Avila College acknowledges the Wurundjeri people, the traditional custodians of the land on which the College is built.

The Avila College community farewells Principal, Ms Liz Gleeson
LEARN MORE, BE MORE, DO MORE, LOVE MORE
— THE JOYS OF WORKING IN A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

At the 2010 Presentation Evening and in her final, moving address as Principal of Avila College, Ms Liz Gleeson, shared her thoughts about being a ‘cradle Catholic’ and how it has defined who she is and how it influenced her in a life dedicated to the Catholic education of girls. The following is an edited version of Ms Gleeson’s speech.

This evening, I acknowledge the contribution of the wonderful Avila staff who, through their dedication and commitment, help shape the lives of our young women, academically, spiritually and emotionally. I also acknowledge 20 years of service from Ms Viv Hughes, Mrs Gisella Smith, Ms Andrea Venier, and Mrs Kathy Evans; and farewell longstanding retiring staff, Mrs Mary Early, Mrs Angela Gaymer, Mrs Alice Willee and Ms Berny Paprota.

For the past 31 years I have made a conscious decision to teach in a Catholic school – but not only that, to teach in Catholic girls’ schools. This choice has been underpinned by the fact that I am a ‘cradle Catholic’ – I was born into an Irish catholic family, and like many Australians of my and older generations, my experiences of being Catholic were strongly influenced by my Irish Catholic roots. At the same time, being brainwashed into supporting the Melbourne Football Club by a persistent older brother. Both have sat quite comfortably with me over the last 50 plus years – if I am honest, there have been times when I have been challenged in the following of both, particularly when the chips have been down, but generally, my love of, membership and support of both have been unwavering.

In a culture where a particular religion is traditionally strong, the experience of faith brings with it its own culture and identity. I vividly recall as a child the painting of the Sacred Heart on our lounge room wall, the guardian angel pictures above each bed, a crucifix or scapulas around the neck, and the nightly ritual of saying the rosary at 6.55 to 7.00pm (weeknights) on the dot.

At St Malachy’s – a small country town Prep – Yr 10 school, I grew to love learning and all it had to offer. I enjoyed the most gifted and dedicated of teachers – one whom I still have contact with, now an elderly nun, and who taught me how to drop kick a football, a skill sadly lost in today’s modern game of handball.

Growing up as the youngest of a very female and matriarchal family, I was always encouraged to take risks, to achieve my best, and always believe that I could do anything if I set my mind and efforts to it. When I was young, we Catholics had our own rituals such as kissing the feet of Jesus on the cross, strewing the rose petals, the legion of Mary, incense – we could recite the 10 commandments ad nauseam but like most, our humanness ensured that we were challenged each day to actually live them...

We Catholics had our own language – novenas, benediction, plenary indulgences, mortal, venial and cardinal sins, purgatory, limbo, heaven and hell – a list of things we did and rules we had to live by ... at times daunting, at others, strangely comforting for the guidance and certainty they gave us.

We had our own Australian Catholic identity – even to the point that whilst large numbers across the years have ‘left the Church’, many still identify as being Catholic and/or belonging to the Church.

So, making a decision to commit myself to Catholic girls’ education was quite obvious and quite simple for me. It was my life and my heritage.

Over the years the Church has changed, and schools have now become Church for some. Avila is church for many of our community. Catholic schools are wonderful schools because:

- we place the person at the centre of what we do - our students, our families, our community.
- we are committed to excellence in education, and in life-long learning
- we are committed to overcoming social inequality and serving the less disadvantaged in society
- we fight for injustice and inequality through direct action, awareness raising, community service, fundraising, immersion programs; through walking the talk of the Gospels.

Some of the many reasons that I have loved my past nine years at Avila are that:

1. I believe in, and I work with people who believe in the promotion of the human person,
2. I am committed to, and I work with people who are committed to challenging our students to discover God and make value of their lives
3. I believe in, and I work with people who believe in the promotion of faith development in a conducive environment that provides a basis for students to further develop their relationship with their God
4. I genuinely believe in, and I work with people who genuinely believe in the benefits of providing experiences to our students that promote a knowledge and understanding of, and a desire for involvement in community service and issues of social justice
5. I wish and I work with people who wish to educate our young people to be highly skilled, informed, accepting, open and just
6. I wish to enhance, and I work with people who wish to enhance, by emphasising the common good, the development of our community and our country, and the building and improving of a socially just society that is genuinely multi-cultural and multi-faith.

Avila Matters cover
- Avila College community farewells Ms Gleeson -

For almost the past decade, Avila College has benefited from the inspiring leadership of Ms Liz Gleeson, first as Deputy Principal - Welfare, and, since 2006, as Principal. Her legacy is far reaching. Ms Gleeson is pictured with 2010 College Captain, Marnie Banger (right) and College Captain-elect, Mia Lentiini, at the 2010 Presentation Evening.

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continued next page
A string of achievements, awards and experiences in Term Four have topped of a remarkable year for Avila College in 2010, with Year 10s figuring prominently.

Becoming part of Church history, Year 10 student leader Kiara Goldsmith, represented Avila at the canonisation of Mary MacKillop in Rome on October 17, just two days after the College community celebrated the feast day of another remarkable woman, Saint Teresa of Avila.

In terms of academic achievements, Year 10 student Phoebe Tapley became our second student in two years to be accepted into the Kwong Lee Dow Scholarship Program at Melbourne University while Stephanie Barcham, also Year 10 became our fourth student in as many years to be awarded a Father James Wall Scholarship by the Catholic Development Fund.

Students from years 9 to 11 enjoyed success in the ACER Language Competency Tests with six students gaining 100 per cent. Jessica Harianto attained 100 per cent in Indonesian while similar outstanding results were achieved in Italian by Tamara De Lutiis, Georgia Delaney, Sarah Genovese, Veronica Hogan and Margaret Hezkial. Many students received distinctions and high distinctions.

Avila students continued to enjoy success in the Science Talent Search (STS), an annual, science based competition open to all primary and secondary students in Victoria. Fifteen Year 8 students entered with Amy Kampus and Grace Rodrigues receiving major bursary awards for their entries in the photography and creative writing section. Madeleine Heyn, Grace Prendegast-Kruger, Cassandra Garner, Catherine Smith and Taylah Ward received minor bursary awards in the experimental research, creative writing, and games categories.

Our debating team enjoyed an exciting end to the season with two students, Jessica Auld (Year 12) and Tessa Blight (Year 10) receiving prestigious Swannie Awards. The Swannie is awarded to the student with the highest average scores in their region in their grade. Jessica won the ‘A’ grade and Tessa won the ‘C’ grade. Tessa was in the top five debaters at her level in the State.

Also in debating, our Year 10 team of Erin Smart, Sarah Genovese and Sashika Harasgama made it through to the semi-finals of the Senior DAV Competition. They were knocked out by one point in a split decision with three adjudicators. The girls had a fantastic season.

A belated congratulations also to Carly Watson, who was a delightful Belle in this year’s Avila/Mazeond Beauty and the Beast production, who performed at Disneyland in America with her dance club earlier in the year.

The joys of working in a Catholic school

continued from previous page

There have been so many wonderful, moving and life giving moments:

Moments of joy and celebration: our beautiful and meaningful liturgical gatherings, the ‘too-many-to-count’ outstanding academic achievements of so many students, the carnivals, SRC days, the evenings of music, dance, debating, our Art shows, our many sporting successes

Moments of challenge, particularly on an intellectual and academic level – working with my colleagues to ensure cutting

Moments of sadness: The loss of dear friends and colleagues – our inspirational past Principal Ms Salvatore; the beautiful and compassionate Mrs Samson; and our gentle wise Mrs Dalwood – members of our families, our friends, moments that brought true meaning to the term ‘community.’

Moments of laughter: Dress up days, spontaneous and impromptu happenings, camps and trips, sing-a-longs, leaders’ assemblies, those daggy costumes the staff wear on Medieval Day.

Each of you sitting before me has touched my life in a way that I will never forget – it is truly the gift of oneself that is the most precious gift of all.

I thank you, the Avila staff, my colleagues, my friends – you may never know what you have given me, but I always will. You have touched my heart, my soul and my spirit.

I thank you, our Avila families for your wonderful support and friendship over the past nine years.

And to you, our Avila girls - I have such great admiration for you, our students; I have such great dreams for you, our students; I know not what the future holds, but I know who holds the future – it is you who sit before me – you are voice of the voiceless, the heart of tomorrow ...

The loss of dear friends

Moments of love: Love and friendship, the spirit.

There have been so many wonderful, moving and life giving moments:

Moments of joy and celebration: our beautiful and meaningful liturgical gatherings, the ‘too-many-to-count’ outstanding academic achievements of so many students, the carnivals, SRC days, the evenings of music, dance, debating, our Art shows, our many sporting successes

Moments of challenge, particularly on an intellectual and academic level – working with my colleagues to ensure cutting

Moments of sadness: The loss of dear friends and colleagues – our inspirational past Principal Ms Salvatore; the beautiful and compassionate Mrs Samson; and our gentle wise Mrs Dalwood – members of our families, our friends, moments that brought true meaning to the term ‘community.’

Moments of laughter: Dress up days, spontaneous and impromptu happenings, camps and trips, sing-a-longs, leaders’ assemblies, those daggy costumes the staff wear on Medieval Day.

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And to you, our Avila girls - I have such great admiration for you, our students; I have such great dreams for you, our students; I know not what the future holds, but I know who holds the future – it is you who sit before me – you are voice of the voiceless, the heart of tomorrow ... and the leaders of today – I am confident that you know what to do with this - to continue to Learn More, Do More, Be More and Love More. And how do you truly live this out?? – quite simply - by living justly, loving tenderly and always, walking humbly with our God.

