FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear parents, students and all members of the Avila community,

As a proud school community we gathered at Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University, on Thursday 21 November to acknowledge the academic achievements and service awards presented to our students for 2013 (see details of award winners on page 3).

Congratulations once again to Avila College students who contributed to this year’s Shared Stories Anthology, a publication for Victorian Catholic Colleges. This year’s anthology contained hundreds of pieces of writing and art works from various Catholic primary and secondary students throughout the Melbourne Archdiocese. Well done to Zoe Evans (Year 8) who was the Ellikon Prize recipient for 2013. Thanks to Mrs Catrice, who, once again this year, acted as the liaison teacher for this publication.

On Friday 22 November we acknowledged our many mums and dads who volunteer in either the canteen or library, to thank them for the most valuable contribution they make by supporting these key areas of the College. An enjoyable morning tea was shared amongst those who attended and we bid farewell and special thanks to a few parents in particular who have had a long association with the College.

This past week students from Year 7-9 have undertaken final classes and assessment for the year and will commence an alternative program with varied and rich offerings for their last week of school. Students in Years 10 and 11 have been engaged in the HeadStart program. They made a start on their programs for 2014 as well as gained valuable insights from their teachers as to how best to prepare themselves for the specifics of each study they will undertake next year.

Community News:

We bid farewell and thanks to the following staff: Angela Boston – retiring from Avila College following a long association with Catholic Education, including 24 years at Avila College; Margaret Kelleher – retiring; John Beekhof – taking up a position at St Francis Xavier Beaconsfield; Sarah Tutchener – taking up a position at All Hallow’s School in Queensland and Cathy Bolduan – returning to study. The following staff will be on leave for 2014 – Carmel Nicolson, Andrea Venier, Steven Francis, Deborah Parton and Mary Fitzgerald.

As the year draws to a close I would like to extend my thanks to members of the College Board and the Parents and Friends Association who have offered much support and encouragement of Avila College throughout the year.

With God’s blessing to all members of our Avila community.

Ms Louise Gunther
Principal

PRAYER

Grant, Lord, to all who study and those who teach them, the grace to love that which is worth loving, to know that which is worth knowing, to value what is most precious to you, and to reject whatever is evil in your eyes.

Give them a true sense of judgment, and the wisdom to see beneath the surface of things.

Above all, may they search out and do what is pleasing to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(After Thomas a Kempis)

CALENDAR DATES

Mon 2 Dec YEAR 7, 2014 WELCOME TO AVILA DAY

Wed 4 Dec SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP OPEN, 1.00 - 4.00pm

Fri 6 Dec YEARS 7-9 HOUSE ATHLETICS Knox Athletics Track, Ferntree Gully

Wed 11 Dec SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP OPEN, 1.00 - 4.00pm YEARS 10 AND 11 COLLECTION OF EXAM FEEDBACK PACKS 9.00-10.00am

Fri 13 Dec SCHOOL CLOSED (including the General Office)

GENERAL OFFICE CLOSED from Friday 20 Dec, 1.00pm

RE-OPENING on Monday 20 Jan, 2014

Parents are asked to refer to last page for a SCHEDULE OF FEES AND CHARGES for 2014.
ADMINISTRATION NEWS

Students in Years 7 – 9 will be involved in a range of engaging learning programs from **Tuesday 3 December to Friday 6 December**.

**Year 7 students** will be involved in a *World Integrated Unit* over the three days. This program is student driven and involves students creating their own countries and undertaking a range of activities that cover many key learning areas, with specific links to VELS Civics and Citizenship and Economics.

**Year 8 students** will be involved in:
- **Tue 3 December**: *Health Education Day*; guest speaker Sonya Karrass will work with our Year 8 students. This presentation will be followed by alcohol education workshops run by Avila health staff.
- **Wed 4 December**: A fun-filled day of Maths activities
- **Thu 5 December**: Students will have a level assembly. It will be followed with Year 9 camp preparation activities.

**Year 9 students** will be involved in:
- **Mon 2 December**: *Careers Program 1.*
- **Tue 3 December**: *Avila/Mazenod Reflection Day*, activities and shared Eucharist with students from both schools.
- **Wed 4 December**: *Careers Program 2.*
- **Thu 5 December**: All year 9 students will attend Sovereign Hill as part of their History studies.

**HOUSE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

On **Friday 6 December** all Years 7 – 9 students will participate in the rescheduled House Athletics Carnival at Knox Athletic Track, Ferntree Gully. Due to inclement weather our House Athletics Carnival was cancelled earlier in the year, therefore we have rescheduled this event for Friday. Letters and permission forms were issued to students earlier in the week. If your daughter has not returned her permission form, could you please ensure she returns it to her homeroom teacher by Monday 2 December. It is an expectation that all students attend this important event.

