Dear members of the Avila community,

Wednesday 5 March marks the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. Services were held for all staff and students, with our community gathering in House groups across four spaces in the College. The annual Music Camp, this year, became a day-camp held at the College on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 February. The day-camp culminated with an outdoor concert held on the Saturday. Congratulations to Roxane Lascaris, Music Coordinator, for her overall organisation of this event, as well as the numerous staff who performed with the College orchestra, past and current students. Thank you also to the parents who assisted with catering and organisation over the two days, as well as all who came to listen the concert.

We were fortunate that the weather was on our side this year for the House Swimming sports on Tuesday 4 March. My thanks are extended to Carly Randie our Sports Co-ordinator for her organisation of this event, as well as the PE staff, student house and sports captains and all the students and staff who participated on the day. The House spirit was certainly evident with colour and noise throughout the day.

As you receive this newsletter, students from Years 7 and 9 will have just returned from their various camps at Marysville organised in conjunction with The Outdoor Education Group. I extend my thanks to Renee Fleeton, Religious Education Curriculum Leader, for her organisation of this service, as well as to the staff who assisted in the preparation of students. Today we also welcome back students from Years 10 and 11 who ventured to our nation’s capital for four days. I thank Phil Cornell and the other staff who attended. As you can well appreciate there have been numerous rich learning opportunities in many diverse locations for students across this past fortnight.

Community news:

As a way of our parent community connecting more with the events of the College, this year we will be extending an invitation to parents/guardians to attend our school assemblies. Our next assembly will be held on the first day of Term Two – **Tuesday 22 April** commencing at 8.50am in the school gym. Our guest speaker for this assembly will be Jill Hennessy MP, former Avila College student. If you would like to attend please RSVP via email to avila@avilacollege.vic.edu.au by **Wednesday 16 April**. Following the assembly parents are invited to join members of the College staff for morning tea in the dining room.

Congratulations to Adelle Mazzarella (9 Blue) who walked 60km last weekend to raise money to end women’s cancer. She and other members of her team have raised over $32,000 over the past nine months. Well done.

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

*Louise Gunther*  
Principal
FAITH MATTERS

As we begin our Lenten Journey for 2014, the staff and students of Avila College have directed their focus to fundraising for Project Compassion. This year we intend to raise enough money to be able to buy and build a house in Sri Lanka. As a College, if we can raise $4750, we will be able to assist in obtaining materials for a war-affected family to build a permanent two-bedroom house. One house would be wonderful, but a couple would be an extraordinary effort. We encourage you to not only pray with us during this time of Lent but to also remind your daughters that what they are doing for those less fortunate is what the Gospel is all about and what we, in our living out of the Gospel Values, see as one of the key purposes of the existence of Avila College. Following is a small report regarding an experience of four of our students, who, with Mrs Stuart, attended a Social Justice Leadership Day recently. I commend it to your reading.

John Rhynehart
Director of Faith and Mission

Caritas Leadership Day

On Friday 28 February, Mrs Stuart invited Cloe, Bianca, Stephanie and I to Emmaus College for a Caritas Leadership day. It was a whole day event with students from Emmaus and Aquinas Colleges. We all mixed into groups with a few from each school and did a series of workshops and activities to do with our beliefs and also looked at fundraising ideas for Caritas. We had a guest speaker, Megan, who works with Project Compassion to raise money for the Caritas foundation. We spoke about what we found important in our lives and then what we needed to do to give the people in need the same things. Meeting lots of amazing new people, who also have the same vision for ending poverty and working towards world peace was really nice to see. It was good that we were able to work with other schools and share ideas and opinions to make better ones. It was a very educational day and we all got so much out of it. I feel that we are now able to take the knowledge and ideas we discussed in the seminar and use it in our school to help people overseas, and in Australia, to get the resources they need to sustain a healthy life.

Stefanie Bentivegna
10 Blue

Year 10 Community Service

Year 10 students have been given the opportunity to participate in a Community Service program from 11-14 March. With the assistance of the office support staff and the Religious Education teachers, our young women have been preparing to be the hands, feet, eyes, ears and mouth of Christ in our community. Students have explored Catholic Social Teaching and the implication that their actions can have on people beyond their immediate circle of family and friends.

