Avila College acknowledges the Wurundjeri people, the traditional custodians of the land on which the College is built.
Term Three has been busy with academic and co-curricular activity, as well as the official opening and blessing of our new building, the election of some of our 2013 student leaders and the opportunity to showcase our College to a group of educators from around the globe.

Further reinforcing enhanced and rich learning experiences, students and staff have been engaged in events ranging from interschool debating and sporting competitions to online subject selections, the Avila Music Festival, Year 10 ski trip, Sports Awards Night, Grad Art Show, Tournament of the Minds, Avila/Mazenod musical Hot Mikado, College Open Morning and the election of the 2013 College Captain. Our Year 10 students and staff have just returned from their immersion trip to Santa Teresa and our Italy Study Tour is well underway.

International visitors
In July we welcomed 24 delegates from the International Federation for Home Economics World Congress being hosted by Home Economics Victoria, the subject association of which I am president. I was exceptionally proud of our student tour guides who showed our visitors around our College. On their return bus trip to the congress, the delegates commented on how impressed they were by our students, the impressive learning facilities of our college and the most delicious Aussie morning tea prepared by our Food Technology Department. My sincere thanks to all involved in making this a great international experience for all concerned.

Official opening of new building
The official opening and blessing of our new 16-classroom building (currently home to our Year 7 and 8s) was held on Thursday, August 30. It was a great honor to officially showcase our new light-filled, flexible learning complex.

Guests included past principals of Avila as well as principals from other Catholic secondary schools from throughout Melbourne; Sisters from the Presentation Order including Sister Bernadette Keating who is the Congregation Leader in Melbourne; Head of the College Canonical Administrators, Father Brendan Dillon; Joy Wandin Murphy, members of the College Board and representatives from the Catholic Education Office Melbourne, ADZ Builders, McCarthy, Collins and Purcell Architects, past staff and many parents.

The building was blessed by Father Dillon and Joy Wandin Murphy, an elder from the Wurundjeri tribe on whose land the College is built, conducted the welcome to land. Our visitors enjoyed a tour of the new building followed by afternoon tea. My thanks to all staff and students involved in this very memorable and historic event in the life of our school.

College parking hazards
Earlier this term the Mayor of the City of Monash, Councillor Stefanie Perri, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jieh-Yung Lo, and a planning engineer visited the College to see first-hand the concerns we have regarding the safety of our staff and students outside the front of our school in Charles Street. They will consider our request for one-way traffic flow or making the surrounding streets permanently one way. Parents are reminded about the parking restrictions outside the college and are requested to follow our directions to assist the safe pick-up and drop off of your daughters each day.

I trust you will enjoy reading these pages of Avila Matters.
Excellence across many disciplines

Crowned by the presentation of coveted Premiers Awards to two Avila students, Term Three boasted an extensive list of student achievements, both academic and in a broad range of extra curricular pursuits and interests within and beyond the College.

The accolades kept rolling in from Premiers Awards, scholarships, exceptional performances in Science, Italian and creative writing competitions, public speaking and debating and Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) awards, to state and national representation in aerobics, softball and netball.

Premiers Awards
Class of 2011 graduate, Georgia Delaney, received a Premiers’ Award for Classical Studies while Demi Tsironis achieved one for Greek which she studied externally.

Georgia, who is in her first year of an Arts degree course at Melbourne University, was one of three Avila students to achieve an ATAR above 99 in 2011. Georgia’s ATAR was 99.45. She achieved 48 for Classical Studies which followed on from her score of 50 for History (Revolutions) which she undertook in Year 11 in 2010.

Meanwhile Demi undertook units 3 and 4 Greek at the Protypo Bilingual Greek Centre in Oakleigh whilst she was in Year 11. She gained 48 for Greek and 47 for Biology which she also undertook in Year 11.

See page 7 for full report and a listing of Avila’s Premiers Award winners.

Science
Eighty-four students competed in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) Science competition with distinctions awarded to eight students and credits to 40. The distinction winners were Year 7 - Sarah Park (top 2% of the State); Year 8 - Stacey Park (top 3%), Jessica McLean and Katerina Sova (top 5%), Tina Liao and Isha Shah (top 9%); Year 9 - Brigitte Snell (top 5%); and Year 10 - Madeleine Heyn (top 6%).

Congratulations also to Bridget Jackson, Year 11, who has been selected to attend the prestigious National Youth Science Forum, sponsored by Rotary, at the Australian National University in Canberra.

Dante Alighieri
Lia Diamantopoulos came third in the Year 10 poetry recitation section in the Dante Alighieri competition at Melbourne University. Lia had to recite a poem by an Italian poet.

Lauren Santalucia gained first place in the Year 9 original poetry section while classmate Deanne Aguirre came third.

The girls had to compose their own poem in Italian and recite it for the competition judges.

Victorian Gifted and Talented Scholarship
Year 7 student Nicole Lee is the inaugural metropolitan winner of a Victorian Gifted and Talented Association scholarship. See page 9 for more information. Also, Year 10 student, Monica DeRango, was one of five finalists for the prestigious Norman A. Smith Memorial Scholarship.

Cancer Council Arts Competition
Emma Spencer, Year 7 was one of 29 students to have their creative writing short-listed in a Cancer Council Arts competition. Emma’s short story will appear in the College Yearbook.

Aerobics and gymnastics
Year 7 student Roisin Selvarajoo will compete in the FISAF World Aerobics Championships to be held in the Netherlands in October. She will be in three events representing Action Sports Aerobics Mount Waverley and Cheltenham-based Aerodance. Also, in aerobics, Madeleine Heyn, Year 10, came second in FISAF nationals and school aerobics nationals in Open A. In gymnastics, Emily Wright, Year 9, was a member of the winning Level 7 Victorian team at the Trans Bass Challenge in Hobart in August. Individually, Emily finished 4th all round and received a silver medal on bars.