**2014 Important Dates**

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*Miss Rebecca Cetrola*
Deputy Principal – Administration
Presentation Evening 2013

Presentation Evening celebrated the wonderful academic achievements of many students, as well as acknowledging students who have given outstanding service to the College community. Congratulations to all students on their efforts. In particular we acknowledge the recipients of the perpetual awards:

✦ Sister Patricia Carroll Award for Service to Sport: Ruth Smith
✦ Sister Raymonde Taylor Award for Creative Arts: Music Performance – Monica Bakowski Drama Performance – Lauren Trantino Visual Arts – Rachelle Criticos
✦ Sister Josepha Dunlop Award for Christian Leadership: Genevieve Townsend
✦ Patricia Ryan Award for Love of Learning: Genevieve Townsend
✦ Public Speaking and Debating Award: Bridget Jackson
✦ Susan Puohotaua Orchestra Award: Monica Hunt
✦ Staff Alumni ‘Service to the Wider Community’ Award: Miranda Koroknai
✦ Australian Defence Force (ADF) Awards:
  Year 10 - Tamara Ludekens
  Year 12 - Miranda Koroknai
✦ Spirit Awards:
  Year 7 - Ellie Masters
  Year 8 - Emma Spencer
  Year 9 - Eleni Giakoumis
  Year 10 - Aleksandra Odrowaz
  Year 11 - Georgia Muling
  Year 12 - Rachel Saldanha
✦ Mulgrave Country Club Scholarship (Year 11): Grace Rodrigues
✦ Marie Boyle Year 10 Excellence Award: Jorja Hope
✦ Lions Club Community Leadership Award (Year 9): Katrina Amoranto
FAREWELL TRIBUTES

Miss Angela Boston

Angela Boston ... or Miss Boston to thousands, has decided to close the laptop on this part of her life and open a book on something wonderful to come in her retirement. Angela Boston has been a treasure of a teacher to countless students since she entered the profession in the 1960s. This was a time when the difference in pay between men and women was substantial. In the Catholic Education system there was no Teachers’ Union, no superannuation, no security of tenure and, at times, the possibility of no pay at all if the school was financially strapped. It was a difficult choice for teachers to choose between the security of the State system or make a commitment to the impoverished Catholic system. Angela Boston chose the Catholic system. She wanted to teach in a Catholic school. Catholicism was, and still is, her faith and her culture. It is this system that she has supported and helped to grow into an educational sector that has had more success than any other in Victoria in changing the socio-economic status of their pupils. Angela personally transformed students’ lives through her passion for teaching English, History and Religious Education.

Angela has spoken of her days as a primary school teacher with over 70 students in her class as she drilled them with the knowledge they needed to pass examinations. It was probably this experience that gave her the ability to bring silent calm to a year level of students through her own silence and that “look out if you don’t settle, petal” look that has been appreciated by many of her fellow teachers over the years.

For much of her time at Avila, Angela was the Year 11 Coordinator, a job she relished. Angela demanded respect and the students responded because they knew that Miss Boston was a person who could give empathy without encouraging reliance; who gave students a commonsense perspective on their troubles and was a bastion of strength for them when they needed it. There are not many teachers who so inspire students that they make them a leading character in their first published novel, but Angela so inspired Kirsten Murphy (an ex-Avila College Captain) and she became the muse for her strict but lovable character. Kirsten nailed beautifully Angela’s dry wit and twinkle in her eye that has entertained the staffroom at many morning briefings.

The source of Angela Boston’s wisdom has been her experience of growing up Catholic in a large Irish Catholic clan of brothers and sisters whom she loves passionately. She has shared them with us over the years. She has had a range of sisters come and speak to students and Sr Frances Boston in particular, a missionary in Botswana, has inspired our senior students and our staff for many years. Those of us who have been at Avila for sometime remember Miss Boston’s mum, a real character, who provided sandwiches for staff who needed a kindness at different points in their life. We also remember Angela’s strength as she grieved her loss.

Angela, a passionate history teacher, on her arrival at Avila in 1989 spoke to a Humanities meeting about the teaching of History. Her message was that it is all about story; that if you can capture the students’ imaginations and paint for them a narrative, then they will love History forever. This has been Angela’s great gift - she can paint a narrative of Australia and its place in the world that brings to life a complex picture of a nation that has as its core important values that were brought out in the writing of many of our bush poets whose works she knows by heart. What we have seen in Angela Boston’s support of students and genuine friendship with her colleagues, is the bringing to life of Adam Lindsay Gordon’s adage: Life is mainly froth and bubble
Two things stand like stone —
Kindness in another’s trouble.
Courage in your own.

Mrs Christine Valladares
Reconciliation and Debating/Public Speaking Coordinator

Dr Margaret Kelleher

Dr Margaret Kelleher, after 13 years of teaching at Avila College, has made the difficult decision to retire from secondary school education. Dr Kelleher has had a distinguished career as a Catholic educator. She started as a primary school teacher, but quickly moved to the secondary sector and has dedicated her career to the education of girls in Catholic schools, primarily in the field of English and Religious Education. Prior to coming to Avila, Dr Kelleher worked at Genazzano FCJ College for ten years and The Academy of Mary Immaculate College for fifteen; undertaking numerous leadership positions including Head of English and Head of Curriculum. At Avila, Margaret has taught English and Religious Education across all levels and has won the respect of students and teachers alike due to her commitment to promoting academic excellence, and her prodigious knowledge and skill in the classroom.
The past decade has engrossed Margaret with the rather daunting task of undertaking PhD studies in the area of Religious Education. In 2012 she was awarded a Doctorate from the MCD University of Divinity for her study in applying cognitive developmental theories to the teaching of Scripture. This work has been very well received in the field of Religious Education, both as a thought provoking academic treatise and as a practical guide for educators. Dr Kelleher is a woman with a strong faith, a generous heart and a prodigious intellect. She will be missed by her colleagues and students. She came to the decision to retire in order to concentrate further on tertiary teaching, and academic writing as a follow up to her doctoral thesis. Avila College wishes her all the best in her future endeavors.

