Dear members of the Avila community,

Welcome to our Golden Jubilee year and I trust you will like the new revised format of our newsletter. The Eucharist we celebrated together as a community at St Patrick’s Cathedral on Sunday was indeed a memorable event to herald the start of our 50th year of Catholic secondary education for young women. I would particularly like to thank the Most Rev Mark Edwards OMI our Principal Celebrant, as well as Fathers: Pat Jackson SAC, Brendan Dillon, Hien Vu, Michael Twigg OMI, John Papworth, John Davids, Kazimierz Trawicki and Deacon Paselio Lemalu for making this occasion so memorable. We were most fortunate to have Bishop Mark Edwards spend a day at Avila College on Wednesday 4 February meeting staff and students as well as visiting many classes from Years 7-12.

This year we welcome 17 new students in Years 8-12 as well as 200 new Year 7 students. We hope you will all come to share and experience what thousands of other students have witnessed over the past fifty years at Avila College. It has been wonderful to see so many parents support the information evenings held recently. I am sure many of you have been impressed by the new Gathering Space, (adjacent to Bunjil) that has recently been completed and I would like to thank Law Architects and Devco builders who worked tirelessly to have this space ready when students returned. It has been delightful to see our new Year 7’s wearing the new Physical Education uniform that distinctly identifies what house they are in – the addition of these colours certainly looks impressive on our students.

Welcome the following new teaching staff:  
Janine Bauman – Year 9 Level Co-ordinator, Year 9 and 12 Physical Education  
Samuel Carroll – Year 8 Level Co-ordinator, Years 8 and 12 English, year 8 Geography and Year 8 Religious Education  
Salvatore La Faucli – Languages Curriculum Leader, Years 7, 11 and 12 Italian, Year 10 Religious Education  
Kate Johnston - Religious Education Curriculum Leader, Years 7, 8, 10 and 11 Religious Education  
Andrew Gutteridge – Year 7 and 8 Art, Years 11 and 12 Studio Arts  
Jane Flemming – The Arts Curriculum Leader, Year 9 Art, 11 and 12 Studio Arts and Year 9 Religious Education  
Sophie Adamek – Years 7 and 9 English, Year 7 Humanities  
Chelsie Millar - Year 7 and 9 Science, Year 10 Ag Hort.

In addition we welcome the following new Education School Officers:  
Liz Makhoul – Registrar and Office Manager  
Alison Klitzing – Year 10,11 and 12 Secretary  
Electra Bagnato – Accounts Payable Officer  
Liam Brockley – Maintenance

I would like to welcome back staff who have been on leave: Chris Nichols, Jenny Dunn, Carmel Nicholson, Steven Francis and Jan Janes.

Community news:  
Congratulations are extended to Karis Dalton (staff member) and her husband Jeremy following the birth of their daughter Ilka Agnes on 31 January and to Emily Vining and Sarah Odgers (staff members) who both became engaged over the recent Christmas break. 

Thoughts and prayers are extended to Meg Gilfedder (staff member) and her daughters Grace (Year 10) and Sarah (Year 8) following the recent death of their husband and dad on 26 January. We also pray for Caryl Finnegan, former Avila College Board Chair following the death of her husband Brendon on 12 January.

With blessings to everyone in our Golden Jubilee Year,

Louise Gunther  
Principal

Cover image: Avila College Golden Jubilee Eucharist at St Patrick’s Cathedral

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Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

**Prayer**

Christ has no body now but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he  
looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he  
walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he  
blesses all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the  
feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.  
Christ has no body now but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he  
looks  
compassion on this world.  
Christ has no body now on earth but  
yours.

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**Calendar dates**

**Wed 11 Feb**  
• Years 10 & 11 Parent Information Evening, 7pm

**Fri 13 Feb**  
• Proud Race Day  
• PFA Year 7 Families Welcome Picnic 3:30-7:00pm

**Mon 16 Feb**  
• Year 7 Swim Day

**Tue 17 Feb**  
• Open Morning 9am  
• Year 8 & 9 Parent Information Evening 7pm

**Wed 18 Feb**  
• Ash Wednesday  
• Second Hand Uniform Shop Open 1-4pm

**Thu 19 Feb**  
• Years 8-12 Leaders Day

**Fri 20 Feb**  
• Year 12 Formal 7:30pm

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

With great excitement and joy the Avila College community celebrated its Golden Jubilee Eucharist at St Patrick’s Cathedral on Sunday 8 February. Bishop Mark Edwards led the congregation of students, staff, Presentation Sisters, family, friends and alumnae in prayerful thanksgiving for Avila College’s contribution to educating young women in the Catholic tradition over the past 50 years. Entering the cathedral to the beautiful sounds of the College Senior and String ensembles set the scene for the joyful celebration. The music continued throughout the Mass with the College choir singing all hymns beautifully.