Thank you Avila.
Presentation Evening 2010

- Year 7 -

Religious Education: Simone Louey
Art: Adele Calafio
Drama: Sophia Elliott
General Studies: Sophia Elliott (Humanities), Evangeline Kielhofer (English)
ICT: Sanduni De Mel
LOTE: Isabelle Hanna
Mathematics: Casey Do
Music: Emilia Megroz
Oral English: Georgia Stapleton
Physical Education: Isabelle Hanna
Science: Simone Louey
Academic Excellence: Aimee Clark, Rebecca Dunn, Lauren Ramsey, Georgia Wilson-Wall, Sophia Elliott, Ruby Niarros, Casey Do, Sanduni De Mel, Isabelle Hanna, Emilia Megroz, Audrey Chmielewski, and Aisling Dew

- Year 8 -

Religious Education: Catherine Smith
Art: Nikki Pecora
Design & Technology: Emily-Jane Howley
Drama: Georgia Muling
English: Christina Ishak
Food Technology: Christina Ishak
French: Crystal D’Mello
Geography: Madeleine Heyn
Mathematics: Monica de Rango
History: Catherine Smith
Indonesian: Davina Prabakaran
Italian: Stephanie Fraser
Music: Kala Gare
Physical Education: Nikki Pecora, Emma Pugliese
Science: Monica de Rango
Academic Excellence: Madeline Mondon, Nikki Pecora, Rebecca Abbott, Cassandra Garner, Monica De Rango, Taylah Ward, Jessica Declueva, Shalini Harasgama, Catherine Smith, Christina Ishak, Carla Timi, and Madeleine Heyn
Love of Learning: Leah Giakoumis, Talitha Corbo, Clarissa Frazier, Maryanne Harley, Sophia Giuliano, Molly McQueen, and Kala Gare

- Year 9 -

Religious Education: Anita Coffa
Art: Monica Hunt
Design & Technology: Ruby Robertson
Drama: Kathryn Elliott
Economics: Vanessa Langenberg
English: Isabella Hanger
Food Technology: Vanessa Langenberg
French: Leah Bell
Geography: Madelene Salitis
History: Ruby Robertson
Indonesian: Tanya Lin
Information Technology: Isobel Blackman-Bishop
Italian: Melissa Savaglio
Mathematics: Anita Coffa
Music: Margaret Tanjutco
Physical Education & Health: Bethany Coffey
Science: Emma Chan
Academic Excellence: Bethany Coffey, Kimmie D’Mello, Paola Guerra Marin, Bridget Jackson, Courtney Lindeman, Madelene Salitis, Monica Hunt, Emma Chan, Christine D’Souza, Vanessa Langenberg, Anita Coffa, Lisandra Palermo, Genevieve Townsend, Ruby Robertson, and Alexa Sakkal

Love of Learning: Katherine Napoli, Isabella Hanger, Kate James, Simone Lencuba, Ruth Smith, Kathryn Elliott, and Stephanie Papalaskaris.

- Year 10 -

Religious Education: Jessica Woods
Biology: Phoebe Tapley
Chemistry: Li-Chun Chen
Civics: Laura Butler
Design & Technology: Monique Di Mieri
Drama: Katherine Murray
Economics: Stephanie Berlangieri
English: Sashika Harasgama
Food Technology: Nishanthi Duggan
French: Sashika Harasgama
Geography: Kiara Goldsmith
VCE Health & Human Development (Unit 1): Rebecca Botros
History: Courtney Ager
Indonesian: Claudine Galam
ICT: Lynn Nguyen
Italian: Tamar De Lutis
Literature: Phoebe Tapley
Mathematics: Phoebe Tapley
Music: Katrina Liston
Physical Education & Health: Mikaela Welsi
Physics: Li-Chun Chen
Studio Arts: Monique Di Mieri
VCE Theatre Studies (Unit 2): Annailese Prigg
VCE Visual Communication & Design (Units 1 & 2): Stephanie Berlangieri
Visual Communication & Design: Natalie Smith
Academic Excellence: Sarah Genovese, Laura De Rango, Monique Di Mieri, Li-Chun Chen, Tamar De Lutis, Nishanthi Duggan, Julia Rus, Mikaela Welsi, Courtney Ager, Stephanie Berlangieri, Sashika Harasgama, Jessica Woods, and Rebecca Botros

- Year 11 -

Religion and Society (Unit 1): Fiona Cann
Accounting (Units 1 & 2): Lauren Pecora
Agriculture & Horticulture (Units 3 & 4): Michelle McIntyre
Business: Margaret Hezkial
Business Management (Units 1 & 2): Lauren Pecora
Chemistry (Units 1 & 2): Lauren Pecora
Classical Societies (Units 1 & 2): Georgia Delaney
Design & Technology (Units 1 & 2): Rachael Albicini
Drama (Units 1 & 2): Fiona Cann
English (Units 1 & 2): Fiona Cann, Lauren Pecora
Food & Technology (Units 1 & 2): Ella Gasowski
French (Units 1 & 2): Claire Brown
General Mathematics–Further (Units 1 & 2): Stephanie Ravi
General Mathematics-Specialist (Unit 2): Neethu Pynadath
Geography (Unit 1 & 2): Sarah Chan
Health & Human Development (Units 1 & 2): Michelle McIntyre
Indonesian (Units 1 & 2): Jennifer Casley
International Politics (Unit 1): Gabrielle Bourke
Italian (Units 1 & 2): Margaret Hezkial
Legal Studies (Units 1 & 2): Leah Wickenston
Literature (Units 1 & 2): Georgia Delaney
Mathematical Methods (Units 1 & 2): Lauren Pecora
Music Performance–Solo (Units 1 & 2): Juliana Alexeev
Physical Education (Units 1 & 2): Melissa Harrex
Physics (Units 1 & 2): Chantelle Shanmugaratnam
Psychology (Units 1 & 2): Heather Carlin
Studio Arts (Units 1 & 2): Georgia Delaney
20th Century History (Unit 2): Fiona Cann
Visual Communication & Design (Units 1 & 2): Nicole McMahon
VCEAL High Achiever: Celeste Fisher
VET Business: Laura Anderson
VET Hospitality: Eloise Benedos
Academic Excellence: Mary Canagaratnam, Ella Gasowski, Michelle McIntyre, Michelle Andrews, Margaret Hezkial, Nicole McMahon, Gabrielle Bourke, Georgia Delaney, Cindy Punta, and Sarah Chan

- Year 12 -

Religious Education: Anita Coffa
Art: Monica Hunt
Design & Technology: Ruby Robertson
Drama: Kathryn Elliott
Economics: Vanessa Langenberg
English: Isabella Hanger
Food Technology: Vanessa Langenberg
French: Leah Bell
Geography: Madelene Salitis
History: Ruby Robertson
Indonesian: Tanya Lin
Information Technology: Isobel Blackman-Bishop
Italian: Melissa Savaglio
Mathematics: Anita Coffa
Music: Margaret Tanjutco
Physical Education & Health: Bethany Coffey
Science: Emma Chan
Academic Excellence: Bethany Coffey, Kimmie D’Mello, Paola Guerra Marin, Bridget Jackson, Courtney Lindeman, Madelene Salitis, Monica Hunt, Emma Chan, Christine D’Souza, Vanessa Langenberg, Anita Coffa, Lisandra Palermo, Genevieve Townsend, Ruby Robertson, and Alexa Sakkal

Love of Learning: Katherine Napoli, Isabella Hanger, Kate James, Simone Lencuba, Ruth Smith, Kathryn Elliott, and Stephanie Papalaskaris.

- Year 9 -

Religious Education: Anita Coffa
Art: Monica Hunt
Design & Technology: Ruby Robertson
Drama: Kathryn Elliott
Economics: Vanessa Langenberg
English: Isabella Hanger
Food Technology: Vanessa Langenberg
French: Leah Bell
Geography: Madelene Salitis
History: Ruby Robertson
Indonesian: Tanya Lin
Information Technology: Isobel Blackman-Bishop
Italian: Melissa Savaglio
Mathematics: Anita Coffa
Music: Margaret Tanjutco
Physical Education & Health: Bethany Coffey
Science: Emma Chan
Academic Excellence: Bethany Coffey, Kimmie D’Mello, Paola Guerra Marin, Bridget Jackson, Courtney Lindeman, Madelene Salitis, Monica Hunt, Emma Chan, Christine D’Souza, Vanessa Langenberg, Anita Coffa, Lisandra Palermo, Genevieve Townsend, Ruby Robertson, and Alexa Sakkal

Love of Learning: Katherine Napoli, Isabella Hanger, Kate James, Simone Lencuba, Ruth Smith, Kathryn Elliott, and Stephanie Papalaskaris.

- Year 10 -

Religious Education: Jessica Woods
Biology: Phoebe Tapley
Chemistry: Li-Chun Chen
Civics: Laura Butler
Design & Technology: Monique Di Mieri
Drama: Katherine Murray
Economics: Stephanie Berlangieri
English: Sashika Harasgama
Food Technology: Nishanthi Duggan
French: Sashika Harasgama
Geography: Kiara Goldsmith
VCE Health & Human Development (Unit 1): Rebecca Botros
History: Courtney Ager
Indonesian: Claudine Galam
ICT: Lynn Nguyen
Italian: Tamar De Lutis
Literature: Phoebe Tapley
Mathematics: Phoebe Tapley
Music: Katrina Liston
Physical Education & Health: Mikaela Welsi
Physics: Li-Chun Chen
Studio Arts: Monique Di Mieri
VCE Theatre Studies (Unit 2): Annailese Prigg
VCE Visual Communication & Design (Units 1 & 2): Stephanie Berlangieri
Visual Communication & Design: Natalie Smith
Academic Excellence: Sarah Genovese, Laura De Rango, Monique Di Mieri, Li-Chun Chen, Tamar De Lutis, Nishanthi Duggan, Julia Rus, Mikaela Welsi, Courtney Ager, Stephanie Berlangieri, Sashika Harasgama, Jessica Woods, and Rebecca Botros
It was a Presentation Evening of mixed emotions when the Avila College community gathered to formally acknowledge the achievements of students and their ‘can do’ attitude, but also to farewell our outgoing Principal Ms Liz Gleeson.

In her last official function as Principal of Avila College, Ms Gleeson, who has been appointed Principal’s Consultant for the western region with the Catholic Education Office, was the keynote speaker. An edited version of her address appears in her Principal’s Message on Page 2 of Avila Matters, together with a farewell tribute on Page 14.

During the evening at the Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University, Amy Tremewen was commissioned as Avila’s 2011 Fire Carrier. It was the first such handover to occur in the Melbourne Archdiocese.

Presentations of awards were made to students across all year levels who have given outstanding service to the College community and those who have excelled at learning. More than 200 students were presented with awards including year-level academic awards, listed on the opposite page, and the perpetual trophies, many of which are named in honour of past principals of the College.