Mrs Louise Swift
Year 12 Coordinator

Mr John Beekhof
The Avila Community bids farewell to Mr. John Beekhof after four years of service. During his time at Avila, John has fulfilled the role of Curriculum Leader-Religious Education. He has such a strong passion for his area and this has been passed onto the staff he has led and the students he has taught. John focused on reviewing the Religious Education curriculum and implementing changes that were both innovative and dynamic. He successfully integrated the use of ICT and the IWBs into the curriculum. John made some significant curriculum changes during his time at Avila. The introduction of an in-house Year 12 Religious Education program, the offering of Texts and Tradition at Year 11 and a host of changes to the curriculum from Years 7-10. John’s emphasis was always on providing students with an engaging, relevant and challenging experience of RE. John’s other passion is Social Justice, which allows his students to participate in a range of community engagement initiatives. He re-introduced the Rosie’s program to Year 12 students giving them the opportunity to engage with the homeless of Melbourne each Friday night. Not only was it a valuable experience for the students, it provided accompanying staff from a range of faculty areas the opportunity to contribute to the community. John introduced the Nano Lantern Day where hundreds of cupcakes were made for the homeless, trees planted, nesting boxes made for endangered species and disabled primary school students who participated in an Art and Physical Education program. He established the Avila/Mazenod Day at Year 9, which further enhanced the link between the two colleges. John has decided to pursue other interests, which has led to his decision to move on from Avila College. He wants to spend more time in the classroom doing what he enjoys most ‘teaching’ and has accepted a teaching position at St Francis Xavier Beaconsfield. John plans to go back to university to study Psychology.

On a personal note, John has been a supportive and inspiring colleague to work with. He has become a close friend who can always be relied upon. The students of Avila will miss him greatly. He has an incredible ability to inspire his students through his work. The one lasting memory I have of John at Avila will be the finale item at Presentation Evening when he was on stage playing the ukulele. The Avila College community wishes John well for the future and thanks him for his contribution.

Mr Emilio Bernardo
Curriculum Leader – Humanities

Mrs Cathy Bolduan
Cathy has been our valued administrative assistant in the Physical Education department for the past four years, however her association with Avila goes back even longer. She was a student here, taught Maths at Avila and has had a variety of administrative positions. Cathy’s quiet, calm demeanour has been such an asset to our department. She has been a wonderful support to all the PE staff, ensuring our off campus buses have been booked, our sports equipment is ready to go, Sports Awards Night booklets were compiled in time and that all our permission forms have been returned! She has been invaluable as a coach for both the Athletics and Cross Country teams. Cathy has been very successful in competitive running and the knowledge that she has been able to pass on to our girls has been amazing. They have certainly appreciated the encouragement, training tips and of course the muffins after each early morning run too!

Cathy is leaving us to focus on her Kinesiology studies. This holistic approach to health is something that she feels strongly about and we have benefitted from her knowledge of this over the years. Thank you, Cathy for all that you have done for us here at Avila and we wish you all the best for this next stage in life. Both the staff and the students will miss seeing your smiling face around the school.

Miss Nerida King and Mrs Donna Bell
Sports Coordinator and Curriculum Leader - Health and Physical Education
FAITH MATTERS

“He has spoken through the prophets”

My wife and I were fortunate to have Fr Joe Donders concelebrate our wedding. The following extract from Br Mark O’Connor, fms, captures the beauty and spirit of this man. The question the article raises is, who are the prophets today? Who do we look to ensure that the messages of faith, love, forgiveness and justice are heard in the world? Who are the prophets we know. I commend the following to you for your reflection and prayer.

Prophecy did not end with the Apostolic age. As our Creed affirms, the Holy Spirit keeps on raising up prophets for our Church and world. Revelation, therefore, is in one sense ongoing – because of this dynamic presence of the risen Jesus in our daily lives.

One such ‘prophet’ in my life, was Fr Joe Donders – a Missionaries of Africa priest and teacher.

Joe was certainly a great pastor of vision and gracious hospitality. But above all, he spoke prophetically of our mission as Catholic Christians in contemporary culture.

Everything about Joseph Donders spoke of a man who was open to the Spirit.

For Joe the pastoral strategy was very simple. He just preached the Good News of Jesus, where the pilgrim people of God are always on a journey towards fulfilment, despite the realities of evil and sin.

Fr Joe Donders – the ‘prophet’ and wonderful storyteller – reminded us, as prophets do, that the Holy Spirit is given to everyone. He constantly spoke about the straightforward human goodness that is the daily experience of ordinary people. No doubt he learned this truth first from his parents, who saved many Jewish families during World War II and are honoured today as ‘righteous gentiles’ in the famous Washington DC Holocaust museum.