Bishop Mark Edwards spoke to our students about the continuity we have with our past. Our history is a living history that we share with our families and friends at school. He challenged the girls to spell out our tradition so that it can be carried on by future generations and encouraged them to be proud of our Avila history because it grounds each of us. Everyone present was called to carry on the traditions of Avila with loyalty, respect and faith.

The faith community that is Avila College is strengthened by such significant liturgical celebrations and reminds us of our tradition and our need to gather as a community of God’s people. As we celebrate our past and work towards creating our future we are reminded of the strength in community and Avila’s role in this.

We are each called to follow God in our own way and in our expression of faith we enhance our College community and continue the work of the Presentation Sisters who so bravely took on the challenge, fifty years ago, to provide a Catholic education to young women in Mount Waverley.

Renee Fleeton
Director of Faith and Mission
ADMINISTRATION NEWS

MYKI Cards
All students are required to have their own MYKI card for excursion use where public transport is the method of travel. Students will also be responsible for ensuring their MYKI is topped up prior to the excursion. A concession MYKI card costs $3. You can buy and top up a MYKI card in several ways, for more information please visit the following site: http://ptv.vic.gov.au/tickets/myki/buying-your-myki

Traffic Management
Because safety is a key issue for all our Avila students, we ask for support and cooperation from parents when either dropping off their daughters or picking them up at the end of the day. In order to assist with this process, we ask that parents refer to the diagram at right and follow a clockwise direction when dropping off or picking up students. Please look closely at the diagram at right that identifies:

- Parking areas for parents
- Drop off areas
- Bus parking only
- Staff parking only
- Flow of traffic

For the safety of all students, staff and parents, we ask that no cars come past Portsmouth Street to the dead-end part of Charles Street. We also ask that you are mindful of neighbours’ access to their driveways. We urge parents to please follow the recommended route when dropping off or picking up their daughters.

High Achievers Assembly
On Tuesday 3 February we welcomed back to the College our 2014 VCE and VCAL high achieving students. We celebrated and acknowledged students who achieved outstanding ATAR scores of 90 and above, students who attained the highest study score in their subject and celebrated the efforts and achievement of our VCAL High Achiever. Monica De Rango, 2014 College Dux was presented with the Filomena Salvatore Dux gift and she also shared with the community some insights into her time at Avila. (See below).

At the assembly we welcomed back Dr Fiona Brownfoot who completed Year 12 in 2001 at Avila College. After Avila, she moved to Adelaide to take up undergraduate studies for a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery at the University of Adelaide. It was as she was studying in Adelaide that she was awarded a place in the John Flynn Scholarship Program, which enabled her to undertake her first scholarship placement at a small health clinic in Arnhem Land. Fiona completed her internship at The Royal Melbourne Hospital in 2008. She is now specialising in obstetrics and gynecology at The Royal Women’s Hospital and Mercy Hospital for Women. Fiona is also a clinical lecturer and examiner for medical students at Melbourne University. Fiona shared with the College community her current PhD research into possible medical treatments for pre-eclampsia. Fiona’s recollection of her time at Avila and her journey since was inspiring. She spoke of the importance of hard work and commitment in achieving your goals. We look forward to hearing more about Fiona’s achievements in the future.

Rebecca Cetrola
Deputy Principal Administration

Above: Dr Fiona Brownfoot with Ms Louise Gunther
Good afternoon past and present students, staff and parents. After being asked to speak to you today about my experiences at Avila and how I achieved my goals, I have to admit it was challenging to decide what I wanted to say. It is difficult to adequately sum up six years of learning, friendship and growth in just a few minutes.

