FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear members of the College community,

FINAL NEWSPRINT: CENTENNIAL YEAR – 2012

As our school year comes to a close this week, and we begin to prepare for the great Christmas event, there are some last minute messages that we would like to pass on to our families. Our school year came to a close last Tuesday with the End of Year Mass for the Primary section and the Graduation of our Year 6 boys. Teachers have been working hard to complete reports which will be in the mail this week and to prepare for 2013. We also celebrated Christmas in our own unique way.

Christmas is a festive time when most of us plan our holidays, buy our presents and schedule our festivities for the week. Christmas is also a time for family reunions, for that space where peace and friendship reigns and all enjoy the company of those with whom we may spend little time during our year.

Jesus knew how to enjoy life and we sometimes forget this. He was frequently at weddings, invited to dinners at a rich man’s house, and celebrating a meal with his disciples. But he also knew the pain of loss (when the widow loses her son), death of his friend, Lazarus, death of his cousin, John the Baptist. Jesus knew both enjoyment and heartache and, as the Chinese would say, they are the ying and the yang of life. Life is to be enjoyed but we must also accept the loss, pain and suffering that may come our way as part of our journey.

Christ is the centre of our Christmas. Our God comes among us and we must celebrate that first! Without Christ, Christmas has no meaning. Find a time to enjoy ourselves but also remember that God has come for all and there just maybe neighbours or friends for whom you could be the difference in their lives this Christmas. They may be in pain but you can bring joy and happiness.

The De La Salle Brothers’ Malvern community, wish all our families a happy and blessed Christmas.

Brother Paul fsc
Principal

PEACE AND GOODWILL TO ALL!  HAVE A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS

FROM: THE BROTHERS AND STAFF OF DE LA SALLE
2012 VCE RESULTS
The VCE results were released this morning and we were able to glean much before the VCAA computer shut down for the day. There must have been too much traffic.

De La Salle students have continued to improve over the 2011 VCE results and we congratulate all those who continued to lift our results and to achieve in the top levels. A closer analysis will be possible when the data is back on line and we can manipulate that data but for the present we can say.

CONGRATULATIONS

COLLEGE DUX, 2012
CHRIS DRAFFEN
99.2

2ND PLACE
MICHAEL SWINNERTON
97.25

3RD PLACE
NICHOLAS CURWOOD
96.35

- 27 students (18.0%) achieved an ATAR score above 90. This compares favourably with 22 students (13%) in 2011.

- 52 students (35%) had an ATAR over 80.0% compared with 56 students (33.0%) in 2011.

- 80 students (54.0%) had an ATAR score over 70.0% compared with 77 students (45.0%) in 2011.

Note: the 2012 cohort was only 150 students compared with 174 students in 2011. It had been a much smaller cohort since Year 7.
Special mention goes to those students who achieved a Study Score of 45 or higher, among whom are a small group of Year 11 students who obtained this grade in their Accelerated subject:

**YEAR 12**
- Darcy Conlan - 49 (English)
- Chris Draffen - 48 (Legal Studies) and 47 (Politics)
- Thomas Wilkes - 45 (Physical Education)

**YEAR 11 (ACCELERATED)**
- Richard Buckley - 49 (Further Maths)
- Steven Ciavarella - 50 (Further Maths)
- Alex Di Medio - 45 (Further Maths)
- Zane Hutter - 45 (Further Maths)
- Andre Lew - 47 (Further Maths)

We congratulate our Dux, Chris Draffen, who has achieved outstanding results as a result of much hard work. Closely behind him were Michael Swinnerton and Nicholas Curwood whom we know also worked very hard and richly deserve that kudos. Congratulations, gentlemen. We are also extremely proud of all the students who worked hard during Year 12 and are happy with their results, thought it may be even among the top 20%. Well done to you also.

We also say thank you to our teachers who also worked hard to ensure that our students could perform to their ability.

**STAFF DEPARTING DE LA SALLE:**
This year we are farewelling a number of teachers who have been with us for a varying number of years:

- Peter Riordan – appointed Principal, Simmons Catholic College, West Melbourne
- Sally Buick – appointed Deputy Principal – Pastoral Care (Mornington Campus), Padua College
- Tim Ford – appointed to Mazenod College
- Brother Gabriel O’Shea fsc – retiring from active service after more than 40 years of service in Lasallian schools in Australia and Papua New Guinea. He came to De La in 1999. We wish Brother Gabriel all the best in retirement and we thank him for all that he has done for our community over the past 14 years and for what he had contributed to Lasalle communities everywhere since joining the Brothers in 1966. God bless you, Brother Gabriel.