Jesus, before sending us His Spirit, first had to equip his people with the imagination to believe in that possibility. He had to create room for wonder and amazement.

May we too become prophets of hope as we journey towards the Kingdom.

(Excerpt from an article by Br Mark O’Connor, Kairos 24 November 2013)

Mr John Rhynehart
Director of Faith and Mission

One Million Stars to End Violence

As part of their Religious Education study of Christian Morals and Values, 9 Green wove over 150 ribbon stars to contribute to the "One Million Stars to End Violence" project by Melbourne artist Maryann Talia Pau.

The project aims to bring communities together to share stories and build relationships, while raising awareness of violence against women. 9 Green’s stars will be included in an installation by Pau at the Big Design Market at the Melbourne's Royal Exhibition Building from December 6-8 and in 2015 will be part of a world wide installation project featuring displays in 100s of locations around the globe.

To get weaving and contribute to the project yourself, visit www.onemillionstars.net

Ms Amy Foster
RE Teacher
CURRICULUM NEWS

HeadStart - This week, students who will be undertaking VCE, VCAL or VET units next year have been involved in the HeadStart program that has been designed to provide a genuine introduction to their senior studies. All students undertook three lessons in each of their semester one subjects. This should assist students to become familiar with the expectations of each subject and to make a serious start on their learning. Students have been set holiday homework that will build on the teaching and learning from the HeadStart program.

As a consequence of the HeadStart program, a few students may decide that they have chosen a subject which is not the best fit for them. In some cases, students may realize that the subject will require more or different learning than expected. They are urged to discuss such concerns both with their parents and teachers before the end of next week. Parents can be crucial in encouraging resilience in the students at this point. However, experience shows us that, for some students, a subject change may be necessary. These students should contact Mrs Franken as soon as possible to ascertain whether a subject change may be feasible. Subject changes requests are limited by class sizes or clashes in the timetable grid. In addition, students making subject changes are expected to catch up, not only on the learning missed in HeadStart, but also with all the holiday homework that has been set.

Examination Feedback - Careful review and reflection on examination performance provides a rich learning opportunity. Year 9 students have been given feedback from their English, Maths and Science teachers during class time. Students in Years 10 and 11 should collect their marked exams between 9:00 - 10:00am on Wednesday 11 December. The annual Avila magazine will also be available at the same time. Any uncollected exams will be available during business hours from the General Office until 19 December only.

Semester Reports - Reports for students from years 7 to 11 will be mailed to parents from Monday 16 December. VCE units 3 & 4 results will be issued by the VCAA from Monday 16 December. Year 12 students have been given details of how to register to receive their results via SMS. They are reminded to do this soon to receive their results as soon as they are released. Year 12 students are also reminded that should they wish to discuss a change of tertiary preference, Careers teachers, Ms Jenny Dunn and Mrs Deborah Parton will be available at the College from Monday 16 to Wednesday 18 December. Please see Careers news page later in this newsletter.

Booklists - Families are reminded that the final date for the return of booklists to Avila is Wednesday 5 December. After that date, parents will need to contact Campion directly and may experience delays with delivery due to late lodgement of orders.

Mrs Madeleine Franken
Deputy Principal – Curriculum

Humanities @ Year 9

The ASX Sharemarket Game was enjoyed by the Year 9 Economics students this semester. The girls enthusiastically followed the ups and downs of their portfolio of shares, the game finished in October. At the completion of the game the following 5 girls were ranked the top of my class: (L-R in the photo) Carla Costanzo, Monique Drake, Siobhan Smeaton, Maxine DeLima, Rania Jebry.

Mrs Clare Meo
Commerce Teacher

Here are some comments from students:

The ASX Sharemarket program was a great and enjoyable way for Year 9 Economics students to learn about the share market and how it works. Since it was a live share market that was based on actual shares from certain companies, it gave us a greater insight to the theory and strategies behind investing and selling shares. What better way to learn about the share market than to be involved in one! (Carla Costanzo)

The first 10 weeks of Semester 2 our year 9 Economic classes participated online in the ASX Sharemarket Game. It was a great opportunity for everyone. We got the chance to practise what we learned in economics through this game. It expanded our knowledge of the share market, as we learned to research different companies and discover the importance of investment decisions. It was a great experience as it was close to a real life share trading. Even though the $50,000 money that each player started with, wasn’t real, we all enjoyed the game! (Rania Jebry)
Shared Stories Anthology Launch

On Monday 25 November, talented Avila students attended the launch of the Shared Stories Anthology at Xavier College. The anthology is in its eighth year and will be included in the permanent collection of the National Library Victoria. It is a beautiful publication filled with written and visual stories by students from fifteen Catholic schools across the state. Eighteen students from Avila who submitted their writing and artwork had the opportunity of being published in the anthology, the editor’s cut being final! Congratulations to Alexandra Chant, Emma Spencer, Cassandra Garner, Andrea Phua, Eva Von Struppi, Renee Camilleri, Kiara Aboo, Stephanie Prigg, Jade Doidge, Megan Yau, Emily Blight, Emma Bell, Sarah Dennis, Zoe Evans, Stephanie Paduano, Claire Peethamparam, Audrey Thoman and Kannica Tan.

