Dear members of the Avila community,

Last Wednesday the school community gathered in House Groups to mark the beginning of the Season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service. I would like to acknowledge the thought and preparation for this service undertaken by our student Faith and Mission Captains. They wrote reflection pieces that were shared with staff and students and urged us all to make a difference to the people we interact with by not only supporting Project Compassion but by doing something extra and offering meaningful compliments to people we all encounter. The aim is not only to contribute at a community level via the Project Compassion campaign but also on a more personal level by spreading a positive message to others. Thanks are also extended to Renee Fleeton, Director of Faith and Mission who planned the Lenten reflections.

Over the first few weeks of this Golden Jubilee year we have held information evenings for Years 7-12. I would like to thank all parents who attended these evenings and had the chance to meet key Avila staff including Year Level Coordinators, Homeroom teachers, school counselors as well as members of the College Leadership and Executive teams. These evenings also provide an opportunity to meet with other parents and hear from the guest speakers who covered topics relevant to all parents.

While our numbers for the Year 7 Welcome Picnic were somewhat lower this year due to poor weather, I would like to thank those families who packed their picnic rugs and food and enjoyed great conversations while being entertained by some of our very talented musicians and student leaders who organised games for children to be involved in.

Our next major focus for our Golden Jubilee Year is our Carnival and Open Day on Saturday 21 March from 10am – 2pm. I urge all families to support the Parents and Friends Association who are organising this event and please encourage your friends to come along and enjoy the many activities that are planned for the day. Please refer to the report on Page 6 from our PFA president, Loretta Stapleton, seeking your help.

It was a pleasure to attend the Year 12 Formal last Friday evening at Brighton International with our young ladies who looked stunning. I would like to thank the VCAL students who helped organise this evening as well as the large number of staff in attendance.

I encourage parents to join us either during or towards the later part of our twilight house swimming carnival that this year, which will be held from 1.15pm-6.00pm on Monday 2 March at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre in Albert Park. We are holding the event in the outdoor, undercover swimming pool, which will be a great opportunity to see our very talented swimmers in action.

Community news:

Congratulations are extended to Justin Cash (staff member) and his wife Sally following the birth of their daughter Lucy Juliette on 17 February.

With blessings to everyone in our Golden Jubilee Year,

Louise Gunther
Principal

Cover image: (L-R) Year 12 students, Sarah Wisniewski and Sophia Hanger, at the Ash Wednesday Service.
FAITH NEWS
Ash Wednesday and the Launch of Caritas’ – Project Compassion at Avila

Last week we celebrated the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday services held in House groups. Each member of our community was called to reflect on our relationship with God, each other and the world. Further to this our community considered the three traditional disciplines of the season during the service – Prayer, Fasting and Alms Giving. Our students and staff were asked to consider how we could pay forward the good fortune we have by nature of living in Australia. The act did not need to be big; rather it needed to be sincere.

With this in mind our Faith and Mission captains used the opportunity to launch Caritas’ – Project Compassion awareness and fundraising project. This year the theme is “Food for Life” and aims to support the poorest people to establish sustainable food sources for life and decrease food insecurity that so many experience. We encourage all families to support Project Compassion during Lent. Each class has been given a Project Compassion box to fill with donations and loose change until our Easter break, with families in the junior school receiving individual boxes. Should other families wish to have a box for their home, please contact your daughter’s homeroom teacher to arrange for one to be sent. We aim to raise much-needed funds for those in greater need than ourselves and look forward to the generous support given each year by Avila families.

May God bless your family this Easter season.

Renee Fleeton
Director of Faith and Mission

LEARNING AND TEACHING NEWS

ORAL REPORTS- YEARS 7 - 12
3:15 – 8:30pm Wednesday 18 March
3:15 – 8:30pm Tuesday 24 March

One of the forms of reporting used at Avila College is the Oral Report meeting. In many schools Oral Reports are referred to as Parent-Teacher-Student interviews. The Oral Report meetings at Avila provide opportunities for students, parents and teachers to discuss an individual student’s progress and to work together to develop strategies to enhance learning.

Bookings will open later this week for Term 1 Oral Report meetings. Please note that the online booking system is different this year. Parents need to make bookings by using the Parent Access Module (PAM). All parents should have their usernames and passwords for PAM. If parents are unsure of their PAM details, they may ask their daughter to retrieve them via a link on the student portal of SIMON.

