Earlier this year, LaSalle Catholic College received widespread public recognition as being one of just 22 Catholic Schools and one of just 79 schools out of 10,000 schools across the country to demonstrate outstanding academic growth in our 2015 NAPLAN results, relating specifically to our students’ achievements in the area of numeracy.

In addition to this, LaSalle students demonstrated growth above the NSW average in 9 out of the 10 numeracy and literacy domains that are assessed by NAPLAN.

It gives me great pleasure to report that in a broad range of areas, our 2016 Year 7 and 9 cohorts have built upon these results to deliver some of the best results for LaSalle Catholic College since NAPLAN testing commenced.

Of particular note in 2016, I would draw our parents, students and community’s attention to the following significant achievements.

- Following the strong focus on academic writing at LaSalle over the past two years, students in Year 9 have received our best results to date in writing, scoring above the NSW average by a considerable margin.

  **Year 9 Writing vs State Average**
  - LaSalle Bankstown: 556.9
  - State Average: 546.8
  - State Average for Boys: 529.3
  - LaSalle = 10.1 above state average
  - LaSalle = 27.6 above state average for boys

- Students in Year 9 have also scored above the NSW state average for boys in the spelling domain.

  **Year 9 Spelling vs State Average for Boys**
  - LaSalle Bankstown: 582.4
  - State Average: 579.7
• Students in Year 7 have placed above the NSW state average in the writing domain.

Year 7 Writing vs State Average

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LaSalle Bankstown</th>
<th>State Average</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LaSalle Average for Boys</td>
<td>517.7</td>
<td>515.5</td>
<td>LaSalle +2.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Average for Boys</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
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<td>LaSalle Average for Girls</td>
<td>539.9</td>
<td>531.4</td>
<td>LaSalle +8.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Average for Girls</td>
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• Students in Year 7 have also placed above the NSW state average in the spelling domain.

Year 7 Spelling vs State Average

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In all 10 domains measured by NAPLAN, students at LaSalle in both Year 7 and Year 9, have recorded growth figures above the NSW average, again by a considerable margin.

Year 9 Growth at LaSalle Compared to the NSW Average

In addition to these significant achievements, the following are also worthy of note:

• Despite NSW Year 9 average Writing scores rising by just 1.8 points since 2015, Writing scores at LaSalle have risen by 34.9 points in the same timeframe

• Despite NSW Year 9 average Reading scores dropping by 0.5 points since 2015, average Reading scores at LaSalle have risen by 20.7 points in the same timeframe

• Despite NSW Year 9 average Spelling scores dropping by 4.5 points since 2015, average Spelling scores at LaSalle have risen by 6.4 points in the same timeframe

• Despite NSW Year 9 average Numeracy scores dropping by 4.1 points since 2015, Numeracy scores at LaSalle have risen by 5.2 points in the same timeframe

• Despite NSW Year 9 average Grammar and Punctuation scores rising by just 1.1 points since 2015, Grammar and Punctuation scores at LaSalle have risen by 12.3 points in the same timeframe

In recognising these most pleasing results, I take the opportunity to congratulate all students in Years 7 and 9 on the work that they have invested into their studies in recent times.

I also take the opportunity to thank and congratulate all the wonderful staff here at LaSalle for their own tireless efforts in working with each of our students by providing them with learning opportunities that encourage them to strive for, and reach, their potential.

Source: NSW DET: SMART2016
MESSAGE FROM OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: Ms LEONIE DOWD

STUDY FOCUS – “We first make our habits and then our habits form us.”

Each week in the Junior and Senior Student Planners a “Study Focus or Wellbeing Focus” is introduced on the left hand page. The focuses are designed to initiate discussion, both at school and at home, on the issues at hand and to promote a partnership approach. Lifelong learning habits must be explicitly cultivated in students; it is rare that they will just pick them up along the way.

Secondary students are often reluctant to share what’s happening at school with their parents or guardians: the Student Planners enable parents and guardians to be involved in their children’s education without their express permission.

Working on the assumption that students should open their planners at least 30 to 40 times a week, there is adequate time and opportunity for the strategy to ‘drip feed’ into their study habits.

The key elements to a successful study found in the Student Planner are - learning skills, pastoral care and wellbeing, healthy living, time management, study strategies and skills, research tools, teamwork – just to name a few.

