from the principal

**Last Sunday**...saw the commencement of the Advent season. Advent is the time we are reminded that our God draws near. Long ago God came as one of us. Through the ages God continues to come as Spirit, as Word, as bread and wine, and in each one of us when we reach out to those in need. Believing in a God who draws near to his children, we wait; we hope and we work for a more just, loving and peaceful world. As we make this Advent journey we invite God to come again and again so that our waiting, our hoping and our praying may give way to God’s promise to come in glory.

*Father, in the wilderness of the Jordan you sent a messenger to prepare people’s hearts for the coming of your Son. Help me to hear his words and repent, so that I may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak, and the life to live for Him, our Lord Jesus Christ.*
*Amen.*

Over the past couple of weeks...students in their pastoral classes have been raising money for the St Vincent De Paul Christmas appeal. Can I commend the students on the innovative ways they have been fundraising and the enthusiasm in which they have entered in to the spirit of this initiative. For them to look beyond themselves and strive to help others in this way is a valuable lesson and a quality we hope they will carry with them always.

**On Tuesday the 3rd December**...our Year 11 2014 cohort joined us at the College for an Orientation Day. The day consisted of an assembly and some preparatory work for next year followed by lunch. At the assembly a number of our Musicians and singers (Isabelle Hanly, Max Burns, Nicole Lenton, Jaiden Connell, Rory McDonnell and Carter Quinn) did an outstanding job performing for the new students. Our College Leaders welcomed the new students and our Captains (Carter Quinn and Heloise Hurst) and Vice Captains (Chloe Miller and Will Stratford) spoke about their first year at Cronulla and their experiences and learnings. I cannot commend highly enough the students who presented, they are outstanding role models for our community.

**Congratulations**...to Justin Armstrong whose major work for Design and Technology Geodesic Dog House has been selected for Design TECH an exhibition for outstanding Major Design Projects developed by HSC Students. These works will be on show at the Powerhouse Museum and the NSW Regional tour. A great effort from Justin.

As the year draws to a close we farewell some staff who are embracing new opportunities. Can I thank on behalf of the community these teachers for their service and commitment to the College

**Mrs Belinda Westwood**...who is the PDHPE/Sports Coordinator who has run this department efficiently for the past six years and been a member of staff for nine years.

**Mrs Amina Fisher**...who has been on staff for five years and is the e-Learning Coordinator. She has made a great contribution to the integration of technology into our teaching and Learning practices.

**Miss Jessica Harper**...who took up a temporary position this year in the English faculty. We wish them all well as they begin the next part of their career.
from the principal cont.

A big thank you...to the De La Salle Brothers for their continued presence in and support of our community this year. We are truly blessed to have them on site and sharing their wisdom with us.

As this is the final newsletter for 2013...can I thank on behalf of Phil Gane and myself all our parents for their support over the year and wish all of the Lassallian community a very happy and Holy Christmas.

God Bless

Craig Mooney
Acting Principal

from the assistant principal

As we draw near to the end...of the school year I would like to congratulate students and staff on their enthusiasm and focus. This is a wonderful school in terms of both academic effort and achievement but more importantly the Catholic ethos that is deeply embedded through the Lasallian traditions is evident in this community. Each of us is encouraged to care for one another and are challenged to follow Jesus example in serving the needs of those less fortunate. This has been abundantly evident recently with the ground swell of participation in raising money for the St Vincent De Paul Christmas appeal to support our local families in need in a joyous and generous manner.

On Tuesday 17th December...we will celebrate our final year ‘Thanksgiving’ mass together as a Catholic community where we will also acknowledge the academic success of our students who have completed their Preliminary Studies.

Congratulations...once more to all our Year 12 Graduates and I wish you every success in your future endeavours. We look forward celebrating your academic success at our HSC/ATAR brunch at 10am Thursday 19th December. To Year 12 2014, you have made a committed and focused start to your HSC studies so enjoy a well earned break and be prepared to take up the challenge of achieving your personal best when we meet back here again in January.

To our new Year 11 students 2014...who participated enthusiastically in our Orientation Day Tuesday 3rd December we look forward to you forming a significant membership in our Lasallian Community. Early Term 1 you will receive feedback on the Literacy task you sat on the day which will help us support your studies by identifying your individual strengths and weaknesses and enables staff to design appropriate learning strategies to deepen your understanding and skills across all courses chosen for the Higher School Certificate.

I would like take this opportunity to wish students and their families a Happy and Holy Christmas season and look forward to working with you all in the New Year.

Mrs Michelle Morrison
Assistant Principal

On Saturday...Maddie and I had the pleasure of attending the St Vincent De Paul Brekky Van in the city with Mrs Morison. On such a cold morning it was hard to imagine that without the brekky van so many people would have to go without a breakfast to warm them up. Waiting in the rain, we met dozens of people waiting for the van to arrive. We had the opportunity to meet other volunteers and serve a hot brekky to our friends in Prince Alfred Park. I would encourage all who volunteered for the training last term to take this opportunity as it not only makes a great impact on the needy but also yourself.

Written by
Jessica Coe and Madeline Bulmer (Students)

The annual Lasallian Encounter Day...took place on Tuesday December 3rd. A group of Year 12 students represented the College and travelled to La Salle College, Bankstown. For the past eight years the Sydney Lasallian Youth Ministry Team has organized a leadership day for Year 12 Lasallian Youth Leaders and School Leaders. It has been an opportunity for senior students to interact with young people from Lasallian schools across the Sydney district during a day that explores leadership and our common Lasallian heritage. A variety of workshops were held during the day focusing on role modeling, different ways of praying, and being able to better talk about faith. The students that attended were introduced to a larger Lasallian network and enhanced their leadership skills and understanding of Lasallian values. I would like to thank those students and staff who attended, knowing they will be able to share their experiences with their peers.