Perpetual award recipients:

Ms Filomena Salvatore College Dux Award, 2009: Hannah Phillips
Sister Patricia Carroll Award for Service to Sport: Naomi Linossier
Sister Raymonde Taylor Award for Creative Arts:
  Music Performance - Isabelle Sezenias
  Drama Performance - Maighdlin Laffy
  Visual - Santina Ponte
Sister Josepha Dunlop Award for Christian Leadership: Beth Corkill
Patricia Ryan Award for Love of Learning: Marnie Banger
Public Speaking Award: Stephanie Jenkins
Avila/Mazenod Musical Award (Beauty and the Beast): Carly Watson
Susan Puohotaua Orchestra Award: Isabelle Sezenias
Monash Prize for Excellence (Year 11): Fiona Canny
Mulgrave Country Club Scholarship (Year 11): Lauren Pecora
Marie Boyle Year 10 Excellence Award (Mrs Boyle taught at Avila from 1979 until her retirement in 2003): Phoebe Tapley
Staff Alumni Service to the Wider Community Award: Building Bridges participants, Christina Alappadan, Rubini Ball, Tessa Blight, Fiona Fernandes, Kiara Goldsmith, Heshaya Gunesekeere, Cassandra Lemalu and Miranda Nguyen.

Australian Defence Force (ADF) Awards:
Year 10 - Gabriela Cincotta; Year 11 - Amy Tremewen; Year 12 - Alison Coffa.
Spirit Awards: Year 7 - Gabrielle Macpherson-Caldeira; Year 8 - Tamar Haigazian; Year 9 - Nicola Jacobs; Year 10 - Heshaya Gunesekeere; Year 11 - Ayesha Comerford; Year 12 - Alana Spizzirri.
Presentation Evening 2010

Year 7
Pictured from back row L-R: Sophia Elliot, Aisling Dew, Ruby Niarros, and Gabriella Macpherson-Caldeira.
Fourth row L-R: Audrey Chmielewski, Rebecca Dunn, Aimee Clark, Stephanie Dell Penna.
Third row L-R: Isabelle Hanna, Adele Calaf ore, Evangeline Kielnhofe, Sanduni De Mel, Lauren Ramsey, and Georgi a Wilson-Wall.
Second row L-R: Jorja Hope, Kate Lentini, Georgi a Stapleton, and Casey Do.
Front row L-R: Simone Lowey, Emilia Megroz, Roshal i Lokuge, Emma Sclivood and Cindy Phan.

Year 8
Pictured from back row L-R: Monica De Rango, Emily-Jane Howley, Maryanne Harley and Stephanie Fraser.
Fourth row L-R: Davinia Parbakaran, Sophia Giuliano, Rebecca Abbott, and Leah Giakoumis.
Third row L-R: Taylah Ward, Madeleine Heyn, Shalini Harasgama, Molly McQueen, Jessic Deceleva and Catherine Smith.
Second row L-R: Nikki Pecora, Georgi a Muling, Tamar Haigazian, Clarissa Frizziero, and Madeline Mondon.
Front row L-R: Tahlia Corbo, Kala Gare, Crystal D’Mello, Carla Timi, Emma Pugliese and Christina Ishak.

Year 9
Pictured from back row L-R: Isabella Hanger, Monica Hunt, Ruth Smith, Katherine Napoli and Nicola Jacobs.
Fourth row L-R: Courtney Lindeman, Madeleine Saltis, Tanya Lin, Melissa Savaglio and Leah Bell.
Third row L-R: Alexa Sakkal, Emma Chan, Margare t Tanjutco, Isobel Blackman-Bishop, and Genevieve Townsend.
Second row L-R: Vanessa Langenberg, Kate James, Paola Guerra Marin, Kimielle D’Mello, Bridget Jackson, and Simone Lancuba.
Front row L-R: Christine D’Souza, Anita Coffa, Ruby Robertson, Kathryn Elliott, Lisandra Palermo, and Stephanie Papalaskaris.
Award Recipients

Year 10

Pictured from back row L-R: Katherine Murray, Courtney Ager, Julia Ruish, Nishanthi Duggan, Laura Butler, and Katrina Liston.

Third row L-R: Stephanie Woods, Stephanie Berlangieri, Phoebe Tapley, Sarah Genovese, Laura De Rango, and Sarah Bradwell.


Front row L-R: Natalie Smith, Rebecca Botros, Claudine Galam, Kiara Goldsmith, Gabriela Cincotta, Katherine Konstantinidis, and Tamara De Lutis.

Year 11


Third row L-R: Margaret Hezkial, Neethu Pynadath, Lauren Pecora, Chantelle Shanmugaratnam, Jennifer Casley, Julianna Alexeev, and Hayley Cameron.


Front row L-R: Stella Harianto, Linda David, Fiona Canny, Ella Gasowski, Michelle McIntyre, and Cindy Punta.

Year 12

Pictured from back row L-R: Nihal Singh, Clare Roberts, Stephanie Robson, Isabelle Sezenias, and Marguerite Sowersby.

Third row L-R: Clarissa Caporale, Jennifer Nicoll, Jade Kilcline, Kirsty Ventura, Arax Kojadelian, and Marnie Banger.

Second row L-R: Stephanie Camilleri, Rebekah Antonucci, Melanie Hoich, Stephanie Mascetta, Amy Smith, and Natasha Bartholomeusz.

Front row L-R: Maighdlin Laffy, Alison Coffa, Alexandra Saltis, Sara Phillips, Hazel Titus, and Gia Stefadouros.
Year 12 Graduation

A round the world before breakfast, to mark the start of Celebration Day for the Year 12 Class of 2010! Not quite, but the graduating students welcomed the school community early on Monday October 18, attired in various colourful and witty costumes depicting the theme of ‘Around the World’.

Following a breakfast shared with teachers, they delivered their appreciation for the past six years, with great gusto, to the whole Avila community, at a school assembly. A particularly poignant moment was when they thanked and wished outgoing Principal, Ms Liz Gleeson, the very best for her future endeavours. The gym erupted into thunderous applause. Later, in a more lighthearted manner, they reminisced about experiences shared over the years and the friendships made, with the aid of a visual presentation and archival footage from their Year 7 camp. The morning concluded with spirited dancing which cemented the camaraderie that was so much a feature of the year level throughout the year.

In the evening, the celebrations turned formal with the Graduation Mass and dinner dance at Caulfield Racecourse. Faith Development Co-ordinator, Ms Marie Stuart, created a reverent atmosphere for the celebration of the Eucharist, enhanced by the beautiful music and singing under the baton of our Director of Music, Ms Roxane Lascaris. Fr Brendan Dillon led the congregation of graduating students, teachers, proud parents and family in thanksgiving and reminded the girls to use their God-given gifts, enriched by their education at Avila, in order to make a difference in the world.

After Mass, College Principal Ms Gleeson addressed all assembled with heartfelt gratitude for the contributions made by the students to enrich Avila, and the support offered to her by the parent body over the years. Ms Gleeson has been a much loved and respected leader at Avila for nine years and many had a tear in their eye. College Captain Marnie Banger responded in her inimitable style, with a speech filled with wit and humour, tributes to her fellow students, staff and parents and a clear message for the girls to go forth into the world without fear. The students were then presented with their Certificates of Graduation and gifts from the College.

The celebrations continued upstairs with a dinner and dancing well into the night. The guests were serenaded by Amy Smith and the high energy of the girls kept the dance floor shaking; a wonderful, high spirited way to finish a great day.

It is with immense pride and joy that the Avila community congratulates the young women of the class of 2010 and wish them every success for the future.

Mrs Louise Swift, Year 12 Co-ordinator

Year 12 gift honours Mrs Samson

I t is traditional for exiting Year 12 students to purchase a present for the school to commemorate their time at Avila. This year, the Year 12s have presented the College with artwork by a respected elder of the Amata community in the Northern Territory and have dedicated the work to the memory of Mrs Samson who passed away earlier this year.

The 2010 Santa Teresa group selected the artwork on our behalf during their visit to the Northern Territory. The artist and her husband are pillars of their community, bringing their people together and promoting their traditions. The three circles represent meeting points for the community, places for gatherings; they also represent the strength of the women in the community and the importance of tradition.

We believe the artwork is a fitting tribute for Mrs Samson who travelled to Santa Teresa in 2008 and 2009 and found an affinity with the land and the indigenous people who are the heart of our country. She was also greatly committed to the cause of Aboriginal Reconciliation. The symbolism of this painting reflects the strength, sense of community and love that Mrs Samson shared with students and staff at Avila. The striking colours also enhance our memory of Mrs Sampson as red was her colour. The painting will take pride of place in the new Junior School when it is completed next year.

Marnie Banger, College Captain

Admiring the Year 12 gift, from L-R, Year 12 Co-ordinator Mrs Louise Swift, Reconciliation Captain Beth Corkill, College Captain Marnie Banger and Principal Ms Liz Gleeson.
Asylum seekers focus

Asylum seekers in Australia was the focus of a special day for Year 7s on Thursday, November 18.

In Semester One, our Year 7 students entered a competition titled ‘Freedom From Fear’ which was run by the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) - we were the national winners in the poster section. The prize was a book voucher and talk by a representative from the ASRC.

ASRC representative, Ms Pamela Curr, came to Avila on November 18 and spoke about current issues surrounding asylum seekers in Australia. Students then wrote letters to children and families in the 22 centres across Australia. Our hope for these letters is to let the receivers know that they have not been forgotten and many people around Australia care about people in detention and their future in our country.

At the end of the session, Avila donated more than $300 to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and we sealed our letters into prettily decorated envelopes to be sent off to hopefully brighten up the day for someone in detention.

2011 leaders poised for the year ahead

It is with great pride that I look forward to helping lead Avila as the 2010 College Captain.

Being a part of the SRC for the past few years has given me the opportunity to be involved in numerous activities that Avila has to offer, and I have gained various skills and abilities through this. When the opportunity to put myself forward as 2011 College Captain came about, although I had my doubts, I decided to put all my Avila spirit to the test and challenge myself. Now, as the College captain-elect, I feel proud and honoured to be given this exciting chance to encourage and support my peers. I am looking forward to the prospect of working alongside incoming Principal, Ms Louise Gunther, as well as relieved to have her support and encouragement, so that we can work together in our newly appointed positions.

I am going to dedicate my Year 12 year to cheer on my peers and persuade as many people as I can that being a leader at Avila College is the best decision and will stick with you for the rest of your life. I am willing to put in the hard yards to help give everyone the best opportunities possible and am excited to see what 2011 has got to offer.

Next year is going to be a year of big workloads and new experiences, but it will be made all the more better because of our families that will stick with us through everything and the friends that we have made throughout our journey. 2011 is going to be a year to remember!

Mia Lentini, College Captain-elect
Santa Teresa: An experience of a life time!

In September, ten Year 10 students and three teachers, set out on a journey of a life time to the remote central Australian community of Santa Teresa.

