FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear members of the Avila community,

This will be our last newsletter for the year although we will share with our community on Monday 15 December the successes of our senior students in a special newsletter. At this time of the year it is most appropriate to thank all members of the Avila College community for their contributions to a most successful year. To all our students – what talents and gifts you all possess and use to benefit not just yourselves but others too. To our dedicated and professional staff, your efforts and passion in what you do each and everyday makes Avila truly a leading educational institution. To all our parents, I would like to thank you for your continued support of Avila College and in particular I would like to thank our very dedicated and supportive group of parents who make up our PFA. Your contributions are always appreciated.

Both our building projects are tracking along well. I am sure that those that have visited the school in recent weeks will see that much progress has taken place. The gym now has a roof and floor with the adjacent Science/Ag Hort teaching space taking shape. The connecting corridor from the first floor of the Year 7 and 8 building has been completed and students can now see how they will be able to have direct access from this floor into the gym. The gathering space adjacent to Bunjil is much closer to completion. This space should be at lock-up prior to the Christmas holidays and we are hoping for this space to be complete early next year.

At our Advent liturgy, held with our students in Years 7-9 last Friday, I asked students to consider the meaning of gifts. Gifts do not just refer to what we may receive this time of the year wrapped in special paper. Rather their gifts may be providing assistance to someone or giving help and support to those in need. A gift can also be a talent and as we have seen throughout the year – Avila students are very gifted.

Community news:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and farewell the following staff who will be leaving Avila College at the conclusion of this year: Nicole Brennan, Jennifer Brown, Joiana Champion, Mary Fitzgerald, Sr Maria Lazzaro pbvm, Kerrie Macheda, Xaris Miller, Lisa Moloney, Nicole North-Combes, Alex Ntoumenopoulos, Deborah Parton, Joan Reynolds, John Rhynehart, Andrea Venier and Marjolyn Willis. We give thanks to all these staff for their service to the Avila College community. I would particularly like to acknowledge the 26 years of service by Joan Reynolds and 24 years of teaching from Andrea Venier – both these ladies have committed much time and service to many staff and students of Avila College.

I would also like to acknowledge Mr Phil Cornell who has just completed his 30th year of continuous teaching at Avila College. This is a significant milestone for Phil and on behalf of the many students he has taught over the years and colleagues he has worked with – we thank him and look forward to his continued contributions to our community into the future. I would like to congratulate Ingrid O’Sullivan. Ingrid has been awarded The Hamer Scholarship for Language Study in Indonesia for 2015. The following staff will also be on leave in 2015 and we wish them all the best: Anna Cornell, Karis Dalton, Jolenta Kirkwood and Janet Lewis.

If Avila families have an urgent need to contact the College for personal matters during the Christmas holidays, please contact Christine Kralj, Deputy Principal Wellbeing, on 9831 9647 or ckralj@avilacollege.vic.edu.au.

On behalf of the staff of Avila College, I would like to extend our best wishes for the upcoming season of Advent and wish all Families a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to seeing students return safely on Friday 30 January 2015, which marks the start of our Golden Jubilee Year.

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

Louise Gunther
Principal

PRAYER

Lord God, my Saviour,
I pray that I may stay alert
so that the clay of my life
will not become so hardened
that there is no longer any way
in which you can continue
to shape me to be more like your Son.

Loving God, help me to be alert to your call, shaping me into the image of your Son, Jesus,

Amen.