Softball and Netball
The Passarelli sisters - Natalie, Year 12, and Lauren, Year 11 - have been selected into the Under 19 Victorian State Softball Team Australian to compete in the U19 Women’s Softball Championship in Canberra in January. Natalie is Chisholm House Captain. In netball, Ruth Smith, Year 11, and Year 8s Janey Hastings and Jessica Harley will represent Victoria in the Australasian Catholic Schoolgirls Netball Championships in Adelaide during the first week of the Term Three holidays.
On Friday August 3 I had the privilege of escorting five of our Aboriginal students to the Watta Watnanda - ‘Come together’ Education and Cultural Day for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students - to celebrate their cultural heritage, faith and spirituality.

The day was held at the Korin Gamadji Institute, Richmond Football Club was hosted by the Catholic Education Office Melbourne in partnership with Melbourne Commission for Justice Development and Peace, Richmond Football Club, Australian Catholic University’s Jim-baa-ya Indigenous Unit and the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry.

This annual event offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students a time and place to celebrate their identity and, I’ve observed, each of the girls comes away with a greater sense of pride in their heritage and culture. It is beautiful to watch.

The group of 120 or so students received a ‘Welcome to Country’ from Aunty Diane Kerr, a Wurundjeri elder, and the morning started with an opening prayer from Delsie Lillyst. Fr Tony Kerin shared some reflections and gave a presentation to the group. Vicki Clark from the Australian Catholic Ministry then presented the ‘Proud Race’ initiative for schools around Australia.

The day’s program included five interactive, rotational workshops in dance, language, health, boxing and story-telling.

Here are some comments from the students about their day...

It was exciting to be at the Richmond Footy Club, and even more exciting with my friends Mrs B, Bianca, Jade, Grace, Kim! The day was filled with dancing, learning language and meeting Koorie kids and future friends. I loved being a part of the fun and more importantly proud to be accepted!

Kirra Travers, Year 11

The aim of the day was to celebrate, and educate the community about, Aboriginal culture. We researched the beginnings of ‘our own’ game, as Tom Wills called it when he formalised the rules of the game. We discovered that he was a man who had many links with Aboriginal people, who found a way of giving a game that was played by Aboriginal people, to the people of the colony so Victoria’s cricketers might beat New South Wales...he wanted to keep them fit in the off season.

The links with the Aboriginal game are found in the shape of the ball, the high leaping and running ball skills, and the language that we use in the game such as ‘mark’ and ‘barrack’. We also celebrated footy by researching and producing posters on some of our current Aboriginal footballers.

We thank the community for the almost $1,000 that was raised to help educate Koori children. Congratulations to Aly Rose’ Meyer and Miranda Koroknai who worked as a team to ensure that the day ran smoothly. We also thank Olivia Staffieri and Kathy Qian for their work in producing a short film that will be used for fundraising for the foundation.

The group also had a special day promoting Aboriginal culture by helping Syndal South Primary School celebrate NAIDOC Week. This is the second year that we have led their students through activities at lunchtime in NAIDOC Week. It was a lovely afternoon where their school showed generous hospitality to us and we assisted the students by reading stories, learning Aboriginal words and decorating boomerangs.

Some of our members were privileged to attend the birthday celebration of The Opening the Doors Foundation, an event which honoured two of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry’s inspirational founders who have been awarded honours from the Victorian Government - Joan Robinson (posthumously) and Aunty Betty Pike. Joan, Vicki Clark’s mother, was a woman who led with strength and compassion and Aunty Betty is an amazing woman who has enriched the relationship between Aboriginal Catholics and non Aboriginal Catholics through her prayers, poetry and storytelling.

Mrs Christine Valladares
Reconciliation Group Co-ordinator

Marngrook Day benefits Koori kids

In Term Two, ‘The Long Walk’ was a highlight for the Reconciliation Group and this theme continued in Term Three for our fundraising day for the Opening the Doors Foundation...We had a Marngrook Day on which Avila became a sea of footy jumpers, scarves and beanies with the tone set by our captain Aly Rose’ Meyer in her Richmond colours.

The group of 120 or so students received a ‘Welcome to Country’ from Aunty Diane Kerr, a Wurundjeri elder, and the morning started with an opening prayer from Delsie Lillyst. Fr Tony Kerin shared some reflections and gave a presentation to the group. Vicki Clark from the Australian Catholic Ministry then presented the ‘Proud Race’ initiative for schools around Australia.

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Mrs Christine Valladares
Reconciliation Group Co-ordinator
Nurturing the hearts and minds of our young

If the Lord does not build the house, then in vain do the builders labour... (Ps. 127:1)

Towards the end of Term Three we blessed and opened the new building currently used by our Year 7 and 8 students. The Liturgy for this significant celebration was very much ‘student centred’ and teased out the significance of such a place in the history of Avila College. What the Psalmist once opined: ‘If the Lord does not build the house, then in vain do the builders labour...’ (Ps. 127:1), strikes at the core of our business here at Avila; this place is founded on the Gospel in the tradition of the Presentation Sisters and through the inspiration of Teresa of Avila. It was fitting, therefore, to begin the celebration with Kiara Goldsmith, our Liturgy Captain, teasing out the purpose for our gathering to provide a depth of meaning as to why we would even bother to bless a place made of bricks. Kiara said to us:

“Here, my daughters, is where love must be seen: not hiding in corners, but in the midst of things.” Today we make these words of Teresa of Avila our own. We gather to bless and open a new building, but in doing so we give this new place a sense of profound meaning; consider the bricks and mortar as the hearts and minds of the young, cemented by the Word of God, the Wisdom of Teresa and the luminous love of Nano Nagle. See in this place not just a place of learning but a place of nurturing, a place where the whole being is formed, educated and loved.’

