Dear Parents & Carers of our Lasallian Community

You and your family are invited to join us for our first Christmas Carols being held in the College grounds. You are encouraged to bring your picnic basket and blankets. The Canteen will be selling a sausage sizzle and snacks on the night.

Please feel free to bring a hamper donation to be placed in baskets for the

LASALLIAN THANKSGIVING MASS & AWARDS NIGHT

We were fortunate enough to host a Thanksgiving Mass and Awards Night, recognising the contribution of around 80 long-serving staff members across eight Lasallian schools in Sydney.

During the awards ceremony, long serving teachers were each presented with an engraved trophy by Brother Visitor David Hawke and the Executive Director of the Lasallian Mission Council, Mr Merv McCormack.

One of the award recipients was our, Br Gerald Barrett, who has worked a remarkable 43 years as a teacher and Principal in six Lasallian schools across Australia, including over 10 years at our College.

St John Baptist de La Salle,
Pray for us
Live Jesus in our Hearts,
Forever

Michael Egan
Principal
CREATING A PARENT GROUP FOR LASALLE CATHOLIC COLLEGE

It is my intention to re-establish a parent group at the College. To that end I am calling for expressions of interest to form a steering committee of interested parents to get things started. Please register interest with Mrs Anne Saliba on 9793 5600 with a view to an initial meeting in the next few weeks.

Catholic schools have been established by the Church to work in partnership with parents in providing a loving Christian community in which young people can grow in faith and also experience a rewarding, diverse, general education.

Parent Groups exist as part of the school to support the school and its community. As such, they work in collaboration with the school Principal and Parish Priest/s in an advisory capacity.

The Parent Group recognises and values the role that parents/carers play in the education of their children and aims to strengthen the partnership between family, school, parish and the wider community for the benefit of their children’s overall development and learning.

Parent Group functions can include:

♦ reaching out to all associated with the school to build a friendly and welcoming community that seeks to involve all its members;
♦ providing a parental perspective to assist the Principal in decision making;
♦ acting as a mechanism for representing parents when it is appropriate to do so;
♦ raising funds to provide resources and opportunities for enriching the learning environment of the school;
♦ supporting parents/carers in their parental responsibilities and involvement in their children’s learning at home and at school;
♦ providing a forum where matters relating to the education and development of students can be discussed productively;
♦ providing opportunities for parents/carers to gain insights into the life of the school, current developments in education and Catholic education in particular.

FROM OUR LEADER OF LEARNING: MR DAVID CLORAN

2017 YEAR 11 SUBJECT ALLOCATIONS

Over the past fortnight, students in Year 10 have received their subject allocations for Year 11 in 2017. These allocations have been based on the subject selection process held last term, that included multiple KLA workshops, an Information Evening and one-on-one interviews, that were held between each Year 10 student and one of the College’s KLA Coordinators or executive members.

The correct pattern of study for each student, is one that appeals to their interests, strengths and long-term goals.

It is anticipated that the rigorous process that our students have gone through over the past months in confirming their subjects, will see them best placed to experience success in the 2017 HSC.

FROM OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR: Ms Kathryn White

During Christmas time, our society frequently focuses on the materialism of Christmas. However during this season of Advent, we as a Catholic community have the opportunity to reflect on the love God has for us and the true present of Jesus’s presence in the world.

In the spirit of celebrating God’s gift of Jesus, the xt3 website has developed an electronic advent calendar. Each day provides a daily reflection, gospel reading and video. I encourage you all to access the website as a way of reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas! [http://www.xt3.com/advent/](http://www.xt3.com/advent/)
FROM OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: MS LEONIE DOWD

LASALLIAN END OF YEAR MASS AND AWARDS:

On the evening of Thursday, 24th November, the staff gathered for the Lasallian ‘End of Year Thanksgiving Mass and Awards’. Congratulations to Mr Mansour, Mr Jacobs, Ms Akkari, Mrs Singh and Mrs Lee for receiving their Awards of Recognition for 10 years of service, Mrs Finnimore for 20 years of service and Br Gerry for over 40 years of service to the Lasallian community. Such an achievement for you all.

Finally, a big thank you to over 35 staff members who supported our College colleagues by attending the evening. It really was a lovely evening and I must add thanks to Ms White, Mr Jacobs and Ms Akkari for the liturgical celebration, Mrs Newton and team for the hosting the celebrations and the Office staff for the lead-up preparations.

Once again the Senior Leaders made us extremely proud with their attendance and assistance at this event.

SECOND HAND CLOTHES:

As your sons/daughters outgrow their uniforms and new uniforms are purchased for 2017, I would ask that families consider donating items of sports uniform or regular uniforms that are in reasonable condition to the office. It is always a great help for the office to have spare items for students in need.

UNIFORM UPDATE FOR 2017:

Lowes uniform availability: New College uniforms and sports uniforms are now available from Lowes, Central Bankstown. The current caps and sports shirts are still appropriate for 2017 if they are in good condition.