Mindful of the parents’ busy lives, we have scheduled two dates for all students in Years 7-12 in the fortnight of Term 1. Parents should select the day and time which suits them best. Classes for all students will conclude for the term at 3:15pm on Thursday 26 March.

All Oral Report meetings are held in the Hall with a few spilling into the front (stage area) of Bunjil. Interviews are only five minutes in length so if a longer appointment is required, the five minute meeting may be used to identify a suitable alternative time to chat with a specific teacher. Each teacher will have many parents to meet with at the Oral Reports so parents are asked to assist teachers by being aware that only five minutes are allocated. If a student has a particular teacher for multiple subjects, only the one appointment slot should be booked. If more time is required, a date can be arranged for that to occur subsequently. Students are expected to accompany their parents to the meetings to discuss their learning.

We urge parents to book early to secure their preferred time slot. If circumstances change, parents can return to the booking program and alter bookings up to 5pm on Tuesday 17 March. If there are concerns or problems with booking interviews, parents should contact the IT Help Desk at the College.

Madeleine Franken
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

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

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

HOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

In our Golden Jubilee year we are excited that our College House Swimming Carnival will be an afternoon/twilight event allowing parents and families to join us at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC), Albert Park on Monday 2 March. This new venue will amplify the atmosphere and house spirit and we encourage families to join us throughout the afternoon. All students are expected to attend, and will need to arrive at the pool by 1:15pm. The carnival is expected to conclude at 6pm. Upon arrival and for dismissal students will be required to report to their Year Level Coordinator. We are looking forward to our parents and families joining us for this carnival and encourage them also to dress in house colours.

Location: Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC) is located within Albert Park precinct, situated on the edge of Albert Park Lake on Aughtie Drive. The main vehicular entry to the Centre is off Aughtie Drive (Melways ref 2K, D7)

Entry and Exit to MSAC: Outdoor Pool - enter via Aquatic Entry, not Main Entry (See map below left)

Collection at the end of the carnival: If parents are not coming to the carnival, to assist with the collection of students at the conclusion of the carnival, we ask that parents clarify a meeting spot with their daughter prior to the conclusion of the meet. There are many areas in the vicinity of the venue that would make for safe pick-up. Please see map below for parking and pick up points.

Public Transport: Both prior and after the carnival the college will have staff supervision at tram stops out the front of MSAC, as well as staff supervising road crossings.

Arrival public transport options: Students may travel on the Glen Waverley train line to Flinders St Station. From outside Flinders St Station, catch Tram Route 1 (to Sth Melbourne beach), get off tram at corner of Park St and Clarendon St, cross road and catch Tram Route 112 (to St Kilda) to MSAC.

Departure public transport options: Tram Route 96 on Canterbury Rd and Route 112 on Albert Rd both go via Southern Cross Station, Spencer Street.

Car Parking: There are three main car parks: multi-deck (off Albert Rd), Southern (behind sports hall) and Lakeside (near South Melbourne Soccer ground). Parking is also available on Canterbury Rd and MSAC can be accessed via pedestrian tunnel at Wright Street Station. Information regarding parking and entry to MSAC can be found at http://www.melbournesportshub.com.au/msac/contact-us/

Program of events: A program of events is has been emailed to all students and is available to students and parents via SIMON homepage.

Rebecca Cetrola
Deputy Principal Administration

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PASTORAL CARE

Raising Non-Materialistic Children in a Material World

After our children have gone back to school and households return to some order, many parents will now have the time to have a really good tidy up. A new school year brings a time to re-assess what we no longer need and clothes that have been outgrown. Parents might be quite taken aback with just how much ‘stuff’ our children own. ‘Stuff’ that gives them a short time of happiness when the toy is new and novel, or the electronic device is the latest model; however, we know that often that happiness is short-lived.

There is a lot of literature about how the accumulation of wealth and material possessions affects children. The researchers found that experiencing low life satisfaction led to higher materialism in children who frequently watched television. This was attributed to advertising, which often equates owning material possessions with happiness e.g. Coca Cola’s motto “Open Happiness”. In particular, the authors noted that advertising may teach unhappy children that material items can help them cope with feelings of low life satisfaction.

Research suggests that a high level of materialism during childhood may even decrease life satisfaction, happiness, vitality, social cooperation and environmentally sustainable behaviours, as well as increased depression, anxiety, racism and antisocial behaviour (Twenge and Kasser, 2013).

So what can we do if we want to teach our children to live a less materialistic life?