Throughout the liturgy we were reminded of the many women whose names we take as further inspiration for living good lives. What follows are the prayers we prayed together to help us to remember that while science, art, drama, english and maths are important, they are part of a broader and deeper reason for gathering - we exist to educate the whole person and we look to vibrant women to assist us in this way of life. Perhaps you may like to use these prayers as a part of your personal prayer life.

In faith we gather knowing that our God listens. The patrons of the College’s Houses dwell in God’s marvellous light because they gave so much while here on earth. These women will continue to inspire the young women who move in and through this new building and so we pray:

Caroline Chisholm says to us today: ‘I promise to know neither country nor creed, but to serve all justly and impartially.’

God of Service, through the promptings of your Holy Spirit, continue to inspire us by the example of Caroline Chisholm: Lord, I promise to know neither country nor creed, but to serve all justly and impartially.

It was said of Julia Flynn that she was ‘a person of unselfish disposition and wide sympathies...’

God of Compassion, through the promptings of your Holy Spirit, continue to inspire us by the example of Julia Flynn: Lord, help us to be unselfish and sympathetic.

Mary MacKillop says to us today: Never see a need without doing something about it.

God of Justice, through the promptings of your Holy Spirit, continue to inspire us by the example of Mary MacKillop: Lord, help us to never see a need without doing something about it.

Nano Nagle says to us: ‘Not words but deeds.’

God of the downtrodden, through the promptings of your Holy Spirit, continue to inspire us by the example of Nano Nagle: Lord, help me to understand that it is not words but deeds that create your Kingdom.

God of our ancestors, bear the prayers of your family gathered, we make them in confidence through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Lastly, it seems to me that it is good to know that the students who use this new learning space do so with an acute understanding of what our prayers were suggesting.

Following are extracts from a reflection prepared by Olivia Condina-Hibon in Year 7:

‘Today we gather together to celebrate the blessing of the new Learning Centre - but to me, it’s much more than just an ordinary building, it is a splendid place to nurture each and every one of us academically, socially and spiritually.

‘This new complex is another wonderful progression in the life and history of Avila College and will be a great asset for the future years to all students. A wide variety of subjects such as Mathematics, Religious Education, Information Tech, English and LOTE to name a few, will be taught and learned in our new, contemporary-designed area.

‘With the Year 7s and 8s the first year levels to use this special new building at Avila, we must not forget that with it comes a great privilege. I’ve come to realise how lucky we are to be equipped with such valuable learning facilities, which will benefit our education all the way to Year 12. It is our responsibility to take care of this new complex, whilst still enjoying this vast learning area, so every student year after year can still experience the same joy of beginning in what seems like a brand-new environment...

‘And even though the great academic and historian Richard Evans wrote that ‘children will not remember you for the material things you provided, but for the feeling that you cherished them,’ we here at Avila DO feel cherished through the efforts of the staff who care for the environment in which we are being educated.’

‘As the saying goes, ‘from the mouths of babes...’ I will leave you with the words of the Psalmist and in the hope that all that we do and say here, at Avila College, is a clear reflection of Jesus’ commands, Nano Nagle’s dream and Teresa of Avila’s wisdom. ‘If the Lord does not build the house, then in vain do the builders labour...’ (Ps. 127:1)

Mr John Rynchart
Faith Development Co-ordinator
Avila’s strong reputation in debating is gaining even further depth in the DAV competition at Wesley College. Once again the College fielded some impressive teams as well as some of our past students adjudicating for the Debating Association of Victoria and some, who have become teachers themselves, coaching other schools.

It was a pleasure to watch our teams compete and it has been lovely to see the numbers of parents who continue to support their daughters by coming along to watch.

The senior debaters, under the leadership of Mrs Louise Swift and captains Li Chen and Rubini Ball, have had an impressive season. Avila has dominated the region with teams in A, B and D grade moving through to the finals undefeated. Our A grade finalists are Li Chen, Erin Smart, Sarah Genovese, Sashika Harasgama, Rubini Ball, Madeleine Cook, Nathalie Dabrowski and Phoebe Tapley; B Grade - Alexandra Bellizia, Grace Dungey, Courtney Lindeman and Miranda Koroknai; and D Grade - Felicity D’Art, Georgia Vance, Gabriella McPherson-Caldiera, Emily Standish and Heshala Wijerathna. We wish them well.

The junior debaters have been anxiously waiting for their turn. Sixty students have signed up to compete in the lunchtime competition which will be adjudicated by our senior students who are learning the skill. The Avila representative team will be chosen from these debaters.

In Public Speaking, under the guidance of Ms Felicity Maxwell, we have had some very enthusiastic speakers, with girls competing in the Thant-Evatt Trophy Model United Nations competition. Miranda Koroknai and Elysia Wylie represented China while Bridget Jackson and Grace Dungey fought hard to represent the interests of Germany in the session at Victoria University. The girls are all to be congratulated on their dedicated preparation and enthusiastic participation in the competition.

The Public Speaker of the Year Competition at each year level produced some stunning performances which showed a balance between entertainment and the exploration of ideas. Congratulations to the winners: Year 8 - Tahlia Di Teodoro; Year 9 - Sophia Elliott; Year 10 - Tamar Haigazian; Year 11 - Kathryn Elliott and Year 12 - Sashika Harasgama. The Year 7 competition had not been held at the time of printing.