During the last 5 weeks students have found placements in community organisations that require different forms of assistance. They will spend more than 20 hours supporting disabled children, the elderly, the Church’s charitable works and many more places over the four days.

On the Thursday before their placements began, the whole year level celebrated the Eucharist with Fr Laurence leading the service, supported by Deacon Malcolm. We were all challenged to be the light in our community, and to say yes to the Holy Spirit’s call to share God’s love with others. Our young women have been sent into the community with God’s blessings as they bear witness to Christ and our school community prays for the hearts of our Year 10 students to be open to giving.

Renee Fleeton
Religious Education Curriculum Leader
CURRICULUM NEWS

Oral Report Bookings are now open

Wednesday 2 April: classes finish 3:15pm. Oral Reports 4–9pm
Thursday 3 April: no classes. Oral Reports 1:30 – 7:30pm
Friday 4 April: no classes. Professional learning seminar for teaching staff

All parents are reminded that bookings for Oral Reports need to be made using their PTO logins, which are available from the Parent Access Module on Simon. If there are problems associated with making bookings, please contact the IT Help Desk at the College support@avilacollege.vic.edu.au or 9831 9634. Bookings may be altered up to 5pm on Tuesday 1 April but early booking is advised. Please note carefully whether your booking is for Wednesday or Thursday and remember to print using the “Print” icon in the PTO program or to save bookings in a smart phone to minimize confusion at the interviews.

We encourage all students to attend with their parents to discuss progress and to plan for future learning. The informality of such meetings can ease anxieties and provide a useful opportunity to develop a better understanding of what will help each student to succeed. Although interviews are limited to five minutes each, if a longer time is required with a specific teacher, the Oral Report meeting can be used to make individual arrangements to continue discussion or review again at a time negotiated early in term two.

We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible so that students can take stock and address areas needing attention over the term break.

Madeleine Franken
Deputy Principal Curriculum

DRAMA NEWS

Top Class Drama Success

Each year, the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) run the Season of Excellence program, a series of public exhibitions and concerts in the arts showcasing the very best VCE student work from the previous academic year.

In VCE Drama, a select group of students are invited by the VCAA to perform their solo performance examination a second time before a panel that includes the Chief Assessor for Drama. This panel chooses approximately thirty of the invited candidates to perform in three concerts the following year, known as Top Class Drama. These public concerts are mostly filled with current VCE Drama students and their teachers, eager to see the best performance examinations from the previous year.

More than 1,400 students undertook VCE Drama Unit 4 across the state last year. 2013 Avila College student Maragaret Tanjutco has been selected to present her solo performance at the Top Class Drama concert on Wednesday 30 April at 10am at the Melbourne Recital Centre.

Margaret’s student-written seven-minute solo performance is the character Kate from Shakespeare’s play The Taming of the Shrew. Her performance includes a humorous script with razor-sharp wit and a number of sophisticated theatrical devices. The character of Kate was one of ten examination character options for students in Unit 4 Drama last year.

Students selected to perform at Top Class Drama are typically assessed in the very high A+ range for their solo performance examinations. Avila College has had great success with students presenting at Top Class Drama concerts. Margaret will be the ninth student to represent Avila at Top Class Drama in as many years.

Justin Cash
The Arts Curriculum Assistant (Drama)
**PASTORAL CARE**

**Important information regarding Avila’s Privacy Policy**

On 12 March 2014, the National Privacy Principles (NPPS), was replaced with the Australian Privacy Principles (APPS). This privacy reform is being introduced to strengthen obligations on entities to respect privacy. Avila College’s Privacy Policy is being reviewed in light of the new APPs. This new version of our Privacy Policy will be available on the College’s website in the next few weeks.

Time flies and the Avila community already finds itself almost in the middle of the first semester. Parents should now see that their daughter has transitioned from holiday to student mode. Students who cope best with this transition are often well supported by a predictable home routine that supports learning.

While adolescence is a time of growing self-determination, it is also important to maintain healthy levels of routine in your daughter’s life. It is true that some people need more routine than others but predictable events and expectations enable teenagers to feel safe and secure.

In general, routine has the following benefits for your daughter:

- It is a way of teaching healthy habits, like getting some exercise and eating well
- It helps set body clocks and ensure that enough sleep is taken
- Having chores helps teenagers to develop a sense of responsibility, purpose and commitment
- Routine helps to develop basic work skills and time management
- It helps promote a feeling of safety in stressful situations or during difficult stages of development, such as puberty.