- Limit exposure to advertisements
- Minimise the importance of possessions
- Educate children about the techniques used by the media
- Teach children about other sources of happiness, such as family time, friendships, music and play
- Value the time, not the money you spend on family
- Reward with praise and your company, not gifts
- Avoid bribing for good behaviour
- Teach children to do chores and acts of kindness without expectation of reimbursement

Like all parents you want your children to live happy, satisfied lives and there is nothing wrong with encouraging them to strive for financial security but we need to be mindful of the hidden messages we send. After all, having fewer possessions to buy, clean and de-clutter means more time for spending with your children. Sounds good!


Parent Support Agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sleep Unit</th>
<th>Mitcham Private Hospital, Mitcham</th>
<th>For diagnosis &amp; treatment of sleep problems &amp; disorders for teenagers and adults. Useful websites: <a href="http://www.sleep.org.au">www.sleep.org.au</a> and <a href="http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au">www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mitcham Unit</td>
<td>Uniting Care, Knox Ozone, 1012 Little Burwood Highway, Wantirna South. Mondays to Fridays ongoing from 9am-6pm. Phone Intake Team 9871 8700.</td>
<td>Addressing Youth/Parent Conflict 12-17 year olds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stronger Families Program</td>
<td>Connecting Teens</td>
<td>Social group for teens with Asperger’s ASD/ADHD &amp; similar traits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Power Neighbourhood House, 54 Power Ave, Ashwood Friday 2–4pm / Sat pm during school term. $80.00 per term. Phone Carol 9807 3589 or 0432 150 799.

Regards,
The Pastoral Team
DISCOVERY LEARNING UPDATE

2015 promises to be another exciting year for the Discovery Learning Program at Avila. Our new Year 7 and 9 camp programs, run in conjunction with the Outdoor Education Group, were hugely successful in 2014 and will run again this year. Students in Years 7 and 9 will head off on their camp programs on Tuesday March 10, returning on Friday March 13. These programs have been developed specifically for Avila, and are a compulsory part of our curriculum. Students participating in these programs can find more information on the Avila portal on the OEG website. These portals can be accessed by clicking on the ‘Schools Login’ button, searching for ‘Avila’, and entered using the password ‘discover2015’. A packing list can also be found on this site. Information confirming departure and arrival times and emergency contact procedures will be sent out in the coming days.

Students in Year 8 will again participate in the City Experience program this year, which is again running in partnership with City Cite. Students in 8 Blue, Gold, Green and Orange will participate in the City Experience program from May 11 – 15, and 8 Pink, Purple, Red and Silver from October 5 – 9. Parents are reminded that the City Experience program culminates in a parent presentation ceremony on the Friday evening, attendance at which is compulsory for students. Further information for all students will be disseminated shortly, and medical forms for those participating in the May program will be sent out later in Term One.

Marina Kelly
Discovery Learning Co-ordinator

YEAR 7 MACBOOK BOOTCAMP

Around 12 hours after receiving their MacBook Air - fresh out of the wrapper – our new Year 7 students were plunged into the depths of active learning at Avila. The 2015 MacBook BootCamp was redesigned to promote collaborative learning and problem solving. Groups of students were issued challenges; searching, exploring, experimenting and sharing their findings with each other.

“We were all impressed by the breadth and depth of learning of the students this year. Posing challenges and guiding students sets them up to be able to find their own solutions to problems they encounter in the future.” said Mr Isma, Year 7 IT Teacher and Professional Practice Leader.

Have a look at some of the tweets of our Year 7s, reflecting on their Bootcamp experience. If you want to follow some of our staff on Twitter, subscribe to the Avila educators list: https://twitter.com/catmandogwoof/lists/avilaeducators.
CELEBRATING OUR PAST, CREATING OUR FUTURE

At the College Assembly on the Friday 30 January, the Year 12 student leaders announced that the theme for 2015 will be ‘Celebrating our past, creating our future’.

Much time and energy went into getting the wording of the theme just right. However, the Year 12 student leaders were always very clear that they wanted the theme for the year to encapsulate the spirit of Avila College’s Golden Jubilee celebrations.

The Jubilee is an opportunity to commemorate past students, families, teachers and principals who have contributed to the life of the College over the past 50 years, and who have helped to shape the school that we know today. This year of celebration is also a chance for current Avila students to recognise the part they play in determining the future of Avila College. The Year 12 student leaders hope that their theme will help the Avila College community to understand the significance of the Golden Jubilee in 2015, and will encourage members to celebrate joyously with both gratitude for the past and hope for the future.