In terms of sports shoes for PDHPE and Thursdays, students will be permitted to wear predominantly black or white sports shoes in 2017.

As previously understood, students are not to wear casual canvas sports shoes or sports shoes without laces as both of these styles are less suitable to participating in PE lessons or sport afternoons.
YEAR 7, 2017 TRANSITION DAY:

Thursday 24th November was an exciting day for our Lasallian community with 175 students nervously, yet so enthusiastic at the same time, arriving at LaSalle for their first LaSalle Transition Day. Day 1 is all about determining what learning styles best suit each student so the first few periods were spent conducting a ‘test’.

After this, the students and Senior Leaders enjoyed an afternoon of team sports on the College ovals. I thank Mr Cartledge and the Office staff for all work in preparation for this day.

END OF TERM 4:

Thursday morning 15th December commences at the normal time of 8.25am.

As previously advised there will be no canteen services on Wednesday 13th or Thursday 14th.

Students should bring something to eat/drink for Recess.

Our End-of-Year Mass will be at 9.00am on Thursday, 14th in the Gym.

Congratulations to the many students who will be receiving an award at our Annual Awards Ceremony on Thursday morning, beginning at 10.00am.

Students receiving awards will be advised next week. Students will be dismissed at approximately 12.30pm on Thursday.

This day formally concludes the 2016 academic year.

There will be an opportunity for families to participate in our Parent/Teacher/Student interviews on Friday 16th November.

God bless,
Leonie Dowd
SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY 2016

On Wednesday, 16th November, a group of Year 10 students attended Sydney Catholic School’s Annual Social Justice Day. The theme for the day was based on the Australian Catholic Bishop’s Social Justice Statement ‘A Place at the Table: Social Justice in an Ageing Society’ which focused on raising awareness to the problems and inequities experienced by Australia’s elderly.

The day involved a presentation by Sister Patty Fawkner about her experience with elderly nuns and how they taught her to continuously “work on love”. Students were placed into groups with students from a variety of Southern Region Catholic schools and were able to share their experiences of their grandparents and discuss ways that schools can improve the lives of the elderly in their local community.

Students had the opportunity to have morning tea with elderly members of the Burwood community and asked them a variety of questions about their life, inequities they’ve experienced and how to overcome issues experienced by the elders of our community.

Our students met a wonderful couple named Monica and Stan, who spoke to the boys about their life and gave them advice for their future. Monica even performed a fantastic rap for the boys, making it very hard for the boys to ever forget Monica and Stan.

The Year 10 students were motivated and inspired to make an even larger difference to the Bankstown community as a result of the day. Each of the students would like to share one significant lesson they learnt from the day with the school community:

“I am inspired to improve our social justice initiatives at the College so that we can have an even greater impact on our community.” Ryan Bao Do

“Learn to love the elderly as they have so much knowledge and experience to help guide us.” Justin Livrinik

“We all need to find a place in our heart for our elderly family members, as they’ve always had us in their hearts.”
Albert Saju

“It is important to take time out and spend time with the elderly to ensure they feel valued!” Nathan Galvin-Valencia

“When an elderly person dies, we lose a library!” Kiefe Ha

“Eye opening experience about just how significant our elderly community is!” Ryan Pham

Ms Therese Harb

RESPECT the elderly when you’re YOUNG.
HELP the weak when you’re STRONG.
ADMIT your mistakes when you’re WRONG.
Because one day, you will grow OLD, become WEAK and expect others to show you some RESPECT.
CHESS COMPETITION

On November 29th, LaSalle Catholic College participated in an invitational chess competition at Holy Cross College, Ryde.

The teams consisted of:

Intermediate 1: Damian Livrinik, John Attieh, Nikola Mitreski
Intermediate 2: Chade Alasbar, Kirolos Messiha, Collin Phan
Junior 1: Ian Nguyen, Bryan Nguyen, Jayden Lloyd
Junior 2: Johny Khouri, Marcus Huynh, Alexander Nguyen
Junior 3: Hieu Nguyen, Brandon Truong, Andy Ho
Junior 4: Nicholas Zdarksoski, Jason Issy, Jamie Nguyen
Junior 5: Michael Pousini, Johnathon Och, Peter Do

The boys performed very well as the Intermediate 1 team came 3rd in their division and the Junior 1 team achieved 2nd in their division. The competition consisted of five rounds and the teams with the most wins achieved the most points.

The boys enjoyed the day and learnt new strategies for their next competition. 

Mr Boulos Mansour

LASALLE STUDENTS ASSISTING AT ST JOHN VIANNEY’S PRIMARY SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Thursday 24th November, eleven Year 11 and Year 10 students performed duties as volunteers at the annual St John Vianney’s Catholic Primary School Swimming Carnival. The excursion allowed students to apply their knowledge of sports management and on instructing an array of fun sporting activities.