When children reach adolescence, the familiarity of regular home routines can help them feel looked after. Predictable family routines can be a welcome relief from the changes they’re experiencing. Don’t forget to include routines built around fun and spending time together as a family. Doing so strengthens relationships between a child, parents and siblings. It might be a ‘Maccas’ run after sport training, going to the movies together each school holiday or simply taking the dog for a walk.

Routines are especially helpful if your daughter finds time management or learning challenging. Homework routines, learnt in early years, are extremely valuable to students in their later years at school. Make sure your daughter clearly separates her homework time from her socialising time. Whilst your daughter may say that she needs the Internet for homework, the truth is that most of their work is held on their laptop and does not need constant Internet access all night, every night. If you are in doubt, please contact the teacher whose homework your daughter is completing to clarify expectations.

Often classroom routines are developed with student input. This ‘collaborative’ approach is great for home too. Now that the school year is well under way it might be time to call a family meeting to discuss what is and is not working to benefit everyone at home and together develop some supportive routines.

Adapted from: [https://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/family_routines_how_and_why_they_work.html/context/312](https://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/family_routines_how_and_why_they_work.html/context/312)

**Parent Support**

Parentline Ph: 132 289 Mon—Fri, 8am—midnight

Parentline is a free service offering telephone counselling, information and referral to parents of children aged between 0 - 18 years. Parents and other carers may phone to obtain advice about managing difficult behaviours, including conflict and relationship issues. People who ring while the line is busy or outside hours can leave a message and will be called back.

**YMCA Connect**

A 5 day residential camping program designed for young people aged 9 – 16 years.

Who is eligible?

- Young people who have had adverse life experiences, and who would greatly benefit from a positive and supportive environment with appropriate adult influences.
- Young people who agency staff are confident can deal positively with an environment of new people, new locations and new experiences
- Young people living in foster care or supported accommodation

YMCA Connect is held every school holidays at various accredited campsites across Victoria.

For further information: 9345 8022 connect.victoria@ymca.org.au  www.vicyouth.ymca.org.au

The Pastoral Care Team
PFA REPORT

Thank you to our current Committee and to the new members who attended our first PFA meeting for 2014. It certainly was a fast paced meeting as there was a full agenda to discuss.

Mother’s Day

We are all very excited about Mother’s Day and while May seems a little way off it will be here before we know it. To celebrate this special occasion the PFA will be having a Mothers Day Stall in the Gym at lunchtime on Tuesday 6 May. There will be a great range of affordable gifts for the girls to purchase for their Mums, so why shop at the Glen when you can shop at the Gym?

We are calling on all families for donations for the stall. Perhaps you may like to “regift” certain presents you have received that are not quite you. Or you may wish to purchase and donate a little something that would make every Mum feel special. Candles, books, jewellery, pamper products all fit the bill. Gifts can be delivered to General Office and if you are going to wrap the present please use clear cellophane so the girls can see the beautiful presents before they buy.

Thank you in advance for your kind support.

I would also like to ask all mothers to mark Friday 9 May in your diaries so you can come along and enjoy a Mother’s Day breakfast with other Avila Mum’s. We will be serving a light breakfast from 7.30am in the Dining Room and the cost will be $10 per person. Bookings will open soon and I will let you know how to reserve your place in the next newsletter.

Guest Speaker Evening

The PFA is delighted to announce the guest speaker for the evening of Wednesday 4 June will be Ms Lucinda Nolan who is the Deputy Commissioner of Victoria Police. Ms Nolan has had a stellar career in the force and she will share her thoughts about resilience and leadership. The presentation is for both students and parents and will be held in Bunjil. Money raised from the gold coin donation will be donated to the Blue Ribbon Foundation. I encourage you to come along to the evening to hear from such an inspiring role model. I know I will be bringing my two daughters. Booking details will follow.

It is hard to believe we are already past the halfway mark of Term 1. I feel there is such a positive energy, not only in the PFA, but also across the College. It is a privilege to be involved with such wonderful parents and the wider Avila community. I look forward to meeting you at one of the PFA events coming soon.