The launch applauded the students’ efforts, celebrating the art of storytelling. Alexandra Chant, Year 7 (photo above), introduced the morning with a prayer and an acknowledgement of the land, the culture and traditions. The guest speaker was Tasneem Chopra. Tasneem is a Curator at the Immigration Museum, Victoria, for the “Faith Fashion Fusion” exhibition and, additionally, as an independent Cross Cultural Consultant. Tasneem has made various media appearances, including ‘The Project’, ‘The Today Show’, ‘The 7:30 Report’ as well as numerous radio interviews nationally and internationally. Tasneem spoke about culture, the wonders of telling stories and the challenges faced when stereotypes are created.

Victorian Mutual Teachers Bank and Ellikon Certified Green Printing once again sponsored the publication, contributing to the cost. Ellikon also provided a $30.00 prize for all individual schools. The recipient of the prize from Avila was Zoe Evans, Year 8.

The anthology is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the calibre and talent of Avila students. Stories are shared through written forms such as poetry, reviews, anecdotes; and visually through paintings and drawings. All the students involved are to be congratulated.

A huge thank you is also extended to the teachers who supported the project this year.

Mrs Pauline Catrice
English Teacher
Programming Challenge for Girls

On November 13, I had the pleasure of accompanying four Year 9 students to the University of Melbourne to take part in the Programming Challenge for Girls, PC4G. This is the first year that this event is being held in Australia.

Avila's representatives were, quite literally, the school's A-team: (L-R in the photo) Aretha Peethamparam, Abigail Dineen, Adele Easton, Amanda Disilvestro. They competed in pairs. Aretha and Abby took the team name "Alice Allstars" while Amanda and Adele called themselves "Kaiju Killers".

In the morning, there were a few learning activities so the girls could familiarise themselves with Alice, the programming environment in which they would create 3D animated stories. We then had a morning tea and the teachers were whisked away for some talks on computer science and software engineering.

The students returned to the lab and attempted three challenges. At the end of the day, both Avila teams featured on the podium: Kaiju Killers took Bronze and Alice Allstars took Silver. All participants were treated to Google beach balls, highlighters and Rubik's cubes.

All in all, it was a great day and our girls did us proud. Click on the links below to see a sample of each team's beautiful animation work:

- Soccer by the Kaiju Killers
- Bowling by the Alice Allstars

Dr Abigail Dineen
Person of the Week

Drama Intensive Workshops

One of the highlights of 2013 for many keen senior Drama students was the two sets of Drama Intensive Workshops that were held during Term 3. At the start of the year, the Drama Captains from Years 8-12 got together and had a creative vision. One of our new ideas was the implementation of workshops which were held for only senior students, on furthering our performance skills. The first workshop had 15 students from Years 10 to 12 who undertook a four week course of Intensive Drama Workshops after school on Tuesdays. These workshops explored voice, breath and resonance, movement and sound to create performances and character development. An ex-student, Ayesha Comerford, was the facilitator and ran the courses with inspiring enthusiasm and passion. Ayesha has studied these skills at university and has been able to apply them to her own performance techniques. The topics covered were a fascinating extension for passionate drama students that can now allow us to add a whole other dimension to our own performances.

From creating soundscapes with just the power of just our voices, to learning new and creative ways to deliver lines; all the activities were exciting and stimulating and helped us to develop a wide variety of dramatic skills. We chose our own monologues to perform and applied our new knowledge to enhance them.

Overall, being a part of the Intensive Drama Workshops has been an invaluable experience that was so enjoyable and rewarding. We thank Ayesha immensely for volunteering to plan and present the sessions.

Our second round of Drama Intensive Workshops focused on screen acting techniques and were run by Avila's own teacher, Ms Miller. Ms Miller has industry experience in short films and television and she was able to share with us some of her insights into casting and auditions for screen acting. We felt very lucky to have Ms Miller share her knowledge with us and thank her for her time.

Sophia Elliot (Year 10 Drama Captain)
Indonesian at Avila

Indonesian Oral Competition at Years 8 and 9

Once again, Years 8 and 9 students fought it out amongst tough competition to determine who would be declared the champion in their year level for their oral skills. Students had to answer general questions about themselves, read aloud a passage to test their pronunciation as well as describe an unseen picture. The two judges declared the competition to be very high.

The winners in Year 8 are: first place Javira Altmann; equal second place Abigayle Thomas and Dion Andrikopoulos; and third place Stacey Wong.

The winners in Year 9 are: first place Madison Fowler; second place Inalya Altmann; and equal third place Jemma Rapp and Caitlyn Quinn.

Congratulations to all students involved.

