Welcome to Galen!

The Junior School came alive once again on Friday when 196 new Year 7 students arrived for their first day of Secondary School. The students were welcomed by Principal, Mr Bernard Neal and then introduced to staff members who would be assisting them throughout the day. Once the formalities were over, students spent the morning in their homeroom groups getting to know each other and going through important information. During period 3 and 4 the Year 7 students were given their first taste of classes at Galen and then got to spend the afternoon enjoying some time at the Olympic swimming pool. What a great first day at Galen!

Continued on page 3
Dear Parents,

As you will all be aware, the 2011 end of year student reports were mailed home at the end of term 4.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child’s report please contact myself, Darren Hovey, Deputy Principal: Teaching and Learning via email darren.hovey@galen.vic.edu.au or phone 5721 6322.

Regards
Darren Hovey

ATTENTION: Year 7 & 8 students
Look out for…..

The Junior Science Quiz
and
Bug Club
Coming Soon!

WHAT’S ON
FEBRUARY

8th - 10th
Year 12 Retreats

Mon 13th
10OED: Intro Canoe

Tues 14th
Yr 7 Laptops

12OES: Intro Kayak

Wed 15th
Yr 10 “For Our Hero”

Yr 7 Open Afternoon

VCE Jumper Pres

Thurs 16th
Swim Sports

Board Meeting

Fri 17th 11
OES: Intro Kayak

10OED: Intro Canoe

Tues 21st
School Photos

Yr 7 Laptops

Wed 22nd
Opening Mass

Yr 7 Laptops

Thurs 23rd
Yr 8 Author

Laptop Renewal

Fri 24th
Yr 8 Author

11OES: Kayak

28th - 29th
12OES: Kayak

Wed 29th
Laptop Renewal

For the full Term 1 Calendar, see page 7 of this newsletter.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to our first newsletter for the new school year at Galen!

I trust that you have enjoyed and made the most of the more frequent company of your children over the Christmas and summer break.

On Friday, we welcomed back the students in Years 11 and 12, and also welcomed the arrival of our new Year 7s. As I said to the students of all three year levels, an education at Galen is an education rich in opportunities for involvement, personal development and making lifelong friendships. For the Year 7s, this means a new and dazzling array of experiences as they commence their secondary school years. There was much excitement, enthusiasm and anticipation as the Year 7s gathered on Friday morning for their first year-level assembly and then progressed to their classrooms with their homeroom teachers.

For the VCE and VCAL students in Years 11 &12, there was also a great deal of excitement as they assembled. With the benefit of the Headstart program under their belts, these students slotted into a smooth continuation of the work they started last November. For the Year 12s, the routine for the start of the year includes their three-day retreat on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week at either Hume Weir or Howman’s Gap campsites. For many Year 11s, the start of the year routine will include dancing practice for the Presentation Balls in May.

At the time of writing this article, the Years 8, 9 & 10 students have not yet returned – we are eagerly awaiting their arrival on Monday.

I hope that 2012 is a rewarding and joy-filled year for you and your children!

Great news for Galen!

At the very end of last year, just prior to Christmas, we received news that Galen’s application had been successful for a $1 million grant from the federal government to build a Trade Training Centre as part of a larger consortium of schools. This money will be used to boost two areas of our vocational education and training curriculum: firstly, to virtually double the existing Food Technology centre and establish a state of the art Hospitality facility; secondly, to provide new equipment for our Engineering students.

Galen is the lead school in this consortium which also includes FCJ College Benalla, Sacred Heart College Yarrawonga, and Borinya Community Partnership Wangaratta. Almost $4 million will be shared by the four schools, with Galen’s share being $995,000. Building will begin in the middle of this year and the complex will be ready for the start of the 2013 school year. Students from each school will have the opportunity to access each other’s facilities and therefore broaden their study options.

There will be more progress reports as we work our way through the various stages of the project. This promises to be a great advantage for our senior students from 2013 onwards!