We initially spent two nights at Alice Springs where we visited the Desert Festival, which involved many displays of art, music, different foods and a parade. Our time in Alice helped prepare us for what we were going to experience in Santa Teresa. Finally, the day came when we caught the ‘Bush Bus’ which took us on the 80 km journey to the Aboriginal community of Santa Teresa.

As we were driving along the red muddy road, which we thought would never end, we finally met the asphalt. At the end of the road, we could see a beautiful white church with a big white cross on the roof, perfectly in line with a huge cross that was mounted on the hill behind. It was a most picturesque scene.

During our time in Santa Teresa we assisted in many different areas and learned a lot about life in a Central Australian community. We painted buildings and murals, read with the kids, moved furniture, cleaned buildings, delivered and cooked meals on wheels at the Women’s Centre and most importantly, we listened to the stories of the people in the community and admired the way they lived. From the short time we were there, we grew as people. And even though we knew we couldn’t change the lives of the people, or their situation, by this one visit, we could still make a positive impact by showing our care and compassion, with the aim of continuing Avila’s relationship with a very special group of people.

We expected so little from them; but we have learned so much. They truly have changed our lives. Each of us had a different experience that will be with us forever.

We would like to thank the community of Santa Teresa, the amazing teachers who accompanied us on the trip - Miss Darcie Kane-Priestley, Miss Catherine Ohlsen and Mrs Jackie Benton - and the Avila community for all its support and donations for the people of Santa Teresa.

We encourage anyone and everyone to think about supporting and donations for the people of Santa Teresa. Finally, the day came when we caught the ‘Bush Bus’ which took us on the 80 km journey to the Aboriginal community of Santa Teresa. Finally, the day came when we caught the ‘Bush Bus’ which took us on the 80 km journey to the Aboriginal community of Santa Teresa.

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We encourage anyone and everyone to think about participating in this amazing experience.

Tia Cooper - Tessa Blight - Phoebe Tapley - Laura Butler Stephanie Barcham - Alysha van Eyk - Alysha Rose’meyer Elaine Pacheco - Courtney Ager - Demi Filippatos
The Kingdom of God a reality at Avila

Christmas means so many things to us. At Avila, on one level, it means the end of a year, the graduation of our senior students, the departure of loved friends and colleagues, rest and relaxation with families, away from the very busy life of school. As the school becomes quiet, we also have time to reflect on the meaning of the birth of Jesus in our lives on a spiritual level. Jesus brought a message of hope into our world, a belief and challenge that things could be different and that we should strive to bring the Kingdom of God into reality. At Avila, the staff and students witness this daily with the work and activities they do, both in and out of the classroom.

The highlight of Term Four was the 2010 Avila Day Mass. The Liturgy captains decided to focus on both St Teresa of Avila and Mary MacKillop, as we celebrated Avila Day just three days before the canonisation of Saint Mary in Rome. Father Michael Twigg, the Rector of Mazenod College, led us in a celebration which looked at the important messages each woman represents. Saint Teresa is only one of three female Doctors of the Church and Saint Mary of the Cross, is our first Australian saint. From them we can learn resilience and the power of God’s love in the face of great hardship and trial. The orchestra and choir, led by Ms Roxane Lascaris, added a very spiritual dimension to the celebration.

On Sunday, October 17, Mary MacKillop was canonised. Whilst Kiara Goldsmith represented Avila in Rome, a group of students, staff and families attended the Melbourne celebrations in East Melbourne.

On October 25, we formally said goodbye to our Year 12s in a moving Graduation Liturgy and dinner at the Caulfield Racecourse, which gave these young women the opportunity to reflect on their time at Avila. This was the first of many final celebrations. The Year 10 and 11 students who finished in early November to prepare for exams, celebrated the end of the year, but also the beginning of their

$2,500-plus for Mellica’s Mission

Each year, the Year 9 classes choose a Mellica’s Mission Representative. This representative leads her class in fundraising for the mission in India, near Mumbai, which Mellica Campbell and her family established 30 years ago, when Mellica had cancer. This year the representatives were Darcy Morris (9 Red), Bianca Cardaci (9 Blue), Miranda Koroknai (9 Orange), Leah Bell (9 Pink), Vanessa Langenberg (9 Green), Courtney Lindeman (9 Purple), Saasha Arsov (9 Gold) and Paige D’Souza (9 Silver). The fund raisers held during terms two and three included a sausage sizzle, a pizza stall, a games stall, a fairy-themed stall, a cookie stall and a chocolate stall. Each of these were very successful and together, raised more than $2,500. This has been sent to the mission to help with the education of young people. Everyone was involved, whether it was by helping to sell items, making posters or buying food. We also had the wonderful opportunity of meeting Mellica’s mother Kath, and brother Peter, who gave us an insight into the work at the mission. Avila’s Mellica’s Mission project has involved many people in 2010 and has been very successful.

Mrs Kath Campbell and Peter with Year 9 Mellica’s Mission representatives from L-R Paige D’Souza, Miranda Koroknai, Darcy Morris, Saasha Arsov, Bianca Cardaci, Courtney Lindeman, and Leah Bell.
Mary MacKillop was canonised ‘Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop’ by Pope Benedict XVI, on Sunday October 17 at Saint Peter’s Square in Rome. Australia’s first Saint! It is such a privilege for Australians to have our very own saint, to have someone to pray to in times of hardship and trouble and someone to pass on the blessings of God. This was an especially significant occasion for Melburnians, who live and work so close to the humble beginnings of this remarkable woman.

A pilgrimage to Rome, to have an Australian Youth presence at the Canonisation of Mary MacKillop, was organised by the Catholic Education Office. To be chosen as Avila College’s representative was a dream come true.

In total, 68 students and 10 teachers from Melbourne prepared for the pilgrimage. We met regularly, attended many official functions and celebrated with a commissioning Mass a week before we left.

Naturally there was a hustle and bustle of preparing, packing, goodbyes, tears of excitement and nerves - finally getting on the plane felt like a blessing. From that moment onwards, any worries I had disappeared and a deeper appreciation of the experience I was about to have, swept over me.

Arriving in Rome, we spent two full days of touring the Vatican, the squares, churches and iconic places like the Pantheon, the Trevi fountain and the Spanish steps. From the goods in the shops to the décor everywhere, it was obvious that there was a strong sense of faith.

Finally the day that everyone all over the world, particularly the Josephites and Australians, had been preparing for arrived … Mary’s canonisation!

Before the Mass began, we heard of the wonderful work of Mary MacKillop, and were given some of her inspirational quotes to think about during the service. Most of the mass was in Latin, with bits of Italian, English, French, Spanish and Greek. Despite the language difficulty, our group could work out the sense of what was being said. It was intriguing, and of great importance to this Mass, that the entire service was sung. The whole service was beautiful, and the atmosphere everywhere in Saint Peter’s Square was indescribable. One thing that I am still in awe of, even with the presence of thousands and thousands of people in a loud and at times restless crowd, was that at the moment when the bread and wine were transformed into the body and blood of Jesus Christ, everyone fell silent. It was a truly amazing experience.

The next day was the Australian Thanksgiving Mass for ‘St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop’. Full of Australian icons, flavors and history, this mass was said by Cardinal George Pell. It was a celebration of all that Australia has admired about Mary MacKillop, and a Mass of thanksgiving.

Tuesday, October 19 was an absolutely magnificent day. Our group went to Assisi which is absolutely beautiful. There was an amazing view where ever you went, the gorgeous church of Saint Claire (Santa Chiara); a plain but elegant Cathedral of Our Lady, which had the chapel where Saint Francis spent a lot of his time, and a magnificent two level basilica dedicated to Saint Francis himself. Assisi presented the opportunity to do a lot of praying and bonding with God. During my prayers, I prayed for the community of Avila College.

Wednesday, October 20 was the day that we had an audience with the Pope. It was overwhelming being within just four metres of the Pope and also being able to have our religious trinkets blessed by the Pope was very special. Equally overwhelming was when we went to see the World Youth Day Cross. We had time to pray on the cross, and it was a beautiful time of reflection and connection with God and with Mary MacKillop. Many of us were almost brought to tears by this very simple, but spiritual gesture that the organisers had planned. It was a truly significant and meaningful time.

The week ended with a spectacular tour of ancient Rome. The last night was when we had the chance to thank all the people that had taken care of us while in Rome, we finished off with a lovely walk to Saint Peters Square, where we stayed for a while, sat down on the cold cobble stones next to the fountain, and just had some time to think and absorb the spiritual atmosphere.
Avila Day honours inspiring women

There was much to celebrate on Avila Day 2010 on October 15 ...

We came together as one to honour our patron, Saint Teresa of Avila, as well as Mary MacKillop, who was to be canonised just two days later. It was also an opportunity for us to reflect on our position in the world as young Christian women, as well as to celebrate the great support and friendships we enjoy as part of the Avila family.

It was the first time that both Avila Day and SRC Day were combined.

The gymnasium was transformed into a sacred space for the Avila Day Mass led by Father Michael Twigg, Rector of Mazenod College. A beautifully crafted wooden cross, generously made and donated by Religious Education Co-ordinator, Mr John Beekhof, added to the atmosphere.

In his homily, Father Twigg spoke about the qualities and striking similarities between Saint Teresa of Avila, and Mary MacKillop, Saint Mary of the Cross. He emphasised the great impact these two women have had on our world in their short sixty years of life. They were both driven by a compassion for the less fortunate and let their faith guide them through the many obstacles they faced. Father Twigg reminded students that they each have a greater strength within to help them overcome the obstacles in life.

‘Let your beliefs be the lighthouse to steer you through life’s journey and to steer others,’ Father Twigg said.

Following the Mass, we all headed back to our homerooms for a special shared morning tea and a trivia session. Then it was off to the energy-charged disco in the gym, the giraffe jumping castle, and to feast on fairy floss, sausages, pizza, choc-tops and lolly-bags. One of the highlights of the entertainment was the creative dance by the male teachers and Year 12 students. The grand finale to the day was an impressive video made by the SRC.

It was a sensational day filled with laughter, dancing and an abundance of Avila Spirit. Thank you to all the special guests, Father Twigg, teachers and the stage crew for making this day possible.

Jess Guscott, 11 Pink

Page created and designed by Jess Guscott as part of a Business Management unit on Public Relations and Marketing.
When Ms Liz Gleeson began her time at Avila as Deputy Principal - Welfare in 2001, she amazed us by knowing everyone’s name, on the first day of term! Not just staff, but many, many students as well! How could this be possible? It was because she had taken home photos of members of the Avila community and learned their names during the summer break. This not-so-small achievement sums up, in many ways, the values that make Ms Gleeson a wonderful colleague, teacher, leader, mentor and friend.