The junior public speakers competed in the Legacy Competition which was of a very high standard. Swathi Anand, Caitlyn Quinn, Isabelle Benedos and Nikitha Pynadath all presented challenging speeches with great passion and poise. In Year 7, Olivia Condina-Hibon, Helena Elliott and Ashleigh Janky have been busy preparing for the semi finals of the DAV Public Speaking Competition.

Public Speaking and Debating Week was another highlight and featured three days of ideas and laughter. The staff versus student debate is always a standing-room-only performance and this year was no exception. Again, competition was tough and this year the staff were very relieved when the students persuaded the adjudicator that staff shouldn’t have to wear uniforms to school!

The Comedy Festival had the audience thoroughly entertained as the students used observation and wit to provide very funny ‘stand up’ sketches. We had a brave Year 7, Piera Sanelli, whose timing was perfect, reflecting on road safety and her grandmother; the hilarious and always supportive Amy Hastings and Phoebe Cowling providing insightful banter exposing the challenges of friendships in today’s society; Olivia Staffieri demonstrating how to avoid parental confrontations over her use of Facebook (with gifted input from her father); Georgia and Angela Stapleton cleverly using technology with an interlude featuring Head of Drama, Mr Justin Cash; and, finally the gifted Hayley Tait exposing the problems of working in a fast food chain.

Our final feature was a new addition to Public Speaking and Debating Week. We launched the inaugural ‘Avila Film Festival’, with the assistance of e-Learning Co-ordinator, Mr Jason Isma, as judge. Ten out of the 35 entries were shortlisted for the lunchtime final. The theme was, ‘I have an idea’ and the students produced a great range of ‘ideas’ from escaping Melbourne in winter and going to Queensland; to changing the colour of our world; to feeding the hungry.

Congratulations go to our overall winners, Stephanie Barcham and Jacinta Frizziero. The Encouragement Award went to Emily Camilleri, Stephanie Christofakakis and Victoria Cook. The People’s Choice Award went to Olivia Staffieri. Congratulations to all entrants. Special congratulations to all of the captains: Li Chen, Rubini Ball, Bridget Jackson, Tamar Haigazian, Sophia Elliott, Swathi Anand and Brittney Moore who organised and hosted the events.

Mrs Christine Valladares
Public and Speaking and Debating Co-ordinator
Capping off our wonderful VCE results in 2011, two of our students have been honoured with prestigious Premier’s Awards for their studies in 2011.

Georgia Delaney received an award for Classical Studies while Demi Tsironis, achieved one for Greek which she studied externally whilst in Year 11 last year. For those not familiar with the subject, Classical Studies focuses on the ancient world and, as a multidisciplinary study, allows students to develop a range of skills, including constructing arguments, thinking creatively and textual and art analysis, which are transferable across a range of disciplines. Students explore ideas about what it means to be human, a question that still engages many of us today.

Class of 2011 graduate, Georgia is currently in her first year of an Arts degree course at Melbourne University, Passionate about literature, Italian and history she would eventually like to work in academia and also has a keen interest in independent publishing. She is loving university and enjoying being alongside like-minded people.

To all those Year 12s who are counting off the days until the start of their exams Georgia said, ‘don’t stress’. She said not to focus on the end score but try to think about what you have learned and how much you have enjoyed the subject/s and to go into the exams confident about the knowledge you have gained.

Meanwhile Demi undertook units 3 and 4 Greek at the Protypo Bilingual Greek Centre in Oakleigh in Year 11. She is now team teaching at Protypo which she has been attending weekly since she was in prep.

Demi, who is hoping to study medicine, is currently studying Chemistry, Mathematical Methods, English and Classical Studies. She stressed the importance of students studying subjects for which they have a passion.

‘Never think you can’t do something. You can, if you are prepared to work hard,’ Demi said.

Premier’s Awards were introduced in 1994 and the number that Avila students have received over the years is a measure of the academic rigour of the College and the opportunities available to students.

The following is a list of students who have gained Premier’s awards for academic excellence. In 1992, prior to the Premier’s Awards, students were recognised for being the top in the state for particular subjects. The list, which show the year in which the award was presented), reflects the broad range of subject areas in which our student excel.

2012 Georgia Delaney (Classical Studies)
2012 Demi Tsironis (Greek)
2010 Margaret Hezkial (Religion and Society)
2009 Talisa Trantino (Design and Technology)
2006 Britanny Bowd (Equine Studies)
2006 Jessica Shields (Psychology)
2005 Amy Alchin (Food and Technology)
2005 Sally Crook (Physics)
2002 Laura Thom (Agriculture/Horticulture)
2002 Felicity Simons (Religion & Society)
2001 Kate Warby (Technological Design and Development)
2001 Karly Van Der Gaag & Helen Tran (Agriculture/Horticulture)
2000 Renee Stockley (Legal Studies)
2000 Megan Cox ([Technological Design and Development)
2000 Elizabeth Addison ([Technological Design and Development)
    At a national level, Liz won a prestigious Australian Students Prize for her academic achievements in 2000.
2000 Elizabeth Addison (Agriculture/Horticulture)
2000 Lalitha Mylvaganam (Technological Design and Development)
2000 Jennifer Burt (Agriculture/Horticulture)
1996 Catherine Borg (Religion & Society)
1996 Pia Walters (Agriculture/Horticulture)
1995 Tracy Lee & Catherine Rossouw (Religion & Society)
1995 Nina Stevens & Virginia Lee (Agriculture/Horticulture)
1994 Naomi Murphy (Human Development & Society)
    At a national level, Naomi won a prestigious Australian Students Prize for her academic achievements in 1994.
1994 Karen Axton (Agriculture/Horticulture)
1993 Tracey Van Grunsven (Agriculture/Horticulture) - Avila’s first Premier’s Award recipient.
1992 Paulina Slodowy (Business Management) - First place in the state in the subject. Second place in Religion and Society.
1992 Sally-Anne McDonald (Agriculture/Horticulture) - First place in the state in the subject.
Gifted and Talented Program

Challenges aplenty to stretch the mind

It has been full steam ahead for Avila’s gifted and talented students who have availed themselves of extension opportunities, both in the classroom and in extra-curricular settings, throughout Term Three.