Kenalilah Indonesia - getting to know Indonesia

Membuat batik - Making batik

Year 8 and 9 Indonesian students have been immersing themselves in an array of Indonesian cultural activities these last few weeks. Students have been learning about ‘batik’ which is famous in Indonesia, especially Java. Batik is a fabric dyeing method using wax to create patterns and designs. Traditionally, the hot wax is drawn onto the cloth using a ‘canting’ which consists of a small copper cup and a bamboo handle. Today the finest batik cloth is still drawn with the canting. It can take several months to complete one piece of sarong-length material using this method. Avila students certainly found out how complex and intricate this method of applying wax is.

Pakaiain tradisional Indonesia - Traditional Indonesian clothing

As part of the Year 8 Indonesian curriculum, students have been learning about the various traditional clothing found around the vast archipelago that makes up Indonesia. Students enjoyed dressing up in ‘pakaian tradisional Bali’ - traditional Balinese clothing’ and taking photographs of themselves so that they could describe what they were wearing in Indonesian.

Ms Ingrid O’Sullivan
Year 8 Coordinator / Indonesian Teacher
MasterChef Cook-Off Challenge

At the end of Term 3 the Year 9 Food Safari Students took on the MasterChef Cook-Off Challenge. Across the three classes, 65 students grouped into teams, developed ideas for flavour combinations and between them, they produced 704 Sliders to be tasted and voted on. The students "felt really under the pump, the pressure was on!" but their teamwork and their ability to work flexibly and creatively was evident in the quality food they produced. The crowd of hungry Year 9s and invited staff who queued patiently were not disappointed!

Congratulations to the winning team for Semester Two: Frances Chan, Brigitte D'Amico, Ciara Galbraith, Georgia Richardson and Vanessa Morando

Thank-you to Mrs Caporale for all her assistance in the classes and to Mrs Stephens for acting as crowd control manager.

Mrs Sue Rowell and Mrs Elizabeth Trembath
Technologies Teachers

An interview with David Nyuol Vincent

On Tuesday 26 November I had the privilege of interviewing David Nyuol Vincent, who was raised as a child soldier in Ethiopia after fleeing Sudan. I was invited to meet him due to advocacy and charity work that I am participating in and the aim of the meeting was to work together in order to work out ways Australia’s youth of today can be a help to international situations. In having this meeting I was able to receive grassroots information, be educated on Sudanese affairs and understand the ordeals that the Sudanese community went through. As well as all of this I was given the opportunity to meet one of my greatest role models.

To begin our meeting, David gave me some more background information about himself, allowing me to realise that I could ask questions, even though many of the topics were sensitive. Something that I really liked about David was his ability to be so open about his story, go into so much detail and not try to hide the intensity of it from me because of my age. His honesty made me aware of how lucky I am to be living the life that I am. We then conversed about both Australian and Sudanese youth of today. We had discussions based around how Australian youth can become involved, while having fun at the same time. We discussed raising awareness through sport, music, drama and social media. David also told me of ways he has been able to help Sudanese youth living in Australia by running camps for them. David lives permanently in Australia, however spends a lot of time in Sudan with his family. He has a book “The Boy Who Wouldn’t Die” which takes the reader through the journey of his life as a child soldier and a Sudanese refugee. He also works alongside many Australian charities and attends public events to share his story. I gained a lot from the meeting with David and feelprivileged to had been offered such an opportunity.

Amy Clarke (Year 10)
The Monash Reconciliation Group Visits Avila

In 2009 the City of Monash put in place a structure to develop a Reconciliation Group who would work with local Aboriginal people to help the people of the municipality understand their heritage and the richness of culture to be found today in the area. The volunteer driven group has developed and, having heard of Avila’s commitment, asked to come and visit. The Avila Reconciliation Group’s leaders sat in conversation over afternoon tea with the members of the MRG who admired the Bunjil mural and the Wominjeka Room. Both groups enjoyed sharing stories of their common work. The MRG are hosting a “MEET AND GREET” at the Highway Gallery, 14 The Highway, Mt Waverley on Tuesday Dec 10 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Refreshments of Christmas Fare will be available if any of the Avila Community are interested in finding out more about their work.

Mrs Christine Valladares  
Reconciliation Group Coordinator

Students in the photo are: (L-R) Leah Giakounis, Miranda Koroknai and Francesca Carl.

“Mankind is a great, an immense family…  
This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas.” ~ Pope John XXIII

In the festival season, many of us think of those less fortunate than ourselves and provide support and kindness to them. The students of the Lyentye Apurte Community Education Centre are close in many of our students’ hearts and each year we send up gifts for them to enjoy at Christmas time. This year students from 10 Orange and the girls who travelled to Santa Teresa in 2013 and 2012 all worked together to collect presents for the Year 7 and 8 students in the community. We wrote them individual cards as many of us knew the students from our time in the community, or from when the Drumming group came down to Melbourne. We are able to send the gifts up with the support of Greyhound buses.

Miss Darcie Kane-Priestley  
Immersion Coordinator

Holy Saviour Parish gets ready for their Anniversary Celebrations

Holy Saviour Glen Waverley North will next year celebrate its 40th year and the Parish Pastoral Council decided to ask students at the local Catholic Colleges to design a logo that will be used on all of their stationery during the anniversary year. Four Avila students, who are parishioners of Holy Saviour, accepted the challenge. Design on the left by Erin Flatters and Abigail Dineen; design on the right by Sarah Wisniewski and Sophia Hanger. Both groups have captured the parish’s symbols and the sense of occasion. We wish them well in the judging.
PASTORAL CARE

As term four draws to a close, the Avila community takes time to acknowledge the achievements of the year, tidy our desks or lockers and prepare for Christmas - a time for rest, reflection and showing gratitude.