Vale, Paul Lewis

The Galen community was deeply saddened by the death of long-serving staff member, Paul Lewis, who passed away during the holiday break after a two year battle with cancer. “Lewie” was one of the longest – serving members of Champagnat / Galen having been at the school for well over 30 years. He had been on sick leave since near the end of 2009 when his cancer was first diagnosed. Although I only knew Paul for the past two years, it was clear from the eulogies at his funeral that he was a much-loved member of the Galen family, a loving and devoted father and an excellent educator. He will be sorely missed. Rest in peace, Paul “Lewie” Lewis.

New staff for 2012

We welcome the following new staff to Galen Catholic College and wish them well in guiding and supporting the learning of your children:

- Irene Apostolopoulos (Maths/Science)
- Beth Code (Music)
- Tegan McKeown (Outdoor Education/Discovery)
- Michael McKenzie (Junior School Officer)
- Eliza McMonigle (Junior School Officer)
- Greg Matulich (Maths/Science)
- Jacquie Pengelly (Physical Education)
- Gerard Sullivan (Deputy Principal – Catholic Identity)
- Carly Van Den Heuvel (Office trainee)
- Lucy Walch (Junior School Officer)

Bernard Neal
Principal
Welcome,
Bishop Les Tomlinson!

It is official – Sandhurst has a new Bishop!

Bishop Les Tomlinson will be installed as our new Bishop at a ceremony in Bendigo on March 1.

Bishop Les is currently an Auxiliary Bishop in Melbourne where he is the Vicar General.

No doubt there will be opportunities to meet and greet Bishop Les over the coming months. His predecessor, Bishop Joe, was passionate in his commitment to and involvement with young people in the diocese – let’s hope and pray for something similar from Bishop Les, albeit in his own style and manner.

In celebrating the appointment of our new Bishop, we should also reflect on the great work of Monsignor Frank Marriott who has been holding the fort in an acting capacity since the untimely death of Bishop Joe.

Bishop Les has made the following statement regarding his new appointment:

“I am very humbled by the confidence that His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI and his advisers have shown in me, by appointing me as Bishop of Sandhurst. I am greatly delighted to accept this appointment.

Having been born and brought up in Mildura, just north of the Sandhurst Diocese, I am no stranger to country life. In reflecting on over almost forty years of my Priesthood, I believe that the richest and most fulfilling aspect of my ministry has been my work as a pastor. I look forward to being bishop and pastor of the clergy and people of the Diocese of Sandhurst. Just over twelve months ago we were all deeply saddened by the sudden and untimely death of my predecessor, Bishop Joe Grech. Bishop Joe’s gifts to Sandhurst were many, but significantly amongst them was his unmistakable enthusiasm for and deep commitment to the Lord Jesus. As each of us is different, I pray that I can make my contribution to the Diocese through my gifts, to further build the life of Christ in the Sandhurst Diocese.

I am looking forward very much to the move to Bendigo, becoming part of the Church there and fulfilling my role of leadership as Bishop, Teacher and Pastor of the Diocese of Sandhurst.”

Junior School News Lauren Lee, Junior School Director

On Monday it was time to welcome back the Year 8 students. Everyone looked well rested and ready to take on the challenges of a new school year. The main message for these students was that it is their time to step up and become the leaders of the Junior School, a task they are well equipped to succeed at.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome a number of new staff members to Galen College and the Junior School;

• Mr Gerard Sullivan who has come to us from Marion College in Myrtleford. Gerard is our new Deputy Principal: Catholic Identity and will be taking a Year 7 class for Religious Education as well as sharing a homeroom with Miss Marisa Cudini.
• Miss Irene Apostolopoulos, a graduate teacher from Melbourne. Irene will be teaching Maths and Science in the Junior School as well as being the homeroom teacher of 8/6.
• Miss Jacqui Pengelly, a graduate teacher from Wodonga. Jacqui will be teaching Science, Physical Education and Health in the Junior School.
• Miss Beth Code, a graduate teacher from Melbourne. Beth will be teaching Music in the Junior School as well as taking some of the students for instrumental music lessons.
• Mr Greg Matulich, who has come to us from Melbourne. Greg will be teaching Maths and Science in the Junior School.

Finally, a reminder to parents on how to contact teachers via email: Firstname.lastname@galen.vic.edu.au

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Middle School News Keith Willett, Middle School

Monday, February 6th saw the arrival and commencement of the Year 9 and 10, Middle School students.