In keeping with Avila’s holistic approach to education, the Gifted and Talented Program helps highly able academic individuals to develop as problem-solving, creative citizens of the future.

**Tournament of Minds**
The big competition this term has been the Tournament of Minds (TOM) contest. Avila entered four teams, involving 28 students from Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 and 12, and staff members. The teams did a fantastic job of presenting both their Long-Term and Spontaneous Challenge solutions on Sunday August 19. Huge congratulations to the Applied Technology team who were awarded ‘Honours’ for their presentations. We look forward to competing again next year.

**Amazing Spaghetti Machine Competition**
The Amazing Spaghetti Machine Competition girls took their complicated contraption to the University of Melbourne and presented it to the judging panel. They had a few hours to set up their machine on the day and also had a chance to see entries from other schools. It was exciting to follow the competition on Twitter and to see photographs of the Avila machine in action! The girls are to be congratulated on their commitment, creative problem-solving and engineering skills. Many thanks to Mrs Sophie Clapperton for her involvement in the process.

**Maths Talent Quest**
All Year 8 Mathematics students had the opportunity to enter the Maths Talent Quest this year. We had four enthusiastic teams who met with Ms Rosie Ryan, Miss Madeleine Scott-Jones and Mrs Gisella Smith at lunchtimes to prepare their projects. It was great to see the girls investigate mathematics in everyday contexts. Congratulations to all of the girls who chose to take up the challenge, and special congratulations to Tiffany Hill-Donovan, Christina Milonas, Anelise Porto and Michelle Radloff who were awarded a Credit for their project ‘Maths in Make-Up’. A group of seventeen Year 7 Maths extension students attended the Maths Talent Quest at La Trobe University to see the calibre of entries in preparation for their own projects for the 2013 competition.

**APP Group**
The APP Group is working on an APP which it hopes to have on the APP Store and on Google Play by the end of the year. As they are working with angles they are learning some trigonometry, a new topic for Year 8s. In August, Abigail Dineen, Sarah Lambourne and Li Chin Chow attended the annual conference of the Victorian IT Teachers’ Association (VITTA) and ran a workshop for 17 teachers on how to build a game APP. Mr Ziad Baroudi, who accompanied the girls, said the attendees were impressed with their confidence and competence.

**Writing Works**
‘Writing Works’ is in its preliminary stages. A group of enthusiastic young writers from Years 8 to 10 have been encouraged to attend lunchtime meetings to collaborate with other able student writers. In the sessions, students discuss, brainstorm, encourage and review writing from a myriad of sources. Led by Head of English, Mrs Pauline Catrice, Ms Felicity Maxwell and Mrs Michele McArdle, the group are endeavoring to seek external competitions and hope to publish their works to a wider audience.

Miss Madelaine Scott-Jones, Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator
Year 7 student Nicole Lee has been awarded a scholarship from the Victorian Association of Gifted and Talented Children (VAGTC) in recognition of her love of learning and ongoing educational enrichment.

Nicole is one of only two recipients state-wide to receive the Yvonne Perret Scholarship. In its first year, the scholarship was awarded to only one metropolitan student and one studying in the country.

VAGTC Life Member, educator and author, Dr Yvonne Perret, created the scholarships to help further enrich the educational opportunities for students who have demonstrated a talent, passion or skill in a particular endeavour and show potential for future development.

VAGTC president, Mrs Carmel Meehan presented Nicole with her scholarship at a Year 7 assembly on Friday, August 10. Mrs Meehan was joined by Dr Susan Nikakis, VAGTC vice president and Gifted and Talented Officer with the Catholic Education Office who was also on the scholarship selection panel.

Mrs Meehan commended Nicole for her dedication to her studies and for the academic achievements that resulted in her being awarded a scholarship.

‘We also congratulate Avila College for identifying Nicole’s holistic approach to her studies and nominating her for this prestigious award,’ Mrs Meehan said.

Co-ordinator of the Gifted and Talented Program at Avila, Miss Madelaine Scott-Jones described Nicole as a studious and highly capable student who has excelled especially in her musical and mathematical endeavors.

‘A very motivated member of Mathematics classes, Nicole has been enjoying working on rich analysis and extension tasks. She values her holistic education and is a passionate pianist. Nicole is a compassionate and active member of her parish community. She has gently shared her insights and values with her peers at Avila who have a great deal of respect for Nicole,’ Miss Scott-Jones said.

Avila College aims to extend highly able and bright students through the Gifted and Talented Program, offering a range of extra-curricular activities for capable and interested students. The aim of these opportunities is to promote the development of creativity, analytical and evaluative skills in our students.

French students in Years 8 to 11 recently competed in an Avila French Poetry competition where they were required to learn and recite a poem from memory.

Head of French, Ms Andrea Venier said the competition was similar to the one organised by Alliance Francaise and students were assessed at a similar high standard.

The students were required to recite from memory the same poems used by Alliance Francaise.

The poems were from a range of traditional, well-known writers such as Victor Hugo to more contemporary poets. The girls acquitted themselves very well, resulting in many scores of a high standard.

Félicitations’ to all the participants, especially to the following winners:

**Year 8:** Rania Jebry, 1st. Runners-up - Freda Drakopoulos, Nikitha Pynadath, Lisa Dupuy, Jovita Thomas and Jessica O’Neill.


