Avila College acknowledges the Wurundjeri people, the traditional custodians of the land on which the College is built.
Busy finish to school year

There is much evidence as to why Term Four is known as the ‘business’ or ‘assessment’ term. VCE exams including oral, performance and written assessments have been dominant for a three week period, Year 10 and 11 students have undergone a week of exams followed by a six day head-start program, year 9s have completed a day of exams in English, Mathematics and Science and completed numerous assessments in their other subjects, and years 7 and 8 students are also involved in formal assessments prior to the conclusion of the 2011 academic school year. While staff continue to engage students in academic programs, they also spending many hours assessing work and writing reports to inform parents of academic successes and areas for improvement in 2012.

Given the enhanced learning opportunities that our students are afforded here at our College, it is easy to see why Avila enjoys such an excellent reputation within the community and is a popular choice for parents and their daughters when choosing a secondary school. For entry into year 7 in 2012, we received more than 300 enrolment applications for 200 places. Many of our students regularly compete successfully at both a local and national level in LOTE (Languages Other than English), Science, Mathematics, Public Speaking and Debating, Sporting, Drama and artistic events and competitions - just recently it was announced that Ruby Robertson and Genevieve Townsend have been honoured respectively with the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program award at Melbourne University and the Father James Wall Bursary Leadership Achievement Award. Students undertake overseas study tours and engage in community service or volunteer programs that many universities now consider in their selection process. The pastoral care that is afforded to all students who are part of our Avila community cannot be questioned; I am sure many parents and students will agree, as you have had first-hand experience of this care. This edition of Avila Matters once again highlights the accomplishments of our students and the dedication and encouragement from the teaching staff.

Open Mornings in 2012

In 2012, we will introduce Open Mornings each term as an opportunity for our school to be seen ‘in-action’ and highlight the excellent learning opportunities and facilities that we have available. We will continue to use our best ambassadors – our students - as tour guides. The Open Mornings will replace our Saturday sessions and College tours. Our final, and transitional, Saturday session will be on February 18. Our first Open Morning will be on Thursday, February 23.

Olivia clinches film award

Aspiring film director, Year 9 student Olivia Staffieri, is already turning heads, having taken out the people’s choice award at the 2011 Monash Youth Film Festival.

The 15-year-old was the youngest finalist and was up against university students. Another Avila student, Emily McCarthy, Year 12, was also a finalist.

Olivia’s winning 13-minute film, Through her Eyes, was about bullying and adolescent depression. Some members of the audience were in tears when the film was screened at the awards night at Village Cinemas.

Olivia, who would like to become a professional director, caught the movie-making bug in Year 7 when she started filming birthday tributes for friends. Olivia’s movies have been filmed using the video setting on a digital camera.

Olivia is already working on her next project, a film about human trafficking, that she plans to enter in the Melbourne International Film Festival.

‘I like to use the medium of film to get across a meaningful message,’ explained Olivia who is excited about undertaking VET Media Studies at Avila next year.

Message from the Principal

May the upcoming holidays provide all staff, families and our extended Avila community, a chance to rest and relax and reflect as a Catholic community upon the significance of Christmas.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of all staff who work at Avila for their efforts and dedication throughout the year. May the upcoming holidays provide all staff, students, families and our extended Avila community, a chance to rest and relax and reflect as a Catholic community upon the significance of Christmas.

Ms Louise Gunther
College Principal

Avila Matters cover - ‘Hands across Australia’
Supporting the GenerationOne ‘Hands across Australia’ campaign to end Aboriginal disadvantage, Avila ‘joins hands’ during the NAIDOC Week celebrations.

Avila Matters publication
Editor: Sandra Bucovac
Proofreader: Mrs Pat Hall
Photography: Mrs Jan Janes, Ms Sandra Bucovac
Miss Darrie Kane-Priestley

First year as Principal

Reflecting on my first year as Principal of Avila College, I have been honoured to serve the community and I thank and recognise the students who enhance our lives as educators, and also continue the tradition of making the most of educational opportunities that the Presentation Sisters established almost 47 years ago.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of all staff who work at Avila for their efforts and dedication throughout the year. May the upcoming holidays provide all staff, students, families and our extended Avila community, a chance to rest and relax and reflect as a Catholic community upon the significance of Christmas.

Ms Louise Gunther
College Principal
Language students at Avila rank at the top of their class worldwide, as recent international competition results can attest ... In the Language Perfect Online Olympics, Avila was ranked the top school in Italian!

The results cap off a wonderful year of achievement by our students across a diverse range of disciplines, student leadership and extra curricular activities. These accomplishments do not come easy and are testimony to the commitment of students, and their preparedness to work hard to achieve their personal best. They are also testimony to the work and support of our excellent teaching staff, as well as the families of students.

It is worth noting that Presentation Evening, and Sports Awards Night, both featured in this issue of *Avila Matters* are a celebration of all student achievement, and participation, as well as that of individual award winners.

In terms of LOTE (Languages Other than English), Avila students have again produced magnificent results in both the ACER Language Competency Tests and the Language Perfect Online Olympics. In the Online Olympics, Avila received three worldwide top awards.

**Language Perfect Online Olympics**

Avila’s results in this year’s Language Olympics were even better than last year. Our school was the recipient of three worldwide top awards; 8 Gold Medallists; 7 Silver Medallists and an impressive 21 Bronze Medallists!

**Worldwide top awards:** Top School - Italian (worldwide); 2nd student worldwide - Samantha De Martin (Italian); 3rd student worldwide - Courtney Lindeman (Indonesian)

**Gold medallists:** Italian - Samantha De Martin, Monica De Rango, Celina Tilli and Denise Do; Indonesian - Jessica Harianto, Courtney Lindeman and Karen Sulaeman; French - Yvonne Megroz.

**Silver medallists:** Italian - Teagan Goh, Margaret Hurley and Stephanie Le; Indonesian - Christine D’Souza and Drashit Thakkar; French - Ashley Lambourne and Carly Watson.

**Bronze medallists:** Italian - Deanne Aguirre, Alexandra Bellizia, Briana Bortoli, Vanessa De Lutiis, Christina Dupuy, Ellena Hocking, Fotini Hrambanis, Heleena Konstantinidis, Kate Lentini, Lauren Ramsay, Lara Sercia, Alexandra Smirneos, Kiara Stojanoski, Carla Timi, and Oshini Wijenayake;

Indonesian: Amber Carr; French: Audrey Chmielewski, Kiara Goldsmith, Sashika Harasgama, Ines Ivankovic, and Alysha Rose’ Meyer.

**ACER Language Competency Tests**

The Australia-wide Language Competency tests were completed by all years 9 and 10 LOTE students.

In French, 31% of students achieved High Distinction and Distinction grades; in Indonesian, 59% of students achieved High Distinction and Distinction grades; in Italian 44% of students achieved High Distinction and Distinction grades.

Special congratulations to the following students, who achieved 100%, perfect scores: Karen Sulaeman - Indonesian Listening (Cert. 1); Carla Timi - Italian Listening (Cert.1); Jessica Harianto - Indonesian Listening (Cert.2); and Tanya Lin - Indonesian Listening (Cert. 2).

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Mrs Christine Valladares is one of six teachers nationwide to be honoured with a 2011 Australian National University Prize for Excellence in Secondary Teaching.

The award recognises inspirational teachers who helped shape the lives of ANU graduates. Mrs Valladares was nominated by 2004 College Captain, Connie Chong, who is about to graduate from ANU with a Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery. Mrs Valladares will be a special guest at Connie’s graduation ceremony in Canberra on December 16 when she will be presented with the award - $3000 for herself and $1500 for Avila College. Avila College has also been acknowledges as a ‘school of provenance’ for Connie.

Mrs Valladares has become an institution at Avila since she joined the staff in 1987. A dedicated teacher, she is well known and loved for her care and concern for all students, past and present, and her passion for social justice and Reconciliation. She has also been the driving force behind public speaking and debating at Avila for many years. In her quiet unassuming manner, Mrs Valladares is a leader by example and a wonderful role model for all students. She is a strong advocate for giving young women, leaders of tomorrow, a ‘voice’ and a deep sense of social responsibility.
2011 Presentation Evening and Student Achievements

Presentation Evening 2011 - awards

- Year 7 -

Religious Education: Katrina Amoranto
Art: Katerina Sova
Drama: Chelsea Jones

General Studies: Erin Flatters
ICT: Celestrial Eatwell
LOTE: Elizabeth Lysenko
Mathematics: Nikitha Pynamad
Music: Olivia Frisch

Oral English: Bridget Roache
Physical Education and Health: Erin Flatters
Science: Jessica McLean


- Year 8 -

Religious Education: Margaret Hurley
Art: Pauline Madararo
Design & Technology: Celina Tili
Drama: Lauren Radnell
English: Simone Louey
Food Technology: Sophie Elliott
French: Sarah Gill
Geography: Leah Oibrans
History: Lauren Ramsey
Indonesian: Rosashi Lokeage
Italian: Celina Tili
Mathematics: Sandunni De Mel
Music: Gabriella Macpherson-Caldeira
Physical Education & Health: Tayla Hope
Science: Lauren Radnell

Academic Excellence: Leah Oibrans, Fiona Yung, Georgia Wilson-Wall, Sandunni De Mel, Simone Louey, Lauren Radnell, Sophia Elliott, Brittany Gerton, Casey Do, Elana Tauro, Hannah Jack, Isabelle Hanna, Tsgo Ho, Kate Apostolopoulos, Lauren Ramsey, Lauren Santatucia, Rosashi Lokeage, Sarah Lambourne.

Love of Learning: Angela Stapleton, Celina Tili, Kate Lentini, Krysten King, Sarah Gill, Sharon Prabakaran, Tamanna Kaul, Audrey Chemilewski, Emilia Megroz, Felicity D’Art, Georgia Stapleton, Jaimie Hall, Nicola Bell.

- Year 9 -

Religious Education: Nikki Pecora
Art: Kathy Qian
Design & Technology: Christina Ishak
Drama: Georgia Muling
Economics: Christina Ishak
English: Shalini Harasgamma
Food Technology: Tahlia Chanoff
French: Tessa Wijeyesinghe
Geography: Crystal Coghil
History: Audrey Chew
Indonesian: Karen Sulaemen

Information Communication Technologies: Lindsay McKitrick
Italian: Stephanie Fraser
Mathematics: Monica De Rango
Music: Ellena Hocking
Physical Education & Health: Rebecca Abbott
Science: Monica De Rango

Academic Excellence: Amy Kampus, Catherine Smith, Christina Ishak, Crystal Coghil, Danielle Calhill, Madeline Mondon, Molly McQueen, Monica De Rango, Nikki Pecora, Rebecca Abbott, Shalini Harasgamma, Tessa Wijeyesinghe.