As is always the case on the first day of the year there are a wide range of expectations and reactions from both students and teachers. Its always great to get back and catch up with friends and colleagues but we also need to prepare for another year of working to our potential and making the most of what Galen College has to offer.

A special welcome to new students in Years 9 and 10. We have introduced a buddy system to support the new students as they begin this next stage of their education at Galen. In upcoming newsletters we intend to supply a photo and a few words of introduction to all of the new enrolments in Years 9 and 10.

A welcome is also extended to the Year 9 and 10 Homeroom Teachers and Year Level Coordinators who are as listed below:

Year 9: Wendy Chuck, Kate Howard, Greg Matulich, Jacqui Pengelly, Christine Duff, Tegan McKeown and Jamesbourne (Coordinator).
Year 10: Olga Byrne, Shannon Murphy, Alicia Howard, Betty Holdsworth, James Heath, Rob Parsons, Gretta Norden, Paul Benedetti and Liz Morrow (Coordinator).

Day one was very busy. Lots of organisation, information and getting back into the routine of school. One of the initiatives at Galen this term will be in the form of ‘focus weeks’ where we encourage and promote student adherence to different school policies and processes. Uniform, punctuality, litter control are examples of the sort of issues that may become the topic of a focus week. The first of these focus weeks will take place shortly.

Finally I would like to encourage all students to take advantage of the huge number of opportunities that are offered at Galen. Whether it be academic, sporting, leadership, theatre, music or social justice there is a huge array of opportunities of which students can take advantage and ensure that their time in the Middle School in 2012 is both rewarding and memorable.
Senior School News

Mick Grogan, Senior School Director

Welcome back to all the students and teachers who have been at Galen Catholic College previously and a special welcome to the students who are joining us for the first time in the Senior School. We hope that you will enjoy your time here and that you are ready to engage fully in the many opportunities on offer. The Senior School Teaching team consists of the following personnel:

- Year 12 Co-ordinator: Mrs. Anne O’Dwyer
- Year 11 Co-ordinator: Mr Edwin Evans
- Work and Further Education Co-ordinator: Mr Rob Walker,
- Year 12 Homeroom Teachers: Mr. Hovey, Mr. Rispin, Mrs. Albertson, Mrs. Evans, Mrs Kittel, Mrs Nolan/Mrs Bromley,
- VCAL Homeroom Teachers: Mr. Holligan/ Miss Timms
- Year 11 Homeroom Teachers: Mr Faithfull, Miss Scarce, Mr Samon, Mr Ellis, Mrs Watson, Mr Webster, Mr Carson/Mrs Cobain.

Please don’t hesitate to contact your child’s homeroom teacher should the need arise.

At the assembly to welcome back students on Friday, a special tribute to Mr. Paul Lewis affectionately known as ’Lewie’ was conducted. Paul who taught for 34 years at the College was a loyal colleague, caring teacher and wonderful father to Jess and Daniel. As we start a new school year we will do so with sadness at Galen Catholic College. Paul is inextricably linked to the history of the college in so many ways. We will in due course, ensure that a special reminder will be put in place to acknowledge the contribution of Paul Lewis who passed our way.

Congratulations to our School Captains for 2012, Nathan Whinray and Mary Paimo. Nathan, Mary, Jacinta Cooper, Kellie Closter and Darcy Marum recently attended the YLead leadership camp and have come back enriched and ready to inspire others. Congratulations to the other Year 12 SRC students Andrew Spence, Josh Schonafinger, Jacinta Cooper and Katie Faithfull. The VCAL and Year 11 SRC students will be announced shortly.

Michael Naughtin, Fletcher Barnes and Chris Traill enjoyed an enlightening experience at the National Youth Science Forum over the break and wish to acknowledge the support received from Rotary and Galen College that enabled this opportunity.

We also welcome back the students who traveled to Italy on exchange and trust that they have been enriched by the wonderful opportunity to participate first hand in a sophisticated culture, steeped in art and history.