**Year 9:** Amelia Neff, 1st. Runners-up - Fiona Yung, Sophia Elliott and Emilia Megroz. Highly commended - Sarah Lambourne, Sarah Gill, Audrey Louise, Brittany Davison, Jorja Hope, Amber Ricardo, Georgia Vance and Pipina Koutsaplis.

**Year 10:** Yasna Cook 1st. Runners-up - Luisa Chavez-Romero and Francesca Carl. Highly commended - Kim Bui, Cimona Fernandes, Stephanie Halliday and Catherine Smith.

**Year 11:** Alexa Sakkal, 1st. Runner-up - Emily Pupic. Highly commended - Shalyn Mathew, Sonya Rose’Meyer, Anita Coiff and Leah Bell.
As part of the Year 10 program, students participate in a week of Community Service to complement their studies of Religious Education and make a difference in the local community.

This year students received excellent feedback from their supervisors for the initiative, empathy and commitment they demonstrated whilst volunteering. The placement settings included primary schools, opportunity shops, aged care facilities, and organisations such as The Big Issue, RSPCA, Vision Australia, Koorie Heritage Trust, and Riding for the Disabled.

Even before students chose their community service placement, they were challenged to consider how they were going to complete their community service, rather than where or with whom. Students responded well to the call to seek and respond to the needs of their neighbour, just as the story of the Good Samaritan teaches us (Luke 10:25-37).

The following reflections from some of the Year 10s demonstrate that Avila’s Community Service program is a powerful time of growth and development for each student.

Mr John Beekhof, Head of Religious Education

A memorable moment during my community service week was when I managed to make a crying student smile. The student wasn’t too happy about coming to school on Monday and the teacher I was helping was having a hard time getting this one student involved in the activities we were doing. At one stage, the students went outside to play some games so they could focus on their work when they went back inside. The whole class was joining in, apart from this one student. So I went up to her, introduced myself and asked if she wanted to be my partner. As soon as I offered, a smile started to creep onto the girl’s face and she took my hand. This moment really made my day and showed me that even the smallest of gestures can really make someone’s day.

Madeleine Heyn, Syndal South Primary School

Community Service is important because it allows us to give something back to the community and to put into practice what we are taught as Catholics, to reach out and help each other. Community Service allows us to follow and put our beliefs and teachings into practice. It also helps us to grow as a person and to see how other parts of the community work. Community Service shows the community that as a Catholic school, we value and acknowledge the teachings of Jesus and the customs/beliefs that we are taught.

Tahlia Corbo, Mount Waverley Pre-School Centre

There were children at the kinder who were more quiet than others, they were very shy and would always sit by themselves. So I would try and help those children, I would sit and talk to them and would also try and help them interact with other kids. All they needed was someone to talk to; for someone to take some time to sit with them and assist them in activities. There were also a few other kids who were a little more noisy and would often disturb other children around them. So I would help the supervisors in trying to calm them down and try to make them more friendly and nicer to everyone else around.

Nadia Mercuri, Indra Pre-School

It is important for students in a Catholic school to do Community Service because Jesus taught us to always lend a helping hand to those in need no matter what age, race or religion. We know that Jesus served others out of his own will and never expected anything in return, so we are therefore taught to do so too. Community Service is an excellent way to give back to the community and enables us to have good morals.

In Mark 25:40, he says ‘We meet Christ in those we serve, especially the least’. This represents how Jesus taught his disciples and many others that serving others is a way for us to connect with Christ.

Hayley Byrne, Saint Michael’s Primary School

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Drucilla Ratnam is a big help at Sussex Heights Primary School.

Allana Ephraums gets down to business at the Goodstart Early Learning Centre.

Tamar Haigazian (pictured above) described as ‘incredible’ her experience helping out at the ‘Big Issue’. Tamar is pictured at one of the regular barbecues held to distribute the magazine to the vendors, many of whom are homeless, and provide them with possibly their only meal for the day.

Jacqueline Drake with some of her new friends at Waverley Industries.

Tahlia Corbo, Mount Waverley Pre-School Centre

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Hayley Byrne, Saint Michael’s Primary School
All Year 9 students have been enthusiastically involved in the piloting of Xpect Respect, an exciting new program at Avila College. The program tackles a different topic each fortnight with each topic area based on encouraging students to foster respectful relationships in every sphere of their lives. Topics include Communication, Healthy and Unhealthy Relationships, Violence & Abuse, Safety for Young Women, Discrimination and Bullying.

Lively discussions and activities are held during each session, with students being encouraged to think about the perspectives of others, to reflect on their own behaviour, and to contemplate how they can effect change in the world around them.

The sessions, which involve students acting scenarios involving discrimination, are proving to be engaging and thought provoking.

In one session, a student commented that it had never occurred to her that someone could be discriminated against for financial reasons.

Another student commented on how simple body language can make quite an impact.

Mrs Donna Teekens
Counsellor

Building Bridges is a program which allows for InterFaith Dialogue between students of different faiths. Over the past few months students from Avila College, East Preston Islamic College, Xavier College, Bialik College and Strathcona College have been meeting and sharing experiences of faith, prayer and belief. It has been an engaging and interesting experience for all students involved. On Tuesday August 28, the students gathered together to visit the East Melbourne Mosque, the Collins Street Baptist Church, the Toorak Synagogue and St Paul’s Cathedral to further develop their understanding of the different traditions. Together they shared their stories in these places of worship and enjoyed each other’s company. This program has enriched the lives of those students involved and all have developed strong friendships as a result.

Mrs Marie Stuart
After finishing my undergraduate degree at Monash University in Business and Commerce/Communication I took a year off to work and then travel to Europe and the United States for three months. Travelling with my friend Olivia, we started our trip in the Greek Islands, travelled to France, Spain, Morocco, Portugal and then to the US.