CALENDAR DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 10 Dec</td>
<td>SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP OPEN 1-4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 12 Dec</td>
<td>SCHOOL CLOSED FOR THE DAY (Including the General Office)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 17 Dec</td>
<td>SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP OPEN 1-4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 19 Dec</td>
<td>GENERAL OFFICE CLOSES FOR THE YEAR 1 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 19 Jan</td>
<td>GENERAL OFFICE OPENS FOR 2015</td>
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Ecclesia – Daughters of the Church
FAITH MATTERS

Yet another year comes to an end and, at the same time, the Church’s year enters Advent: a time of waiting, preparing and being alert to the presence of Christ in the world. Within the world’s trouble spots, in particular, but also in our own lives and the world in which we live and move and have our very being, the waiting and preparing and alertness we exhibit in anticipation of the Prince of Peace is very much present. Jesus, the Christ-child and Prince of Peace, the one whom we are called to be in our life and living, continues to prompt us to be exactly that - peacemakers. In doing so we embrace all the Gospel Values we espouse here at Avila College. We do so with an attitude which is proactive rather than reactive or static. Those of us who make up the College Community make a promise to each other, the minute we “sign on”, to be Christ to each other. We promise, through our very presence, to be compassionate, forgiving, loving and kind. This is often difficult, but not impossible. As I leave this place, I pray that the Avila Community continues to strive to uphold these values, to live them and share them with all members of the School Community as well as the wider community.

Throughout the year the College’s student leadership structure has undergone some modifications. The result is that students in Years 9-12 have been elected to worked together in a Faith and Mission Team. These students and the Director of Faith and Mission will be the vanguards of living fully the values I have just spoken about. They are keen and excited about this new road they are about to travel. Christiana David has been appointed as the College’s Vice Captain - Faith and Mission and Danielle Darbyshire has been elected the Year 11 Faith and Mission Leader in 2015. Following, the girls introduce themselves and talk of their hopes and dreams. Let’s pray for these girls and the rest of the Faith and Mission Team in 2015 that they can authentically “walk the talk” of all things faith.

My name is Danielle Darbyshire, and I have been elected as the Year 11 Faith and Mission Leader for 2015. I applied for this position with an aim to remove the stigma that having faith is only for extremely “religious” people, when in reality it is so much more than going to Church every Sunday. I also applied for the position as I believed it would be a great opportunity to come together with like-minded students to express faith openly and honestly. I look forward to the new year with an open mind and open heart and am grateful to be given the opportunity to represent my cohort.

My name is Christiana David and I’m honoured to serve Avila as College Vice Captain - Faith and Mission for 2015. I’m excited to work alongside College Captain Angela Stapleton, fellow Vice Captain Sophia Elliott, the Faith and Mission Captains, students and staff to create a memorable 50th Jubilee Year. I will be initiating a new leadership position next year taking up the role of a College Vice Captain but also being responsible for the prayer and liturgical life of the school. In this role I hope to support the Christian ethos and values Avila College fosters as well as encourage students to put their faith into action to make a difference in the community.

If, like me, you feel the enthusiasm of these girls through their words, we can rest assured that the Avila College Community is in good hands.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and holy Christmas and a blessed New Year. May the Prince of Peace reign in your hearts.

John Rhynehart
Director of Faith and Mission

CATHOLIC EDUCATION TODAY MAGAZINE

The Term 4 edition of Catholic Education Today is available as online version. Click here to view.
ADMINISTRATION NEWS

2015 Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 1</th>
<th>TERM 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 19 January</td>
<td>Mon 13 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 27 January</td>
<td>Fri 19 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 30 January</td>
<td>Term 2 (staff and students return)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 2 February</td>
<td>End of Term 2 (3:15pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 3 February</td>
<td>College Photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 8 February</td>
<td>VCE/VCAL High Achievers Assembly</td>
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<td>Wed 11 February</td>
<td>Yr 12 Parent and Student Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 13 February</td>
<td>Golden Jubilee Eucharist Celebration (2pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 17 February</td>
<td>Yr 10 and 11 Parent Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 18 March</td>
<td>Yr 8 and 9 Parent Evening (7:00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 24 March</td>
<td>Oral Reports (3.15-8.30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 26 March</td>
<td>Oral Reports (3.15-8.30pm)</td>
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<td>Fri 3 April</td>
<td>End of Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 5 April</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
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<td>Easter Sunday</td>
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PRESENTATION NIGHT PHOTOS

To view the photos from the Avila Presentation Night, simply go to: www.HikariEventsPhotography.com.au
Click “Sign up” to create an account. Under Personal code, enter the code AVL41124, complete the registration process. You’ll then be able to view all the images from the event.