Achievements honoured

There was a sense of great pride for a ‘job well done’ at the 2011 Presentation Evening at Robert Blackwood Hall on November 28.

The evening was a formal acknowledgement and celebration of student achievements in leadership, curricular and co-curricular activities throughout the year. It was a tribute to all students who have strived to achieve their personal best, as well as those who received awards.

Presentations were made to students across all year levels who have given outstanding service to the College community and those who have excelled at learning. Almost 300 students received awards including year-level academic awards (see pages 4, 6, and 7), and perpetual trophies, many of which are named in honour of past principals of Avila College.

As has become a recent tradition, Avila’s 2012 Fire Carrier, Alysha Rose’Meyer was commissioned during the evening.

The 2011 major award recipients:

Ms Filomena Salvatore College Dux Award, 2010: Alexandra Saltis
Sister Patricia Carroll Award for Service to Sport: Lillian Smith
Sister Raymonde Taylor Award for Creative Arts:
  Music Performance - Meera Fernandes
  Drama Performance - Alexandra Height
  Visual - Rachael Albicini
Sister Josepha Dunlop Award for Christian Leadership: Fiona Canny
Patricia Ryan Award for Love of Learning: Fiona Canny and Georgia Delaney
Public Speaking Award: Victoria Radnell
Avila\Mazenod Musical Award (Bye Bye Birdie): Sarah Bradwell
Susan Puohotaua Orchestra Award: Gabrielle Rolfe
Monash Prize for Excellence (Year 11): Phoebe Tapley
Mulgrave Country Club Scholarship (Year 11): Li-Chun Chen
Marie Boyle Year 10 Excellence Award (Mrs Boyle taught at Avila from 1979 until her retirement in 2003): Anita Coffa

Staff Alumni ‘Service to the Wider Community’ Award: Amy Tremewen

Australian Defence Force (ADF) Awards:
  Year 10 - Carlie Saunders; Year 11 - Rubini Ball; Year 12 - Fiona Canny

Spirit Awards:
  Year 7 - Olivia Frisch; Year 8 - Gabriella Macpherson-Caldeira
  Year 9 - Olivia Staffieri; Year 10 - Genevieve Townsend
  Year 11 - Sally Boxall; Year 12 - Mia Lentini and Josephine Dwan

Congratulations also to:
Ruby Roberston - Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program, Melbourne Uni.
Genevieve Townsend - Father James Wall Bursary Leadership Achievement Award sponsored by the Catholic Development Fund.
2011 Presentation Evening and Student Achievements

Presentation Evening

Year 7
Year 7 award recipients pictured from back row L-R: Madeline Novak, Rachel Whitting, Erin Flatters, Bridget Roach, Katrina Amoranto.
Fifth row L-R: Sarah Papadimitriou, Nancy Christodoulakis, Anelise Porto, Brooke Ryan
Third row L-R: Jessica Lieng, Isabelle Benedos, Catherine Pagliaro, Isabella San Martin Hall, Emerald Eatwell.
Second row L-R: Shantelle Patturajan, Lucy Dever, Olivia Frisch, Gemma Wijeyesinghe, Tina Liao
Front row L-R: Nikitha Pynadath, Katarina Sova, Inalya Altmann, Madison Fowler, Georgia Abbott, Elizabeth Lyssenko.

Year 8
Year 8 award recipients pictured from back row L-R: Nicola Bell, Audrey Chmielewski, Leah Oirbins, Jaimee Hall, Sophia Elliott.
Fifth row L-R: Krysten King, Simone Lowey, Lauren Radnell, Tayla Hope, and Pauline Maderazo.
Fourth row L-R: Gabriella Macpherson -Caldeira, Emilia Megroz, Jorja Hope, Isabelle Hanna, Lauren Santalucia, Hannah Jach.
Third row L-R: Georgia Wilson-Wall, Sharon Prabakaran, Sarah Lambourne, Sarah Gill, Fiona Jung.
Second row L-R: Brittany Girton, Sanduni De Mel, Lauren Ramsey, Georgia Stapleton, Margaret Hurley.
Front row L-R: Kate Apostolopoulos, Angela Stapleton, Elana Tiuoro, Roshali Lokuge, Tamanna Kaul, Felicity D’Art, Kate Lentini.

Year 9
Year 9 award recipients pictured from back row L-R: Tahlia Chanoff, Stephanie Fraser, Monica De Rango, Francesca Carl.
Fifth row L-R: Madeline Heyn, Amy Kampus, Danielle Cahill, Shalini Harasgama
Fourth row L-R: Lindsay McKittrick, Julia Bortoli, Catherine Smith, Natalie Karipidis, Christina Ishak.
Third row L-R: Clarissa Frizziero, Cathy Qian, Danielle Fogo, Audrey Chew, Emily Roach, Tessa Wijeyesinghe.
Second row L-R: Nikki Pecora, Hannah Ewing, Georgia Mulg, Molly McQueen, Crystal Coghil.
Front row L-R: Madeleine Mondon, Natalie Bentivegna, Rebecca Abbot, Cassandra Garner, Emma Pugliese, Ellena Hocking.
Award Recipients

Year 11
Year 11 award recipients pictured from back row L-R:
Courtney Ager, Aisling Pierce, Melissa Osborn, Laura Derango, Julia Rush.
Fifth row L-R: Samantha Asker, Sarah Bradwell, Demi Filippatos, Laura Butler, Nishanthi Duggan, Kayla Van Rooyen.
Fourth row L-R: Emily Rebbechi, Rene Pirrotta, Jessica Woods, Sarah Wilson, Phoebe Tapley, Sinead McKitterick, Katrina Liston.
Third row L-R: Miranda Nguyen, Li-Chun Chen, Jessica McQueen, Sally Boxall, Jasmine Coghill, Sashika Harasgama, Demi Tsironis.
Second row L-R: Lourdinia Naidoo, Rebecca Hadziomerovic, Claudine Galam, Bianca Vasile, Stephanie Berlangieri, Mikaela Welti.
Front row L-R: Rebecca Botros, Kiara Goldsmith, Jessica Morrison, Tamara De Lutiis, Gabriela Cincotta, Sarah Genovese.

Year 12
Year 12 award recipients pictured from back row L-R: Georgia Delaney, Neethu Pynadath, Stephanie Schwarzman, Celeste Fisher, Claire Brown, Laura Thompson.
Middle row L-R: Margaret Hezikia, Nayomi Fonseka, Lauren Pecora, Nicola Kontaxis, Samantha Rankin, Leah Holt, Emily McCarthy.
Front row L-R: Mary Canagaratnam, Gabrielle Rolfe, Fiona Canny, Jennifer Casley, Dineshki Silva, Stephanie Ravida.

Year 10
Year 19 award recipients pictured from back row L-R: Ruth Smith, Alexa Sakkal, Kate James, Courtney Lindeman, Li Chin Chow, Jessica Casley.
Fifth row L-R: Piage D’Souza, Holly Stewart, Danielle Roberts, Bridget Jackson, Isabelle Wright.
Fourth row L-R: Tanya Lin, Hayley Tait, Emma Chan, Anita Coffa, Margaret Tanjutco.
Third row L-R: Jessica Flatters, Sarah Garth, Madeline Sultis, Sassy McKenzie, Genevieve Townsend.
Second row L-R: Vanessa Langenberg, Annabel Robson, Shalyn Mathew, Ruby Robertson, Paola Guerra Marin.
Front row L-R: Isabella Hanger, Bianca Toldi, Amber Carr, Jessica Mariano, Emma Bell, Christine D’Souza.
In a poignant gesture to honour Avila’s underlying philosophy and history, the College community welcomed representatives from other schools founded by the Presentation Sisters to the Avila Day celebrations on October 14.

The special guests who helped celebrate the feast of our patron, Saint Teresa of Avila, included staff and student leaders from St John’s College, Star of the Sea, and Presentation College Windsor. The College was also delighted to welcome Father Michael Twigg, Rector of Mazenod College, and Father Hien Vu from Saint Michael’s, Ashburton.

‘Justice’ was the theme of Avila Day and in his homily, Father Twigg encouraged students to act justly towards those in need around the world, and also those much closer, ‘Justice for all people around the world is impossible if we don’t act justly around our peers.’

To actively support the Justice theme, the Avila community used the day’s celebrations to raise $5000, which has been matched by the government, for the Caritas East Africa Appeal. East Africa is facing one of the worst droughts and famines in history which has been largely forgotten by the world. To raise awareness of the tragic situation, the SRC set up a Facebook page. In an address to the whole-school community at the beginning of Mass, College Captain, Mia Lentini, said the page had successfully met its target of 1000 ‘likes’ by midnight the previous evening. A tremendous effort by all Avila students, both present and past, involved.

Following the Avila Day Mass, students returned to their homerooms where they enthusiastically participated in a whole-school trivia competition. The brain-bending questions covered sport, music, movies, general knowledge, East Africa, ‘who am I’, and Avila. Year 11 Purple was triumphant and was awarded the ‘coveted’ golden T-Bar shoe.

After the trivia, students headed to the amazing food fair and disco. The SRC had worked tirelessly to organise the food fair and as lunchtime approached, Avila’s 1000-plus student body became more hungry and so too did the queues for nachos, pizza and the sausage sizzle. Fair Trade chocolate, lolly bags and fairy floss were also extremely popular, giving students that quick hit of energy in readiness for the dance floor. Once their appetites were satisfied students filed into the gym, which had undergone an incredible transformation, from a beautiful sacred place in the morning, to a concert venue, where girls could dance away to their hearts, and legs, content and also have fun on the jumping castle.

The day’s celebrations finished with entertaining performances from the Year 12 students, and of course, Avila’s multi-talented male teachers. It was certainly a wonderful day to celebrate the feast day of our patron, Saint Teresa, raise much-needed funds for the people of East Africa, and to have fun with the Avila community and special visitors.

Report and page design by Year 11 Business Management students, Bianca Vasile and Gabriela Cincotta, as part of a unit on Public Relations.

Pictured. At the top of the page, the Avila Day Eucharistic celebrations; left, Avila Day fun - Mia Lentini (right) and Lisanne Gomez conduct the trivia quiz; trivia in action; the food fair extravaganza.
The word Advent, originally from the Latin word ‘adventus’ meaning ‘coming’, is the title of a particularly timely season of the Church. In the month leading into the Christmas season, Advent is the time of being reminded about what it is we believe and what it is we will celebrate on Christmas Day and the days following. It’s a time of preparation and recollection; a time for listening and wondering. Advent culminates in the great celebrations of Christmas whether it’s the Family Mass on Christmas Eve or the more solemn and traditional Midnight Mass, or any one of the Masses on Christmas Day. The ‘adventus’ we expect and celebrate is the Incarnation of God: ‘the Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us.’