For Ms Gleeson, the guiding force in her life, values she would attribute to her close and loving family and her faith, is her overwhelming belief in the potential and dignity of each and every person. Her door was always open for anyone to come and have a chat, and she encouraged students to drop in and fill her in on what was happening in their lives, their sport, their families. She didn’t just know their names, she knew their story and more importantly built a relationship with so many of them, based on trust and respect. Past students, continued to drop in. Similarly, staff also felt welcomed by her. She was never too busy to spend time with someone – she welcomed all with the same openness and concern. Ms Gleeson knows and believes that building strong relationships means a strong community. She has often said that it is the people of this community that she will miss most.

As Principal, and teacher, Ms Gleeson has always strived to lead with the words and message, that are part of the Avila Mission statement, ‘I have come that they may have life and have it to the fullest’ (John 10:10). Gospel values underpin every decision she makes. Ms Gleeson’s vision for Avila College – a place where young women are empowered with the values of justice, compassion, respect and dignity - was a driving force. She constantly encouraged students to make a difference in our world, to be intelligent and wise agents of change. She challenged them to be resilient and own their actions, to be proud of self, to grow through facing adversity and challenge, and to not be afraid to step out of their comfort zones.

Throughout her life, Ms Gleeson has had a strong commitment to social justice and rates as some of the highlights of her time at Avila as working with Mrs Christine Valladares and the Reconciliation team, visiting Santa Teresa with the Year 10s in 2009, and standing as one, with staff and students, to witness The Apology from the then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

Ms Gleeson’s leadership style has always been one of servant leader. She could often be found picking up rubbish at the sports and around the College grounds, or drying the dishes in the staff kitchen, and this earned her great respect from all. When working with students or teachers, she encouraged robust debate, always listening to the merits of the ideas and opinions of others. Although it often took more time, Ms Gleeson’s collaborative approach to situations allowed everyone to be stakeholders in the final decision and created a more harmonious community. Because Ms Gleeson has a genuine love of all people, she strives for an outcome that best benefits all.

Emmerson said that success can be measured when someone can laugh often and much. Ms Gleeson’s smile and laugh reflect the positive and optimistic approach she takes with all things. She enjoys the laughter of the quirky comments in staff meetings and the giggles of teenage girls and, on many occasions, she leads them! This humour is a hallmark of her approach to life, it helps her put people at ease and make them feel the warmth and friendship she generously gives to all she meets.

Students, both past and present will miss her enormously. There was great sadness at her decision to leave ... they remember her teaching them to juggle, playing Billy Idol on Orchestra Camp, swimming the staff race on Sport Days, joining the Peer Support lunchtime skipping, sharing the yummy treats from Food Tech class, observing the dissection in Science class, quizzing them in Year 7 Maths or being awed at Art shows ... Ms Gleeson loves young people and spending time with them. At Avila, she was a friend to students, not an obscure principal. Her door was open to all. There are countless students, staff and families for whom she has made a difference, by just listening and being present to their story.

‘I shall always maintain that being a teacher is the most privileged position of any. Working with young people is an absolute privilege. Although I will no longer be in one school, I hope that I always remember that I will still be a teacher and be proud of that. Thanks for the journey Avila – totally unforgettable!!!’ (Ms Liz Gleeson, November 2010)

Ms Gleeson’s warmth, her integrity, her belief that all things are possible are among her many qualities that we will miss. Avila is privileged to have been blessed with wonderful, gifted, intelligent principals and Ms Gleeson, who served as Avila’s sixth Principal 2006 - 2010, has made her mark at the College and become very much part of our history, our story.

We will miss you Ms Gleeson, and we wish you success and fulfilment in the future and particularly in your newly created role at the Catholic Education Office as Principal Consultant to assist school leaders in the western region. Thank you.

Mrs Marie Stuart
Faith Development Co-ordinator
Mrs Early - anam cara

I would love to live
Like a river flow,
Carried by the surprise
Of its own unfolding.

John O'Donohue

In her arms she carries the tools of her trade – a blue chronicle, text books, a box of tissues in which reposes a box of matches, a candle and, on special occasions, a length of soft coloured silk. A meditation about to happen, Mrs Early is ready to bring a touch of peace and quiet reflection into the lives of those who have ‘won the raffle’ and are in her class. ‘Her voice is ever gentle, soft and low’ and her smile is warm and inviting to the most timorous, the indifferent, the diligent and the most aggressive of students. Thus, Mrs Early comes to show the way to a life carried by surprise of its own unfolding, and she achieves this.

For 34 years, Mrs Early has brought her unique gifts and shared them most graciously with the staff and students of Avila.

First and foremost among these is her gift of faith – faith in the natural goodness of people and a determination to draw it forth (sometimes in spite of themselves – a quiet talk with Mrs Early will do the trick).

The next of her gifts is the breadth of her knowledge which she can impart so gently you barely realise you have acquired it from her. Her gift of understanding, sensing when one is in trouble, pain or doubt, has the effect of soothing ointment, bringing ease to a painful spot. And last, but certainly not least, is her gift of laughter – her ability to laugh at the quirkiness of our human nature and to share this as a gentle reminder that it helps us to see the joyful surprises in life.

Mary Early has gifted us all with a real experience of love, friendship, integrity, laughter and light. With her leaving, we will be the poorer but it is our responsibility to keep alive in the spirit and air of Avila that ‘little bit of Ireland’ that graced our lives for 34 years – and taught us the meaning of the Celtic concept of ‘anam cara’ – a friend of the soul. And in the future, that she will continue to be to others, the restful, reflective, ‘meditation-about-to-happen’ that brings such ease to the soul of the troubled world.

Ms Angela Boston

Far-reaching impact over 30 years

After 30 years of dedicated service, Mrs Angela Gaymer is retiring from the staff of Avila College. When she began working here in 1981, I doubt that anyone, even Angela with her ability to recognise the positive qualities in an individual, would have envisaged the impact she has had on the life of so many.

Mrs Gaymer has worked tirelessly in her professional life. She has held a number of leadership positions at Avila, including level co-ordinator for years 9 and 11. Some of her contributions to the academic life of the school have included an active membership of the Curriculum Committee and the PEEL Teaching and Learning Group. The wider educational community has benefited from her membership on the VCAA Review Panel responsible for the development of the most recent VCE Chemistry study design.

Mrs Gaymer’s skill as a teacher is exemplary. She has a depth of knowledge of her subject area and a clear understanding of how others learn. Her insistence on accuracy, her thorough methods and her infinite patience have strengthened the mental and moral fibre of hundreds of Avila girls. She has built strong relationships with her students and has earned the admiration and affection of those in her classes. They speak of her as a teacher who cares about their learning, and value the calm atmosphere of her classes where the teaching takes account of their individual learning styles.

Working alongside Mrs Gaymer has been a privilege. She demonstrates the mental flexibility of the true problem solver, having the ability to see through all those insignificant facts and to get right to the heart of an issue. Her incisive contributions to departmental discussion will be missed next year. Mrs Gaymer’s willingness to share resources and to involve herself in planning and problem solving, speak of a generosity of spirit that has been highly valued by all of her colleagues in the Science Department.

While we will miss Mrs Gaymer’s presence at school, she will have the well-earned luxury of time to explore her many interests. She is a skilled ballroom dancer and pursues creative interests like photography, scrapbooking and quilting. Travel will also be high on her retirement agenda. But more than anything, Mrs Gaymer is looking forward to having more time to spend with her family, in particular her much-loved grandchildren.

Despite the altering of outward educational fashions and trends in the past 29 years, Mrs Gaymer has been a constant. We thank her for the gift of herself; her energy, enthusiasm, expertise and friendship. We wish her every happiness in her retirement, and know that her association with the College will continue with membership of the College Alumni Association.

Ms Viv Hughes

Avila Matters Term 4, 2010 - 15
Mrs Alice Willee, one of Avila College’s longest serving and most respected staff members, has decided to retire at the end of the year.

Mrs Willee began teaching at Avila in 1981. She was employed as a Typing, Shorthand and Secretarial Practice teacher. As the nature of Victorian education and the role of women in the workforce began to change, Mrs Willee realised that she needed to broaden her teaching repertoire. The new Information Technology (IT) course, introduced as part of a revised Victorian Certificate of Education, was a natural next step and, over the ensuing years, Mrs Willee became a stalwart of the IT Department.

Always looking to challenge herself, in 1988 she decided to enrol in Units 3 & 4 VCE Legal Studies. Mrs Willee achieved an outstanding result and the following year she taught the first of many Year 11 Legal Studies classes. She loved providing students with engaging experiences that are part of this VCE course. She organised excursions to the Magistrates’, County and Supreme Courts and also visits to Loddon and Barwon prisons. It wasn’t long before Mrs Willee added Year 12 Legal Studies to her teaching load.

The Languages Other Than English (LOTE) Department was Mrs Willee’s next endeavour and, apart from a brief interlude with Italian, she specialised in teaching lower secondary French for many years, where she was able to put her love of travel to good use.

It has been a privilege to work with Mrs Willee since she began at Avila 30 years ago. Her thorough lesson planning and the high expectations she brought to the classroom, have been reflected in the excellent results her students have achieved.

Mrs Willee lists advances in technology and the evolution of the family structure as the most significant changes she has noticed during her three decades at Avila. When asked what she will miss most, her top responses include the camaraderie of the Avila College staff and also what she calls the ‘magic’ of the classroom.

Mrs Willee is looking forward to life without the pressure accompanying the daily demands of secondary education, and an existence with less reference to clocks. Further travel and spending more time by the beach with her four grandchildren will be a priority, while her next big challenge will be convincing husband Paul of the benefits of retired life.

As Mrs Willee departs the school for the last time, she carries with her the respect and gratitude of thousands of students and the lasting friendship of the many staff with whom she has worked.

Enjoy your retirement Mrs Willee, you deserve it.

Mrs Alice Willee

Faith-filled friend to all

The students simply love her and the staff revels in her positive outlook on life and living. This permeates throughout the wider Avila Community and leaves us with the distinct understanding that Ms Di Brebner is the Chaplain’s Chaplain!