I encourage you to have a look at your child’s Student Planner and share a learning conversation with them on a weekly basis.

Should you have any queries or concerns regarding your child’s progress please do not hesitate to contact his/her Year Coordinator through the College Office.

Ms Leonie Dowd

FROM OUR LEADER OF LEARNING: Mr David Cloran

2017 YEAR 11 SUBJECT INFORMATION EVENING

On the evening of Wednesday 17th August, students and parents from our Year 10 cohort gathered in the LaSalle Gymnasium for the 2017 Year 11 Subject Information Evening.

This event was the culmination of over a years worth of preparation for students preparing to undertake their HSC in 2018. Building on a range of workshops that were led by various KLA Coordinators in recent weeks, and the academic forecasts that students have received over the past 12 months, each student in Year 10 met with either a KLA Coordinator or member of the College Executive to discuss the study patterns that they would be interested in commencing in their Preliminary course next year.

The outstanding rate of attendance on the evening, combined with the clear level of discernment that our students have undertaken in recent weeks, will go a long way to laying the foundations of what will be a successful Year 12 cohort sitting the HSC in 2018.

I take the opportunity to thank the students, their parents and the teaching staff for all making themselves available for what was a highly successful evening.
YEAR 9 CAMP 2016

On Wednesday, 10th August, 73 chirpy and cheerful Year 9 students headed off to the Great Aussie Bush Camp at Kincumber, on the Central Coast.

Students arrived at the camp around 12.00 noon and were split into three groups of around 25 students. They immediately dived into the activities for the day, which included things like canoeing and the 'Power Fan', which was essentially a bungee jump from a height of around 20m, a nerve-tingling and heart-pumping task for the best of us!

Despite this, most students climbed the bungee pole with confidence and jumped without a second thought! It was an amazing sight to see and a fantastic opportunity for students to step out of their comfort zone.

That night students played a fun game of 'commando', where in groups of three or four they had to find students who were hidden with instructors deep in the bush!

The second day saw students competing in archery, climbing rock-walls, and swinging on 'the Giant Swing'. Students thoroughly enjoyed these activities and thankfully God graced us with a beautiful, sunny day!

During the evening, we had a competition/games night, which saw teams of students compete with one another (and teachers) in games like cup-balancing, bottle-throwing, trivia, fitness activities and more. We then sat around the campfire and had roasted marshmallows, exhausted from two long days of activities and then it was off to bed.
On the final day, students participated in exhilarating activities like abseiling and the 'Leap of Faith'. This is where students had to jump from a platform raised 10 metres in the air, onto a suspended trapeze. It really tested the courage and determination of our students, but nonetheless they overcame their fears and gave it a go!

Overall, the camp was a fantastic experience in terms of bonding and peer-support, with many students thoroughly enjoying the camp as evidence by their exhaustion on the way home! Hopefully the Year 9 Camp is something that they will remember for a lifetime, and cherish as an important moment of character-building as they transition from boys to young adults.

Mr Joshua Rheinberger
YEAR 12 CONSTRUCTION VET

Recently Year 12 Construction VET has worked on a major school project of a concrete footpath around the newly refurbished bottom oval dressing sheds. This was a continuation of our work involving the privacy screens. The students were faced with a huge challenge to pour, screed and finish the large footpath.

The footpath required 6.5 cubic meters of concrete to complete. Students arrived at school at 7:30am ready for the first of three concrete trucks to arrive.

Students worked hard and consistently to get the footpath poured. Due to the tight access most was pour by wheel barrow. I would like to commend the students on their work effort and sure most would have slept well that night after a big day.

I would personally like to thank Mr Egan, Mr Graham and Mrs Prasser, for giving Year 12 the opportunity to take on project work around the school. These projects are authentic learning opportunities that many construction students never have the chance to do.

Also I would like to thank Mr Barret, Mr Parker and Mr Graham for their help and assistance during the day.

Mr Jason Dimovski

YEAR 7 GIRLS BASKETBALL

Our Year 7 Girls Basketball team had their first win of the season beating All Saints Liverpool 46 -10.

The girls have been playing extremely well throughout the season, with some very close matches, one game coming down to one point.

The team has improved greatly with the help of Karlo La Guardia from Year 11 coming down and helping out with some expert knowledge on the game of Basketball.