So it is that while we prepare for our Christmas festivities the Season of Advent provides time and space for our spiritual preparation for Christmas. The scriptures during the weeks of Advent speak about being aware and awake; they tell us to not rest on our laurels and that God will be made present in the world - what will He find? What do we want Him to find? In an ideal world we would love to have God find heaven on earth. That’s quite achievable if we consider the ‘earth’ to be our household and family. In this time of preparation and expectation how will we prepare for this? How will we show the face of Jesus to those with whom we come in contact? How will we prepare for the coming of Jesus at this Christmas time? How will we be able to show God that heaven on earth is obtainable?

In some instances, the time we take to stop and be still, will assist us in our preparation for the coming of Jesus. Moments of quiet in which we reflect upon the meaning of Christmas and in which we recollect those Godly moments throughout the year will give us a chance to make some meaning out of the Season of Advent. While the Christmas rush is on, while the plans for family gatherings and family holidays move into full swing, it would be timely to prepare for the future days of celebration by taking stock of the year swiftly coming to an end. What were the Godly moments? What were the times, or who were the people who, without knowing it perhaps, were able to settle the nerves in a time of anxiety or who were willing to show a better way, or who uttered a few words and eased some pain? These are the moments and these are the people in which we experience lovely, loving Godly moments.

Advent is also an opportunity for the people of God to be still and listen to and wonder at the wonderful Christmas story. The bold and brave John the Baptist comes out of the wilderness and says: ‘prepare ye!’ It’s not a threat or even a command, John’s ‘prepare ye’ is a solemn word of advice - take stock, listen to each other and listen to the voice of your heart and wonder at the moment of Incarnation. The Evangelist tells us ‘that God so loved the world that He sent us His Son.’ What a gift! The greatest gift we have ever been given and each year we are given time and space by the Church to reflect deeply on this wonderful moment. It’s our responsibility to ensure that we take the time and space and say to our God: ‘here I am. I am listening’. Unless we provide the heart with an opportunity to be still then the ‘coming’ that we celebrate in Advent is lessened.

During this last term of 2012, the staff and students of Avila have provided many moments of ‘heaven on earth’. Not the least of these were the wonderful activities celebrated on Avila Day. At the end of Avila Day as I was making my way to the dining room a student - I don’t know who she is or what year level she belongs to - stopped me and put $20.00 in my hand saying, ‘this is for the Caritas collection’ for the East Africa appeal. For me, that was a Godly moment. My prayer is that during this Advent time you are able to stop and be still and prepare for the coming of Christ this Christmas with many, many moments of recollection of the Godly moments.

Mr John Rhynehart
Faith Development Co-ordinator

Pictured left, from L-R, Rachel Saldanha, Emily Asker, Georgie Cormick and Rose Kealy share in the spirit of Avila Day. Meanwhile, at right, the College community makes a united ‘stand’ against poverty following the Avila Day Eucharistic celebrations.
I thank you for listening and I hope that in 2012, under my leadership, we can open our minds, smile that little bit more, and achieve what you once thought were impossible. Thank you.

Now, before you do any Facebook stalking, I’d like to tell you why I think I would be a suitable College leader for 2012. I am proud to be an Avila student. I am a happy, bubbly person and I am approachable. I have been involved in different aspects of school life as an SRC leader and through debating, music and events such as the Red Cross door knock. I believe these experiences have given me many skills that have shown me what it takes to be a good leader.

I think a leader’s job is not to rule over others or outshine them. For me it will be about those I lead, getting to know them, sharing a smile, taking the time to learn their names and be their friend. I hope that my words will inspire and my actions will guide those I lead. And I think this will show that my leadership is authentic and that I genuinely want what’s best for everyone and the school as a whole.

One of my favorite quotes on leadership is that ‘The task of a leader is not to put greatness into people but to extract it, because the greatness is already there within them’. This works well my other favorite quote, ‘A good leader inspires people to have confidence in the leader, but a great leader inspires people to have confidence within themselves’.

You need to have confidence in your leader, but it’s even better if I encourage you to have confidence in yourself. It’s this confidence and faith that can inspire you to do things that not even you thought were possible and, for me, that is the real essence of leadership. The satisfaction of being a leader doesn’t come from wearing the badge and gaining the title but it comes from watching the people you lead, shine, and achieve things they themselves never thought possible.

In 2012, I want to encourage this belief system. No one can tell an Avila girl that the sky is the limit, when there are footprints on the moon. No one can tell her she has no talent, and no one can tell her she does not have the ability to achieve. And when I say achieving it’s not just talking to those good at maths, or science. I talk to each and everyone of you.

You can take on that harder subject; do a little bit better in a test, SAC or exam. You can even make change through social justice groups or set records at sports days. You can reach new heights in 2012 if you have the courage to do so and I hope my leadership will encourage this and provide some extra push.

We need that self-belief, and dash of determination. We also need a supportive environment where we can shine ... that’s what I want to create. With fellow leaders, I want to create a school where nothing is impossible, and where people support their friends and peers. Although I am not his biggest fan, even Justin Bieber said, ‘Never say never’. If we can actually put these words in to actions, just think of the things we can achieve in our everyday classes, around our school and in the boarder community.

We spend about 200 days a year at school so we want to make Avila a school that everyone is happy to come to each day. I want people to come to school with fists pumping and, at the end of the day, needing to be dragged away because you love it. And you love it because of the atmosphere; I want to be part of creating it. For me an Olympic-sized swimming pool with banana lounges and kabanas, sounds great but won’t really make our school any better.

A place where people smile and where people feel comfortable and appreciate the people around them, will make Avila even better. By doing this at Avila, we could be the 1200 best friends that anybody could ever have. And it all starts with the small things that a leader should initiate. So, I’m going to start right now by giving you a smile. And I want you to pass it on ...

I thank you for listening and I hope that in 2012, under my leadership, we can open our minds, smile that little bit more, and achieve thing what you once thought were impossible. Thank you.

Sarah Genovese
Six years ago, the Class of 2011, was a collection of eager Year 7 students on the cusp of one of the greatest adventure of their lives - the commencement of secondary school.

On the night of Monday October 24 we came together to mark the end of that particular chapter and celebrate the past six years of education, support of parents and teachers and fond memories of the friendships developed. The night commenced with a beautiful and reverent Mass to commemorate this important rite of passage into the next phase of our life. At the conclusion of Mass we were presented with our graduating certificates by the Federal Member for Chisholm, Ms Anna Burke. Stepping forward as graduates brought to mind the first moments when we stepped through the gates of Avila as new Year 7s six years ago.

The celebrations continued into the evening with a shared dinner with our parents and close friends, and to the many staff who attended this wonderful occasion. It was an opportunity for us, the students to show our appreciation for the work and effort of our teachers and the sacrifices and support of our parents. Later in the night the festivities continued on the dance floor as we shared the last moments together as a year level.

Graduation night could not have been any better; the high spirits of all made for a night that will be fondly remembered no matter where we go and no matter what the magnificent achievements that will surely be acquired by each girl in this year level.

Though tinged with a few tears, the special evening together helped give everyone hope and inspiration for the final exams and for whatever paths we choose to follow next year.

Mia Lentini, 2011 College Captain
Mrs Louise Swift, Year 12 Co-ordinator

Four members of the College staff have recently been acknowledged for clocking up 20 years each at Avila.

To mark the achievement, the long serving staff - Mrs Melinda Lloyd, Mr Russell Curr, Mr Emilio Bernardo and Ms Margaret Shelley - were special guests at the annual College Board cocktail evening where they were acknowledged for their invaluable contributions to the Avila community.

Three of the staff have provided the following comments about their two decades at Avila College:

Mr Russell Curr, Information Systems Manager and Economics teacher for 14 years: Change is a constant in the ICT area, especially in education. It is the constants within the change that have kept me at Avila - the students I have taught and my colleagues provide a constant sense of purpose to the job. It is the friendships that one makes and the work environment this produces that keep you at Avila.

Running the IT area has been, and is always, challenging. The energy to keep getting up in the morning and driving 49kms to work at Avila comes from the belief that teaching matters; that it is important to support other staff in their classes with whatever technology they choose to use; and to ensure Avila’s IT resources support the needs of the staff and students.

Emilio Bernardo, Head of Commerce: Avila College is such a great place to work. Inspiring leaders, supportive staff and most importantly wonderful students who are a joy to teach. Students are now distracted by so much around them, which has meant I have had to make my classroom more relevant to them, in order to engage and motivate them. I feel so fortunate that this community is my workplace.

Melinda Lloyd, Mathematics teacher: Whilst I never dreamed of being at Avila for two decades, it is a place that I have never wanted to leave. I’ve seen a lot of changes in the 20 years: the year 10s and 11s shared the area that is now Year 11 only; the staffroom was much smaller and the canteen and Science laboratories were where the general office is now. There was no Bunjil and the gymnasm was just finished as I arrived. Although there have been many physical changes, Avila has, and continues to be, a nurturing learning environment that has been such an enjoyable place to be.
From administration to IT niche

Information technology has revolutionised the way students are taught, and it continues to do so. It has also steered Mr Russell Green's employment pathway during his 19 years at Avila.

Employed as an administrative assistant in 1992, Mr Green soon found his niche in IT. In more recent years up until his retirement at the end of Term Three, as an IT support technician.

Mr Green started at the College as an administrative assistant to the Year 9 and Year 10 co-ordinators and later, in the senior school. He was also involved in collating and entering VCE results into the VASS system, and was partly responsible for piecing together the school timetable.

As the role and importance of information technology in the curriculum increased, Mr Green moved into the computer area. He continued his timetabling work but was also responsible for the administration of ‘Markbook’, the school's reporting system, as well as looking after the school's specialist computer rooms and general Information Communication Technology (ICT) needs. He was also involved in trialling a number of electronic methods of recording student attendance.

As an IT support technician Mr Green's role rapidly expanded as the College network grew, from a small system of three class rooms to the current 600-plus machines. He assisted with the migration from Windows 3.1 to Windows '95, as well as the automation of network processes using Novell Netware. With the increasing size of the network came greater complexity, and the job required continual adaptation. Mr Green's responsibilities again ballooned as did the necessary skill set required to manage the weekly workload. The latest change was that which grew from the Digital Education Revolution funding. The College moved from the Windows platform to the Apple Macs and this required an entirely new set of skills. With the Macs and then the 1:1 program, the job was constantly changing. Most recently, Mr Green was involved in the distribution and maintenance of the school laptops and in managing the IT Help Desk, attending to the needs of both staff and students in their daily use of ICT.