As you might be able to tell, I loved my time at Avila. It’s a community where you can build confidence in yourself, enrich your knowledge and abilities, and pursue your passions. I loved the sense of unity that comes with cheering on teammates at sports events or performing together at Creative Arts. And nothing beats the feeling of over 1000 girls simultaneously screaming ‘Avila’ and ‘encircle us’ at the top of their lungs when rehearsing the school hymn. This sense of community is what I will miss most about Avila, not to mention the endless opportunities available.

When I was a younger and much shorter Avila student, I realised that the more you involve yourself, the more rewarding and beneficial your Avila experience will be. It’s simple - the more you put in, the more you get out. So by throwing myself into music, sport and leadership amongst other things, I became increasingly confident, made many friends and loved every minute of school.

Not only does getting involved make school more memorable, it also gives you a break from the challenging academic side. In the last few years, I had leadership responsibilities, debating, rehearsals and performances for three music groups, netball training and matches, all on top of the rigour of VCE and making sure my family and social life didn't go down the drain. It's safe to say I had a lot on my plate during the senior years, but I believe this to be one of the reasons I achieved my goals. It forced me to study efficiently and be organised in working around my busy timetable.

Speaking of which, organisation is crucial. Making a to-do list or a study timetable will stop the attitude ‘I have so much to do that I don’t even know where to start’ and mean you will never cram at the last minute again. Well, maybe only sometimes.

As for my approach to study, the three words that I lived by were ‘quality not quantity’. Of course, I still put in hours and hours of note-taking, learning, revising and practice exams but I made sure I was using my time effectively. Two or three hours of thorough revision, that are improving your knowledge and skills, are far better than five hours of half hearted study where you complete similar unchallenging questions again and again, checking Facebook every 20 minutes too. Always ask yourself if you are using your time as productively as possible.

I also aimed to turn weaknesses into strengths. Instead of throwing a corrected test or exam into the back of your locker, never to see the light of day again, use it to your advantage. Identify what you consistently struggle with and make an effort to improve it. Because I can guarantee weaknesses won’t simply disappear for an exam, no matter how much you pray or how good you think you are at winging things.

Some advice I was given one year ago, that I always keep in the forefront of my mind, is that hard work overcomes natural ability. This became my inspiration for English, a subject that was never my favourite (sorry English teachers) and that was never my forte either; the satisfying results I eventually received were thanks to a lot of dedication and hard work. So don’t have the mindset that you’re already a step behind if you’re not a gifted writer or a natural mathematician, because with diligence you can be just as successful and more than those who are.

Lastly, make the most of your wonderful teachers. Throughout Year 12, I was actively seeking them out before and after school, at lunchtimes and during study periods, asking them to work through challenging questions step by step and giving them essays to dissect. Although I may have scared away my Year 12 English teacher, Mr Rynanhr, to another school by continually pestering him with dozens of essays and questions, your teachers really do want to help you as much as possible and to see you improve. So make the most of their invaluable knowledge and feedback as they truly are your greatest resource.

I would love to be back in my Avila uniform, sitting amongst you and getting pins and needles in my legs, eager to start another exciting year. However, I cannot wait to begin the next chapter of my life and am looking forward to studying Pharmaceutical Science and Engineering at Monash University. While I don’t know exactly where it will lead or what it will entail, I do know that I am well-equipped to face everything thrown my way thanks to my time at Avila.

Monica De Rango
2014 Filomena Salvatore College Dux
PASTORAL CARE

It is with great excitement that we welcome back our Avila families for the Golden Jubilee Year. An especially warm welcome is extended to students and their families who have joined us in Year 7, or who have just started at Avila in other year levels.

We are keen to form strong partnerships with our parents, so please call your daughter’s Homeroom Teacher or Level Co-ordinator should you have pastoral care concerns. Queries regarding progress in a particular subject are best addressed to the subject teacher.

Parent Evenings are running across the first three weeks of the term and we strongly encourage parents to attend. These nights give you a great chance to meet your daughter’s new Homeroom Teacher, understand the learning and wellbeing focus for the year, hear from notable guest speakers and meet other parents.