The Year 12 student leaders have already proven themselves to be a cohesive team, keen to collaborate and share ideas. At the Year 12 Leaders’ Day on Thursday 29 January, with the help of many staff members, they were given an opportunity to think about the skills that will be crucial to their success this year as individual leaders and as a team. After the workshops, the student leaders and their parents gathered at Avila College to share a meal together. Thanks are extended to both the staff and parents who attended in the evening, and to all who provided food to share. It was wonderful to have an opportunity to meet the parents of our Year 12 leaders and to begin the year in partnership.

Madelaine Scott-Jones
Student Leadership Co-ordinator
YEAR 9 LEADERSHIP

At the beginning of the year our Year 9 student leaders were inducted at our opening level assembly. This group will represent the voice of Year 9 students. Throughout the year they will be presented with many opportunities to develop their skills and expand their leadership portfolio.

Janine Bauman
Year 9 Level Co-ordinator

“Life Shrinks or expands in proportion to One’s Courage” is our theme for this year. We aim to be inspired and use this as our guide to an outstanding year, and so far 2015 for Year 9 has been great. We began the year with various subjects, many of our own choice. This has allowed us to have an insight into what we may be interested in for the future and it has all the girls excited. We are also celebrating our Golden Jubilee, which includes many activities such as our recent Golden Jubilee Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral and the upcoming Carnival in March. With so many exciting opportunities around the corner, we are excited, motivated and feel empowered to make responsible choices about our future paths as a Year 9 learning community.

Year 9 Student Leaders

Pictured: Year 9 Leadership Team
Front row (L-R):
Faith and Mission Captain: Tiana Chandraratne, Chisholm: Katia Vascon, MacKillop: Vicki Andritsos, Public Speaking Captain: Stephanie Issaevitch, Music Captain: Michelle Lee
Back row (L-R): Sports Captain: Abbey Goullet, Drama Captain: Olivia Bruce, Flynn: Emma Deegan, Nagle: Rebecca Darbyshire, Art Captain: Kate Tidswell
MEET... THE HOUSE CAPTAINS

Flynn House Captain

My name is Georgia Stapleton and I feel privileged to be Flynn House Captain for 2015. Not only am I excited to have such a dynamic role, but leading during our Golden Jubilee is exciting. Since Year 7, I have always been willing to create an enriching school experience that has not only formed lasting friendships but irreplaceable memories I can smile about in years to come. Being involved in multiple sports, drama activities and debating competitions has, without a doubt, helped form me to be who I am today. In Year 10, I took advantage of one of the many amazing opportunities Avila has to offer which was the French Study Tour in 2013. Having the ability to utilise what we had practiced in the classroom and apply it throughout the trip only enriched our understanding. This is just one example that has truly given me an appreciation for the endless possibilities the Avila Community has on offer. The theme ‘Celebrating Our Past, Creating Our Future’ is something our whole school will work closely by. To reflect on the accomplishments Avila has already achieved in the past 50 years is an indication of the future accomplishments yet to be made in the next 50 years. As a community, the enthusiasm and involvement is what will make our Golden Jubilee a year to remember.

Chisholm House Captain

What an exciting time to be privileged with the position of Chisholm House Captain. My Name is Hannah Jack and I am looking forward to my leadership role this year, particularly as house activities and competitions will not only involve sport, but will also extend to other areas of the College. Throughout my time at Avila I have enjoyed being involved in what our school has to offer, through sporting events and other extracurricular activities. I have been fortunate to participate in Avila Drama events, such as Year 10 Drama Festival and Creative Arts, and appreciate the opportunities I've had through my involvement in the Reconciliation group and the Santa Teresa Immersion. I enjoy participating each year in Avila netball teams and competing at House Athletics and Swimming. This year I hope to encourage Chisholm girls to be involved, and acknowledge their achievements in house sports and extracurricular activities. I aim to maximise our house participation and continue to embrace the house spirit for which Chisholm girls are renown. I look forward to working with the younger Chisholm house leaders and the rest of the leadership team.