Asked what he will miss most, Mr Green's quick reply was the daily contact with the staff and the friendships which he hopes to maintain. He is looking forward to different challenges and has recently returned from a trip to Ecuador in South America.

Avila thanks Mr Green for his 19 years of service to the College and wishes him every success in the future.

Mr Russell Curr, Systems Administrator and Mr Phil Cornell, fellow golf and football fan

Much achieved in just five years

Mrs Sarah Macdonald has certainly contributed generously to many facets of life within the Avila community in the past five years. She has taught with enthusiasm and innovation, taken on leadership roles, and engaged in or initiated a range of social justice events.

Mrs Macdonald has taught Year 7 General Studies, Religious Education, Information Technology and English. She endeared herself to staff and students alike, being always enthusiastic and innovative in her teaching. In fact she did so well in General Studies that in her second year at Avila she became General Studies Co-ordinator, a challenging position she held for two years.

Mrs Macdonald demonstrated her competence as an English teacher, teaching Year 12 English this year. She is widely read and knowledgeable about all forms of media and integrated technology seamlessly and effectively in her teaching.

As an RE teacher, Mrs Macdonald certainly lived out her faith. She is compassionate and respected by students and colleagues alike, always at the ready with a sympathetic ear and a friendly smile. In 2010 and 2011 she was part of the Team Avila who completed the Oxfam 100kn walk. Before coming to Avila in 2007, Mrs Macdonald taught in Japan for a year; after the tsunami, Mrs Macdonald established a group to make 1000 cranes and raise money for the victims.

Mrs Macdonald is a great example to others in her personal fitness regime. She was instrumental in establishing a Saturday morning walking group for staff, she competed in the London marathon, coached Avila's hockey team and attended many school camps.

During Mrs Macdonald's time at Avila, we have been lucky to share in her engagement and marriage to David. We were privileged to hear David's bagpipe playing at the 2010 Presentation Evening. Mrs Macdonald's love of travel has been clear as in the past five years we have shared in the excitement and experiences of her trips to the UK, Vietnam and Thailand.

Avila College has been enriched by Mrs Macdonald's presence and we wish her well in her future endeavours.

Mr Russell Curr, Systems Administrator and Mr Phil Cornell, fellow golf and football fan

Mrs Sarah Macdonald assists Melanie Linden

Ms Geraldine McKenna, colleague and friend
Passions create legacy in library

After more than 21 years as a Teacher Librarian at Avila, Mrs Kathy Evans will leave an indelible impression on the College. Her passion for books and all that they represent is something that generations of both students and staff will carry in their memories.

Mrs Evans’ expertise, as well as her broad and deep knowledge of literature, has made working with her both a pleasure and rewarding. She has been a constant source of information in a wide range of genre in both children’s and adult literature. In addition, she helped nurture in others her love of history through the resources available and acquired, and her many eye-catching displays.

When it came to students needing to complete research, a subject teacher, with his or her class would always find the task was filled with purpose and have confidence that the library would have the necessary resources. A wide range of information and was guaranteed. Mrs Evans always kept abreast of the needs of the topics being covered in all subjects. For example, when the new Geography course at Year 8 was being established, resources were needed on a wide range of new topics. Within days an extensive and comprehensive collection was added to the shelves, ensuring that all students were catered for in a variety of areas. Mrs Evans would know not only what was available, but also how to get it quickly!

Adding her personal touch, Mrs Evans’ love of greenery, as well as frogs, could be seen in the variety of pot plants brightening up the library and cute little characters emerging from little nooks here and there.

In the staffroom, conversations were readily shared about new books and aspiring authors. Her life has always been filled with varied travels and her passion for opera. A widely traveled person, Mrs Evans has not been one to shirk away from exotic locations such as Egypt, China and rural France. She also visits tropical Queensland regularly.

During her 21 years at Avila, Mrs Evans has seen many changes in the way libraries operate as well as user expectations. Books are no longer the sole purpose of libraries: cards are no longer the way to access the catalogue: quiet time is not always expected in a productive learning environment. Mrs Evans has managed those changes with flair and competence. Her arrival at Avila was on the back of the design and establishment of a new facility at another school. Her energy and vision has continued right through to her retirement.

So, what to do now she is retiring from Avila? Mrs Evans will enjoy her family, especially her adored grandson. She will try to remain fit by walking great distances and swimming when able. She will continue to indulge in her passion for fine clothes and fashion. She will have more time for her beloved opera and view it in its many locations and forms.

All the very best for your future, Mrs Evans. Retirement will, hopefully, be full of interests, health and family.

Mr Paul Ekers, colleague and friend
In the late 1980s, Mrs Evans and Mr Ekers were colleagues at Kingswood College, Doncaster.

Vibrant personality, quality educator

Catherine Ohlsen started her time at Avila as an enthusiastic student teacher in 2003. Her skill and talent as an educator were apparent immediately and subsequently she was offered a permanent teaching position on staff, commencing 2004.

Always ready to embrace a new challenge and contribute to the many facets of College life, Miss Ohlsen (pictured with some of her Year 9 homeroom class), has undertaken several leadership positions. These have included Year 7 Co-ordinator and Transition Co-ordinator and worked in the Religious Education, General Studies, English and Drama departments. She has also been an integral and creative spirit in preparing for Creative Arts festivals, Drama Performance evenings, and even managed a vocal solo at Music Festival!

Miss Ohlsen is an exceptional teacher who extends her students skills and knowledge, imparts a passion and love of learning, and has the kindest heart. A team player, she works with her colleagues to develop creative and interesting learning programs, she has attended many years 7 and 9 adventure camps, travelled to Italy and Santa Teresa with our students, and prepared many memorable liturgical reflections.

Miss Ohlsen is much loved by staff and students. Her vibrant energy, creativity, compassion, and gentleness are embedded in all her interactions with the community and she will be missed dearly by all.

Our community has been blessed to have dear Miss Ohlsen in our midst and we will never forget all that she has taught us along the way.

Ms Rebecca Cetrola, Deputy Principal (Administration)
Bringing the Northern Territory to Melbourne

The 2011 Santa Teresa immersion group gained greater insights into the impact of Intervention when they heard Aboriginal elders speak at a gathering in Melbourne on November 4.

Eight Northern Territory Aboriginal leaders, led by Rev Dr Djiniyini Gondarra OAM and Rosalie Kunoth-Monks OAM, were in Melbourne to respond to a recently released report on consultations in the Northern Territory about the Intervention. Former Prime Minister John Howard initiated the Northern Territory ‘Emergency Response’ in 2007 and debate continually arises over this imposition on our Indigenous Australians.

Though some agree with the measures taken, such as increasing police numbers, implementing alcohol bans in communities and income management measures, the majority of Aboriginal people disagree with the Intervention as it was imposed without consultation and removes their control over their communities.

The leaders from the Northern Territory argued that the initial implementation of the law was a breach of human rights as the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 was ignored, to enable the government to enforce the Intervention on Indigenous people. The main concerns expressed by the Indigenous leaders at the meeting were in regard to the importance of education and health care for their people. They questioned the ‘solutions’ the government is suggesting, such as lowering the welfare assistance for parents of children with low school attendance rates. Dr Djiniyini argued that, ‘this is neither in the interest of the child or that child’s family’, and it ignores cultural practices that are essential to the identity of the child. As the students and staff who travelled on the Santa Teresa immersion witnessed first hand, praise and positive solutions were very effective in assisting the children to learn. Impressive attendance rates have been achieved in Queensland in a program designed by Chris Sarra. He found that including traditional culture in the basics of the curriculum encouraged Aboriginal children to come to school, especially if it were accompanied by praise and recognition of success. This approach will ensure that our Indigenous people do not lose their very rich and important culture. The elders condemned the punitive government approach.

The response by the Elders was documented by the media who were present. The aim of the event was to get the word out. The controversial way they went about proving their point was interesting for us to watch, and the passion and commitment the Elders showed was a step forward emphasising their desire to create a united Australia. Dr Djiniyini spoke directly to us and said that he wanted to leave us a better future. The Elders asked for proper consultation, as they are willing to co-operate with non-Indigenous Australians to ‘close the gap’ and create long-term improvements to the lives of every Australian. We, after having travelled to Santa Teresa recently, could see the impact first hand of what the Intervention is doing on the ground. What these incredibly strong people have had forced upon them is not fair. Their message on the day was that, ‘Enough is enough!’.

The 2011 Santa Teresa immersion group

Fire Carrier exchange

Avila’s first Fire Carrier, Beth Corkhill, returned to the College recently to meet with the Reconciliation Group and welcome Alysha Rose’ Meyer as the 2012 Fire Carrier. Pictured with the Reconciliation Group are co-ordinator Mrs Christine Valladares, and Fire Carriers, Beth Corkhill (2010), Alysha Rose’ Meyer (2012) and Amy Tremewen (2011).
Walking gently with the Lyente Apurte community

In the last week of Term 3, 10 Year 10 girls left for the Santa Teresa immersion, together with three staff members.

Santa Teresa (Lyente Apurte) is an Aboriginal community located 80km southeast of Alice Springs. In the 10 days, we spent a lot of time talking to people and we learned so much more about the culture of the Arrernte people and ourselves than we ever anticipated.

We assisted in many places such as the Women’s Centre, the school, Opportunity Shop and Spirituality Centre. With the generosity of the Avila Staff, and the support of Qantas, we delivered 120kg of clothing donations for the Opportunity Shop run by the parish. The joy that these donations brought to the community was overwhelming and we were amazed at how quickly word got around the community and the items were sold. At the school, we helped the children in maths, reading and writing and which opened our eyes to the gap between Indigenous and mainstream education in Australia, as the levels of achievement were very different to ours in Melbourne. We felt very blessed to work with the teachers at the school as they were so patient, understanding and it was obvious to us that they really loved their jobs. The children were incredibly talented and passionate about their sports and we involved ourselves in the after-school sporting programs of ball skills and netball. At the Women’s Centre, we were able to observe the hard work of the women in the community and we put together meals on wheels for people who were sick, elderly or otherwise needed assistance. The Spirituality Centre was a peaceful sanctuary and workplace for many of the women. Here they came to relax, socialise, paint and sit quietly with the support of Sister Liz Wiemers. The Spirituality Centre was a warehouse-type shed that some of the women had experienced as a girls dormitory during the community’s mission days. The women were very humble and openly shared with us their culture; we dot-painted ceramic crosses along side them.