**Pastoral Care Team 2015**

| Year 7 Co-ordinator: Catherine Spurritt | Assistant Co-ordinator: Pauline Catrice |
| Year 8 Co-ordinator: Samuel Carroll | Assistant Co-ordinator: Liz Trembath |
| Year 9 Co-ordinator: Janine Bauman | Assistant Co-ordinator: Jason Isma |
| Year 10 Co-ordinator: Carmela Marino | Assistant Co-ordinator: Sophie Clapperton |
| Year 11 Co-ordinator: Anne Stephens | Assistant Co-ordinator: Anne Graham |
| Year 12 Co-ordinator: Anna Marvelli | Assistant Co-ordinator: Philip Cornell |
| Learning Support Co-ordinator: Maureen Adams | Pathways Co-ordinator: Jenny Dunn |
| School Psychologist: Helen Tillinl | Counsellors: Donna Teekens, Rachel Janssen |
| Director of Faith and Mission: Renee Fleeton | Deputy Principal Wellbeing: Christine Kralj |

**Peer Programs**

Congratulations to the twenty-three Year 10 students who have been appointed as **Peer Helpers**:

- Sally Hu
- Emma Spencer
- Brittany Moore
- Tamara Ryan
- Georgia Pitt
- Grace Ang
- Maeve Gill
- Ashleigh Janky
- Danielle Khoury
- Grace Cross
- Imogen Santamaria
- Madeleine Blight
- Sarah Ward
- Isabella Meerwald
- Ceilidhe Barwick
- Rachel Fidock
- Laura Pugliese
- De’Arne Cvetkovic
- Roisin Selvarajoo
- Shaunna Bilson
- Sinead Coulter
- Dion Andrkipoulos
- Niamh Smith

**Parent Evenings**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year Level/s</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Focus</th>
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| 10 and 11   | 11 Feb | 7 – 9pm | • Meet Homeroom Teacher and Year Level Co-ordinator  
• Information from community service providers  
• Level specific information  
• Guest Speaker – ‘Mindsets for Life and Learning’ |
| 8 and 9     | 17 Feb | 7 – 9pm | • Camp / City Experience Information  
• Meet Homeroom Teacher and Year Level Co-ordinator  
• Information from community service providers  
• Level specific information  
• Guest Speaker Sharon Witt – ‘Raising Resilient Girls’ - See below |
APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR 7 IN 2016

If you have a Year 6 student at primary school, please ensure that you complete and return an Application for Enrolment form for her by Friday, 27 February 2015.

The new Application for Enrolment form is available on the College website – www.avilacollege.vic.edu.au - or from the General Office.

For any further information, please ring the Registrar on 9831 9600.

COLLEGE BOARD MEETING

The Annual Reporting Meeting of the College Board will be held in the Gathering Space on Thursday, 5 March at 7pm.

A warm invitation is extended to all parents to attend this meeting.

Sally-Anne Petrie - Chair, Avila College Board
LEARNING AND TEACHING NEWS

Congratulations!

Last week Avila College welcomed back and publicly congratulated high achievers from the class of 2014. There were many excellent VCE and VCAL results earned through a consistent application to learning.

One particular result at Avila of which we are very proud was the fact that 29 students were awarded the inaugural VCE (Baccalaureate). This new award was only presented for the first time to Victorian students in 2014. The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) introduced the VCE (Baccalaureate) to acknowledge, encourage and reward students who deliberately embrace a broad but more challenging VCE program.

To be eligible to receive the VCE (Baccalaureate) the student must satisfactorily complete the VCE and receive a study score for each prescribed study component.

The student’s program must include:

- a Units 3 and 4 sequence in English or Literature with a study score of 30 or above; or a Units 3 and 4 sequence in EAL with a study score of 33 or above
- a Units 3 and 4 sequence in either Mathematics Methods or Specialist Mathematics
- a Units 3 and 4 sequence in a VCE Language
- at least two other Units 3 and 4 sequences

The following students were awarded the VCE (Baccalaureate) for 2014:


Homework

Avila College has a clear homework policy designed to support student learning. Parents often worry about whether their daughters are doing too much or too little homework, especially at the beginning of a new year.

The following guidelines are published as a reminder that even if a teacher sets no work, students should use the time to review their learning from the day or to undertake some preliminary research for future learning. To ease the transition to secondary school, students in Year 7 are not set homework in the first two weeks of the year, with the exception of some Music tasks and revising their Maths times table. “Catch-up corner” operates at lunchtime with Maths teachers in attendance to support students’ learning beyond the classroom.