Team Members: Youngor McGill, Jessica Bui, Malaika Ishak, Daniella Carini, Natalie Lawani, Gabriella El-Arif, Vivian Phan, Laura Hanna, Tiana Cikjaroska, Savannah Landon.

Hopefully we will see continued improvement and achievement from the Year 7 Girls Basketball Team.

Mr Westwood (Coach)
LaSalle Writers’ Shield

This is the third year of the Writers’ Shield, and in light of the high-quality submissions we receive each year the College has allocated some significant prizes to the winners. The best part is that the hard work’s already done - all you have to do now is submit any composition you completed in class, for homework or as an assessment task in any subject since Term 4 last year. You also have the option of creating something completely new to enter into the competition.

Our favourite submissions will also be published in the 2016 Writers’ Shield Anthology.

Once you’ve chosen what to submit, just email your work to Mr Cartledge. Please ensure your name is in the file name and on the document itself.

Mr Peter Cartledge

YEAR 7 HISTORY STUDENTS

Year 7 History students visited Hyde Park Barracks in Macquarie Street and the Royal Botanic Gardens on Domain Drive in the City on Monday 15th August.

At Hyde Park Barracks, built in the 1817’s, students had the opportunity to become ‘real archaeologists’ by excavating in a sand pit to search for ancient artefacts.

Students measured and labelled the various bones and bits of crockery that were discovered within the sandpit. They then spent time touring the museum, in Hyde Park Barracks, learning about the different stages of the convict barracks, the Irish girls’ home, the old lady’s home and in the 1970’s government offices. They even got to lie in the convicts’ hammocks and imagine the bed bugs biting.

After lunch everyone then walked to the Royal Botanic Gardens where we were guided around early colonial gardens created by the people from the landing of the First Fleet.

Students’ then discovered what bush tucker was and the different hunting tools used by the local indigenous Aboriginals.

Students and teachers, alike, learnt something new and all enjoyed the day out.

Ms Gwenda Maude
COMMITMENT · CONFIDENCE · SUCCESS

YEAR 11 PDHPE: ‘Learn to Save a Life’

On Friday 23rd August, the Year 11 PDHPE class took part in a St John Ambulance First Aid Course. The students learnt everything from CPR to How to Bandage an Injury.

The course provides necessary skills to become first aid trained and how to apply first aid in an emergency situation. The students worked extremely hard on the day and should be very proud of their efforts throughout the course.

Mr Westwood (PDHPE Coordinator)

Principal’s Reading Challenge - new books available

All students in Years 7 – 10 should now be well on their way to reading the minimum number of books required for their class target in the Principal’s Reading Challenge.

Look out for more titles every week.

LOTS of favourites too!! Norm series, Treehouse series, new sport books.

Mrs Anne Nowakowski, Mrs Sophie Oparcik

GREAT BOOK SWAP FOR THE LASALLIAN TECHNICAL COLLEGE IN PNG

Monday 5th September – Friday 9th September
Lunchtime in the LaSalle Learning Centre

What is the Great Book Swap?

Bring along a book you love but are ready to part with. Donate it to the Great Book Swap. Bring some gold coins along and you can buy books that other people have donated, or just donate a gold coin. All money raised will go to the Lasallian Technical College in Papua New Guinea, to buy books and literacy resources for the students.

LaSalle aims to raise $300 to purchase books and literacy resources for the Lasallian Technical College, which is managed by the De La Salle Brothers.

“Reading opens doors” is the motto for this years Book Swap. By participating, you can help open a door for these students.

Being a reader is fundamental to learning and opens doors to the future.

How to participate:

Bring a book to swap/Buy a book (gold coin)/Make a donation (gold coin)

Please come along with your books and gold coins to help raise money and open the doors to reading!

Mr Andrew Sortwell
To Our Lasallian Community,

Our next shipping container for donated supplies for our sister schools in Papua New Guinea is underway and is stored at De Lasalle Revesby.

Brother Alf Zoanetti has requested that this container include basic school supplies and NEW stationery. This will be a great help to the students in PNG, who often lack the supplies needed to help them learn.

Our wonderful LYLs will be collecting all donated items outside the front of the staffroom before homeroom and during recess and lunch! We have until the end of Term 3 so please do your best to help with this initiative!

All of the Lasallian schools around Sydney are participating in this campaign, so let’s pitch in to help our sister schools in PNG!

Live Jesus in our hearts forever!