If you have previously signed up with Hikari Events (e.g. for year 11 formal photos), simply log in to your account. After logging in, you’ll see a menu on the left under your name. Click “Add Another Event” and add the code AVL41124. That will give you access to the galleries from the valedictory plus galleries from the Year 11 formal as well.

As a special for this month only, 5x7” prints are $10 and digital downloads are only $5 (75% off!). This special is only valid till 31 December 2014.

If you have any questions about login or access to the photos, please email us at: orders@hikari.com.au

Rebecca Cetrola
Deputy Principal Administration

LEARNING AND TEACHING NEWS

Semester 2 Reports

Semester reports will be released on Monday 15 December. Parents will receive an email to alert them when reports have been finalised. Parents will be able to access their daughter’s reports via Avila’s online Parent Access Module (PAM). Alternatively, reports can be accessed using the individual student’s login to Simon then following the links to the student’s individual profile and assessment. Past reports may also be accessed in the same way. Details of how to access PAM are available from this link. A “Guide to Reporting Codes” is available on PAM and Simon. Parents are encouraged to discuss the report with their daughters and to use the recommendations to help students set learning goals for the future. Any parent with queries about accessing PAM may contact the College IT Help Desk via email support@avilacollege.vic.edu.au or phone 9831 9634. IT staff will be available to respond to technical queries until Friday 19 December.

Madeleine Franken
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching
FROM THE COUNSELLING TEAM

The Avila School Counselling Team would like to wish all members of our school community a safe and happy holiday break. We understand that this can be a difficult time for some families and that support services can be difficult to access. If your family needs additional support during the holidays please use some of the resources listed above. We look forward to working with you again in 2015.

Parent and Youth Support Card

Online/Phone Support

Lifeline-13 11 14
www.lifeline.org.au
Kids Help Line-1800 55 1800
www.kidshelpline.com.au
Youth Beyond Blue
www.youthbeyondblue.com
Eheadspace-1800 6510 890
www.eheadspace.org.au

Child and Youth Mental Health Service (CYMHS)-1300 721 937 option 2

Face to Face Services

Headspace-9801 6088
Youth Services – 9294 6716
Anglicare - 98906322

AVILA Uniform Shop News!

The Avila Second Hand Uniform Shop is no longer able to accept the following items: tracksuit jackets, tracksuit pants, polo tops, microfiber maroon shorts, bathers, fleece vests.

The Avila Second Hand Uniform Shop will be open, from 1-4pm on:


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.
PRESENTATION EVENING 2014

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:** Molly McQueen
- **Sister Raymonde Taylor Award for Creative Arts:**
  - Music Performance – Kala Gare
  - Drama Performance – Catherine Smith
  - Visual Arts – Madeleine Porritt
- **Sister Josepha Dunlop Award for Christian Leadership:** Monica De Rango & Francesca Carl
- **Patricia Ryan Award for Love of Learning:** Natalie Karipidis
- **Public Speaking and Debating Award:** Tamar Haigazian
- **Susan Puhotaua Orchestra Award:**
  - Audrey Chew
- **Staff Alumni ‘Service to the Wider Community’ Award:**
  - Miranda Koroknai
- **Australian Defence Force (ADF) Awards:**
  - Year 10 - Danielle Darbyshire
  - Year 12 - Jessica Frizziero
- **Spirit Awards:**
  - Year 7 - Sasha Sassine
  - Year 8 - Danielle Apidopoulos
  - Year 9 - Georgia Pitt
  - Year 10 - Amelia David
  - Year 11 - Christiana David
  - Year 12 - Yasmin Gomez
- **Mulgrave Country Club Scholarship (Year 11):**
  - Sarah Gill
- **Marie Boyle Year 10 Excellence Award:**
  - Catherine Pagliaro
- **Lions Club Community Leadership Award (Year 9):**
  - Sinead Coulter
STAFF FAREWELLS