The College also farewells a number of contract teachers who have been with us during 2012. Contract teachers join us to cover people on Long service leave, or to fill a vacancy created by a staff absence for a shorter or longer period of time. Our contract teachers in 2012 have been a very special group of people, gifted in their own areas and who have each made a unique contribution to the College community. We thank them and wish them all the best for what is ahead: Rachel McIntyre, Felicity MacDonald, Maria Hawley, Lynette McLennan.
Concluding also to Rebecca McPhail (Percussion) and Barbara McNeair (Piano) who leave the Music Department for new opportunities in 2013. They have been wonderful tutors for our boys and people whose presence we have come to cherish. We wish them all the best with their new opportunities in 2013.

To all departing staff we say ‘thank you’ for what you have brought to our community by your presence and your skills and dedication and we wish you all the best in what lies ahead for you all in 2013. You carry our very best wishes for a successful and happy life.

CONGRATULATIONS
We extend congratulations to our staff - Courtney Sanders and James Walton, who will celebrate their wedding on Thursday 20.12.2012. Our heartiest congratulations to them both and we hope that the weather holds good for them next week. God bless you both.

REPORT FROM INDIA
Currently we have 21 students and four teachers in southern India as part of our annual Coolies program. They have been visited by Brother Ambrose (Provincial), Brother David Hawke (Regional Superior) and both have given glowing reports of the work and spirit of the De La Team. They not only work for four weeks in difficult conditions but they are also away for Christmas and New Year. The contribution that each makes is significant. We are grateful for the generosity of the four teachers also in volunteering to be part of the program, some for the 2nd time: Peppe Di Ciccio, Chris Martin, Charles Thompson, Tim Broderick. We remember them all at this time and at Christmas and pray for their safe return in early January.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.
This week we received news of the death of two well-known Old Collegians:

Peter John King (1947). Peter’s brothers attended De La also - Alan (1946) and David (1957), as did his son, John (1983). Peter was among the pioneers of the De La Old Collegians Football Club and a member of the first Old Collegians football team which started in the VAFA in 1955. He was well known to many Old Collegians of that era. Peter was buried from St Joseph’s church, Malvern, on Friday 14 December.

Kevin Lambie Hamilton (1942) died in Scarborough on 6 December. He left De La after the Intermediate (Yr 10) and his three sons also attended De La: Craig (1972), Paul (1974) and Reis (1977). Many older Collegians will have known Kevin – his last Old Collegians reunion was the 50+ reunion at Kooyong Tennis Club in 2010.

May the good Lord reward them both for a life well lived. Deo Duce!

REPORTS FOR ALL STUDENTS
The College report for Semester 2 will be in the mail to all families this afternoon. It will contain all information for the commencement of the 2013 school year.
WHAT IS HAPPENING (SOME REMINDERS)

Friday, 21 December  
SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSES

Monday, 21 January  
SCHOOL OFFICE RE-OPENS

Tuesday 22 January  
College Uniform Shop open 10am – 3pm

Wednesday 23 January  
College Uniform Shop open 10am – 3pm

Thursday 24 January  
College Uniform Shop open 10am – 3pm

Friday 25 January  
College Uniform Shop open 10am – 3pm

Saturday 26 January  
AUSTRALIA DAY

Monday 28 January  
AUSTRALIA DAY – PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Tuesday 29 January  
STAFF RETURN FOR TERM 1, 2013 – Staff Professional Development Day  
College Uniform Shop open 10am – 3pm

Wednesday 30 January  
STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY  
College Uniform Shop open 10am – 3pm

Thursday 31 January  
ALL STUDENTS (Primary to Year 12) Commence  
Kinnoull Campus Photographs, 8.30am (Blazers required)  
Parent Network Morning Tea for all parents of new students  
College Uniform Shop open 8am – 11.30am

VALE 2012

As the year draws to a close, we are grateful to all who have been part of our journey in 2012, our Centennial year. The College has enjoyed some wonderful opportunities to come together and celebrate all that has been part of our tradition over the past 100 years and what defines us in 2012. I am grateful to the Centenary Committee, the staff and all the students and their families who helped make 2012 a grand year.

Teachers are the backbone of any good school. It is their commitment and dedication to their work of developing young people in the classroom, and beyond, that helps to define any school community. At De La Salle the spirit that engenders the community is very special and one must stand in awe at all that our teachers and support staff have done during this year. I express my sincere appreciation to each and everyone of them for what they have done to make De La a better place in 2012. They deserve a well-earned break away from the daily grind and to refresh and replenish their energies for another busy year to come. Thank you teachers and support staff!

I wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and best wishes for 2013. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday period and we look forward to welcoming back all our students on Thursday 31st January.

Deo Duce.

Brother Paul fsc  
Principal