While in Spain, I made it a goal to visit Avila, about an hour and a half out of Madrid. I wanted to visit the town my secondary school was named after and the birthplace of Saint Teresa.

We visited Avila on a day tour that included visiting Segovia. Avila is famous for its medieval walls that surround the city, as well as a number of cathedrals and churches. The tour took us to some of these churches, including the house and birthplace of Saint Teresa, which is now the church of Saint Teresa. We learned about the history of this quaint little town walled off from the countryside. Within the church of Saint Teresa was an intricate little garden where Teresa used to play with her siblings. It was a fascinating experience being at the place from which my college patron originated and knowing some of the history and the connection with Avila College in Mount Waverley.

The entire trip was an unforgettable experience, with Avila being one of the highlights.

Since returning to Australia I have embarked on a Masters Degree in International Business at Monash University, majoring in marketing at Monash University graduating next year.

I decided to do a Masters in International Business after returning from overseas to complement my undergraduate degree and progress my knowledge further from an international perspective. In my undergraduate degree I excelled in international marketing and after travelling overseas and learning about different cultures and countries, it reinforced my passion to explore and understand people from different countries and cultures and how brands and companies are adapted in different parts of the world.

Upon completion I hope to find an international marketing or cross cultural communication role, particularly in the health and fitness industry and would love to work overseas for a few years.

Drawing from my own experiences, I urge senior students to be open to challenge as they determine their career pathways. Sometimes knowing what you want to do takes time and you learn this through exploring new things, having new experiences and putting yourself in a situation you would never have thought you would be in, but by seizing the opportunity and making it a learning experience.

You never know what might happen in the future or where one thing can lead to. The best thing is to talk to people, take on opportunities, get involved and work hard. Success and achievement may not happen straight away but by putting in effort, having a goal and direction, that can be adjusted and changed along the way, it will eventually pay off.
Joie de vivre in work, play

The term ‘biting the bullet’ only scratches the surface when it comes to summing up what ambitious Law graduate, and talented performer and musician Cze-Hui Lee has achieved in just a few short years.

At 27, the past Avila student already has an impressive curriculum vitae which clearly reflects her ‘can do’ attitude, pro-activeness, determination, flexibility and incredible work ethic, both at a professional and personal level – and, put quite simply, her joie de vivre.

‘I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full’ John 10:10 resonates in all that Cze-Hui takes on board.

The Lee family is very much a part of the Avila fabric. Cze-Hui (Class of 2003) is one of four sisters who attended Avila and her mother, Seow, has been the tuck shop manager for 14 years.

Cze-Hui, Avila’s 2003 College dux and Music Captain, is currently working as a project officer with the Department of Justice and has secured a coveted traineeship, commencing next year, with Russell Kennedy, a full service commercial law firm.

With a strong leaning towards administrative law, Cze-Hui aspires to work her way up the corporate ladder at Russell Kennedy which has a large government law practice and a number of Law Institute of Victoria accredited legal specialists. Over the next five years she hopes to pursue further academic studies by completing a Master of Laws.

Cze-Hui has successfully completed a double degree in Arts/Law (Honours) at Monash University. She will graduate in October this year having submitted her 12,000 word thesis on the concept of unconscious discrimination in the context of Australia’s anti-discrimination law regime.

A double degree in Arts (majoring in History with a minor in English) and Law is a challenging undertaking. However, Cze-Hui went a step further by finishing her studies while also working full-time at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) and the Department of Justice. And, ever mindful of the importance of keeping a balance, she still managed to pursue her love of musical theatre to play the lead role of Kim in Box Hill based Nova Music Theatre’s production of Miss Saigon.

The decision to combine her studies with full-time work was a conscious one, prompted by the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) and her determination to get ‘her foot in the door’.

‘The GFC hit close to the end of my course which meant it was even more challenging to obtain a graduate position. So, I started looking for ways to get the necessary experience and was offered a position with VCAT, explained Cze-Hui who worked as a secretary to VCAT members who are the decision-makers of the Tribunal.

‘Working at VCAT was an amazing opportunity and really enhanced my studies. Everyone was so enthusiastic about my studies, supportive and helpful…My marks shot up incredibly because I had a working perspective of what I was learning.’

Cze-Hui believes her time at Avila provided her with an excellent springboard.

‘Avila nurtures in girls a great sense of empowerment and the belief that young women are strong, intelligent and resourceful. The culture at Avila really allows students to find out what they are good at and how to further enhance their learning,’ said Cze-Hui.

She particularly valued the College’s holistic approach to education through extra curricular opportunities. By being involved, Cze-Hui said students become more confident, flexible and adaptable, and learned new skills. Qualities that are all highly regarded and sought after by employers, together with a good work ethic and general attitude.

Cze-Hui was involved in a wide range of extra curricular activities: social justice, public speaking and debating, music and drama. She co-wrote a song which won an Amnesty International award and ranked the Creative Arts festivals and Avila/Mazenod musicals, where she enjoyed principal and lead female roles, as being among her absolute highlights.

Given her areas of interest and drive, law is a good fit for Cze-Hui.

‘Law is all about problem solving, finding legal solutions for clients. It is very rewarding when you are able to help people by coming up with a solution for them,’ said Cze-Hui.

For students currently considering career pathways, Cze-Hui stressed the importance of being flexible and to not be afraid of challenge or change. She initially started an Arts degree and then took a semester off before enrolling in her double degree course.