We weren’t there to feel sorry for the people, or to just donate money and take photos of low quality houses. We were there to learn, listen and walk gently with the people of the community. We were able to celebrate their culture, stories and experience first hand the talents of the Arrernte people. We did see some of the challenges and impacts associated with the Northern Territory Emergency Response on the people. However it was heartwarming to see the community keeping their culture, language and stories alive, whilst improving the living standards and working with what they have available to them. We learned so much about our lives and how different our home and school life is to theirs. We all reflected that the important things in life do not revolve around material things. The Arrernte people were so appreciative of everything in their community and the sense of pride they felt for each other and their land was inspirational. We all know that this immersion to the community of Santa Teresa will stay in our hearts forever, guiding our future paths of learning and understanding.

Miranda Koroknai & Lucy Moon
On August 8, I boarded a plane to Madrid in Spain to embark on a journey that would change my life forever. I was one of the very few chosen to represent my parish, St Peter’s in Clayton, in Spain and my whole trip was funded by my incredible parishioners. From the moment I stepped off the plane, my World Youth Day journey had begun.

My days in Spain were filled with dancing, singing and laughter. There was music being played in every corner of Spain and everybody seemed to be high on what could only be described as the power of the Holy Spirit. The atmosphere was incredible, and only heightened every time pilgrims ran into others from their country. Chants like ‘Viva el Papa’ were shouted through the streets and the World Youth Day theme song was sung almost everywhere we stopped. Every country had their own chants, but the Italians were definitely the loudest and biggest group present at WYD.

I met people from all over the world and people that I will never forget. People I prayed with, sang with, laughed with and even cried with when we had to depart from each other. I will never forget the complete and utter sense of joy that I felt within those three weeks in Spain. I owe everything that I experienced to the people of my Parish and to God.

Cassandra Lemalu, 11 Purple

Looking for something different to do when school resumes next year?

Why not come along to the lunchtime craft sessions in the Counselling House.

Since the start of Term Three a group of girls have been meeting every Thursday lunchtime to let their creative thoughts and talents pour out. We have created our very own twist on aliens, made awesome Scoobies and, for the girls who like a challenge, made some woollen beanies to donate to a charitable organisation. More importantly, we have also made some new friends from across the year levels.

This a great group of girls and everyone is always made to feel welcome.

Madeline Dyer 7 Blue

Mr John Beekhof, Head of Religious Education
Invaluable lessons from Building Bridges

Participating in the Building Bridges program was an amazing experience. Five students from Year 10 - Katie Elliott, Kate Reithmuller, Deanna Speranza, Genevieve Townsend and myself were given the opportunity to participate in this program which truly changed our lives.

Building Bridges is about interfaith dialogue where youths like ourselves from different faiths get together to talk about our beliefs and culture. As we are living in a multicultural nation, programs like these are needed to maintain peace. It originally began as an answer to end prejudice and foster tolerance after the world’s response to September 11. Avila College was placed in the central region of this program along with Bialik College, Strathcona Baptist Girls’ Grammar, Xavier College, Carey Grammar, and East Preston Islamic College.

For most of us, it was the first time of talking to and experiencing people of other faiths and cultures. During the five sessions that took place in different schools, we were split into groups with a mix of students. We learned so much about other individuals just like ourselves, by simply conversing with them. We were amazed by the similarities we all share, no matter where we come from or our religious background.

At our graduation many students offered reflections on what they had experienced. We were moved by a student from King David College who spoke of his initial disappointment that the program was focused on conversation rather than something more profound. He said that on reflection, as the program progressed that he realised that conversation fostered friendship and he had come to understand how profound friendships can be. An Islamic student from Minaret spoke emphatically of the importance of healing the individual if we are to heal the world. One of our students shared a story she had heard that reminded the audience that there are not many races - only one, the human race.

Building Bridges definitely refined our views about the beliefs of other faiths and it is safe to say, that we have gained some amazing friends for life.

Shalyn Mathew, 10 Green

WOW program woos students

Year 10 student, Kirra Travers, recently participated in a ‘Worlds of Work (WOW) program run by the Education Foundation, a division of the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA). During the week-long residential program students explored things about themselves, possibilities for the future and how to listen to and talk with people in a range of different workplaces about what they do and how they got there. They explored the question: ‘What does it take to succeed in the world of life and work?’

Some of the activities Kirra participated in included workshops designed to build on student strengths and communication skills, and to broaden their aspirations; street interviews in a range of Melbourne’s work precincts; listening to guest speakers; a ‘classroom to boardroom’ lunch; a workplace breakfast with an employee panel; and time to reflect and think about future career paths. In groups, the students created and gave a presentation to their classmates and special guests on the final day.

The WOW program was run in conjunction with the CEO for Indigenous students in Victoria. It was clear at the final presentation titled, ‘What it takes to succeed’ that great friendships had formed during the week and the students were able to mix, engage and work together in groups with people they hadn’t met before. It was inspiring to watch and listen to these young adults as they presented their overview of the WOW program and reflected on how much they’d learned.

Mrs Jackie Benton, teacher and member of Avila’s Reconciliation Group
Avila’s recently established App Group has advanced admirably.

In Term 4, the group of 14 students worked on a Harry Potter-themed game. With terrific guidance and invaluable creative ideas from none other than THE Mr Ziad Baroudi, the group successfully created a fully functional App, that will soon be uploaded to the App Store.

As a group, we have created original splash screens, imagery and an innovative program.

The App, which is based on the traditional game of Hangman, has been christened ‘Save Harry’. Players are challenged on their knowledge of J.K Rowling’s best selling series and must work to assist Harry in his quest to defeat the Dark Lord.

The weekly meetings and great personal dedication from Mr Baroudi have enabled us to further knowledge of game design and computer programming and have set the stage for further contributions to the information technology world from Avila students.

Thank you to Mr Baroudi for his time and zeal, which made all of this possible. Look out for Save Harry on the App Store!

Li-Chun Chen, 11 Orange, and Sinead McKittrick, 11 Gold
Maths took on a sporty new meaning for Year 7 students when they gathered in the gymnasium on Thursday, November 17.

For two periods, they skipped, sprinted, took free-throws and worked out the dimensions of a soccer field. These and many other activities were undertaken to involve the students in applying the Mathematics they have learned throughout the year in a real-world setting.

If you think this sounds like fun and games, you’re absolutely right! Consider this. While playing sport and having fun, the students had to measure parts of the gym, draw a diagram to scale and work out the volume of the gym. They had to use their knowledge of symmetry to design a locker room and apply statistical measures to determine the strength of their grip. The students surprised themselves with their level of Maths genius just waiting to be tapped.

Special thanks go to the Physical Education Department for making the gym and most of the equipment available.

Mr Ziad Baroudi
on behalf of the awesome (and very fit) Maths Department.

It was fun working with other people you wouldn’t normally hang out with.
Hajin Kim, Jadyn Lee and Breanna Beltrame - 7 Blue

I liked the gymnastics judging best because the gymnasts were really talented. It was awesome.
Tav Kakkar, 7 Gold

We liked the bike races best because you could push yourself to see how far you could go.
Gabby Mogg and Monique Drake - 7 Gold

Maths goes sporty

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on behalf of the awesome (and very fit) Maths Department.
Major exhibitions of student art

It has been a particularly busy period for the Art Department, with the staging of the 2011 Grad Show and the annual Art Show showcasing the creative talents and meticulous efforts of students.

The 2011 Grad Show was held in the last week of Term Three for the VCE Unit 3/4 students studying Visual Communication & Design, Studio Arts, Design & Technology subjects. The VCE specific exhibition is held due to the number of students undertaking these courses and the large body of work they produce. Each student from these subjects exhibited their final art works and their folio of explorations and designs. The Art captains worked incredibly hard with the teachers to plan and set up the show.

The evening started with more than 300 guests gathered in Bunjil for the fashion parade followed by the exhibition in the Art Rooms where visitors were served finger foods and drinks by the talented Hospitality students, under the guidance of Mrs Elizabeth Trembath. The evening was a great success with many visitors marvelling at the high calibre of student work.

It has been a pleasure for all the Art teachers to work with these students over their years and watch their skills and expertise develop. We wish them all success in their futures. Thank you for all those involved and to those who attended the evening.

Ms Jolenta Kirkwood, Head of Art

The Annual Avila College Art Show was again a wonderful success with more than 300 guests attending the official opening on October 20 plus many others visiting the exhibition at other times. Everyone was amazed with the quality of the art work and our Avila art students should be very proud. Our students excelled in all aspects of their art and design and their hard work paid off. Well done. Many thanks to the Art Department staff for sharing their expertise and guidance.

During the Art Show, our year-level co-ordinators, each selected a piece of artwork from their year level, to have displayed in their offices. Congratulations to the girls whose work was chosen: Ellie Dimitropoulos, Jorja Hope, Nana Shiraishi, Stephanie Greco, Erin Smart and Melissa Nanfra.

Rachelle Criticos, Year 10 Art captain

Junior Art Club 2011

Junior Art Club attracted a large number of committed years 7 and 8 students this year. With a ‘Pop Art’ theme, students were encouraged to create a vivacious masterpiece resembling a famous face. The junior students met every Wednesday lunchtime in Term Three and Four to collaborate and design their celebrity’s portrait. On completing the design process, the students eagerly sketched their aesthetic compositions onto the canvas and commenced painting. As the year continued, they began learning the fundamental techniques associated with painting, whilst generating new friendships amongst fellow artists. For example, they recognised when it was appropriate to use a round brush, as opposed to a flat brush, and the unique strokes that they could produce with each brush type. The students were also able to enhance their knowledge of colours, as they experimented with the mixing of primary paints in order to obtain the vibrant secondary colours required for the canvas. The finished pieces were displayed during Avila’s annual Art Show, and featured the faces of such people as Mr Bean, Lady Gaga and Rihanna. It is expected that the remarkable artworks will be displayed in the new school building subsequent to its completion.

Isha Shah, Year 7 Art captain
We knew there would be changes for the 2011 Year 10 Drama Festival but little did we know what they would be. We were eager to find out the theme of the festival and were surprised to discover that each play was to be the story of Romeo and Juliet. A famous story, not nearly overdone, but not like this!

The difference? Although all the 2011 Drama Festival plays were based on the concept of Romeo and Juliet, each was individual in its theatre style: a soap opera, a children's pantomime, a western musical, a jukebox musical and, introducing for the first time, a fifth play being a silent film.