Nagle House Captain

My name is Stephanie Della Penna and I feel extremely privileged to be the Nagle House Captain during this momentous year in Avila’s history, our Golden Jubilee Year. Since my first year at Avila, I have always aspired to becoming a leader of our school and this goal has motivated me whilst participating in school-work and extra-curricular activities. I have always hoped to be able to strengthen the house spirit in Avila College, and through my participation in sports and college life, I hope that this year, I will be able to do so. Through the newly designed roles, my fellow House Captains and I, along with the help of our College Captains, will strive to create a more meaningful house spirit within the College as we celebrate our past and create the future. Through my years at Avila I have learnt that participation is key. Therefore, we hope that together, students can increase their participation by embracing the outstanding variety of activities, which are available to them. Go Nagle!

MacKillop House Captain

My name is Leah Oirbans and this year I have the honour and privilege of leading MacKillop house as the Year 12 House Captain. It’s so exciting to be able to work alongside such an amazing leadership team in this 50th year and help houses become a large part of the Avila community. As a captain I hope to foster house spirit and encourage students in all year levels to get involved in school life and their house. I want students to be proud of being a part of MacKillop, and lay the foundations of many events that will eventually become yearly attractions students look forward to attending. During my time at Avila, I have been encouraged by my teachers to follow my passion for many subjects, and have been involved in many aspects of school. I have been able to cultivate my love of academics by participating in the ICAS science and Australian maths competitions. Since being at Avila, I have learned Indonesian and have been lucky enough to visit Indonesia twice, on a school study tour and on exchange, to further develop my language and appreciate the rich culture of the country. I have been included in sporting teams, fundraising events, Creative Arts in both acting and dancing and as an ambassador for the school on Opening mornings. Representing Avila at any kind of event is always an honour, and it is amazing to see and meet other students, and this is what I wish to embody as house captain.
DRAMA NEWS

2015 is sure to be another engaging and creative year in the Drama Department and there are lots of exciting events already happening. Auditions have taken place for this year’s Avila Mazenod Musical, which is the all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza of Joseph. Congratulations to all girls who auditioned.

Junior Drama Club has also commenced and runs on a Monday at lunchtime in the Drama Rooms and is open to all girls in Years 7 and 8 students. We will be working towards an item for this year's Creative Arts Festival.

Speaking of which, preparations for Sisters reAct, Avila's Creative Arts Festival for 2015, have begun and students should keep their eyes on the bulletin for announcements of sign-ups and auditions which will take place over the coming weeks.

TOP CLASS

Ellena Hocking (2014), Natalie Bentivegna (2014) and Georgia Muling (2014) were invited by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority to audition for the prestigious Top Class Drama program to be held at the Melbourne Recital Centre in March. The girls’ invitations to audition were based on high scoring solo performance examinations in Year 12 Drama last October. We are very pleased to announce that Ellena and Natalie have been selected to perform in Top Class. Ellena will be presenting her solo character of The Worker on Wednesday 11 March 2015 in the 10:30am concert and Natalie will be performing The Socialite at the 2pm concert on Thursday 12 March. The Year 11 and Year 12 students studying Drama will be attending these concerts to support Ellena and Natalie and to see the excellence on display from all over the state.

HOWARD FINE ACTING STUDIO ACCEPTS CATHERINE SMITH

We would also like to congratulate Catherine Smith (2014) who has been accepted into the Howard Fine Full Time Acting Studio. Catherine successfully auditioned for a place in this course, and was the youngest individual to be selected from over a thousand applicants. This comprehensive and meticulous course has been developed by world renowned, award winning acting coach Howard Fine, who has worked closely with Uta Hagen, as well as actors such as Oscar Winner Jennifer Connelly, Bradley Cooper, and Brad Pitt. This one-year full-time program aims to fully transform an actor’s voice, body and mind, to create independent, disciplined, and tenacious actors.

OUR 2015 DRAMA CAPTAINS (Pictured below L-R)

Year 12 Drama Captain – Lauren Ramsey
Year 12 Drama Vice-Captain – Eliza Engellenner
Year 11 Drama Captain – Caitlyn Quinn
Year 10 Drama Captain – Lauren Gabriele
Year 9 Drama Captain – Olivia Bruce

Darcie Kane-Priestley
Performing Arts Co-ordinator
MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY

Last year I was privileged enough to be accepted into the Melbourne Theatre Company (MTC) Ambassador Program alongside twenty-four other Year 11 theatre-lovers from different schools across Victoria. Our role was to act as youth representatives within the Company, and advocate for the MTC within our school and social communities. In the year-long program we met regularly and attended MTC productions, heard from guest speakers, and critically discussed the different productions. It was a journey of inspiring encounters, unique opportunities and invaluable insights.