It has been undoubtedly a busy time for your daughter as she finished class work and prepared for exams or end of semester tests. End of semester reports are an important part of this closure to the school year. Please take time to sit down with your daughter and read through her report. Special notice should be given to teachers’ recommendations as taking heed of these can give your daughter a better start to 2014.

Donation of Uniforms

If your daughter has out-grown an item of her uniform and it still has plenty of wear in it, please consider donating it to the College second-hand clothing store and we will ensure that it is passed onto families in need. Freshly laundered items can be left at the front office at any time of the year. We accept all current uniform items and school bags.

Transitions

It is also a time of transition as Year 6 students are introduced to our community and Year 12 students make preparations for the next phase of their life. Many students need reassurance that these changes are manageable and that there is plenty of support available to them. Encourage your daughter to talk about her plans and, if you have any concerns, please feel free to contact her Year Level Coordinator or Mrs Kralj (Deputy Principal – Wellbeing)

We wish the Avila community, both students and their families, a safe and enjoyable Christmas.

We look forward to working with our families in 2014.

Kind regards,

The Pastoral Care Team

AVILA Second Hand Uniform Shop

The Avila Second Hand Uniform Shop will be open on the following days from 1.00-4.00pm:

**Wed 4 and Wed 11 December, 2013**
**Mon 20, Tue 21, Wed 22 and Wed 29 January, 2014**

The Second Hand Uniform Shop is located behind the VCAL House, diagonally opposite the front gates of the school. Students can visit the shop during their lunch break or after school.

If you would like to submit uniform items for resale, drop them off during shop times or leave them at the Avila General Office. EACH item must be clearly labelled with name, address and phone number. Only parents/guardians may sign the form authorising the sale of second hand uniforms and agreeing to the terms and conditions of sale. **Please dry clean blazers and skirts.** We welcome donations of uniforms that can be given to families in need.

If you need a second hand uniform but cannot come on the dates above, please phone the Avila Office 9831 9600 on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday mornings to arrange another time.

Alternatively, you can email vnicoll@avilacollege.vic.edu.au with any query about a second hand uniform.
Note from the HEALTH CENTRE

The end of the school year is nearly here

For some girls it means the end of 13 years at school. There is relief that exams are over, but some sadness that school life has come to an end. It is often when we are older that we look back at school years with fondness.

Year 12 students finishing school will need to consider their health cover.

- To transfer to your own Medicare card, visit a DHS Service Centre with identification and fill out a Medicare Copy/Transfer Application form.
- If your parents have Private Health Cover for Hospital and/or Extras and you are studying full time (18-24 years), some health insurance companies will cover you, some will charge a higher premium. Please check with your health insurance provider.
- If you will be working and want to have private health insurance for hospital and/or extras-physiotherapy, etc, look around at the health insurance providers and what they offer. (Please read the small print and see what they cover.)

At Avila, staff are preparing for next year. In the Health Centre Anaphylaxis/Allergy/Asthma forms, etc have been sent out which need to be updated annually. Please see your GP and update the action plans before the start of the 2014 school year. If any student needs an Asthma Care Plan, they are available in the Health Centre. Please feel free to notify the Health Centre of changes to your daughter’s health so Avila is better able to support your daughter and her needs at school.

As we approach holidays and Christmas, I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable break over summer.

Cathy Angus R.N.
College Nurse
Melbourne Now - holiday activities for all

Many of you may have already heard the exciting news that our National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) is showcasing a huge event this summer. It began last Friday and will run throughout the school holidays. The exhibition, Melbourne Now celebrates the latest art, architecture, design, performance and cultural practice to reflect the complex cultural landscape of creative Melbourne. This ambitious and far-reaching exhibition across NGV Australia and NGV International will show how visual artists and creative practitioners have profoundly contributed to creating a place with a unique and dynamic cultural identity. Link: http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/melbourne-now

The extensive program includes visual art, design, music, performance, video, photography to name a few. We here in the Avila Arts Department are very pleased at the opportunity this presents to our students and we would encourage all art and design students to visit the gallery over the next 2 months. There are also obvious links to be made to other areas of the school curriculum such as Psychology, Technology, Drama, Music and English. This exhibition encompasses a range of disciplines and contemporary practices that will explore issues relevant to Melbourne right now, with a focus on dynamic engagement, cultural diversity, Indigenous cultures, community participation and sustainability. You may like to consider visiting the gallery with your daughters or encouraging them to attend this free event.

Have a happy holidays at the gallery.

Ms Jolenta Kirkwood
Curriculum Leader – The Arts

PATHWAYS

Year 12 change of preference period

After you obtain your results on Monday 16 December, there is a period when you can change your VTAC preferences. It is a good idea to review your preferences at this stage, up till 12 noon on Monday 23 December.

