

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 2

the *Lasallian*

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF LA SALLE HOUSE



Dear Families

It is hard to believe that we are already over the half way mark for Term 1 and Week 5 has come and gone. It seems like yesterday that we welcomed 28 new Year 9 boys and their families to boarding at Francis Douglas Memorial College.

As a new boy also, everything has been a steep learning curve, but my settling in and learning the ropes has been made a lot easier by the support of the hostel staff. I am truly blessed to work with such a talented, dedicated and hard working group of people. Having worked in hostel situations where work such as catering, cleaning and maintenance was sub-contracted out, I believe that having our own hostel staff means that we get a lot more "bang for our buck". The level of service that I have seen since the start of term has been outstanding with everyone going the extra mile to provide a loving, caring home away from home for your sons.

This year we have a number of outstanding young men in our Year 13 group. Nathan Clough is the Head Boarder for 2012 and Daniel Crowley is the Deputy Head Boarder. I'm sure that with Nathan and Daniel's leadership this year's group of senior boys will set the tone for a successful and enjoyable year.

To date the senior boys have:

- organised games and activities for the Year 9's in the first week
- participated in the very short but enjoyable show at the family barbecue
- organised and ran the Sacred Heart Social Exchange
- they are now currently training the Year 9 boys for the Boarders' Cup rugby challenge later on in the year.

The Year 9 boys seemed to be well settled into the routines of boarding life and the feedback that I have had from them has been very positive. They certainly enjoy the interaction with the senior boys during the Boarders' Cup training.

Yesterday I saw the first dusting of snow on the mountain. I certainly felt it with the drastic drop in temperature. With winter only around the corner it might pay to start thinking about the boys bringing back warmer clothing for the mornings and evenings in particular. Already we have had a number of boys go home suffering from the flu having been caught out by the sudden temperature change.



CURRENT ROLL AT LA SALLE HOUSE

Year 9 27
Year 10 27
Year 11 24
Year 12 23
Year 13 18

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BOARDERS' FAMILY BARBECUE

Our family barbecue was held on Sunday 19th February and was well attended by the hostel families. Also in attendance were Martin Chamberlain, CEO; Diana Blair, Business Manager; Graeme Mustchin – School Chaplain; Joan Coles and Lana Phipps, Year 9 Deans; Janet Fleming, Wendy Clough, Kevin Barrett, Members of La Salle House Board; and Jon Willcox, the new Agricultural Teacher. The aim of the evening was to give the new parents the opportunity to touch base with these key people and to meet with other hostel families in a social setting.

The evening started with a small show put on by the boys. While we didn't get the number of acts that we originally expected the boys who got up to perform certainly set the scene for an enjoyable night. Next year we are planning to make it compulsory for each year level to do an item. Hopefully now that they (boys) have seen how things go and how much fun that they can have performing we will get a better level of participation without too much arm twisting.

I also had the opportunity to promote a new initiative for our Year 13 boys who are doing the career programme (CPP) at school. As an ex-builder I would like to offer a practical carpentry course to these boys during evening study. The boys will make community based projects. Our first project will be picnic tables for school. In order for us to do this we will need to set up a workshop. So if you have any tools that you would like to donate or loan to the project we would love to hear from you. Another way you can help is to sponsor materials for a table. Call me on 027 530 0543.

Overall the evening was a great success and thanks must go to Steve, Foxy and Vanessa for the great food.

SOCIAL EVENTS

On Tuesday 21st February La Salle House hosted Sacred Heart for games, barbecue and a social. The afternoon started with the Year 9 boys and girls playing organized games. However the weather

forced everyone inside as we experienced heavy downpours all afternoon. Nevertheless the Year 9 boys had a great time playing ice-breaker games in the Common Room. At 6 pm the kids sat down to the scrumptious barbecue prepared by our wonderful kitchen staff.



The evening was rounded off with a social in the gym. The theme was "70's Disco" and there were a number of colourful costumes with many of the kids getting into the spirit of the night. Special thanks must go to the organizers Nathan, Daniel, Scott and the Head Boarders from Sacred Heart. Overall the boys and girls had a fantastic time and need to be congratulated for the way they conducted themselves. It was certainly a pleasure to be involved in a great event.

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY

On Wednesday 22nd ten boys from the Hostel attended an ecumenical service to mark Ash Wednesday. It was a gathering of the Anglican and Catholic Parishes from around the city and outlying areas. For many of the boys this was the first time that they had attended an Ash Wednesday Service. They enjoyed the singing of the St Joseph's Choir and the Children's Choir.



TARANAKI ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

This year Taranaki Anniversary falls on Monday 12th March. As this is a statutory holiday the Hostel will be closed for the weekend and will re-open on Tuesday 13th at 8.00 am. Please make your travel arrangements to coincide with this date and time.

GALA

The 2012 College Gala Day will be held on Saturday 31st March. This is a major fundraiser for the school and much time and effort is needed to ensure the financial success of the day. Accordingly the PTA are seeking help from parents who can assist in a variety of ways. The PTA would be grateful for the following support:

- Coordinating a stall
- Working on a stall
- Sponsoring/donating a prize to the Gala Day
- Donating goods to the gala
- Donation of beef (fresh or frozen) suitable for making curries

The PTA would appreciate donations of any kind families could offer be it – cash, services, clothing, second-hand goods, baking, plants, food, etc. Donations of goods can be dropped at the College Office or with Boarding Supervisors.

