to show her support for all the recipients involved. Well Done Margaret!

HSC HIGH ACHIEVERS (cont’d)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band 5 Recipients:</th>
<th>English (Standard)</th>
<th>Mathematics General 2</th>
<th>Studies of Religion I</th>
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<td>Ancient History</td>
<td>Tim Alagh</td>
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<td>Physics</td>
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Year 12 students came in for a BBQ with staff at the end of the year 2015.
BEGINNING HIGH SCHOOL: YEAR 7 2016

For the newest members of our Lasallian community the last three weeks have been filled with excitement and anticipation. This was a mood shared by the whole College community, and with the introduction of junior girls to the College and one of the largest intakes of Year 7 boys in years, there was a lot to be excited about. “Being part of the coeducation at LaSalle makes us feel special and very proud of ourselves because we’ve been accepted into a good school and are the first girls to go through the school.” said Anna Tran of Year 7.

Year 7’s journey began with a series of workshops designed to foster the smoothest transition experience possible and induct them into the culture of the College. These workshops covered topics such as How to Build Positive Relationships, How to Find Success in High School, and Building Resilience which Jack Galvin-Valencia said was “more fun than I expected it to be. We learned to never give up and keep trying.” Through this induction program students were also introduced to Saint John Baptist de la Salle and the College House Patrons, their rights and responsibilities at the College, and to a number of key staff whom they can seek out for pastoral matters.

Our youngest students were also elated to receive their MacBook digital devices in the opening days of their time at the College. Year 7 was quickly inducted into the correct use of digital devices with a workshop on using their new MacBooks and a plenary on topics such as eSafety and cyber bullying. “We’re looking forward to being able to do our work online and over the internet.” said Billy Francis. “It was really useful to learn how to manage our MacBooks and it was a fun experience to try out new programs and apps that I haven’t used before.” said Jamie Jaajaa.

These have been a busy three weeks in the life of our Year 7 students, who have also enjoyed a number of other programs designed to support their transition into high school. Shortly after joining our College community, the Year 7 students enjoyed their first peer support sessions facilitated by our Year 10 Peer Mentors. “It was fun to read letters from previous Year 7 students giving us a heads up about what to expect in high school and what they enjoyed in Year 7.” said Jessica Calligas.

Year 7 parents, too, will be given the opportunity to join in their child’s excitement when they attend the upcoming ‘Meet the Teacher BBQ’, where the partnership between home and school will be forged for the first time. The boys and girls of Year 7 can also look forward to forging new bonds with their peers at the Year 7 Camp and the Year 7 Reflection Day in the coming weeks.

These first three weeks of Year 7 have been charged with an excited energy as students embark on their time here at LaSalle Catholic College. As their Year Coordinator I am honoured to be working with such an exemplary group of young people who have already proven their willingness and capacity to rise to every challenge they face.

I look forward to helping each and every student in Year 7 find success in their time here at LaSalle Catholic College, Bankstown.

Peter Cartledge, Year 7 Coordinator
CAMP LASALLE

To conclude the 2015 school year, two students Dylan Williams and Ian Sarajlic from Year 7 2015, attended Camp Lasalle at Summerland Point (NSW Central Coast) from the 14th December to the 17th December.

Camp Lasalle was facilitated by the Lasallian Youth Ministry Team and we were joined by many volunteers from the Lasallian network, including ex students from LaSalle Catholic College, Bankstown.

Camp Lasalle is conducted for students from the eight Sydney Lasallian schools and is a fantastic opportunity for young people to make new friends and develop new skills in a range of activities, including all types of sport, team building exercises and other activities that showcased many talents.

Dylan and Ian were outstanding at the camp, and stood out through exhibiting their Lasallian values of faith, service and community.

They did their best to get involved in all aspects of the camp, and as a College community we must commend their admirable representation of our school.

Stephanie Assad, Lasallian Youth Minister

LASALLIAN STUDENT LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

During the summer holidays, Connor Phouisangiem (Lizzie Captain) and myself, Ettore Pacilli (Miguel Captain) attended the Lasallian Student Leadership Seminar from January 18th - 22nd 2016.

This in our opinion was a great start to the 2016 school year. The seminar included Lasallian schools from around Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. It was held at the Collaroy Centre in the Central Coast and incorporated fun programs ranging from indoor icebreaker activities, to successful leadership workshops, to visiting Collaroy beach.