Faith is a wonderful gift made evermore so through the sharing of it. In times of sheer distress, sadness, loss, joy and great celebration, one’s faith often comes to the fore and with it, a deeper meaning to life’s experiences. For us at Avila, Ms Brebner has become the personification of expressed faith. She has walked with many of us in life’s triumphs and turmoil. The ‘walking’ is gentle, calming and comfortable; we have felt deeply accompanied, not suffocated, but listened to, and comforted. It’s a special knack to be able to be present to people without dominating a situation and Ms Brebner has this knack in spades.

Through prayer and presence, laughter and liturgy, song and silence, Ms Brebner has led us in some of our most trying times and helped us to reach some understanding as to the whys and wherefores of our lot.

Her smile is infectious and it has been wonderful to see students’ smiles beam as Ms Brebner enters a classroom to catch up with a particular student or to teach us a new song. She has that terrific (and rare) gift of an older person to be able to brush aside the generations and connect with young people; engage with them in such a way that they feel they can tell this woman anything and it would neither scandalise nor result in judgement.

Recently Ms Brebner led the College community in a special liturgy for the repose of the souls of those we have known and loved. The simplicity of the words and symbols, and the active involvement of students and staff, epitomised Ms Brebner’s depth of spirituality and, through her example, her deep belief that this needs to be shared with and modelled for our young people.

While it is true to say that no-one is indispensable, it is equally true that some people hold gifts and talents that are irreplaceable. Thanks to the sum total of all her life’s experiences, Ms Brebner has developed gifts and talents that she has happily shared with us. For this and for all that you have done, thanks Ms Brebner. Good luck and God bless.

Mr John Rhynehart
Canteen volunteer Mrs Lucy Fernando has retired this year after more than three decades of service.

It will be the end of an era as Mrs Fernando’s grand daughter, Nina Fernando-Bowen, is among our 2010 Year 12 graduates. During her 31 years at the Avila canteen Mrs Fernando has not only served her two daughters - Juanita (Class of 1975) and Jo-Anne (Class of 1976 and College Captain) and two grand daughters - Saara Fernando (Class of 1998) and Nina (Class of 2010), but literally thousands of other students as well.

And whilst she supports the canteen menu becoming far healthier over the years, she still thinks there should be more lollies!

Mrs Fernando first started working at the canteen because she wanted to help the younger mums who worked and were busy during the day. She soon discovered that she loved working and interacting with young people because ‘it keeps me young’ and, she ‘loves to talk’. Her biggest reward from volunteering at Avila has been to see students grow and mature. Physically, she has seen the College grow immensely with so many more opportunities available to students.

According to Mrs Fernando, the memories she will treasure most are the laughter, fun, interaction with young people, close friendships and the many wonderful personalities of Avila students.

‘I’d like to thank the young mums for making me feel part of the tuck shop community, I sometimes forget that I am a grandmother, not a mother,’ Mrs Fernando said.

30 years of service in canteen

Walk into the Junior School on any given day and you will be greeted with a warm and smiling face and, at times, the sounds of baby possums and birds waiting for a feed from their ‘adoptive mum’, Berny Paprota.

For the past 15 years Mrs Paprota has been an integral part of the Junior School. An excellent multi-tasker, she can be found laminating and creating name-tags, sorting through data, chasing students, calling parents, preparing show bags and even being nurse to 400 appreciative Junior School students. And if this isn’t enough, Mrs Paprota is also in-charge of all correspondence in the Music School!

Mrs Paprota’s long association with Avila College began when her own daughters - Linda (Class of 1997) and Joanne (Class of 1999) - attended the College. In the early 1990s, she began volunteering in the library and then quickly moved into sick bay where her caring personality was put to use. Mrs Paprota’s multi-talents were soon discovered and, before long, she was running the Junior School.

Her amazing knowledge base has made her an invaluable asset for the years 7 and 8 co-ordinators over the years. Whether it’s reminding them to start preparing for camp, Friendship Day or any other occasion, Mrs Paprota’s organised and flexible approach ensures that the co-ordinators stay on track and that the year runs smoothly.

During her time in the Junior School, Mrs Paprota has worked with more than over eight year level co-ordinators and each if them ‘couldn’t have done it without her’. Her warm personality and sense of humour brighten up the office and makes it a welcoming place for staff and students alike.

On behalf of Avila College, we wish Mrs Paprota lots of luck as she starts this new phase in her life. We will miss her terribly, especially her cheeky sense of humour.

Thank you Mrs Paprota for your love and commitment to the College.

Miss Catherine Olsens
Mrs Tanya Induni and Miss Ingrid O’Sullivan
Co-ordinators for Year 7 Transition, and Year 7 and 8 year-levels

Tributes to Teresa’s women

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30 years of service in canteen

Canteen volunteer Mrs Lucy Fernando has retired this year after more than three decades of service.

It will be the end of an era as Mrs Fernando’s grand daughter, Nina Fernando-Bowen, is among our 2010 Year 12 graduates. During her 31 years at the Avila canteen Mrs Fernando has not only served her two daughters - Juanita (Class of 1975) and Jo-Anne (Class of 1976 and College Captain) and two grand daughters - Saara Fernando (Class of 1998) and Nina (Class of 2010), but literally thousands of other students as well.

And whilst she supports the canteen menu becoming far healthier over the years, she still thinks there should be more lollies!

Mrs Fernando first started working at the canteen because she wanted to help the younger mums who worked and were busy during the day. She soon discovered that she loved working and interacting with young people because ‘it keeps me young’ and, she ‘loves to talk’. Her biggest reward from volunteering at Avila has been to see students grow and mature. Physically, she has seen the College grow immensely with so many more opportunities available to students.

According to Mrs Fernando, the memories she will treasure most are the laughter, fun, interaction with young people, close friendships and the many wonderful personalities of Avila students.

‘I’d like to thank the young mums for making me feel part of the tuck shop community, I sometimes forget that I am a grandmother, not a mother,’ Mrs Fernando said.
Ciao Italia...

Leaving behind the cold and wet weather of Melbourne, further spurred our excitement for departure to our beautiful destination. We gathered at the airport, anticipating what would be the adventure of a lifetime, despite Malaysian Airlines bumping some of us onto another flight! Excited at the prospect of amazing experiences, gorgeous boys, great food, the trip was sure to exceed all of our expectations, and it did.

Though it was a tiresome 22 hour flight to Rome, there was no time to spare, as we headed straight for the Colosseum, followed by a visit to the Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon and a delicious gelati to top off a busy, yet perfect introduction to the wonders of Italy.

From the breathtaking cities of Rome, Florence and Venice (just to name a few), to famous attractions such as the Statue of David, Pompeii and the Leaning Tower of Pisa, we experienced it all! We enjoyed a gondola ride through the alleys of Venice and experienced a chair lift ride, allowing us time to take in the beautiful views of Capri, an island off Sorrento.

We indulged in Europe’s most famous gelati, became quickly accustomed to the typical Italian cuisine and climbed enough stairs to work off the calories! Despite our jam-packed schedules, we would always manage to find time for a shopping trip. The two hours we were granted on the final day in Milan, Italy’s fashion capital, allowed us to spend the last of our euros.

On behalf of the 42 students, we would like to thank the staff who accompanied us - Mrs Anna Cornell, Mrs Christine Kralj, Mrs Marie Stuart, Ms Sarah Tutchener and Mrs Angie Caporale for all their care and assistance. A special thank you to Mrs Cornell, not only for her organisational skills and knowledge as a personal tour guide, but for being our much loved ‘mother away from home’. We truly appreciated the opportunity to visit such a beautiful country and are thankful for the special bonds we’ve created. The people we met, places visited and the experiences we shared have created memories which will last a lifetime.

Adele Pellizzari and Melissa Chila
In Term Four, 8 Red had the amazing opportunity of participating in the Apple Learning Experience (ALE) trial at Avila. This experience went for just over three weeks, and involved each member of 8 Red receiving a MacBook Pro and iPod Nano to use at school and at home. We were required to bring this equipment to every class and use it often throughout the day. This certainly brought a whole new aspect to our subjects, as the technology enhanced and reinforced our learning. We all had a great time using different programs to record and present information, using applications such as iMovie, Keynote, Comic Life and iWeb and recording ourselves on the iPods.

Completing homework became a different routine, as we had access to the laptops at home. Most of our homework tasks were recorded on the technology, and the use of iCal replaced our physical school diaries. Our assessment tasks were completed on the MacBooks, and we explored many different ways to present our assignments to our teachers and classmates. My class enjoyed presenting our work and felt especially proud of our accomplishments. Although there were some technical difficulties, we overcame them and learned how to be patient when the ‘beach ball of death’ appeared on our screens.

It was sad to see the technology go at the end of the trial period, but the insightful experience gave us much to discuss. We learned so much, both in our classes and about the technology. We presented all our hard work to our parents, teachers and Apple representatives at an expo evening in November. The 8 Red homeroom is very grateful that we were selected to be a part of this special experience, and would definitely recommend the use of this technology throughout the College.

Christina Ishak, 8 Red

New technology creates excitement

Maths takes to the sporting field

Year 7s discovered just how much fun, and lively, maths can be at a Sporty Maths Day on Thursday, November 18.

The day-long activity-based program linked maths to various sporting activities, allowing students to see the way that maths can be incorporated in other contexts such as the sporting field.

Students had to complete a range of activities, ranging from riding a bicycle, to shooting netballs, to running a small circuit, to skipping. All activities involved students performing some physical activity, solving problems or measuring various angle lengths. The results of these activities were later collated and analysed allowing students to use the skills they had been taught through the year. The day was a great success and fun, and certainly injected some energy into the learning of maths.

Mrs Chris Nichols
Head of Mathematics
Stunning showcases

It has been an exceptionally busy semester for the Art Department with the impressive Grad Art Show at the end of Term Three and the Avila Art Show early in Term Four.

The Grad Art Show on September 14 featured the art and design work of the Year 12 students. Photography, Design and Technology, Studio Arts and Visual Communication and Design were showcased to the many family members, friends and staff. It was a fantastic evening starting off with a fashion show of clothing designed and made by the Design Tech girls. The range of art work displayed throughout the Art Department was diverse and inspiring to the many that attended the night.

Sarah Chan, 11 Green

On October 21, the Art Department raised the curtain on the stunning annual Art Show. Guest speaker was Talisa Trantino, Avila’s 2009 Art Captain, Talisa, who was awarded a Premiers Award for her VCE performance in Design and Technology and is undertaking a Bachelor of Design (Fashion) at RMIT, provided encouraging words to Avila’s budding young artists.