John Rhynehart
John commenced at Avila College in 2009 as a teacher of English and Religious Education. In 2011 he joined the College Leadership Team as Director of Faith and Mission. He has guided the girls through their learning of the scriptures as well as their personal faith journeys. He has also conducted professional development for staff and shared his valuable insights. John has coordinated many special Eucharists during his time at the college and has supported many social justice initiatives and fund-raising events. We thank John for his contribution to Avila College and wish him well for the future. - Louise Gunther

Maria Lazzaro
Sister Maria Lazzaro pbvm joined Avila College three years ago in the position of College Chaplain. During her time at Avila, Maria has supported many families through challenging times. It takes a person of great strength and character to provide comfort to those in need and Maria has been of invaluable assistance to many in the Avila community. We thank Maria for her work at Avila and wish her well as she takes on her new appointment as Congregation Leader of the Presentation Sisters of Victoria. - Louise Gunther

Nicole Brennan
After two years of commitment to the Avila community, Nicole is moving on to a permanent position at St Francis Xavier. In the time that she has been here, Nicole has been a dedicated colleague and teacher in the Health, Physical Education and Mathematics areas. She has successfully coached Aerobics, Basketball and Softball teams, graciously giving up much of her personal time to prepare the girls for competitions. Her effervescent nature and absolute passion for aerobics have made an indelible impression on the community, particularly those involved with aerobics at Avila. Nicole is a committed teacher and her vibrant energy, creativity and compassion are meticulously embedded in all her classroom interactions. We wish her all the best in her new position. - Donna Bell

Jennifer Brown
Jennifer Brown has been at Avila for 13 years. Over these years her contribution to the Physical Education department was invaluable, particularly with her extensive knowledge in Health and fitness. Jennifer was a meticulous planner, always very highly organised. Jennifer ably led our swimming squads for many years as Head Coach. Her high level of expertise and her commitment to developing the successful swim training programme for the interschool swimming team was very much valued. She also coached the college softball and hockey teams. Jennifer contributed and supported many extra-curricula programs in the college, including being a passionate bushcamp leader on Yr 9 camps. Jennifer's achievements outside of school are to be celebrated where she was fortunate to represent Australia at two World Championships in Dragon Boat racing. We wish Jennifer all the best in all her future endeavours. – Rebecca Cetrola

Joiana Champion
Joiana joined us in 2014 to teach Yr 7, 9 and 10 Maths classes. Joiana is an approachable teacher: she is understanding, kind and accommodating. She was always willing to seek advice from colleagues and adapt her teaching to help her students learn. Joiana was also very generous in sharing resources she developed. We thank Joiana for her work at Avila and wish her all the best in her future endeavours. – Rebecca Cetrola
Mary Fitzgerald

Mary Fitzgerald has worked at Avila for 14 years before relocating to Warrnambool at the beginning of 2014. Mary taught Extra English and worked as an aide in Learning Support. She was particularly valued for the skill and warmth that she shared with both staff and students. Mary had a particular gift of making lasting connections with students who valued her skill in making daunting tasks achievable. She had the ability to make each person she worked with feel valued and respected. Being a country girl at heart, Mary has embraced her new life. She is close to her parents and family who live in the area and is a support to her husband Michael in his role as principal at Warrnambool Secondary College. – Rebecca Cetrola

Kerrie Macheda

Kerrie began teaching in 2000 when she brought innovative ideas, excellent organisational skills and a real passion for Netball to Avila. During the years to follow, the Avila Community was privileged to share in celebrating Kerrie’s marriage and birth of her three children. As well as being a dedicated teacher, Kerrie was coach and mentor to the Australasian Netball team for many years, and her amazing commitment to the team and passion for this sport was obvious with many hours spent coaching the girls to a high standard. Kerrie was the College Sport Co-ordinator for 3 years and used her organisational skills to promote inter-school sport at Avila. In 2009, Kerrie’s first child Lucus was born, and Avila lost a dedicated staff member; however, only for a short period of time, as thankfully she returned in 2010. In 2011, Kerrie and her husband decided to expand their family. We thank Kerrie sincerely for all her contributions to the Avila community. - Donna Bell