You can imagine soap opera with its dramatic glances, pantomime as a crazy fairytale, western musical with its cowboys and indians, jukebox musical set to the catalogue of Michael Jackson's hits and the silent film with its Charleston 1920s dancer. This all made for a Drama Festival full of entertaining variety, showcasing the many talents of students in years 7-10 in singing, dancing and acting.

However, this would never have been possible without the creative ability of our fellow classmates and the guidance of the spontaneous Miss K-P (Kane-Priestley)!

... Once upon a time in our first lesson of 'Opposite Prompt', there were 18 excited girls ready to become Year 10 directors. The role involved writing, casting, directing and becoming costume, make-up, set and lighting designers. Like all good fairytales, our story came to a happy ending, with our fairy godmother (Miss K-P) casting her magic wand of imagination and, with a final spell of level-headedness upon us, we presented the Yr 10 Drama Festival for 2011. We will forever remember the experience as we live happily ever after.

Congratulations to Georgia Muling who won the Vadi Award.

Lauren Trantino, Year 10 Drama Festival student director, and Courtney Catherine

Music maestro of silent movies

Every year, the Drama Department at Avila College stages a Year 10 Drama Festival which is directed and put together by year 10 students studying Drama in Semester 2. This year, Drama Festival was both bigger and extra challenging with a new addition to the traditional four plays, a silent film. In preparation for putting together this new and exciting film, Simone Lancuba, Miranda Koroknai, Paige D’Souza and Miss Darcie Kane-Priestley went to see the 1926 Silent Film version of hit broadway show Chicago. As the movie was part of the Melbourne Silent Film Festival, we were lucky enough to meet the musician, David Johnston, who is considered to be Australia’s finest exponent of accompanying these movies. David offered us some handy tips on how we could incorporate music into our film and was really excited to hear that young people were approaching the genre of silent films.
The Year 9 Indonesian class from Avila, along with two other schools, were fortunate to attend an Indonesian Immersion Camp at Phillip Island in October. We took part in many different activities such as kite making, book writing, and also ran our own stalls in an Indonesian market. We really enjoyed doing these things, especially when the primary school children arrived and joined us.

After the ice-breaker activities, we were given folders with our own fake Indonesian money and a work book for us to use at the camp. Using the fake money, we bargained with some of the teachers and our camp Leaders for sarongs which we wore for the whole camp. It was fun to bargain in Indonesian and learn how this skill was used so frequently in Indonesia, and for our own stalls for the primary school children. After we bought our sarongs, we made easy books for us to read to the younger students. It was a creative task that made us think back to the basics of the language, but still add harder words to teach the children.

Once we had met and read our books to the primary school children in our group, we launched into the market and stalls that we had prepared earlier for them, full of signs, activities and games. Some of the Avila girls used the school’s ‘Angklung’ instruments to play music such as Old MacDonald Had A Farm. The younger children really enjoyed the music and joined in singing and playing along with us. We held a parade in honour of the children and wore ‘Sesajen’ (offerings) on our group leaders’ heads. The Sesajen were made from fruits, cakes and plants. The children were delighted with the colour and traditional designs that we had created on the offerings.

Overall we had an amazing time and though it was hard at first to adapt to fluent Indonesian, we started to get better at listening and picking up words which helped us form the sentences in English. The children were an enjoyable part of the Camp, as we rarely get to teach others the language during school. The Camp was relaxing when we went for walks over the bridge and to the beach, but we also had fun increasing our language abilities in Indonesian.

Belinda Williams and Sophia Giuliano
Wednesday October 12 brought new experiences for the years 8 to 11 students studying Indonesian.

During periods two and three, we discovered how to ‘bust out’ the moves - Indonesian style! With the guidance of two magnificent dance teachers from the Suara Indonesian Dance Group based in Sydney, we learned some traditional Indonesian dances, which we did in groups. We learned traditional dances from all over Indonesia including Bali and Sumatra.

It was so much fun learning the dances and we certainly appreciated the opportunity to experience this unique aspect of the Indonesian culture.

Rebecca Abbott, 9 Green
At Year 10, students selecting The Menu as a subject study the origin of menus and look at the different courses and types of menus available. They produce a variety of foods beginning with hors d'oeuvres and then work through all the courses incorporating as many different foods and preparation methods as possible. An excursion is organised to a TAFE college where they experience the taking of orders, preparing the food, and serving. The most difficult part is deciphering the menu!

The girls are exposed to some new and unusual foods. The culmination of this is an assessment task that requires the girls to work in groups to design, prepare, and eat a two-course lunch with members of staff. The room is a mass of activity as girls show their creative side in setting tables, organising menus, folding serviettes and transforming the teaching space into a real dining room. They prepare the food, sit and eat it, and clean up ready to tackle period 4. No mean feat! Congratulations to everyone involved.

Mrs Sue Rowell, teacher

VET Hospitality students have been exposed to a wide variety of foods in their Commercial Cookery Sessions. In the five hours they spent with chef trainer Lee Read, they have prepared entrees, main courses and desserts ranging from minestrone, seafood cocktails, roasted vegetable tarts, poached chicken with broccoli mousse, prawn and vegetable tempura, crepes suzette and fresh ginger pudding. The students need to be able to present restaurant quality meals and there is an emphasis on appropriate and appealing plate presentation. The student who presents the best food of the session is awarded Chef of the Day! Congratulations to the following students for their achievements: Poaching/Steaming - Naomi Riley; Baking - Nicole Meehan, and Demi Filippatos; Frying - Ngoc Tran; and Roasting - Tsz- Yan Littlejohn.

Mrs Elizabeth Trembath
Head of Food Technology

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Chefs in action

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Head of Food Technology

Chefs in action

VET Hospitality students have been exposed to a wide variety of foods in their Commercial Cookery Sessions. In the five hours they spent with chef trainer Lee Read, they have prepared entrees, main courses and desserts ranging from minestrone, seafood cocktails, roasted vegetable tarts, poached chicken with broccoli mousse, prawn and vegetable tempura, crepes suzette and fresh ginger pudding. The students need to be able to present restaurant quality meals and there is an emphasis on appropriate and appealing plate presentation. The student who presents the best food of the session is awarded Chef of the Day! Congratulations to the following students for their achievements: Poaching/Steaming - Naomi Riley; Baking - Nicole Meehan, and Demi Filippatos; Frying - Ngoc Tran; and Roasting - Tsz- Yan Littlejohn.

Mrs Elizabeth Trembath
Head of Food Technology

Putting The Menu to the test with Miss Catherine Ohlsen and Miss Darcie Kane-Priestley, are Carlie Saunders and Yvanah Hernandez.

‘The Menu’ put to the test

At Year 10, students selecting The Menu as a subject study the origin of menus and look at the different courses and types of menus available. They produce a variety of foods beginning with hors d'oeuvres and then work through all the courses incorporating as many different foods and preparation methods as possible. An excursion is organised to a TAFE college where they experience the taking of orders, preparing the food, and serving. The most difficult part is deciphering the menu! The girls are exposed to some new and unusual foods. The culmination of this is an assessment task that requires the girls to work in groups to design, prepare, and eat a two-course lunch with members of staff. The room is a mass of activity as girls show their creative side in setting tables, organising menus, folding serviettes and transforming the teaching space into a real dining room. They prepare the food, sit and eat it, and clean up ready to tackle period 4. No mean feat! Congratulations to everyone involved. Mrs Sue Rowell, teacher

Volunteers ‘thank you’ morning tea

Volunteers who help in the library and canteen were treated to a ‘thank you’ morning tea on November 25. The morning tea and gifts (freshly-made shortbread and lemon spread) of appreciation were prepared by the talented VET Hospitality students and staff.

Pictured from L-R, Linda Swan, Pam Genovese, Rita Napoli, Elizabeth Dabrowski, Daphne Murphy and Gerri Viergever

High tea indulgence

Year 10 students studying Food for Health Entertainment and Festivities thoroughly enjoyed a high tea excursion to Cristina Re’s What a Girl Wants in Collingwood (pictured above). As part of their course, the students had prepared a high tea at school so enjoyed the wonderful indulgence of being at the receiving end.

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Gold, Prosperity and Migration
The Gold, Prosperity and Migration classes were privileged to visit Sovereign Hill, catch GOLD FEVER and participate in the life on the goldfields in the 1850s. We dressed as a young Irish girls completing the tasks of servant girls. Some of our tasks included cleaning the rooms, making butter and keeping up with the daily washing. After cleaning and being bombarded by tourists asking for photographs, we explored Sovereign Hill. We toured the mine and gained a greater appreciation of the conditions underground, which certainly frightened some of us. The day was a wonderful experience and provided great insights into what those days were like.

Cassandra Greenhalgh, 9 Purple

Whose Story is it?
At the Melbourne Museum we experienced the differences between Aboriginal and European culture throughout history. The European exhibition showed the types of houses people lived in and how they coped without electricity or hot water. The Aboriginal exhibition of Bunjilaka highlighted the mainly tragic stories of the stolen generation and the dramatic change they were forced to overcome. Many aborigines held secret gatherings during this time and continued to express their culture through traditional artwork. It was a heartbreaking exhibition especially when we were shown real posters and advertisements of that time that rejected and belittled the Aborigines. We also visited Como House in South Yarra and toured the beautiful gardens, and admired the impressive collection of antique furniture. We learned about the previous owners also, especially the independent women of the Armytage family who ran the property and surrounding farmland and managed financially all on their own.

Francesca Carl and Jade Carr, 9 Silver

Our Common Wealth
The Our Common Wealth history class travelled to the city to explore the history of Colonial Melbourne. The day started with a journey to Flinders Street and then we moved on to many other places such as the Old Treasury, the Rialto, Princess Theatre, Parliament House and the Block Arcade. We also saw the statues of Mathew Flinders, John Batman, John Fawkner and Burke and Wills. By going to all these places we were able to learn about Melbourne and gain knowledge of how Melbourne came to be the marvellous place that it is today.

Fotini Hrambanis, 9 Pink

MEDIEVAL DAY
On November 17, Year 8 students participated in Medieval Day. Students had the opportunity to dress as a princess, peasant, crusader or other Medieval character and immerse themselves in the lifestyle and food of the Medieval era. Activities included dancing complete with May pole (pictured right), combat, calligraphy, crime and punishment. An enjoyable day was had by all.

TERM 4 is a busy and exciting period for history students with a varied program of Year 9 excursions and the much-anticipated Year 8 Medieval Day featured on this page.

YEAR 9 HISTORY EXCURSIONS
Five years ago, I trained as a volunteer English tutor for foreign students, migrants and refugees ... I never imagined this might lead me to Mongolia ...