Regards

Loretta Stapleton
President

P.S. To all you “Dancing Queens” out there lock in Friday 8 August for a night to remember, start planning your outfits now, BABBA is coming to Avila!

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CANTEEN ROSTER

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MEET… THE RECONCILIATION CAPTAIN and RECONCILIATION VICE-CAPTAIN

Francesca Carl

For as long as I can remember, I have been passionate for social justice and I feel extremely privileged to be the Reconciliation Captain and a FIRE Carrier (Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education) for 2014. Before coming to Avila, I knew very little about the horrific mistreatment of Australia’s Aboriginal people or of the beauty of their fascinating culture. But, during the 6 years I have been a part of the Avila community, I have learnt a great deal from many remarkable people, and most importantly, Mrs Val, who with her incredible knowledge and wisdom has been an inspiring role model to me. Being a member of Reconciliation Group, I have participated in many conferences, campaigns, and fundraisers, and I have also involved myself in other areas of the school including the Avila/Mazenod Musical, Creative Arts, and Music Festival. I was also blessed to have the opportunity to go on the Santa Teresa Immersion in Year 10, which was an incredible experience I will never forget.

This year, along with my fellow captain Leah, the Avila College Reconciliation Group and the wider community, I aspire to continue the amazing work of Miranda and Kate, last year’s leaders, and make the Avila community as impassioned and spirited as I am about equality for Indigenous Australians. I hope to see everyone embracing our theme of ‘Give/get’ this year, and especially giving their time and involvement in all the various campaigns and events such as Close the Gap, Opening the Doors Foundation and The Long Walk in 2014. You can embrace this theme instantly by joining the ‘Reconciliation Group Avila College’ Facebook page, which is not only open to all, but will keep you posted on our achievements and upcoming events.

Leah Giakoumis

My name is Leah Giakoumis and I am very honoured and excited to be the College Reconciliation Vice-Captain for 2014 and a representative FIRE Carrier of the College. Together, with Francesca and the Reconciliation Group we have started the year with a very positive and motivated spirit and together we aim to continue this passion for Aboriginal social justice within the Avila community, as well as the wider community.

Throughout my years at Avila, I have been introduced to, and participated in many areas of school including Orchestra, Creative Arts, Drama Festivals, DAV Debating and Rostrum Public speaking; however I also developed a passion for Social Justice and Reconciliation. Avila provided many opportunities to explore Reconciliation within the wider community: to participate in the Coranderrk walk; to support the Opening of the Doors Foundation; the Close the Gap Campaign; to join in the Long Walk; and to travel to the Santa Teresa community through immersion in the Northern Territory. Through each opportunity I experienced first hand the injustices faced by Aboriginal peoples, and I became not only even more determined to help, but also more determined to encourage everyone else to help and share in our passion.

This year our goal is to encourage more people to get involved, to join the Reconciliation Group and to participate in all the upcoming events. This year’s theme ‘Give/get’ is the base of what we hope to achieve as a group, where we encourage everyone to help without the expectation of receiving in return. We aim to push people out of their comfort zone, to join us in the fight for equality among Aboriginal Australians.
This year the debaters are hosting a series of lunchtime "Conversations" that are open to all students. The aim is to inform students about public affairs in order to enrich their understanding of the world and the content of their work in English. Our first conversation, led by Mr Brendan Johnson, was on the topic of whether the government should bail out companies who get into trouble. The talk was well attended and will help to inform Year 11 Round 1 debaters.

Our next "Conversations" are: Monday 17 March, Mrs Fiona Wright will explore whether we should maintain sanctions on Iran and on Tuesday 18 March Mrs Franken will investigate the Australian Curriculum and the values that underpin this initiative in education. All students are welcome to attend.

Congratulations to our Year 11 Public Speaking and Debating Captain, Sarah Lambourne, who has been successful in being invited to the second round of "try outs" for the State Debating Team. This is recognition of Sarah’s hard work and excellent debating skills.

Our Up and Coming Year 7 Public Speakers and Debaters

At lunchtime, over the last two Fridays, the Year 7s have been having lots of fun exercising their speaking skills and intelligence. The Year 8 Public Speaking and Debating Captain Alysha Wanigaratne, with the help of senior captains from the other levels, has run a Trivia Competition and then a model debate (That Justin Bieber has more talent than One Direction). The events were enthusiastically received by the Year 7s, who showed they knew about world figures as diverse as Amelia Earhart, Kevin Rudd and Angelina Jolie. The team from 7 Blue was the Trivia champion on the day. Congratulations go to the brave and talented students who volunteered to debate. Both teams were excellent, but One Direction were ultimately proven to be more talented than Justin Bieber ... at least in the minds of some.