Xaris Miller

Xaris’ creativity and passion for the arts has permeated in all that she has done as a teacher of French and Connect.ed. As homeroom teacher to 7 Pink, Xaris has successfully supported some of the College’s youngest students as they made the transition to secondary school. Without a doubt, Xaris will be remembered for her contribution to the teaching and learning of French at the College. She has challenged the traditional paradigm of language teaching and has ensured that the exploration of French culture is the common thread which holds together the language and skills explored in our courses. Xaris has also run a group for students from Mauritius and the Seychelles, bringing them together to share their culture and celebrate the diversity of their experiences as francophones. We wish her every success in her future endeavours. - Catherine Spurritt

Lisa Moloney

Avila College bids a fond farewell to Lisa Moloney who leaves us after 6 years teaching Agriculture and Horticulture, Science and Mathematics. During her time at the College, Lisa has demonstrated a wide range of skills including handling of the animals in the AgHort Centre. One of her favourite moments occurred when Avila won the ‘Cows Create Careers’ program under her guidance in 2012. Lisa has also looked after the turtles and stick insects and says she will “miss cuddling Itchy and Scratchy” the bearded dragons.

Lisa’s great love of indigenous culture has led her to visit Santa Teresa twice. She has devoted much time to the Avila Reconciliation Group over the years and was the co-ordinator of the group this year. Lisa leaves Avila to embark upon a new career path that melds her love of indigenous culture with horticulture, that is, to produce Bush Foods and share her knowledge of Aboriginal Horticulture with school groups. - Sue Liston

Nicole North Coombes

Nicole has been the College’s French Language Assistant for over 25 years. In that time, she has spent many hours working one-on-one with students of French, supporting the development of their verbal communication skills. Nicole’s passion for sharing her language is without question! She has accompanied staff on several overseas tours, attended excursions and assisted with the creation of resources for us in classrooms. Nicole spends much time throughout the year guiding students in the development of their ideas and rejoices in the achievements of the senior students when they have successfully completed their oral exams. We wish Nicole well for her retirement and look forward to receiving postcards from her as she and her husband, Peter, embark upon their travel adventures. - Catherine Spurritt
Alex Ntoumonopoulos
Alex first came to Avila as a pre service teacher in 2012 and in 2013 he undertook CRT and exam supervision at the College. In 2014 Alex was the much loved homeroom teacher of 7 Green and taught across the English, Humanities and Technology departments. He has been an asset to our College community and will be missed by both staff and students. Alex is returning to Perth, his hometown, to be with family. We wish him luck on all his future endeavours. -Angela Torelli

Deb Parton
Deb Parton has been a friendly and compassionate colleague to many at Avila since she commenced in 2007. She has made valuable contributions to the Careers and Business faculties. Deb helped to develop an effective careers program in the middle school incorporating individual counseling sessions with career orientated activities conducted on dedicated Careers Days. She developed and delivered the VET Certificate II in Business course and taught the Year 9 unit ‘My Future My Career’. Deb completed her Masters in Career Education in 2009 and has served as the Treasurer for the Waverley Careers Association for several years. Although sad that Deb Parton is leaving Avila College, we wish her every happiness and success. -Geraldine McKenna

Joan Reynolds
At the end of 2014, we farewell Joan Reynolds who has been a member of the Avila staff for more than 25 years. Joan has worked as a Library Assistant, and during her time at Avila, Joan has taken on many new challenges and kept up with innovations within the busy school environment. She is known for her caring approach to all staff and students. We wish her all the best for retirement. -Di O’Neill