In September this year, I was fortunate to visit Mongolia and China, for four weeks.

I am one of about 70 volunteer tutors teaching English to more than 100 migrants, foreign students and refugees, who come to classes at Syndal Baptist Church (SBC) each week. Through Overseas Council Australia (a Christian organisation which supports theological colleges throughout the developing world), a team of six tutors were invited to visit the Union Bible Theological College (UBTC) in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia, to teach English for two weeks. This was a first to have short-term visiting English teachers. UBTC is an accredited tertiary college, with about 150 students, aged 18 to 50, studying either a three year Theological degree, or four year Masters degree. Each day we taught two, 100 minute sessions and our students were 1st – 4th Year Mongolian students, mostly at the beginner’s level with their English. It was quite challenging for them, and similarly for us, as we spoke no Mongolian! The students need to learn English in order to read theological texts which are mostly written in English. The Bible has been translated into Mongolian, but only about 20 theological texts have been translated at this stage. We taught the students the basics of grammar such as nouns, verbs, and adjectives and did so by means of games, worksheets, conversation, and more. It was lots of fun, and we made many friends. In our free time we were able to see some of the sights of Ulaan Baatar, and also visit Terelj National Park, on the outskirts of the city. We stayed at a ger (yurt) camp, and experienced -6° C overnight ... Brrr!!! We also enjoyed camel riding, walking in the national park, and of course eating Mongolian food.

After leaving Mongolia, we flew to Beijing where we enjoyed being tourists. We visited the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, Summer Palace and the Temple of Heaven, as well as shopped and ate endless dumplings! One of our students from SBC, who returned to China earlier this year, acted as our tour guide. Our final week was spent in Anshan and surrounding areas in north eastern China. There we met up with two current students, who had returned home for a holiday. They showed us the well-known sights of Liaoning province, including the Benxi underground caves (an area famous for its geology, fossils and dinosaurs), the beautiful mountains, and the old palace, where the early emperors of China lived before moving to Beijing. A special highlight was our visit to Tieling, where my great uncle and his family were missionaries in the early 1900s.

Both Mongolia and China are amazing countries in their own ways, with similarities and yet great differences. Mongolia is a poor country, having only become a democracy in 1990, after hundreds of years of being ruled by China and Russia. China, on the other hand, is a very rich country economically, but with very, very poor people, as well as the mega-rich. Its history is very grand, as seen in the Forbidden City, and extends over many thousands of years. Christianity in both countries is growing at a great rate, and the Christians we met in both countries are very enthusiastic and passionate about their faith. We experienced their warmth and a wonderful welcome from everyone.

We have been invited back to teach at UBTC in 2012 ... Once again it will be challenging for them and for us. However they / we are taking it slowly, and for certain, they will surely reach their goal.

Marion Wilson
Avila librarian and archivist

'Sanaj yavbal butne, sajilyavbal hurne'
'Keep it in mind and it is sure to come, take it slow and you are certain to reach'
(English equivalent: 'slowly but surely')

Having taken long service leave to teach English in Mongolia, Mrs Marion Wilson found much wisdom in this Mongolian phrase. Mrs Wilson shares her experience in the following article and accompanying photographs.
Congratulations to current and former Avila teachers who have welcomed the safe arrival of their first-born children in recent months.

Head of Drama, Mr Cash, and his wife and former Avila teacher, Sally (nee Druitt), are the proud parents of Oscar Montague who arrived on September 14, weighing 4.15kg (9.2lbs).

Meanwhile Mrs Johanna Chavez (nee de Leon) and her husband, Raul, welcomed Maya into the world on August 25. Maya weighed in at 3.4kg (7.8lbs). Known by her maiden name, Ms de Leon taught Science, Biology and Religious Education during her time at Avila.

Invaluable lessons on Cook Islands

In combining her love of travel and her ambition to become a teacher, Lauren Snell, (Class of 2004) has already contributed much to the community and school in the Cook Islands.

Lauren was part of a group of 27 primary and secondary student teachers from Monash University who spent a month in the Cook Islands earlier this year undertaking volunteer work in the areas of education, health and physical activity.

‘It was so rewarding to be able to work with the children and teach in the Cook Islands. It was also very challenging catering to all their different needs,’ said Lauren who is undertaking a Diploma in Education.

Initially Lauren completed a double degree in Art and Health Science, majoring in nutrition, health promotion, Indonesian language and culture and psychology. After working full time in research and education under South Health, the Jean Hailes Foundation and Monash University, she decided to undertake a teaching diploma because she wanted to extend her experience working with children. Lauren volunteered for the Cook Islands program because it offered a great opportunity to work with students from a different culture in a different setting.

‘The experience in the Cook Islands strengthened our resolve as teachers, challenged our notions of teaching and learning, and taught us the importance of the small things in life’ said Lauren.

‘We were truly made to feel at home, adopted by the locals as part of the family’ and really accepted into the community. The Cook Islands people were keen to work with us, exposing them to different teachers, strategies and ideas. It was a process of mutual learning; a true experience of community.

We experience the most beautiful culture. We learned to enjoy the small things in life, the things we often take for granted. Each day was an adventure, something different, something new.

Lauren’s interest in helping others was strengthened at Avila where she was involved in the Reconciliation Group and social justice-related activities. Lauren who was also involved in music and sport.

Upon completion of her teaching diploma, Lauren is looking forward to starting her new appointment in a Catholic primary school in Melbourne. She hopes to return to the Cook Islands to teach in the future. Her advice for anyone wanting to pursue their dreams would be that anything is possible with determination, resilience and optimism.

You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You’re on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who decides where to go! Dr Seuss

Interview conducted by Year 11 Business Management student, Abby Dougherty, as part of a unit on Public Relations.

Lauren Snell was certainly a popular visitor during her stint as a volunteer in the Cook Islands.

Bundles of joy

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Interview conducted by Year 11 Business Management student, Abby Dougherty, as part of a unit on Public Relations.
Inspired by her brother, Caroline Counsel has not only become a respected legal practitioner but is also President of the Law Institute of Victoria (LIV), the peak body of the law profession in the state.

Caroline (Class of 1978) is the fifth female president of the LIV, a paid position which she juggles with the demands of her own city-based family law firm.

Driven by her strong desire to help people, Caroline gravitated towards family law which has provided her with a challenging and satisfying pathway.

Undecided about career paths at the end of secondary school, Caroline commenced an Arts Degree at Monash University. In second year, however, she became increasingly interested in studying law which her brother was studying at the time. Caroline made the switch to law but initially found the course tough going and said it was as though she was studying in a foreign language. Fortunately Caroline’s determination and willingness to work hard enabled her to rise to the challenge, to eventually excel in most areas of study. She had a strong leaning towards criminal law but then decided that she would prefer to work in an area where she could assist families to navigate difficult times.

Caroline is quick to dismiss the ‘racy’ image of the legal profession portrayed on popular television shows. She impressed that there were no shortcuts, a lot of hard work and the usual fair share of disappointments and let-downs along the way. Even more so for females in a still predominantly male dominated profession. Caroline noted that she worked extra hard – 14 hour days were not unusual – so she would be invited into a partnership. Strongly determined, Caroline soon established her own law firm, but all the while, keeping her eye on the bigger picture of law and the far-reaching impact of the legal system in Victoria and throughout Australia. Becoming the fifth female president of the LIV is quite a professional coup and one that allows Caroline to raise the profile of the legal community, promote its activities, and contribute to the decision-making process at government level to continually improve the legal system. Within the next few years, Caroline will be promoting around Australia a new practice in family law - collaborative law - which focuses more on working with separating couples outside of the court system. Caroline, a collaborative practitioner, will also be training lawyers in the new practice.

Reflecting on her time at Avila, Caroline said she was ‘discovered’ in Year 9 by Miss Marie Brown. According to Caroline, Miss Brown identified her talents and ability, despite her otherwise strong-headedness and slightly rebellious behaviour.

‘I couldn’t tell you what I learned in Year 9 History, for example, but I know that Avila gave me somewhat of a blueprint of how to think clearly and objectively, how to work as a team member, to respect and care for others, and to appreciate friendships.’

Caroline’s strong Avila friendships have been life-long and she is still in regular contact with her best friend and past College captain, Jenny Diggle (m.Greene). Caroline and Jenny were both in the 1978 leadership team.

With a surname like ‘Counsel’, it’s as if Caroline’s career path was set on course from birth.. However it was her passion for justice, her ability to articulate a strong argument, and her preparedness to work hard, that saw Caroline find her niche.

Interview conducted by Year 11 Business Management student, Lauren Dell’Arciprete, as part of a unit on Public Relations.

Turning back the hands of time, and technology, a photograph of Caroline Counsel (foreground) during her student days at Avila College.
Attitude v Altitude

Summiting Mount Kilimanjaro earlier this year gave elite netballer and past Avila student, Shae Bolton, a whole new perspective on attitude, as well as altitude. Standing at 19,341 ft (5,895 metres), the high altitude of Africa’s tallest mountain certainly challenged Shae who recalls having to stay positive during the 17-hour climb, in order to push herself successfully to the summit. Shae, Avila’s 2007 Mackillop House Captain, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania to raise funds and awareness for the Ladder organisation which tackles youth homelessness.

Shae, 22, was guest speaker at this year’s Sports Awards Night. As well as listening to Shae speak on the night, we were fortunate to also interview her about her experiences as an elite netballer, her time at Avila, and her aspirations for the future.

Growing up Shae was involved in many sports, netball included, and by age 15 her mid court talent had landed her with a contract for the Melbourne Kestrels Under 17s second side. Juggling school with netball training did prove to be a challenge, especially in VCE. However Shae’s dedication to her sport, and her personal philosophy, that you are capable of achieving a little bit more, was what kept her going. Shae is enormously appreciative of the great support she received from the Avila community and her advice to all students is to have a good balance between school and leisure, and to have the courage to follow your passions.

After Avila, Shae studied at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra for a year. She was then offered a contract for the West Coast Fever netball team in Perth, for whom she still plays. Whilst Shae faced a serious shoulder injury, leaving her unable to play for a year, her passion for the game and her positive attitude encouraged her speedy recovery and return to the sport she loves.

In addition to playing netball at an elite level, Shae is completing her second year of university, studying a Bachelor of Communication, specialising in Fashion and Journalism at Edith Cowan University (ECU) in Perth. Shae is involved in an Elite Athlete Friendly Program at ECU, whereby she trains in the mornings and afternoons, leaving the rest of the day for her studies.

One of Shae’s greatest netballing achievements was winning the World Youth Netball Championships where she played in the Under 21s team in 2009. The game was won with just minutes to spare, showing Shae, and the rest of her team, that all those hours spent training finally paid off.