We also met and engaged with many insightful Lasallian brothers serving in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. The Brothers, and all the guest speakers present gave all students knowledge of what it means to be a leader and how to inspire the youth of today to be the best people they can be.

The aim of this camp was to allow young leaders to engage in a variety of situations that would develop their leadership skills with the intention of later exhibiting these qualities in their final year of schooling. We were also informed of post schooling opportunities that we could undertake to help out those in our Lasallian network around the world.

The seminar was run by the hardworking Lasallian Youth Ministry Team from Lasallian Mission Council including LaSalle Bankstown's Youth Minister, Ms Stephanie Assad.

We were all very grateful to have been a part of such a fulfilling experience and to be able to meet such inspiring people within our Lasallian family.

Ettore Pacilli - Miguel Captain
LASALLE READING FOR PLEASURE PROGRAM

The LaSalle ‘Reading for Pleasure’ program is designed to encourage Year 7, 8 & 9 students to read for pleasure. This program will take part three times a fortnight across a variety of lessons from the curriculum.

Your child must have a reading book for this Reading for Pleasure program. Carrying a reading book is now an essential part of the daily equipment your child is expected to carry each day.

The LaSalle Learning Centre is open every day before and after school and during lunchtimes for students to borrow or renew books.

Why is reading for pleasure important?

When children read for pleasure - when they get “hooked on books” - they acquire nearly all of the literacy skills they will need throughout their school education and the remainder of their lives.

Research with children has shown that reading for pleasure is positively linked with the following literacy-related benefits:

- Reading attainment
- Writing ability
- Text comprehension and grammar
- Breadth of vocabulary
- Improved spelling
- Positive reading attitudes
- Greater self-confidence as a reader
- Pleasure reading in later life

What can you do to help?

Ensure your child carries a reading book with them to school every day to ensure they are equipped for this reading program.

Think about how you could encourage your child to read more at home.

Set aside time each day to read with your child. Whether this is reading their book aloud to you, or reading your own book whilst your child reads theirs.

Talk about the books your child is reading. Ask them questions about the characters, or plot. Ask them what they would do in the character’s situation, or ask them to find you information in the book.

Join the local library and explore the books available there. Young people can sometimes find it difficult to find books they like, it is free to join Bankstown Library and there will be plenty of books to choose from!

LaSalle Catholic College is committed to ensuring your child reaches their potential in our school.

Reading is one of the best ways of improving your child’s chances of success in and out of school and we hope you will be as excited as we are about the prospect of encouraging your child’s reading.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Happy Reading! 

Mr Andrew Sortwell

www.lasalle.nsw.edu.au
LIBRARY NEWS: Sizzling Summer Reads

February in the Learning Centre is focused on exciting reading materials to engage readers of all interests and skill levels. Come on in and browse our new fiction collection. These are just a small selection of the titles available.

Please no food or drink (including water bottles) in the Learning Centre.

The Learning Centre is a NO MOBILE PHONE area.

See you soon. Mrs Nowakowski and Mrs Oparcik (Librarians)

ST FELIX DE VALOIS PARISH NEWS: HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR

St Felix parish celebrated the Lunar New Year on Sunday, 7th February at the 10.00am Mass.

Mass was celebrated by Father Dominic with many of our parishioners involved.

After Mass we were invited to join in the celebration with a luncheon and we were entertained by a traditional dragon dance.

Gong Xi Fa Chai Kung Hei Fatt Choy Chuc Mung Nam Moi

Mrs Anne Saliba

PALMS AUSTRALIA NEED VOLUNTEERS

Communities in Asia, Pacific and Africa are asking for teachers, health and community development workers, administrator, agricultural workers and others. You can assist to mentor local workers in your field of expertise. This will provide opportunities for individuals who have not had the advantage of an Australian education; improve the operations of organisations in vital sectors of local communities and so assist poverty reduction.

If you are unsure about long term volunteering, come and join us for a 13-day guided tour in Timor Leste, which provides an insight into the daily life and work of the communities where our Palms volunteers are hosted.

11 -23 April 2016
4 – 16 July 2016
26 September – 8 October 2016

There are limited places. Enquires need to be processed by February 22nd so call 02 9518 9551 or register interest online: www.palms.org.au/Encounters