Andrea Venier
Au revoir, Madame. Andrea Venier has been a much loved and respected member of the Languages Department at Avila College since 1990. Andrea has shared her love of literature and culture with thousands of students as a teacher of Religious Education, French, Italian and English. Andrea is a capable and organised leader: she has taken on the roles of Head of Department and Coordinator of French and she has run many study tours to France and New Caledonia. We wish Andrea well as she enters this next phase of her life and are grateful for the contribution she has made to the Avila College community. -Catherine Spurritt

Marjolyn Willis
An experienced educator in the field of visual arts Marjolyn commenced at Avila College in October 2000. Marjolyn has taught ceramics and more recently Marjolyn took VCE classes in Studio Arts, which included painting, drawing and printmaking. Her students certainly look to her as an expert in her field. We wish Marjolyn the very best in the next phase of her career. -Jolenta Kirkwood
COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

The current Year 9 students have been preparing for the ‘Community Service Program’ in 2015. The weeklong program has been running at Avila for a number of years to provide students with an opportunity to live the Gospel values of compassion, love and service. Avila sees value in all students participating in volunteer community work as it has benefits for both the individual and communities. Students learn about Catholic Social Teaching and we want this program to challenge the girls to interact with groups that they may not normally have the opportunity to spend time with and to open their eyes to the good works offered by ordinary people each day.

It supports students’ learning and development providing opportunities:

• To provide students with the opportunity to know, understand and accept others who may be disadvantaged.
• To give students a sense of self-worth, achievement and independence through ministering to others.
• To challenge students to make an ongoing commitment to voluntary work in the community.
• To give students the opportunity to help others.

Working with the RE teachers, many students have already sourced placements in preparation for the experience in 2015. It is important that students have made contact with a provider and secured a place before the end of this school year. Having ownership of the program encourages students to build resilience and skills learnt on City Experience and Year 9 camp. Each student is supported in RE and given ideas about suitable placements, for example: Aged care facilities, English language programs run by the Presentation Sisters, Catechises classes in government primary schools, opportunity shops who provide access to affordable clothing or similar organisation that provide programs and services for those in need.

There is freedom for students to make informed decisions about where they see a need in our community and to find a way to be involved in helping others. We want our students to be active participants in our community and be supported to try new experiences. Parents or guardians, current RE teachers and Ms Gunther must approve placements before students are able to attend, to ensure safety requirements and the purpose of the program is met. Additional forms can be found on SIMON should students need another copy.

The program reinforces teaching about Christian Decision-Making and the study of Mark’s Gospel in Year 10 as an expression of being the living Word. Empowering our students to be a change in the world is the very foundation of this experience.

Renee Fleeton
Curriculum Leader Religious Education

SHARED STORIES

The launch of this year’s Shared Stories anthology was held on the 25th of November, 2014, at Star of the Sea College. The anthology includes work by 33 Avila College Students. Given that this book forms part of the permanent collection of the State Library of Victoria, it is quite an achievement to have a piece of writing or artwork published.

This edition of the Shared Stories anthology runs to 512 full colour pages, and contains written pieces and artwork from 18 Catholic schools across Victoria.

Shared Stories 2014 was definitely the best edition yet. What an amazing experience and opportunity for students looking to become published authors and artists! This year’s theme is “Nothing’s Impossible”, a topic with endless possibilities. Of course, there was an array of beautiful pieces, but only a small number of artwork and writing pieces were chosen.

The special guest who officially launched this year’s edition was Tammy Wright, who is a Human Rights lawyer (a Shared Stories author 2009). She spoke to us about the challenges she has faced; helping children in juvenile detention facilities to get an education and helping refugees with their cases in being allowed to live here in Australia. I am sure we all took a lot from her truly inspiring speech. We should never give up on doing what is right. She truly taught us that even the sky isn’t your limit, and nothing is impossible.

Congratulations to Kannica Tan, Year 9, for being awarded an Ability Press Award - Well done!!!!

To participate in Shared Stories is an amazing experience; one that I shall never forget.

Olivia Thurston
Year 8 Student
YEAR 8 VISITORS, SPEAKERS AND ROBOTS

On Tuesday 2 December, an army of visitors descended on Avila! There were speakers, university students, engineers from Telstra and Lego robots. The year 8s were divided into two groups, each taking turns at listening to speakers and undertaking engineering activities.