Looking to the future, Shae hopes to win an ANZ Championship for Fever and to play for Australia at the Commonwealth Games and World Championships. She would also like to draw on her netball career to achieve in areas beyond, especially in terms of promoting women in sport and being a positive role model for girls. Realistic about the playing lifespan of an elite netballer, Shae hopes to find a career niche, combining her love of writing, design and creating fashion.

We wish Shae all the best for the future, in her netball and also her fashion and journalism careers!

Interview conducted by Year 11 Business Management student, Gabriela Cincotta, as part of a unit on Public Relations.
**Success for stunning softballers**

On October 13, as a bunch of early risers we headed down to the Geelong Softball grounds with hopes that we’d continue the winning streak for Avila in at least one age group.

Thankfully, the weather was kind to us this year and we spent the day playing in the beautiful sunshine and scoring many runs. So many runs that at the end of the day, both the Inters and the Seniors came first in their divisions! The Juniors who strived with just as much determination took out third place. To top off the day, the Passarelli sisters, Natalie and Lauren, were named best senior and best intermediate player respectively.

Given the day’s success, the Maccas trip tradition on the way home was the icing on the cake! Many thanks to Head coach Miss Sarah Tutchener, who also looked after the Intermediates, Juniors coach Ms Jenny Brown, and Seniors coach Mrs Adrea McCann, for their commitment as well as getting us as far as we did. Without their efforts, Avila’s softball ability wouldn’t be as strong.

It was a good to build on our softball skills both in team work and as individuals, as well as have some fun. Winners are grinners!

*Caitlin O’Keeffe, Softball Captain 2011/2012*

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**Intermediate Cricket 2011**

Congratulations to all the girls who competed at the SCSA Netball competition at the Waverley Netball Centre towards the end of Term Three. The day was filled with great strategic plays, lots of team work and awesome shooting. The results were as follows: Junior A and B both finished 5th; Inter A, 5th and Inter B, 4th; Senior A, 5th and Senior B, 4th.

Thanks to Caroline Ziada, Mrs Sue Rowell, Mr John Rhynehart, Ms Jacinta Girolami, Miss Carly Randle and Mrs Leanne Bowen for their coaching.

*Miss Nerida King*  
Head of Sport

The weather could not have been better on October 18, when 19 years 9 and 10s made the trip to Balwyn for the Intermediate Interschool Cricket Tournament.

Both Avila teams were very consistent, with Avila A winning their first three games, and Avila B losing theirs. But there was some brilliant bowling, classy fielding and some big hitting from both teams; the A team passed 200 runs in one of their 8-over innings! Each team played a positional final, with Avila A fighting it out against Canterbury Girls for first place and a place in the state finals, but unfortunately falling short by just 19 runs.

Congratulations to all the brilliant cricketers on the day for everyone’s effort and all the laughs, and a big thankyou to our hard working coaches Mrs Clare Manning and Mr Brendan Johnson, and 2011 Cricket Captain Sally Boxall for her help and support out on the pitch.

*Anita Coffa, Cricket Captain 2011/2012*
Avila sportswomen make their mark

Avila’s sportswomen continued to excel in their chosen codes both within and beyond school during Term Four.

Nana-Adoma Owusu-Afriyie, Year 7, has been blitzing the field as a sprinter and at the time of publication was heading to Brisbane to compete in the Australian School Girls Championships on December 3 and 4.

Nana qualified for nationals after having won the Victorian School Girls Championship 100m in 12.8 seconds and the 200m in 25.6 seconds. Both times were personal bests.

Nana is with the Waverley Little Athletics and Box Hill seniors so she has experience on both grass and synthetic tracks.

The 12-year old who has her sights on competing in the Olympic Games one day, says she loves running because she enjoys being fit and strong and also because of the friendships she has made with others keen on the sport.

Nana trains several times a week which, she says, has made her become far more organised with her studies.

**Australian Catholic Schoolgirls Netball**

In the September, holidays Ruth Smith (U/18 team), Melissa Perez (U/18 team) and Evelyn Andrews (U/16 team) represented Victoria in the Australian Catholic Schoolgirls Netball Championships held in Shepparton.

Each day the girls played two, highly competitive one-hour games against strong interstate teams.

The Victorian U/16 girls were outplayed by the New South Wales team in the final.

The Victorian U/18 team defeated South Australia in the semi final by 12 goals which was a brilliant result. They went on to play a hard match against New South Wales in the final but NSW scored three goals in the last few minutes of the high scoring game to win 43 to 40.

Congratulations to Ruth, Melissa and Evelyn on their selection for the teams and for their contribution to their team’s excellent results.

**Softball and Soccer**

Sarah Papadimitriou is excelling at both softball and soccer. For the second year running, she has been selected to captain the Victorian under 12 softball team. This follows on from her success at a softball tournament in Adelaide where she was nominated Captain of one of the two Under 15 Victorian Softball Academy sides competing and was subsequently awarded Most Valuable Player for her team over the weekend.

Sarah also represented Victoria in soccer earlier this year and was appointed captain of the Under 13 Victorian Metro Soccer team which participated in National Championships in Canberra during April.

Lauren Passarelli, Year 10, is also starring in softball. She will be competing in the Australian Under 17 Girls Softball Championships in Hobart in January.

Lauren is pictured below receiving her State uniform from Ray Allsopp, a legendary figure in softball and the man credited with initiating what is now known as Auskick.
A slide show of 2011 sporting highlights was a fitting finale.

During the evening, students paid tribute to the hard work of the Sports Department and coaching staff, as well as the 2011 sport and house captains.

A slide show of 2011 sporting highlights was a fitting finale.

10th ANNUAL SPORTS AWARDS

Avila's sporting fraternity celebrated an impressive milestone on September 22 with the 10th annual Sports Awards Night.

Over the past decade, the evening has become one of the much anticipated, off-field highlights on the College's sports calendar, celebrating participation in sport at all levels and the announcement of sports women of the year and excellence and coach awards. The 2011 House Cup was awarded to a very deserving Nagle, who also won the House Swimming this year after an 18 year 'drought'.

Elite netballer and 2007 Mackillop House captain, Shae Bolton, was guest speaker. Shae, 22, encouraged students to have a balance between their school life and leisure time, to stay positive and to work hard for whatever goals they wished to achieve in all aspects of life. She urged students to strive 'to achieve just that little bit more'. Shae herself drew on this philosophy earlier this year when she climbed to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa, to raise funds and awareness for Ladder, an organisation that tackles the issue of youth homelessness. (Read more about Shae's adventures and ambitions on Page 24).

The evening's entertaining program also included the individual captains' dance, the much loved and energetic gymnastics display and aerobics montage.

The content and design of the 2011 Sports Awards page was a project undertaken by Year 11 Business Management students, Bianca Vasile and Gabriela Cincotta, as part of a unit on Public Relations.

2011 Excellence Awards

Softball 2010: Jorgia Hope (jnr); AdeleCURCIO (inter); Emily Papadimitriou (snr).
Cricket 2010: Yasmine Cook and Jessica Decleva (jnr); Mikaela WELTI and Alexandra McLennan (inter).
Aerobics: Yvanah Hernandez (Open B); Jasmin Coghill (Secondary Aerobics); Georgia Stapleton (Stage 2); Zoe Lenten (Jnr Stage 2).
Soccer: Sarah Papadimitriou (jnr); Katherine Fotopoulou and Jacinta Rosales (inter) and Liana Iaconis and Sarena Tarella (snr).
Diving: Teaghan Sutherland.
Swimming: Natalie Costello (jnr); Emma Chan (inter); Dannielle Costello (snr).
Tennis: Gillian Andrews and Lisa Del Vecchio (jnr); Rebecca Andrews and Gabrielle Dabrowski (inter); Stephanie Schwarzman (snr).
Cross Country: Erin Flatters.
Athletics: Nana-Adoma Owusu-Afriyie.
Netball: Lauren Radnell, Marissa Antoniou, Danielle Darbyshire and Mary Anne Harley (jnr); Monica De Rango and Rose Kealey (inter); Sarah Biviano, Madeleine Giuliano and Michaelle Andrews (snr).
Basketball: Jessica Harley (jnr); Sarah Lamb (inter); Nicole McMahon (snr).
Hockey: Brooke Ryan (jnr); Michelle Mcintyre (snr).
Football: Tamara Ludekens and Hannah Jach (jnr); Yasna Cook (inter); Alexandra McLennan (snr).
Gymnastics: Britanny Davidson and Brigette Snell (jnr); Rachelle Criticos (inter); Stephanie Joyce (snr).
Volleyball: Janey Hastings (jnr); Alexandra Forrest (inter); Ilena Gentile (snr).

2011 Excellence Awards

Softball 2010: Lisa Mundos (jnr); Lauren Passarelli (inter); Stephanie Joyce (snr).
Cricket 2010: Mirella Cuda and Georgia Stapleton (jnr); Sally Boxall and Andrea Roumeliotis (inter).
Aerobics: Angela Stapleton and Carina Cardamone (Stage 2); Georgia Abbott and Aretha Peethamparam (Jnr Stage 2); Stephanie Barcham (Secondary Team); Mikaela WELTI (Open B).
Soccer: Teagan Goh (jnr); Natasha Menna (inter); Tia Cooper (snr).
Diving: Naomi Riley.
Swimming: Olivia Frisch and Stephanie Della Penna (jnr); Rebecca Abbott and Rebecca Andrews (inter); Katherine Konstantinidis (snr).
Tennis: Madison Fowler (jnr); Natalie Sursock (inter); Danielle Cable (snr).
Cross Country: Sally Boxall.
Athletics: Breanna Beltrame (jnr); Nicola Masters (inter); Emily Papadimitriou (snr).
Netball: Spencer Niania (jnr A); Mirella Cuda (jnr B); Ellie Dimitropoulos (jnr C); Rebecca Abbott (inter A); Alanna Kontaxis (inter B); Maddison Richards (snr A); Tenille Grebert-Craig (snr B).
WINT: Hannah Jach (jnr); Melissa Perez (snr).
Basketball: Tayla Hope (jnr); Sarah Welsford (inter); Rachel Nevin (snr).
Hockey: Lauren Radnell (jnr); Sally Redman (snr).
Football: Jessica Harley (jnr); Jacqueline Asker (inter); Tia Cooper (snr).
Gymnastics: Melanie Linden (jnr); Anita Coffa (inter); Kiara Goldsmith (snr).
Volleyball: Tayla Hope (jnr); Julia Bortoli (inter); Mikaela WELTI (snr).