Please contact Lindsay Thomson, PTA Chairman (Phone: 06 753 9332) or Martin Dravitzki or Sjaane Simpson, PTA Staff Representatives (Phone: 06 753 6149) for more information.

IMPORTANT – the College Gala Day is considered a school day and as such all FDMC students are expected to attend. Boarders may wish to stay over in the Hostel on the Friday night before the Gala. The Hostel will remain open on Friday night and Saturday morning for boarders participating in the Gala.

Boarders must arrange private transport home at the end of the Gala day cleanup (approximately 2.30 pm).

Buses will run as normal on Friday afternoon for those boarders who are able to get to the Gala Day by private arrangement the next day.

Students who are unable to be present at the Gala Day will be required to bring a note to give to their Vertical Form Teacher explaining their absence.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your son and boarding please feel free to contact his Year Level Supervisor or the Dean of Boarding. The contact numbers are listed at the end of this newsletter.

ABSENCES

If your son is going to be absent from the Hostel, or is ill, could you please inform their Hostel Supervisor or the Dean of Boarding either by email, text or phone call. Thank you.

LAUNDRY

A plea from Marline and Lisa in the Laundry. Please ensure that all your son's clothing is well named, especially their underwear. They find it extremely difficult to marry up the garment with the owner if it doesn't have a name on. Currently we are in the process of reviewing our laundry systems so I will keep you posted as more information comes to hand.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Friday 9th March**
Athletics Carnival 9 am – 3 pm
- **Monday 12th March**
Taranaki Anniversary Day
- **Wednesday 21st March**
Parent Teacher Interviews
- **Thursday 22nd March**
Parent Teacher Interviews
- **Saturday 31st March**
FDMC Gala Day



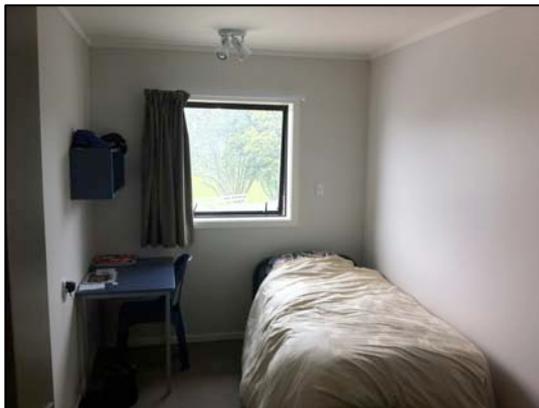
DORMITORY REFURBISHMENT

Parents of Year 10 and some Year 11 students will certainly be aware of the refurbishment of the top floor in the Middle Dormitory, 30 years after its initial construction. Our talented property staff have ensured that we have received good value for money with the complete replacement of ceilings, walls, doors and carpets and renewal of all furniture including beds and mattresses. The project has seen 38 bed spaces, a toilet and supervisor's room all renewed.

Before:



After:



We are grateful to the Vavasour Trust (funded by former student Rollo Vavasour) for \$40,000; the Burckett Trust (Inglewood Parish) for \$15,000; to our families who have donated heifers and steers to our farm; and our staff and boarders who have treated our property well to ensure we have been able to amass the \$160,000 spent on this project. As more funding is accumulated, we hope to be able to do similar work on the ground floor.

Martin Chamberlain
CEO La Salle House

EMAIL ADDRESSES

As indicated in my letter for the barbecue, my wish is to send all hostel correspondence via email so this newsletter will probably be the last time we do a mass mail out. Apart from the environmental reasons email is cost effective and less labour intensive. For this reason I ask you to email me your most used email address. I hope to have my email tree up and running for next month's newsletter.

For those of you who have xtra as part of your email address please add fdmc email address to your contacts list once you have received an email. That way any correspondence from us will not wind up in your spam box.

My email is hsm@fdmc.school.nz

Till next time.

With Christ our Leader

Heta Smith
Dean of Boarding

HOSTEL STAFF

Principal	Mr Martin Chamberlain
Dean of Boarding	Mr Heta Smith 06 753 6149 Ext 866 027 530 0543
Year 13 Boarding Supervisor	Mr Heta Smith 06 753 6149 Ext 866 027 530 0543
Year 12 Boarding Supervisor	Mr Andy Cowie 06 753 6149 Ext 858 021 753 913
Year 11 Boarding Supervisor	Mr Mark Walsh 06 753 6149 Ext 864 021 753 936
Year 10 Boarding Supervisor	Mr Mark Walsh 06 753 6149 Ext 864 021 753 936
Year 9 Boarding Supervisor	Mr Thomas Walsh 06 753 6149 Ext 839 021 753 447
Matron	Mrs Sandra Kelsen 06 753 6149 Ext 867 027 470 1042

LA SALLE HOUSE BOARD

Janet Fleming (Chairperson)	06 761 8866
Kevin Barrett	06 763 8310
Wendy Clough	06 765 5024
Steven Poole	06 272 6444
Craig Wisniewski	06 769 9358
Brother Pat Lynch	04 496 1739 (W)