‘There is nothing wrong with being unsure of what career to undertake. In the pace of the modern world, it is important to be agile, explore opportunities as they present themselves and never limit yourself to a finite pathway. It is through experiencing life that your career path will be refined. And in the meantime, you will gain new skills and enhance your professional network.’
On June 26 the SCSA junior and senior teams packed their gear and headed to the Footscray Hockey Club to compete against other teams in what can only be described as a challenging day. The juniors went into the finals undefeated and placed second for the day with the best on field going to Brooke Ryan. The senior team dominated their second match and narrowly missed out on a chance in the finals, placing third overall.

Rebecca Carvalho, Hockey Captain

The SCSA soccer competition was held on the August 21 at Darebin International Sports Centre. The day was filled with great determination and enjoyment with all three teams putting in their all. Avila was very successful in winning many games, and both the senior and junior teams also won their grand finals. Unfortunately the intermediates were unable to make the grand final. It was good to see the talent and sportsmanship present within all three teams. It was a great effort by all of the girls who participated. And, congratulations to Sarah Altimari who was named best on the field in the junior grand final.

A special thanks to our coaches Ms Amy Foster, Mrs Trish Williams, Mr Emilio Bernardo, and also Jacinta and Bianca, for taking the time to train the girls and support them on the day. Liana Iaconis, Soccer captain

Unfortunately on Thursday June 21, Avila’s Cross Country runners awoke to dark skies accompanied by a downpour of rain, resulting in the SCSA Cross Country event being cancelled. This was a huge disappointment for everyone as each athlete demonstrated tremendous improvements in their running throughout the early morning training sessions in Valley Reserve. Kimberley Hilton, De’Arne Cvetkovic and Isabelle Wright all displayed consistent and excellent running during each training session, whilst the entire cross country team displayed commendable enthusiasm despite the seemingly frosty mornings. Thank you to Mrs Cathy Bolduan, Miss Sarah Tutchener, and Miss Amanda Flynn for their encouragement and advice during each training session. Sally Boxall, Cross Country Captain

Move over Socceroos

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Hockey

Top finishes

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Rebecca Carvalho, Hockey Captain

Volleyball

Seniors take out flag

Thirty of Avila’s finest volleyball stars headed to the State Volleyball Centre in Dandenong on August 10 to go head-to-head with five other schools, in the race to win that all too familiar banner and trophy. The senior girls were ready to win back their title of intermediate champions, the intermediates were raring to follow in the senior girls footsteps and the juniors were ready to show what Avila girls are made of. Unfortunately, only our juniors missed out on finals. The senior girls (pictured top right) came out on top, while the intermediates (below right) only just missed out, placing 2nd. Congratulations to all the girls who participated in the day, they really did represent Avila well and also a big thank you to our three amazing coaches; Miss Amanda Flynn, Miss Carly Randle and Mr John Beekhof.

Mikaela Welti, Volleyball Captain

Cross country running

A win to the forces of nature

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Sally Boxall, Cross Country Captain
Netball at Avila this year has consisted of the Waverley International Netball Tournament (WINT) at Jells Park during the Term Two holidays and the All Schools Netball Tournament at the State Hockey and Netball Centre played on August 14.

Avila had a successful WINT Tournament with the senior girls losing a thrilling grand final game in the final seconds by one goal against the highly regarded St John Paul College from Queensland. Our Junior team played outstanding netball and finished a respectable third place overall.

The All Schools Tournament had a rocky lead up with many injuries leaving the SCSA and WINT teams with many valuable members missing. Regardless, the Avila teams displayed a high standard of skill and ability resulting in the senior WINT team finishing top of its section to continue through to finals to be held at a later date. The junior WINT team finished equal top of its section, only narrowly missing out on finals. Overall, the tournament was a successful day for Avila College and we wish the senior team the best of luck for their upcoming finals.

Thank you to all the specialist staff and teachers who accompanied the netball teams to both tournaments and allowed the days to run so smoothly, your hard work is much appreciated.

Ruth Smith and Rachelle Cahill, Netball captains

Congratulations and all the best to Ruth Smith, Janey Hastings and Jessica Harley who will represent Victoria in the Australasian Catholic Schoolgirls Netball Championships in Adelaide during the Term Three holidays.
'Never fear, the Mikado is here...
What a brilliant experience, and one that we were so glad to be part of. It is strange to think that in February we were just beginning the auditions. This process was nerve-wracking for all, but the end result definitely made it all worthwhile.

'Hot Mikado' is an upbeat, swing-jazz version of the Gilbert and Sullivan opera, 'The Mikado'. It is based in Japan, in Titipu, where the Mikado reigns. The Lord High Executioner and his ward are to be married, but of course there are complications, and nothing ever goes as planned. The troubling Katisha, the handsome Nanki-Poo and the naive Three Little Maids all made appearances, along with many other characters.

After five intense months of hard work, early Sunday mornings, and the occasional trip to McDonald's, we finally were able to piece the show together. The long anticipated Musical Week flashed by, beginning with our very first rehearsal on stage. We were all in awe of the work and effort that was put into the amazing set. The stage was truly a home for the group of us that week, including the two goldfish that made it into the stage pond.

Four shows was far from enough to showcase the combined student talent from Avila and Mazenod. We had an inspirational backstage crew, and costume department, and we are forever grateful for their tireless work and absolute commitment to detail. Just by looking at the set and costumes you can only imagine how much time and effort was needed to transport us to Japan, making the stage a work of art.

From this wonderful experience there are many people who we need to thank but there is not enough space on this page to sing the applause of everyone individually. However, all of this would never have been possible without the guidance of our director, Mr. Ken Nailon, and so, to him, we give our utmost thanks. And to all the other staff members who were involved, we could not have done it without you.

'When your heart is full, your eyes leak.' - Father Michael Twigg

Kala Gare and Kimielle D'Mello