Homework Guidelines

Years 7 & 8 – 1 to 1.5 hours per night
Years 9 & 10 – 1.5 - 2 hours per night
Years 11 & 12 - 3 – 3.5 hours per night (approximately 5 hours per subject per week)

Occasionally, a student may need to apply for an extension of time to complete a major task. To provide students and staff with a consistent process under which extensions are given, the College has developed an ‘Extension of Work’ procedure. Students must apply in writing requesting an extension for major pieces of work. The application must be co-signed by a parent and submitted to the subject teacher at least one day before the work is due in. Completing the form is no guarantee that an extension will be granted. It is at the subject teacher’s discretion as to if, and for how long an extension will be.

Students should only apply if they have genuine difficulties that are out of their control. Extensions will not be granted if the difficulty was foreseeable and good planning could have avoided the problem, nor if the student cannot show that a reasonable amount of the work has already been completed. Applications on or after the due date will not be accepted unless the student has been away due to illness and a medical certificate is supplied. A link to the application form is on the Simon database and students have had this process explained to them in the past. They will also hear about it again at an upcoming assembly.

This process:

- provides a consistent approach across all teachers in Years 7 – 10;
- ensures that students know what is required when asking for more time to complete tasks;
- helps to identify students who need support developing their time management skills.

We seek parents’ support in encouraging the development of responsibility, organisation and problem solving skills in our students.

Madeleine Franken
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching
PFA REPORT
Welcome to 2015, one of the most exciting years in the life of Avila College, as it is our Golden Jubilee Year. There is so much to celebrate throughout this year at the many exciting events planned.

We enjoyed a great start to the year welcoming new Year 7 families on the first day back at school with a morning tea in the new Gathering Space which really is a magnificent venue.

Golden Jubilee Eucharist
What a privilege for our families to come together at St Patrick’s Cathedral for the Golden Jubilee Eucharist last Sunday. We have so much to give thanks for, including being part of the Avila family.

Year 7 Families Welcome Picnic
We warmly invite all Year 7 families to come and meet other new families from 3.30 to 7pm on Friday 13 February. All the family is welcome including Mums and Dads, brothers and sisters. Please BYO food and drinks and make the most of the opportunity to get to know other people in the Avila community. No RSVP is required for the picnic and the PFA looks forward to seeing you there.

Carnival and Open Day
The next big event on the Golden Jubilee calendar is the Carnival and Open Day, which will be held from 10am to 2pm on Saturday 21 March at the College.

School tours will run throughout the day. Please be sure to spread the word to all of your friends. Visitors can register online via the College website.

Carnival rides and an animal farm have been booked, raffle prizes sourced, stalls are being organised and delicious food will be available.

The KIIS FM radio station Street Team will be at the Carnival with plenty of giveaways and our talented musicians will provide some wonderful entertainment on the day.

How you can help
If you have an hour or two to spare on Carnival day Saturday 21 March please email pfa@avilacollege.vic.edu.au and we will let you know how you can help.

Ride wristbands will be on sale for students at just $25 each. This is great value as individual tickets will cost $5 on the day. The rides at the Carnival include a Cha Cha, a Super Giant Slide and a Rock-climbing Wall. As well as unlimited rides on the day, the wristband also provides entry to the Animal Farm. The date for the sale of wristbands at school will be in the next newsletter.

We will be asking all students to decorate and fill a Lolly Jar, which will then be for sale on Carnival day.

Hopefully all families can bake a special treat for sale at the Cake Stall. Closer to the date we will send home a plate, bag and ingredient listing and we will be asking for the sweet treats to be dropped off the Friday before or the morning of the Carnival.

Is your bookshelf groaning under the weight of too many titles? Is you daughter now a little too old for Dr Seuss and the Wiggles? If so, have a clean out and donate items in good condition to the Carnival Book, DVD and CD Stall. Just drop them off at the General Office.

Feeling lucky? Then buy a raffle ticket for the chance to win a travel voucher and some other great prizes, more details will follow. All proceeds will be donated back to the College.

There are many other Golden Jubilee functions later in the year including the Gala Dinner on 7 August at the Riversdale Golf Club. To book visit the College website, News and Events, Bookings.