The four art rooms were filled with extravagant and breathtaking works of art, drawn from all year levels and from all medias and classes including Textiles, Ceramics, Studio Arts, Photography, Design and Technology and Visual Communication and Design. Those who attended were extremely impressed by the standard and creativity of the work, and the months of effort involved. A light supper and refreshments were provided and a great time was had by all, thanks to all the students and teachers involved in the evening. Thank you.

Sally Boxall, 10 Pink

Medieval Day

If you had visited Avila on Thursday November 18, you could have been excused for thinking you had been transported back to the Medieval Period as Year 8 students could be seen roaming around the school dressed as princesses, knights, crusaders, peasants and monks.

The day was part of the Year 8 History curriculum in which students have the opportunity to explore life during the Middle Ages and partake in activities such as dancing, crime and punishment, combat and calligraphy. The Year 8s embraced the activity with great enthusiasm, and creativity with their period outfits.

It was a wonderful day bringing to life the Middle Ages.
**Hands-on Biology**

On October 26, 42 eager and aspiring biologists set off on a day which was packed full of learning to consolidate their knowledge of environmental adaptations they had studied in Semester Two.

Hands-on experience with wetlands allowed the students to gain a further understanding of the interaction between organisms and their environments. After a delayed 2 hour bus trip, the students finally arrived at EcoLink Bacchus Marsh to a series of talks, activities and first-hand observations of the natural environment.

The students arrived home exhausted but with a renewed and inspired love of Biology.

Georgia Harris, Nicola-Maree Kontaxis and Cristina Cajili, Year 11

**Face-to-face with scribes of scare**

A group of students from years 7, 8 and 9 travelled to the city on Wednesday, October 27 to attend a special Booktalkers Halloween event at the State Library’s Centre for Youth Literature.

After listening to entertaining talks by the authors - Leanne Hall, Cassandra Golds, Tony Thompson and Doug McCleod - about their scary books, students were treated to dramatic performances based on some of the authors’ works.

The day was a very enjoyable experience and one which should encourage the girls in their reading.

Mrs Kathy Evans
Librarian

Year 9s Andrea Goussis and Natalie McNamara with author Tony Thompson at the Booktalkers’ Halloween event.

**Budding florists**

Year 9 Literacy and Vocational Skills students enjoyed a floristry workshop run by the very creative Julie Bolger. Having had a mother who was a florist, Julie has been surrounded by flowers ever since she was a young girl.

We began the morning watching a demonstration of what we had to do and listening to the instructions given. Julie demonstrated the techniques she uses to present a well balanced box of flowers and greenery. Then it was off to work.

Everyone had their own ideas and designs for their arrangement. I chose red roses and light green foliage. The flowers were wrapped and put on display for photos. Julie commented on all of the arrangements and said they looked very professional. There were many happy mothers who were the proud recipients of a beautiful flower arrangement that day.

We would like to thank Julie for sharing her passion for floristry and Mrs Michelle Hanger for organising such a wonderful session for us. We would love to do it again.

Nicola Jacobs, 9 Red

Looking very proud of their newly honed floral arrangement skills are from left, Jessica Broccio and Nicola Jacobs. Inset, another of the beautiful arrangements created in class.
Year 10 Drama Festival - Reality Bites

Whilst most students jump for joy at the thought of finishing their classes at the end of the year, not so for 22 Year 10 girls from the Opposite Prompt Drama Festival class. At the start of the semester, all 22 of us walked up the stairs to the drama rooms not really knowing what to expect and have now come out the other side, amazed by what we have achieved in the final product - The Year 10 Drama Festival.

It was not all buttercups and rainbows, as there were certainly a fair share of tears, break downs, freak outs and after-school rehearsals for the aspiring script writers and directors. Early on, Miss Darcie Kane-Priestley gave us our theme - Reality Television - and the requirement that all characters had to show animalistic qualities that relate to their character on stage. At first we were not really 100 per cent sure what that actually meant, but after research, a trip to the Melbourne Zoo and creating not only our own characters, but their background stories as well, we soon found out that it worked really well.

After auditioning more than 200 enthusiastic drama students over a series of lunchtimes and casting the lesson after, we began our rehearsals. Tuesdays and Thursdays after school each week with our entire cast and crew was stressful, although really productive. Before we knew it, weeks of rehearsals had flown by, lines had been learned, costumes finalised, sets had been made, and the whole experience was drawing to a close.

We set up Bunjil and crammed more sets, props and costumes into the space than ever before. Big Brother bought a pool, Master Chef finally got some cutlery, Wife Swap made a door and So You Think You Have A Chance pulled out wigs left, right and centre. Finally, it was the night we all thought would never arrive. The directors sat in the front row like proud parents, with smiling faces, watching what they had worked so hard to create. Whilst sitting there mouthing lines, doing hand actions and singing along, there was an obvious sense of relief and pride in what we saw before us. And then finally, it was over. For three months of blood, sweat and tears, we all could not have been any happier. We will never forget the friendships we have formed with our fellow classmates, the guidance we gained from ‘Miss K-P’ and we will share and treasure the memories from the Year 10 Drama Festival, Reality Bites, forever.

Katherine Murray and Annaliese Prigg

VCE solo performances woo audience

On Monday October 11, the Year 12 Drama students presented their solo performance examination pieces before a very appreciative audience of family, friends and teachers in the Old Lecture Theatre at Avila. The performance evening was only a few days before the students’ formal examinations before VCAA assessors. Every year, the Year 12 solo performance showcase represents the culmination of students spending many years building skills in Drama classes at Avila. The students performed their pieces to a very high standard, displaying artistic discipline, imagination and creativity in the development and performance of their work. Mr Justin Cash, Head of Drama

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Katherine Murray and Annaliese Prigg
Kate earns her stripes at The Age

Driven by an unflinching determination, a childhood passion for writing and a curiosity in the world around her, past Avila student Kate Hagan, a journalist with The Age newspaper, has established herself in an industry that is traditionally tough to break into.

In her own words, ‘If you have a passion for something and you know what you want in your heart, then go for it,’ Kate said. ‘... start somewhere and work hard and you’ll get there.’

Such a philosophy has fuelled Kate’s confidence to pursue her dream career. Kate is currently a health reporter with The Age, having also had stints in the sports section, police rounds and as a court reporter where she particularly enjoyed covering matters before the Supreme Court.

After graduating from Avila in 1995, Kate undertook a Bachelor of Arts Degree at Deakin University, majoring in professional writing. She excelled in her course and landed her first newspaper job with the Sentinel Times in Wonthaggi, in South Gippsland.

Working for the Sentinel Times was an invaluable start for Kate because the staff was small and she was able to gain a broad base of experience covering events ranging from football, to politics, to rural issues. From Wonthaggi, Kate moved to The Leader newspaper group based at Moorabbin and then Port Philip/St. Kilda. After several years with The Leader group, Kate secured a coveted trainee position with The Age where she has carved a solid career niche.

Kate’s interest in media and journalism was apparent at an early age. As a homework assignment at primary school, Kate’s class had to watch a current affairs program on television and write a report. Unlike her classmates, Kate loved the program and always looked forward to writing up her report and sometimes would even write two.

During Kate’s time at Avila she particularly enjoyed English and humanities subjects, as well as public speaking. Literature was her favourite subject in her senior years and she cited the late Mrs Chris Dalwood, as a particularly inspirational teacher because of the way she encouraged students to focus on the areas they enjoyed most. According to Kate it was this type of encouragement that she received at Avila that helps develop confident young women, able to pursue any career that they are prepared to work towards. Kate said she graduated from Avila, happy and excited about her future.

Kate considers the most rewarding aspects of her career to be the people she meets, the stories she writes, and crafting a person’s story into a strong piece that people can read: ‘It’s fascinating to gain an insight into people’s different experiences.’

Kate hopes that newspapers will exist forever and strongly recommends journalism as a career path for those interested. However she said determination and a preparedness to work hard were essential.

Flying high in nursing

Being nominated by Cabrini Hospital for an Australia-wide graduate nurse of the year award was an absolute honour for Amanda Abeydeera ... But perhaps no great surprise for those who know her passion for nursing.

As a Year 12 student at Avila in 2005, Amanda knew she wanted to make a difference to people’s lives but was torn between pursuing teaching or nursing. She chose the latter and her nomination for the HESTA Australian Nursing Award suggests she made the right decision. The nomination was based on her outstanding performance as a registered nurse during her graduate year when she rotated through orthopaedic, neurosurgery, emergency and medical oncology wards. Although the award went to another nominee Amanda was thrilled to be nominated. In fact, she believes that every nurse should be recognised for their hard work and dedication.

Upon completing her nursing degree at Deakin University, Amanda was employed by Cabrini. Currently working in oncology, Amanda said the experience has provided her with a far greater appreciation of life. She initially found working in oncology confronting, she now finds it extremely rewarding to be able to look after people when they and their families are faced with one of the toughest challenges in their lives.

Of her time at Avila, Amanda treasures the ‘great atmosphere, positive spirit and the high standard of teachers and education’, and particularly the friendships she made. Looking to the future, Amanda hopes to work overseas as a nurse and pursue leadership roles in the field.

Amanda’s older sister Sarah, Class of 2003, is a pharmaceutical sales representative, while younger sister Brittany, has just completed Year 11.
As girls arrived at school on October 12, they were greeted by enthusiastic, pink-adorned Peer Helpers and their Year 7 partners. By the time students walked into their homerooms, they each had a sticker on their collar and a lollipop in hand. These little treats were only the beginning to an exciting day.

At recess peer helpers zoomed around on their scooters to further make their presence felt. The pink theme carried through to lunchtime with loads of delicious pink treats for sale. As students fuelled themselves with the pink treats, others enjoyed games of skipping, hoops and Frisbee. The pavement was covered with artistic drawings and inspirational words from the students. Bubbles filled the air from the favourite bubble guns.

Smile Day was an exciting venture for all involved and I think I can safely say that everyone shared a smile.

Jacinta Frizziero, 10 Orange

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Wildlife carers on staff

One could be mistaken to think that wildlife carer is one of the prerequisites for some of our amazing office staff. Sharing a passion for looking after injured native animals are soon-to-retire, Mrs Berny Paprota (above left) from the Junior and Music schools, and Mrs Jenny Eason from the main office. They care for an amazing variety of animals ranging from possums and birds to kangaroos and wallabies, sometimes feeding them at two and three hourly intervals over a 24-hour period. Given the constant demands of wildlife care, maybe the skill is indeed a prerequisite for helping the administration run smoothly for a school as large as Avila.