Christine Valladares
Public Speaking and Debating Coordinator
House Swimming Carnival

Tuesday 4 March saw Oakleigh Recreation Centre packed with a sea of red, green, yellow and blue as students from Year 7 to 12 dressed head to toe in their house colours. Participation and House Spirit were at an all time high!

Congratulations to MacKillop House for winning the Spirit Award.

The final points were as follows:

1st Flynn – 792 Points
2nd Nagle – 766 Points
3rd Chisholm – 703 Points
4th MacKillop – 560 Points

Congratulations to the following Champions and Runners Up for the day:

**Year 7:**
Champion – Katelin Gudzoska
Runner Up – Emily Wang

**Year 8:**
Champion – Audrey Charlton
Runner Up – Georgia Dunne & Jessica Satya Graha

**Year 9:**
Champion – Felicity King
Runner Up – Alana Nikcevich & Nicole Ng

**Year 10:**
Champion – Rashmitha Perera
Runner Up – Georgia Abbott

**Year 11:**
Champion – Natallie Costello
Runner Up – Stephanie Della Penna

**Year 12:**
Champion – Rebecca Andrews
Runner Up – Rhiannon Pearce & Jade Carr

Carly Randle
Sports Co-ordinator

**Upcoming Tournaments**
SCSA Swimming and Diving Meet – Thursday 20 March at MSAC from 6-10pm

**Trainings**
Diving – Final Training Monday 17 March 6.45-7.45am at Aqualink Box Hill
Swimming – Final Training Wednesday 19 March 7-8am at Just Swimming Syndal
Aerobics – Tuesday and Thursday 7-8 am in the Gym
Athletics – Tuesday and Thursday 3.30-4.30pm at Holy Family Primary School
All students have received by e-mail a copy of the latest Careers Newsletter. This is an excellent conversation starter regarding future pathways and this edition has parent specific information also. 2014 institute Open day dates are also listed in this edition.

Topics covered are:

1. Monash University Update - At Monash Series
   - 2014 offer update
   - Information for parents
   - Physiotherapy at Monash

2. 2014 Open day dates

3. Veterinary Science and Hospital open day at University of Melbourne.

4. Interested in Physics?

5. Keeper or Vet for a day.

6. Deakin University news - Criminology
   - Spanish
   - Optometry
   - Creative Arts
   - Students say....

It is highly recommended that students and families attend a Careers Expo at some stage between Years 10 to 12. Below are details of The Age Expo at Caulfield Racecourse. As well as displays and information from approximately 170 training and further education providers a series of diverse seminars are offered ranging from occupational information to study tips.

**Year 12 Pathway Interviews**

Almost half of the current Year 12 cohort have participated in a Pathways Planning session for 2015 and beyond. It is fascinating as a Careers practitioner to hear about the range of students’ interests and their hopes for the future. The majority of students have some idea of a future direction and the process of refining options and choices is ongoing. The process of applying to institutes will be presented at the VTAC information night on Thursday 14 August for both students and parents. Courses may be introduced or removed at any stage by institutes for a variety of reasons and this is why we encourage students to research parallel options at a variety of institutes and other areas related to their area of interest.

For those not planning on attending a tertiary education institute in 2015 an array of Gap Year options or employment options are explored.

Please discuss the outcomes of your daughter’s interview with her and if she has not yet signed up for one encourage her to do so.

*Jenny Dunn*  
Pathways Leader

*Geraldine McKenna*  
Careers Counselor
We are gearing up for the Avila Parents Association

Mother’s Day Stall for 2014.

We need your help to make this a success.

To ensure mum gets a beautiful gift to let her know how special she is we are asking each family donate a gift for the stall.

Why not re-gift that new, unused present!

Simply think about what you would like to receive.

Please drop your gift wrapped donation@reception no later than April 4th 2014

Thank-you in advance for your generosity.

Mothers hold their child’s hand for a moment and their hearts forever!