On behalf of all members of the PFA, I look forward to sharing the Golden Jubilee celebrations with you and your families during 2015.

Regards,

Loretta Stapleton
PFA President
Avila College Golden Jubilee
Carnival & Open Day
10am–2pm Saturday 21 March

Join Avila College in celebrating 50 years
School tours  KIIS FM Street Team  Delicious food
Rides  Entertainment  Fun for the whole family
Animal farm  Stalls

register for school tours at www.avilacollege.vic.edu.au
Avila College, 35 Charles Street, Mount Waverley
MEET... THE COLLEGE CAPTAIN AND COLLEGE VICE-CAPTAINS

Angela Stapleton
My name is Angela Stapleton and I feel honoured to be leading the College as School Captain for its 50th year. My time at Avila has gone incredibly fast as I still can’t believe I’m undertaking my last year of studies. My Avila experience has definitely been an enriching one as I’ve always tried to involve myself in this wonderful and strong community as much as possible. This has allowed me to form friendships, not only from my year level, but across all. I’ve been lucky enough to undertake the Santa Teresa Immersion and the Italian Study Tour. These two different experiences have helped open my eyes and encourage me to continue to enrich my studies. My inclusion in sporting teams, debating/public speaking, fundraising events and drama has helped my understanding of how special our community is. As we are celebrating a historically significant milestone in Avila’s history, the theme for this year is “Celebrating Our Past, Creating Our Future”. It’s extremely important to recognise all the work that Avila has accomplished in the last 50 years and to celebrate what we, as students, are fortunate enough to have today. In saying that, with all the work that has been done, we as a community can help determine the future of our school. I look forward to the year ahead, in celebrating something so special that Avila students can all say we’ve experienced - the Golden Jubilee.

Christiana David
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 Anniversary Year. I love to be involved in school life through participation in music groups, Creative Arts, Music Fest, Red Cross Door Knock, Reconciliation Group, Open Mornings, Young Vinnies, Public Speaking, Debating and serving as a Eucharistic Minister in school Masses. Taking up the role of a College Vice-Captain as well as being responsible for the prayer and liturgical life of the school is in fact a new leadership position this year. 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. I look forward to celebrating the past and creating the future, to supporting students’ ideas and suggestions and helping Avila girls achieve their personal best in 2015.

Sophia Elliott
My name is Sophia Elliott and I feel privileged to be the College Vice-Captain Community this Golden Jubilee year. I am thrilled to be working with such a strong and passionate group of student leaders in an exciting year of school spirit and celebration. Since I started at Avila in 2010 I have taken advantage of all the amazing opportunities on offer; including Public Speaking and Debating, Drama, Music and involvement in the Reconciliation Group. These activities have all thoroughly enriched my school experience and given me a true appreciation of the unique and vibrant community at Avila. This year, I hope that each member of the Avila Community embraces the 2015 theme “Celebrating our Past, Creating our Future”; in feeling the immense school pride in this celebratory year and a great sense of empowerment, in knowing that we can all get involved in our own way and make our time at Avila unique; thus, creating our future. Through every student’s enthusiasm and involvement we can make our Golden Jubilee year one to be marked in the history books for many years to come.
LIONS YOUTH EXCHANGE

It was with much excitement (and a few nerves) that I flew out of Australia late last November, my destination? Europe! I was embarking on the Lions Youth Exchange, a 6.5-week program that enables youth like myself, the opportunity to travel abroad during the summer break. The program differs from ‘conventional exchange programs’ in that I had the opportunity to travel to multiple countries, living with host families, experiencing their daily routine, customs and traditions; as well as being a bit of a tourist.

My first destination was the Netherlands, the land of windmills, canals, and some delicious foods. As I have some Dutch heritage, I was excited to visit the Netherlands and see the countryside in which my grandmother was born and raised. Together with my host families, I was able to visit a number of cities in the vicinity - Amsterdam, The Hague, Leiden, Delft and Rotterdam. When we weren’t out and about (or the weather wasn’t too good), I also had fun dressing up in Dutch national costume, cheering on my host sisters at their hockey matches, tasting Dutch cheeses and participating in the Sinterklaas celebrations.