Madeleine Cook, 10 Purple

Safe celebrations

To help ensure Year 12 students from Avila and neighbouring Mount Waverley Secondary College enjoyed their end-of-secondary-school celebrations, student leaders met with local police to put some strategies in place. Pictured with Sergeant Bernie Postma are Avila SRC member, Alison Coffa and Robert Walsh, Mount Waverley Secondary School captain.

Vida gives voice to Year 10 girls

On Saturday September 9, Erin Smart and I went to La Trobe University in Bundoora to compete in a public speaking competition, Vida’s Voices.

Vida’s Voices, a Victoria Women’s Trust co-ordinated event, is named after Vida Goldstein, renowned for being a huge force behind gaining women the right to vote in 1908. For the competition, we had to present a prepared speech talking about an issue that has positively changed women’s status in Australia and the important consequences. I spoke about Jessie Streets work in Human Rights and the United Nations, while Erin spoke about the importance of women’s suffrage. Then, we had to do an impromptu speech, with only four minutes to prepare, on how women leaders inspire hope. I spoke on our Governor General, Quentin Bryce, while Erin tackled the wonderful burns surgeon Fiona Woods.

Even though we weren’t the winners we both learned much and, most importantly, we enjoyed the experience and had fun. It was an honour to be a part of the inaugural public speaking competition for Year 10 girls from across the state.

Madeleine Cook, 10 Purple
Does Facebook have a positive or negative impact on the social culture of adolescents?

It’s a positive thing, because you can meet and interact with more people, and get to know them, which you wouldn’t be able to do as effectively otherwise.

Brittany Rowden, Year 9

Facebook is a positive thing because it lets you socialise with friends, and it’s an inexpensive way to do so.

Beck McPherson, Year 10

Positive. It allows you to talk to people you know, like relatives and friends, more often than you could otherwise.

Louise Do, Year 7

It’s a positive way to communicate with people you know, especially if they live in other places and you don’t get to see them very often.

Francie Egglezos, Year 8

Generally positive, but some students take it too far and I don’t think they take it seriously, or realise that other people can see everything they say.

Ms Deborah Parton
Careers Counsellor

It’s mainly positive, but it can be negative when it distracts you from your homework.

Georgie Gamble, Year 10.

There are both positives and negatives. It’s a great way to interact with people interstate and overseas, but people can say things anonymously that they wouldn’t be comfortable saying in person.

Julianna Alexeev, Year 11

It depends on how Facebook is used. Just like any words that you would say to someone in person, they can be good or bad, harmful or inspiring.

Mr John Beekhof
Religious Education Co-ordinator

Positive and negative. It’s good for communicating with family that you don’t get to see often, but bad because people feel like they can say whatever they want.

Amy Clarke, Year 7

Does Facebook have a positive or negative impact on the social culture of adolescents?

As part of a Public Relations and Marketing unit for their Business Management course, Year 11 students undertake a variety of supervised ‘live’ projects for the College including assisting with the Term Four issue of Avila Matters. One of the assignments was to conduct an opinion survey on a topic of their choosing. Allysa Tully surveyed students and staff on the impact of Facebook on young people.

- Opinion Survey -

- Allysa Tully is a student who conducted the survey. -

Ms Deborah Parton
Careers Counsellor

Mr John Beekhof
Religious Education Co-ordinator

Beck McPherson, Year 10.

Georgie Gamble, Year 10.

Julianna Alexeev, Year 11

Louise Do, Year 7

Francie Egglezos, Year 8

Amy Clarke, Year 7

- Allysa Tully is a student who conducted the survey. -
Avila sets cracking pace

Drawing on their talents and team spirit, Avila sportswomen set a cracking pace in the closing stages of Term Three and in Term Four with teams gaining berths in state and regional finals, as well as being a force to contend with at SCSA competitions.

SOCCER

Avila competed strongly in the State soccer finals at Darebin International Sports Centre. It was a particularly great achievement for our young junior soccer team to make it to the State finals where they recorded a draw and two losses. Many fantastic goals were scored by the girls including Jacinta Rosales’ long-range free kick from outside the box which was the highlight of the day. Thanks to our coaches Miss Nerida King and Mr Ziad Baroudi and also to Kate Fotopoulos for sharing her great advice and playing tips. Joanna Oungrini, 2011 Soccer Captain

NETBALL

Recently another netball tournament was held, this time the SCSA competition at Waverley Netball Centre. The day wasn’t without drama, with the Junior teams struggling to field a team on the day after a series of injuries on court. The teams again put their exceptional skills on display, with the Junior A and B teams coming 7th, Inter A team finishing 7th, Inter B finishing 3rd, Senior A team finishing 5th and the Senior B team finishing 3rd. All the girls should be congratulated for their efforts and they showed a high level of sportsmanship while up against tough competition. Lillian Smith, Year 11 Netball Captain

Congratulations to Year 9s Ruth Smith and Evelyn Andrews who were selected into the 15 years-and-under Catholic Schools Netball team, who competed in the National Championships in Queensland in the Term Three holidays. The team came second.

SOFTBALL

A seemingly sleep deprived group of Avila girls assembled very early on the morning of October 12 to board a bus bound for the SCSA softball in Geelong. It was not long before the focus was on what was ahead and the closer we came to our destination, the more the anticipation and general buzz took hold. After splitting into our teams and having a light practice run it was evident we were ready to play some ball. It was a very eventful day with many home runs hit and some exceptional plays made from all teams. The Juniors played awesomely all day and came second in percentage behind Siena as there were no finals. Our Inters were victorious once again winning the grand final easily and didn’t drop a game all day. The Seniors could be very pleased with their efforts reaching the grand final and only losing by a couple of runs to Academy. It was great to see a group of girls who had never played softball before improve so much in the one day. Overall all the Avila girls should be very proud of themselves and it’s safe to say we all slept well that night! Well done. Emily Papadimitriou, Softball Captain

GYMNASTICS

The Avila gymnastics team has once again flexed its strength over three days of tough competition at the Darebin International Sport Centre. After two terms of training, all girls had perfected their handstands and cartwheels and had their routines down pat. Naomi Linossier’s infamous sideline routines, reels of ribbon and, of course, glitter hair spray, added to the excitement and enthusiasm of the girls. Everyone gave 100 per cent which resulted in some amazing routines, some of the best they’d ever done. Avila recorded some great results including Louise Murphy’s sixth place overall for her session and the Year 7 B division team who were third in their session. Thanks to Miss Nerida King for her tireless efforts. We appreciate all her hard work and expert coaching.

Naomi Linossier, Gymnastics Captain
Avila Matters Term 4, 2010 - 27


Cricketing success

Avila's cricketers put on a show of strength during the term, particularly the intermediates who played each other for a berth in the regional finals. Sally Boxall, 2011 Soccer Captain, has provided the following report:

INTERMEDIATES

Kit checked and zinc applied, and the intermediate Avila A and Avila B teams were set for another season of cricket at Greaves Reserve, Dandenong. The day began with Avila A electing to bowl first against Minaret, while Gab Cincotta and Rachelle Cahill opened the batting for the Avila B team, against McKinnon. Thanks to Georgia Cormick’s pace bowling, teamed with Mikaela Welti’s wicket keeping, and her many catches at silly mid on, our opponent’s runs were kept low. The first round ended with success, with both Avila teams beating their opponents. After refueling on lollies, Mikaela and Emily Ryan, finished with an astonishing partnership consisting of mainly boundaries. Leaving Avila A victorious once again, with a staggering 212 to 42 run win against McKinnon. The final was between Avila A and Avila B, as both teams had won all of their matches up until this point. However, despite the competitive comradery, the Avila A team won the final, leaving Avila B in second place. The Avila A team progressed to the regional final where it finished second overall.

JUNIORS

The Avila Junior A and B cricket teams enjoyed a ladies day out on the field, sporting the Avila cap, accompanied by blue zinc and cricket pads at Greaves Reserve. The competition began with a win for both Avila teams against Lighthouse Christian College and Killester College B, with Yasmin Cook and Mirella Cuda scoring a staggering 23 runs in their first over for the A team. Avila B unfortunately lost its second game, despite Georgia Stapleton’s very economic bowling. Thanks to Talia Milverton’s reliable wicket keeping and Mirella Cuda’s pace bowling, Avila A won its second game. Both teams headed into the finals with optimism, but Avila A just fell short by 15 runs, 129 to 144, against Killester A, despite Kala Gare taking two wickets in the opening over, leaving them in an amazing second place. Avila B however won their final game by 17 runs, finishing in sixth place. Thank you to the teachers Miss Kelly and Miss Flynn for their tremendous coaching and support on the day.

Activities reach new heights with Parkour

As part of their core Physical Education program, Year 11 students were introduced to an exciting range of recreational pursuits. One of the more unusual ones was parkour, whereby participants run along a route, attempting to negotiate physical obstacles in the most efficient way possible. Pictured above, Ella Gasowski goes through some introductory paces for parkour instructors, Mike Snow and Zeke Beilharz.

Portrait of poise

Full of poise, Year 7 student, Jessica Laguyo, has enjoyed a strong year of dance, coming second in the state to qualify for the national classical ballet championships in Brisbane. Jessica, who performs ballet, jazz and tap, was also awarded a dance scholarship earlier in the year.
‘I was destined to be an Olympian’, elite softballer, Natalie Titcume, told her captivated audience at the 2010 Avila Sports Awards Night on September 16.

Natalie, a triple Olympic medallist and professional softballer for more than 18 years, described how perseverance and determination were rewarded by a career as an elite athlete. Natalie represented Australia in 349 games and captained the national team in 2005 and 2006.

‘Training shouldn’t be enjoyable ... it should hurt,’ Natalie quipped, inspiring her audience of eager Avila sportswomen, some of whom may well pursue sporting careers at an elite level.

‘Never underestimate yourself and your abilities .... There is always more in you, so go out and find your 100 per cent. Always do your personal best, in whatever you do,’ said Natalie, adding that it was important to set goals and to let others know so they can help provide motivation and encouragement.

Natalie commended Avila’s Sportswomen for their participation in all sports at all levels, urging them to persevere with their excellence and achievements.

Avila’s Sports Awards Night is celebration of sport and the hundreds of students who participate in the main sporting teams at the College. Highlights of the evening included the much anticipated announcement of the Sports Women of the Year, together with Sport, House and Individual House Captains for 2010 and the recipients of excellence and coach awards in individual sports.

**SPORTS AWARDS 2010**

Nicole McMahon, Year 11 Flynn House Captain

**EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

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**COACHES AWARDS**

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Page created by Nicole McMahon, Year 11, as part of a Business Management unit on Public Relations and Marketing.