Careers Practitioners will be available in the school’s Careers Hub from 9.00am on Monday 16 December till 3.30pm on Wednesday 18 December during school hours. It is advised to ring or email first. Outside of these times Ms Dunn and Mrs Parton will be available by email until lunchtime Friday 20 December. Remember to refer to your ‘ABC of Applying’ guide and that institutes welcome your cont...

Universities and TAFEs offer the following assistance to Year 12 students at this time:

- **Australian Catholic Uni.** – Hotline: 1300 ASK ACU (1300 275 228); **Info. Expo:** 3-7pm, Tues 17 Dec (Melb), 6-7.30pm, Wed 18 (Ballarat)
- **Box Hill Institute – Change of Preference Evening:** Wed 18 December; Hotline: 1300 BOX HILL
- **Charles Sturt University – Call** 1800 334 733
- **Deakin University – COP Hotline:** 1300 DEGREE; **Info evenings:** Burwood 5-7pm, 17 Dec; Geelong Waterfront campus, 5-7pm, 18 December; [www.deakin.edu.au/preference](http://www.deakin.edu.au/preference)
- **Holmesglen Institute:** **Hotline:** 9564 2720; **COP Event:** 4-7pm, Wed 18 December
- **Kangan:** Hotline: 13 TAFE
- **La Trobe University – Change of Preference Advisory Day:** 11am-2pm, 18 December (Melbourne and Bendigo); **Hotline:** 1300 362 203; [www.latrobe.edu.au/choices](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/choices)
- **Monash University:** **Change of Preference Expo,** 3-7pm, Building H, 900 Dandenong Rd, Caulfield; **Hotline:** 1800 MONASH (1800 666 874), or see [www.monash.edu/cop](http://www.monash.edu/cop)
- **NMIT – Hotline:** 9269 1200
- **RMIT University/TAFE – Info line:** 9925 2260; **COP Expo:** 11am-3pm, Wed 18 Dec, Swanston Academic Building, Building 80, 445 Swanston St, Melbourne; info [www.rmit.edu.au/cop](http://www.rmit.edu.au/cop)
- **Swinburne University/TAFE - Hotline** 1300 275 794 (1300 ASK SWIN); 10am-4pm, 18 December
- **University of Ballarat (Federation Uni)** – **Info Day,** 11am-3pm, Wed 18, Ballarat and Gippsland
- **University of Melbourne: Course Information Day,** 10am-2.30pm, Wed 18 December; see [www.cop.unimelb.edu.au/2013](http://www.cop.unimelb.edu.au/2013) or **Hotline:** 13 MELB (13 6352)
- **Victoria University/TAFE – Course Advice appointments – 1-6pm, 16-20 Dec; Change of Preference Expo:** 3-7pm, Tues 17 Dec (Footscray); **Hotline:** 1300 VIC UNI (1300 842 864)
- **William Angliss Institute – Experience Angliss Day**; 2-5pm, 18 December

Ms Jenny Dunn
Pathways Leader
Dear Parents,

The fees adopted by the College Board for the 2014 school year are as follows:

**Compulsory School Fees and Charges**
School fees and compulsory charges will be billed at the beginning of the school year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Tuition Fee</th>
<th>Technology Levy</th>
<th>Total Annual Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>$5,800</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$5,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>$5,800</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$5,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>$5,900</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$6,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>$5,700</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$5,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>$5,700</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$5,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>$6,050</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$6,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All year level tuition fees include the provision of a Macbook or similar computer, Discovery Learning Program at years 7, 8 and 9, and year level e-learning licences where applicable.

**Family Discounts**
To assist families with more than one child at the College the following discounts will apply.
- $300 off the school fees for the second sister.
- $1400 off the school fees for the third and subsequent sisters

**Student Protection Plan**
The College has in place a Student Accident Insurance Plan that covers every student in the school for school based activities only. Details of the cover and claim forms are available from the Business Office.

**Music Fees**
Private music fees are in addition to the fees detailed above and will be charged to your fee account in term 2 and term 4 and must be paid by the due date. If payment of your music fees falls into arrears by more than two terms, then your daughter will be suspended from music lessons until such time as the outstanding music fees are paid in full. If you have elected to pay your school fees by monthly payments then the music fees will be added to your monthly payment amount and you will then be advised of the new monthly payment.

**Levies**
Technology levy covers the provision of insurance, software and a protective cover for the school provided Macbook. An excess of $250 is payable on any insurance claim and is billed to your fee school fee account.

**Methods of Payment and Payment Options**
Accounts may be paid by direct debit from a bank account, direct debit from credit card, Bpay, EFTPOS cheque or cash. In the interest of security, cash payments will only be accepted when made by an adult.

- Payment in full by the 28/2/2014 (a discount of $200 will apply if paid in full by the due date)
- Payment by 10 monthly instalments (February to November inclusive)

For families with monthly payment options in place for 2013 including private music fees, these will continue to apply in 2014 unless you advise the office in writing to cancel or amend the deduction authority.

Any remaining balance owing on an account must be settled by the end of the school year.

Mr Norm Phillips  
Business Manager