My next destination was Italy and having studied Italian for a number of years, I was looking forward to putting my knowledge of the language to use. I had the opportunity to experience ordinary Italian life such as going to school each day, returning home for lunch before going out in the afternoon. I was also fortunate to explore many ancient cities and learn more about their culture. I have fond memories of exploring the streets and eating gelato, playing tombola and of course, celebrating Christmas ‘Italian style’ with my host family. My time in Italy concluded with a youth camp in Florence. This was a highlight of my exchange and I was lucky to meet many new people, as well as explore a number of nearby cities such as Venice, Rome and Pisa.

Having returned home, I can safely say that I am a pro when it comes to airport security (I caught 11 flights in total) as well as knowing how to communicate with shop keepers when they don’t quite understand me! Though I was sometimes challenged and well outside my comfort zone, I developed a greater sense of independence, created many friendships and formed memories which I will treasure for years to come.

Catherine Pagliaro
Year 11 Student
NATIONAL COMPUTER SCIENCE SCHOOL

Over the holidays, we, along with 100 other students from across Australia, were selected to attend a Summer School with the National Computer Science School at the University of Sydney. For 10 days, we stayed at the Women’s College in the University of Sydney, where we were able to experience life living in dorms. For the duration of the Summer School, we had lectures and lab sessions, in which we learnt new and advanced skills in different programming languages such as Python, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, SQLite and C. We were put into one of two streams: Python and Embedded Systems. The Python stream had to develop a social media website while the Embedded Systems stream had to create an interactive game using arduino boards.

In the evenings we did fun activities such as trivia, a scavenger hunt around the university, theatre sports, an official dinner, and also a programming and crypto/hacking competition. These activities were a great way for us to get to know the other students and tutors while both having fun and learning about programming. Our highlights from the Summer School were the site visits. We visited IT companies such as WiseTech Global, Atlassian and Google. Each company gave us a tour and employees talked about their experiences working there and also how they got into Computer Science in the first place. The site visits were a great experience because we were given the opportunity to see how the IT industry really is and how it would be for us if we were to choose it as a career path.

It was an amazing opportunity to go to summer school, where we learnt from the country’s best tutors, professors and students. It also helped to change our ideas of the IT industry and made us consider choosing a career in IT or software development. We also made great friends from all over the country, as we shared many inside jokes and memories with them. NCSS was a once in a lifetime experience and we were so fortunate to have been selected to attend.

Aretha Peethamparam and Sherangi Boteju
Year 11 Students

HEALTH CENTRE NEWS

The Health Centre has structured procedures ensuring the needs of all students at Avila College are well maintained. Welcome to the Year 7s in 2015 and any students new to Avila College.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want to discuss any aspect of your daughter’s health. It is essential that parents notify me about changes or updates to their daughter’s medical condition.

Anaphylaxis, Allergy, Seizure and Asthma plans must be updated annually for school. Allergy, Anaphylaxis and Asthma forms require a doctor’s signature. If you need a new form, I have them in stock. All staff at Avila College need to be aware of students who have high risk medical issues and the forms spell out the treatment required. All staff at Avila College are committed to your daughter’s physical and mental wellbeing and returning the forms as soon as possible helps us look after your daughter and her medical condition.

Cathy Angus
Registered Nurse
Phone: 9831 9646
Email: cangus@avilacollege.vic.edu.au
SPORT NEWS
We have literally hit the ground running with Sport at Avila in 2015. Tennis, Diving, Swimming, Aerobics and Indoor Cricket have already begun trials and Athletics will begin next week. We encourage all students to try out for a sporting team in 2015. Keep an eye on the bulletin each day for updates on trials and trainings.

Upcoming Trials and Trainings
- Tennis – Tuesday 3.30-4.30pm on the Avila Courts
- Diving – Monday 6.45-7.45am at Aqualink Box Hill
- Swimming – Wednesday and Friday 7-8am at Just Swimming Sydneal
- Aerobics – Tuesday and Thursday 7-8am in the Avila Gym
- Athletics – will begin Tuesday February 17 3.30-4.30pm

Upcoming Tournaments
- The Genazzano Swim Meet, Friday February 13, 4-6pm at Genazzano JCJ College, 301 Cotham Road, Kew
- SCSA Tennis – Thursday March 5 at the Geelong Tennis Club, Geelong

Breakfast Reminder
A reminder to students and parents that after each morning training session there is breakfast available in the dining room. Breakfast normally consists of toast and cereal. It is very important for students to eat breakfast after their morning training and before heading off to class for the day.