The Year 12 students will be on retreat as this newsletter goes to print. The retreats will take place at Howman’s Gap in the mountains and at the Lake Hume resort. We look forward to receiving about their experiences upon their return.

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Julie Nolan, Director of Arts

It is with great pleasure that I announce that the 2012 whole school production will be the much loved Wizard of Oz. This production is scheduled to take place in April on Thursday the 26th, Friday 27th and Saturday 28th at the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre.

The whole school production is open to all students and I encourage the younger students who love performing to sign up. The students can participate in a number of ways either by acting on stage, constructing the set, working back stage, performing as a dancer or playing in the orchestra.

All information on how to sign up is conveyed through the morning bulletin. Students are currently going through the audition process with parts announced in the next newsletter. For further information please email julie.nolan@galen.vic.edu.au.

Australian Air Force Cadets

Looking for a challenge? Want to push yourself to the limits?

Thought about flying an aircraft before you drive? Want to try gliding or abseiling? Enjoy teamwork? Consider yourself a future ‘leader’? Considering a military career?

Are you aged between 13 & 18 (at Feb 2012)?

If you answered YES to ANY of these questions, then come to our:

INFORMATION EVENING

Sunday 12 February 2012, 5pm-6:30pm. 412 Squadron - Australian Air Force Cadets. Cnr Avalon St & Dalton Place, Albury Airport. For more information please contact FLTLT (AAFC) DANNY SALMON: 0427 414 894 Email: co.412sqn@aafc.org.au

Check out our National website at www.aafc.org.au

Defence Technical Scholarships

The Defence Technical Scholarship (DTS) is designed for Year 11 and 12 students studying maths. It is a scholarship focused on students undertaking a technical trade pathway, not a tertiary pathway. There is no commitment for DTS recipients to join the Australian Defence Force (ADF); however students must demonstrate an interest in ADF Technical Trades to complete the application process. The Scholarship provides $2000 for Year 11 and $3000 for Year 12 students. You can get an application pack from Mr Walker the Careers Advisor. Applications must be handed in by the 29th February.

Advice on the Application Form

The scenario question this year is more complex than previous years. The ADF suggest when your students look at Question 3 they need to spend some time at http://www.navy.gov.au/Canberra_Class.

Exchange Program Bursary Winners 2011

Franco Cudini, LOTE & Exchange Coordinator

The 2012 Bursary winners were Andrew Spence, Francis Samon, Josh Schonafinger, and Jack Sorrensen (pictured with Bernard Neal, Principal). These yearly bursaries of $500 each are made available by Galen in association with partner exchange agencies. Galen has 7 students recently returned from Italy where they were on 2 months exchange.

As part of the LOTE Italian course, the exchange program is conducted at the end of Year 11 in order to complement and maximize the student’s VCE language outcomes. Students return with increased fluency in Italian and a much greater appreciation of Italy and its culture.

This overseas immersion experience is then further extended and developed by formal studies of VCE unit 3 & 4 at Galen where lessons are conducted predominantly in the target language of Italian.
Year 7 Boys Tennis
Michelle Hill

Congratulations to Galen’s 2011 Year 7 boys’ tennis team, (consisting of Matthew Wilson, Sam Harvey, Zac Sullivan, Fletcher Stewart and Harry Condon) who finished third in the state VSSSA competition. The boys ultimately fell short at the last hurdle, when they were beaten in Melbourne by sports high school, Maribyrnong College and Glen Waverly Secondary College.

Thanks to Mr Robert Freyer, grandfather of Matthew for driving the bus, Mrs Deb Stewart for generously providing embroidered caps for all the team (including the coach!), and to the following family members and friends who travelled to Melbourne to support the boys – Robert and Dianne Freyer, Barry and Maree Sullivan, Deb Stewart, Paula Wilson, Beverly Harvey and John Voss.

Congratulations to the boys, who all displayed great sportsmanship during every match they played and who were terrific ambassadors for Galen. I was very proud to be involved with you all.