Robogals ran a workshop on programming robots and another one on building stable structures. The girls were engaged the whole time and cheered whenever the robot moved in the correct pattern. The team of instructors included 13 students from Melbourne and Monash Universities as well as 4 engineers from Telstra.

The Robogals volunteers introduced our students to the contribution that engineers make to our society. It was the first time that many students heard terms like “mechatronics” and “biomedical engineering”.

When they were not designing, programming and building, the students were listening to three speakers.

Mary Valle, a two time recipe book author, spoke to the Year 8 students about how her involvement with food has led her to exciting paths, including running cooking classes, food tours around Europe and, most recently, being a guest cook at the Good Food and Wine Show in Melbourne. Mary spoke about the importance of using the skills learnt in Food and Technology to branch out into various fields and to do things with passion.

Amy Bulmer, a current teacher at the College, wowed the girls with insights drawn from her previous career as a journalist: gathering research, interviewing and working on both radio and TV. Amy’s talk was inspirational and captivating as she took the girls on a vast journey of possibilities. This was reflected in the comments provided by many of the girls in a subsequent survey.

Audrey Cavalera, a past Avila student currently completing a degree in architecture, provided the girls with an insight into how undertaking subjects in the Technologies field can open many possibilities. She spoke highly of how her foundational skills learnt through Technologies subjects have provided her with the basis for the projects she is undertaking in her studies.

On behalf of the Technologies faculty, I want to thank all our visitors for making the day special for our students. I also want to personally thank the members of the faculty for their tireless work in organising the day and, more importantly, their excellent work with our students throughout the year.

Ziad Baroudi and Carmela Marino
Technologies teachers
YEAR 8 FORENSICS DAY

The Year 8 students were busy this week interviewing witnesses and suspects and collecting and testing crime scene evidence to solve the crime spree that was going on at Avila. A murder, a poisoning, an arson and a chicken abduction all occurred in less than 24 hours, but with the Year 8 crime squads on the job the crimes were quickly solved. The Year 8 students visited the different crime scenes and collected a variety of physical evidence, which they then tested in the science labs. The types of evidence tested included: fibres, hairs, fingerprints, lip prints, blood stains, documents and more. As well as having crime scenarios to solve on the day, we were fortunate to have Senior Constable Andrew Nisbet, who is a Crime Scene Investigator with the Victoria Police, talk to us about his real life experiences at crime scenes. Thank you to the Science department for putting together these activities to challenge and engage our students.

Pictured Left: Two year 8 students analysing the ink from a note found at a crime scene.
Pictured below: Senior Constable Andrew Nisbet assisting two year 8 students to lift fingerprints from a piece of crime scene evidence.

Sarah Thom-Tydell
Curriculum Assistant Science

YEAR 8 ALCOHOL AWARENESS

On Thursday 4 December, all Year 8 students participated in the Health Education Alcohol Awareness Day. The day began with a presentation from Sonya Karras, the creator of the Whole New World organisation. All eyes were glued on Sonya as she delivered a highly engaging seminar relating to safe partying and alcohol. Following the presentation, the girls split into their homeroom groups and participated in a series of workshops run by the Health and Physical Education department. The four workshops involved a harm minimisation approach, focusing on: standard drinks, safe party planning and developing positive decision-making skills. The day concluded with the girls participating in interactive class discussions on a variety of topics related to Health and Physical Education. The day proved to be a positive and educational experience for all involved. Well done Year 8’s on your enthusiastic approach to the day!

Emily Vining
Teaching Staff
#AvilaWIU14 – Nations Celebrate Great Success

13 new nations were born during the Avila World Integrated Unit this year. Heads of State from the Grand Master of Papaya to the Queen B of Elethia led their citizens, expressing the uniqueness of their cultures through the development of their national food, flag, language, dance and song. Treasuries made and lost tens of thousands of dollars on the international currency exchange while social media geniuses tweeted their own, and celebrated each other’s triumphs. The tourist boards made advertisements and websites to display the best their country had to offer and everyone participated in voting for the country to host the Olympics.