Our 2015 Sport Captains (Pictured below L-R)
Year 12 Sport Captain – Tamara Ludekens
Year 12 Sport Vice Captain – Tayla Hope
Year 11 Sport Captain – Erin Flatters
Year 10 Sport Captain – Jorjia Cotte
Year 9 Sport Captain – Abbey Goullet

Carly Randle
Sports Co-Ordinator
American Basketball Trip 2014
From the fresh air and city lights in Down Town Seattle, to having the opportunity to step onto the court at one of the most famous basketball arenas, The Staples Centre, there was a range to see and do whilst traveling and playing basketball. From Saturday 6 of December to Tuesday 23 December Tamara Ludekens, Yasmine Cook, Tayla Sloggett and I had a once in a lifetime opportunity to travel to the United States to play basketball.

Our time consisted of endless road rips from anywhere between one minute to six hours, five different hotels, six home stays, four flights, four school days, three NBA games, one college game, Disneyland, The University of Oregon Visit and eight high quality basketball matches. With ten girls, four parents and three coaches the trip was highly successful.

One of my personal highlights of the trip was visiting the University of Oregon as it is the leading college facility in the United States. As college basketball is something many of us aspire to play in the future, this exclusive tour of the University gave us all an insight into ‘college life’ and the type of commitment and work that is required to play at such a high level.

Throughout our travels on the West Coast, from Seattle to Clarkston, to the Tri Cities, down to Colton, back up to Portland, then to Oregon and finally finishing in Los Angeles we had the opportunity to play eight different High School Varsity basketball squads. We, as the Kesborough Cougars, were more than content to return home to Australia with six wins and two losses. These amazing results demonstrated the positive outcomes of the hard work and dedication the girls had to training twelve weeks prior.

Although the stress of Year 12 preparation was quickly looming for most of us, we would not change this golden opportunity for any other.

Tayla Hope
Sport Vice-Captain and Basketball Captain

NETBALL PLAYERS REQUIRED FROM YEARS 7-10
Registrations are now open until the Monday 16 of February.

The Saturday season at Waverley District commences Saturday 14 March
St Michael’s Netball Club plays in the Waverley District Netball Association
All games are played at Ashwood Courts, (Cnr Cassinia Avenue & Farmer Street, Ashwood)
Training is at Ashwood Courts (Tuesday afternoons from 4.15pm – to be confirmed)
(St Michael’s Coaches all attend coaching workshops for accreditation)

If you want to join in and play netball with a friendly and vibrant club, please go to the St Michael’s Netball Club website at http://stmichaelsnc.com.au/; and follow the links for online registration and payment.

How Do I register?
✓ Please go to the St Michaels Netball Club website http://stmichaelsnc.com.au/
✓ Follow the instructions and links to our online registration system – Sportsubs
✓ Pay fees, VNA Membership and ordering of netball dresses through Sportsubs

Direct any enquiries to secretary@stmichaelsnc.com.au.
TWILIGHT MOVIE NIGHT

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
SECRET OF THE TOMB

FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2015
ST SIMONS PRIMARY SCHOOL OVAL
ROWVILLE
GATES OPEN AT 7 PM
ADULT $7
CHILD (UNDER 16) $5
FAMILY OF 4 $20
BYO OR FOOD AVAILABLE FOR SALE

TICKETS ONLINE:
TRYBOOKING.COM/GVKQ
TRYBOOKING.COM/119928
MAZENOD UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

IT’S NOT JUST A BOYS CLUB!

HURRY!
Limited places GIRLS
Under 13/14 Team
SEASON 2015

NEW Under 13/14 GIRLS Team in 2015!

Join MUFC! One of Melbourne’s most successful Football Clubs!

• Open to GIRLS 13-14 years in 2015 – all abilities welcome
• Quality FFA accredited coaching
• Fun, professional & supportive environment
• State of the art sporting facilities – FIFA approved grass & synthetic pitches

For more information, call:
Burt Michael - MUFC Junior Coordinator
m. 0417 011 715 e. b michael@netspace.net.au