Afternoon tea with the Brothers...took place again last week with a group of students and teachers gathering with the Brothers for prayer and a very relaxing afternoon tea on the balcony. This was another wonderful opportunity to be able to talk about a variety of issues concerning the College and students in a beautiful, peaceful setting.

Maree Cullen
Religious Coordinator
St Vincent de Paul Fundraising...Roll Call classes are continuing to organise activities in order to raise funds for St Vincent de Paul. So far we have had a pizza day, an ice cream day, a sausage sizzle, a cake and lolly stall, a Santa Photo booth and a candy cane stall. Coming up will be a Haunted House experience and a raffle for a giant chocolate hamper. Thank you to all the students and Pastoral Teachers for their enthusiasm and organisation. Thank you to all students and teachers who supported these fabulous activities. A big thank you also goes to the Shelley Family (Casey) and Mr Harper (father of teacher Jessica) for donating drinks to sell.

The year is at an end...and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our students for their enthusiasm, compassion for others, friendliness, politeness and awareness of the needs of others. At the start of the year we asked; "Who will speak if you don't?" and speak you did!

Year 11/12- you are a wonderful Year Group and we are impressed. Thank you to our wonderful families for your support of the College. You should feel very proud of your efforts in raising such fine young men and women.

To everyone, have a Happy Christmas and a relaxing holiday and we will do it all over again in 2014!

Josie Raftery
Year 11 Co-ordinator

LA CUCINA CLASS CHEF’S RESTAURANT EXPERIENCE...Year 12 Hospitality Specialisation Study students successfully ‘overtook’ La Cucina Restaurant, Cronulla on Wednesday November 27th. Our young chefs planned and prepared a three course meal of exceptional standard to a full restaurant. One of the guests, a former Masterchef contestant, Niki, commented that, “the entrée of salt and pepper calamari was even better than the one that I presented on the television series that won me ‘dish of the day’”.

We would like to thank owner of La Cucina, Nicole Cattalini for hosting us for the evening, for all of our guests for your support of the night, and to our wonderful students for their enthusiasm and culinary skills that were shown.

Wait staff: Alexandra Bielby, Hayley Bouttell, Phebe Dutton, Lauren Rofe, Ms Gamsaragan.

Yvette Kennedy/ Michelle Chidzey
Hospitality Teachers

Just a short note...to congratulate all students on their positive approach to their studies and the mature way in which they have embraced their first HSC term.

May I take the opportunity to wish all parents, students and the wider Lasallian community a happy, safe and prosperous festive season.

I look forward to seeing you all in the new year, ready to continue your HSC studies in earnest.

Antonio Ginestra
Curriculum Coordinator

from the year 11 coordinator

from the curriculum coordinator

from the hospitality department
from the pdhpe department

Congratulations...to Maddison Nusdorfer who has been selected into the NSW CCC Girls Open Waterpolo team.

Belinda Westwood
PDHPE Coordinator

from the youth ministry

This week...Lauren Chadwick, Thomas Hodel, Daniel Nikitaras and Derek O’Brien will attend the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne. The Australian Catholic Youth Festival is a national gathering of Catholic young people that exists to provide young people with opportunities to deepen their relationship with Jesus. Through their participation in various workshops, conferences and themed spaces, they will be empowered to be disciples in the world today and encounter and celebrate the vitality of the Church in Australia. We wish them all the best in this journey.

Christopher Pocock
Youth Ministry Coordinator

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy, Safe and Prosperous New Year from all the Teachers and Staff

from the careers advisor

Good Luck...to all our HSC candidates awaiting the results of their exams and my best wishes to each of you for the future.

Opportunities available locally recently advised to us:
2 Apprenticeship positions:
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Endeavour Air Cond., Ph.9585 9955
1st Yr Apprentice, Carpenter, Hanem Group, Ph. 9526 5646
Plumbing Apprenticeships, MPAL (Master plumbers), Ph.8789 7050

Our current students...are reminded that the University’s own Orientation Days coming up in January whilst focusing on enrolling students, also offer an opportunity to visit the Universities of interest to you and to ‘check them out’ for yourselves – see what’s on offer – facilities, courses, scholarships, international exchange etc., etc.

Also, for all current students, a brief interview with the Careers Adviser (some already begun) will be conducted in ‘Study’ class time in the Library over the coming weeks (and into Term 1 next year). The aim being firstly to establish that each student has realised that their own senior HSC studies here are now half over, and that this time next year, they themselves will be ‘signing out’ and moving on to whatever comes next ???

Secondly, establishing for each student a clearer career/study pathway, aim or goal, which will hopefully give more purpose to the effort that the coming 12 months will require.

While some students have a fairly clear career/study path they are already considering – others are still unsure. There are lots of options – but, which ones? Then, which one? Whilst it is a big task, starting this research process sooner rather than later is obviously preferable. With a few suggestions to help, students can begin making their own enquiries now and over the summer break. Gathering information on Jobs, and Courses and who offers them will form the basis for comparisons and finally, selections for preferred options for each student in 2015.

It is a big task – but it’s exciting – lots of options to investigate, let’s get started.

Cheryl Brown
Careers Advisor
Our Lady of Fatima Parish Caringbah warmly invite you to

**Carols on the Oval**

Saturday December 14th at 7:30pm

(Gates open 6:30 pm)

Gather your family and friends, a chair or blanket, and join us on the Parish Oval (outside the Church) to sing carols with some of our finest local singers (including Mark Vincent)

Bring a picnic and a candle, or grab a sausage sandwich and a flameless LED candle when you arrive

389 Port Hacking Road Caringbah
Parking onsite by gold coin donation to St Vincent de Paul