Head to twitter and search #AvilaWIU14 to find out more about what happened as the students engaged in an extravaganza of self-directed, project-based learning, working in groups to develop a series of high quality products!

*Jason Isma*

E.Learning Co-ordinator

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YEAR 8 RECONCILIATION ACTIVITIES

Year 8s spent time learning about various aspects of Aboriginal cultures and knowledge.

Students took a Pledge for Reconciliation before breaking into groups named after 8 Aboriginal Language groups.

We researched key events in Aboriginal history and Australia going back over 60,000 years. We learnt about significant dates which are celebrated each year. We created posters celebrating the 64 members of the Victorian Indigenous Honour Roll and learnt about the important Aboriginal people represented on the bollards made 2 years ago by the current Year 10 students. We learnt how to weave string from plants collected from the Avila gardens and music was explored as a means of communicating and sharing culture. We even learnt how to sing “Heads, shoulders knees and toes” in Arrernte, thanks to a video made by Grade 1 and 2 students from Ltyentye Apurte (Santa Teresa).

The afternoon finished with a reflection on the meaning of Reconciliation and our commitment to work together to bring it about in practical terms.

Thanks to Mrs Moloney for organising the day, and to all the staff who helped with the activities: Mrs Valladares, Ms Kirkwood, Miss Kane-Priestley, Miss O’Sullivan, Mrs Benton, Miss Flynn, Ms Foster and Donna Teekens.

*Lisa Moloney*

Teaching staff
PATHWAYS NEWS

This is the last Pathways News for 2014. Hopefully both parents and students have found the newsletters useful, and good luck as you move on to higher levels at school, or for Year 12’s, on to university, vocational education (including apprenticeships and traineeships), a gap year with all its possibilities, or to employment. Remember that you are likely to have several careers, so expect to need to gain further education throughout your lifetime.

Year 10 & 11 News

ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS ABOUT STUDYING VCE - A range of valuable videos are now available on the Monash Youtube channel, offering tips and advice from students and parents who have survived VCE. Find out what they have to say.

Year 9 News

CAREERS DAYS

During the last week of school the Year 9’s were lucky enough to participate in several career building activities. We were able to complete two Safe@Work certificates, which will be very helpful in our future work life. Year 10 students Caitlyn Quinn, Danielle Darbyshire and Daniella Lo Surdo spoke to us about the value of completing work experience, as they completed placements this year. We were also visited by Eva and Jamie, from the Commonwealth Bank Foundation. They talked to us about saving, spending and investing money as well as making us aware of our rights in the workforce. We were shown several websites that would help us with taxes, payslips and fairness at work. We took part in workshops that assisted us in writing our resumes and cover letters. We undertook several activities that would help us to recognise our skills, attributes and values that will benefit ourselves and others in the workplace. Over the course of two days we gained many valuable pieces of information, all of which will help us in our immediate and future careers. The three most valuable tips that were learned from this experience were: Understand your workplace, know yourself and know how to get help if there are any problems. The experience of these career days was extremely rewarding and the whole year level acquired information of value from the opportunities provided.

Georgia Pitt and Tamara Ryan
Year 9 Students

Brittany Moore and Sally Hu with Jamie from the Commonwealth Bank

SCIENCE EXPERIENCE AT RMIT (FOR YEAR 10’S IN 2015) -This is three fun-filled days of hands-on activities for students entering Year 10 next year. It allows next generation of curious scientists to go behind the scenes and sample the world of science and technology, perform experiments, participate in field trips, attend university lectures, and experience three days of student life on campus. When: Tues 20-Thurs 22 Jan, 2015 (the program is run at a number of Australian universities including RMIT); Cost: $115; Info and register: www.scienceexperience.com.au.

Jenny Dunn, Geraldine McKenna and Clare Meo