The students demonstrated patience, kindness, maturity and responsibility taking on a variety of roles such as lifeguards, directing students, assisting with managing swimming events and encouraging the young children.

The following students are to be commended for the effort on the day; Benjie Asomaning, John Awad, Jayden Gulasi, Anthony Kazanis, Tanner Kerem, Faiauga Tai, Binh Tran, Gianni Botero-Ruiz, Jonathan Cakovski, Martin Nguyen.

Mr Andrew Sortwell

LASALLE CUP

On Friday 25th November, LaSalle Catholic College hosted the Annual LaSalle Cup which features Lasallian schools from Bankstown, Revesby and Caringbah. Students from all three schools participated in Oz Tag, Soccer, Basketball and Volleyball.

The main focus of the day was on participation and giving students from the Lasallian schools the opportunity to socialise with one another in a sporting environment.

Congratulations to all schools for their participation on the day and their great display of sportsmanship.

Mr Michael Daher
SALT Program Comes To LaSalle Catholic College

The Saint Yon Trade Training Centre played host to the SALT (Supporting And Linking Tradeswomen) team last Friday. This was an opportunity for girls to hear about, and experience the joys and rewards of training in a non-traditional trade pathway.

Put simply, the girls were involved in a training day that allowed them to work with woodworking hand tools and machinery, to produce a timber project.

The training day was lead by Fi Shewring and assisted by five other tradeswomen, featuring a number of carpenters and electricians. The girls all attend neighbouring Catholic Colleges, Aquinas and St John Bosco Colleges. Colleges that have traditionally provided senior students for industry training at Saint Yon TTC.

The energy and enthusiasm from both, the students and the trainers throughout the day was evident. A media representative from ABC Radio conducted interviews throughout the day whilst executives from both Sydney Catholic Schools and private industry were also present during the program and walked away highly impressed.

Aims of the SALT training day revolved around establishing the day as an annual event, exposing the girls to a non-traditional trade pathway and to showcase the LaSalle Trade Centre to a wider audience. Each aim was successfully achieved.

Thank you to all people involved for making our initial SALT Day such a wonderful success. 

Keith Porter

LEARNING SUPPORT TRANSITION DAY:

On Monday, November 14th, the Learning Support Transition Day for the new 2017 Year 7 class was held at LaSalle.

Both parents and students gathered for a Morning Tea in Room D222 to meet the Principal, Mr Michael Egan, some of the teachers and Year 7 Coordinator.

The students were taken through a Transition Booklet that explained some school procedures and expectations, went for an informal walk around the school and had some ice-breaker activities.

The highlight of the afternoon was the building of the Spaghetti Tower with just spaghetti, marshmallows and a lot of imagination. This produced a lot of fun and laughter. The day was declared a success and the students are looking forward to starting High School next year.

A big Thank You to our Year 8 mentors Erik Chacko, Aian De La Rosa, Owen Hua, Jayden Lloyd and Daniel Trinder who helped out on the day with a warm Lasallian enthusiasm.

The Learning Support Team
SYDNEY WRITERS FESTIVAL TALK AND WORKSHOP WITH JOHN LARKIN

On Friday, 25th November, Year 9 Solomon was fortunate enough to attend the Sydney Writers Festival Talk & Workshop with John Larkin, at Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre.

John Larkin is a Sydney-based author and teacher who grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney. John’s The Shadow Girl won the Victorian Premier’s Literary Awards Prize for Writing for Young Adults 2012, and The Pause won the Queensland Literary Awards Griffith University Young Adult Book Award 2015.

In the workshop, John Larkin shared his top 10 tips for creative writing and gave the students an opportunity to embrace their creative side. His Author Talk Topic: From Laughter to Tears. The Story behind the Story was thoroughly entertaining and had the students and teachers in fits of laughter and tears.

The students were inspired by John Larkin and have returned to English with great enthusiasm. It was a fantastic day for our Solomon students and may these enrichment opportunities continue.

Ms Mary Connor

2016 IN THE LEARNING CENTRE

2016 has been another great year in the Learning Centre! We have enjoyed sharing so many fantastic new books with our readers. We are happy to have been able to purchase many of the titles suggested by students.

If you are reading a series of books and we are missing some of the titles let us know and we will do our best to buy the whole set. Look out for new titles already ordered for 2017 - lots more graphic novels.

We were very pleased to be able to provide access to the most up-to-date HSC Study Guides for our senior students. New study guides for Preliminary HSC courses will be purchased in 2017.

All of our card-playing customers will be excited to know that new packs of UNO cards and playing cards are ready for your enjoyment from Day 1, 2017.

Happy holidays!

Please remember:

All Learning Centre resources

MUST be returned by Wednesday December 7th.

Mrs Nowakowski, Mrs Oparcik, Mrs Kostecki and Mr Hawach