Avoiding the February Asthma Spike
Some information from the Asthma Foundation of Victoria

What is the February asthma spike?
Throughout the year there are significant increases, or ‘spikes’, in asthma presentations to hospitals and emergency departments. Approximately 1 in 9 children in Australia have asthma, and for children and adolescents with asthma these ‘spikes’ usually occur towards the end of holiday periods as they return to school and preschool. A significant ‘spike’ in asthma symptoms (and subsequent hospital admissions) of children and adolescents occurs throughout the first few weeks of February. The following are key points that are important for parents and carers to be aware of.

Why does the spike occur?
While there have not been direct links established, the February ‘asthma spike’ is believed to be largely due to children and adolescents coming into contact with asthma triggers that they have had time away from, as they are now returning to school.

Triggers that can be encountered are:
• Dust and mould spores from poorly ventilated, or insufficiently cleaned school rooms
• Respiratory viruses, such as cold and flu viruses
• Cleaning products that leave behind strong smells, aerosols or airborne dust
• Anxiety and stress due to returning to school

What can parents and carers do to avoid asthma exacerbations at school?
• Ensure your child is always carrying their reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin, Asmol, Alimurm and Bricanyl) as well as a spacer. If required, also ensure that you provide medication to the school your child attends
• Ensure that you have provided your child’s school with an updated Asthma Action Plan
• Ensure that your child or teenager knows how to recognise early symptoms of an asthma attack and know to use their reliever medication properly
• Ensure your child or teenager will seek help from school staff if they experience asthma symptoms
• Ensure that your child or teenager’s asthma is being well managed and that their medication and management is reviewed annually by your GP (this is a good opportunity to also update the Asthma Action Plan)

For more information on any of the above points, free resources please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria.

The Asthma Foundation of Victoria
Telephone 03 9326 7088
Facsimile 03 9326
Toll Free 1800 645 130
afv@asthma.org.au
www.asthma.org.au

2012 CVGT Australia
Wangaratta Fun Run

Sunday 26th February
8am Batchelors Green
Hosted by 2010 Female World Ultra Athlete of the Year Sharon Scholz

10km run - $15 ($20 on the day)
5km run or walk - $10 ($15 on the day)
2km primary kids - $5 ($10 on the day)

• Great prizes, trophies & giveaways (over $4000 value)
• Beautiful course along the One Mile Creek – no road crossings
• Accurate, generally flat, all-bitumen sealed course
• Excellent start / finish facilities including BBQ’s and playground
• Enter & pay on-line today – www.wangarattafunrun.com.au
Proceeds go to: Wangaratta Little Athletics Club

Words From Wellbeing
Therese Rodway

Welcome back! This year poses an opportunity for parents and students to email me certain issues or areas that could be mentioned or discussed in an educative way in this section of the newsletter. I will do my best to answer your questions or concerns and include relevant information. I will continue to include important services information, dates, and events as well as addressing areas of interest for parents and students. Please forward any wellbeing questions or issues that you would like to see covered to therese.rodney@galen.vic.edu.au

Wellbeing and wellbeing referrals covers many areas including mental health, cyber safety, health services, relationship, friendships, conflict, academic or exam stresses, stress management, community engagement, sexuality, substance misuse (i.e. binge drinking), partying safely, and many more…

SERVICES:
Free legal advice on child support
21 February 2012, Free half hour sessions between 9am and 5pm
Venue: Upper Murray Family Care, 36 Mackay Street, Wangaratta Vic 3677
Please phone (03) 9269 0408 for an appointment or 1800 677 402 during business hours.
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**Galen School Calendar**

**Term 1 - 2012**

- Staff Day: Feb 1
- Staff Day: Feb 8
- Staff Day: Feb 15
- Staff Day: Feb 22
- Staff Day: Feb 29

**Sport with Sports**

- Laptop Renewal: Feb 22
- Laptop Renewal: Feb 29
- Laptop Renewal: Mar 5

**Year 12 Retreat**

- Year 12 Retreat: Mar 12
- Year 12 Retreat: Mar 19
- Year 12 Retreat: Mar 26

**National Year of Reading Launch**

- National Year of Reading Launch: Apr 1
The best way to contact Galen staff members direct is by email. All staff have email addresses which follow the formula: firstname.surname@galen.vic.edu.au
For example, to contact Geoff Welch you would address an email to: geoff.welch@galen.vic.edu.au