As part of the program, we were taken on a tour of the MTC Headquarters and the Sumner Theatre; which revealed the many intricacies in each stage of the production process. We also had the chance to meet MTC’s Executive Director, Producer, Dramaturg, Production Design Coordinators, Casting Director and Executive, acclaimed directors Sam Strong and Leticia Cáceres, and actors and actresses; notably Zahra Newman. Each special guest spoke about how they came to be in their positions. I was inspired by each of their stories; and feel fortunate to have heard their exclusive insights about the inner workings of the competitive industry.

The program showed the many ways in which theatre can communicate messages and ideas. The play, “The Effect” explored the sensitive themes of depression and the pharmaceutical industry, epitomising the power of theatre to delve into themes and evoke deep reflection in the audience. Another highlight was seeing the three-person play “The Sublime”. It confronted and challenged the audience through its intense portrayal of sports star media scandals.

The entertaining beauty of theatre was evident in numerous uplifting performances throughout the year. Robyn Nevin warmed audience’s hearts in “Neighbourhood Watch”; a beautiful and moving tale of the blossoming of unlikely friendships. The one woman musical, “Pennsylvania Avenue” received a well-deserved standing ovation and left each audience member toe tapping the whole way home! We had the opportunity simply to enjoy a play’s entertaining quality without dissecting its conventions and dramatic elements, as opposed to watching theatre for school drama. On the other hand we were also able to delve into the unanswered questions and complexity of other plays. Through having this opportunity to see the world of theatre through both of these lenses and purposes, I now feel further passionate about the impact that the theatre and acting have on my life.

The exchanging of views and opinions on different productions with like-minded students was greatly beneficial. The questions posed by the MTC Education Coordinator Claire and Suzie allowed us to engage in in-depth discussions that were an extension from Drama studies at school. I definitely feel that being selected as an MTC Ambassador has not only extended the critical skills I need for studying Year 12 Drama this year; but I have also seen benefits which I can apply to all of my subjects. It challenged me to analyse language and generate ideas from what is presented to me in a more reflective and creative manner.

I am so thankful to the Melbourne Theatre Company and Avila for accepting and encouraging me to take part in this program. The friendships that I developed with fellow Ambassadors and the experiences we shared together were instrumental in instilling my passion for theatre in all its forms. Being an MTC Ambassador allowed me to gain a true appreciation and understanding of theatre and its reflection upon humanity; as after all; “all the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players.”

Sophia Elliott
Year 12 Student
SANTA TERESA

Past College DUX Genevieve Townsend and current Avila Student and College Vice-Captain (Community), Sophia Elliott continued Avila’s commitment to reconciliation and travelled independently in their holidays to Santa Teresa. Avila College runs an annual Immersion trip to the Northern Territory and spends time with the community of Santa Teresa. This opportunity is open to Year 10 Students and offers our students a chance to appreciate the richness and uniqueness of Arrernte Aboriginal culture, artwork, spirituality and language. The Immersion has elements of social justice, with our awareness being raised about the injustices faced by Aboriginal people in Central Australia. Year 10 students will be offered the chance to apply for this Immersion in the coming weeks.

Darcie Kane-Priestley
Immersion (Indigenous) Co-ordinator

On Saturday 6 December 2014, I embarked on a journey to the Northern Territory to the Aboriginal community of Santa Teresa. I stayed in the community for a week with an ex-student of Avila, Genevieve Townsend. The unique insights I gained, the relationships that grew, and the cultural understanding that was strengthened made the week an incredible journey that will definitely stay with me and guide my life choices in the future.

Avila’s strong relationship with the community was evident the whole time I was there. The mention of “Avila” would bring a smile to many faces in the community. At the End of Year Christmas Party at the Community Centre the elderly people of the community gratefully received gifts that had been organised by Miss Kane-Priestley and donated by Avila students. Wherever we assisted at and spent time in; whether that be in the School, the Spirituality Centre, the Crèche or the Community Centre; everyone was so welcoming. I am so grateful for all the wonderful community members for accepting and allowing us to gain a much deeper understanding of their rich and sacred culture.

Being able to witness the wealth of knowledge and wisdom in Santa Teresa was truly special. The powerful sense of faith of the community made the overall experience extremely spiritual. The people of Santa Teresa have such powerful connections to one another and their land; which is further strengthened by their Catholic faith, as well as their Arrernte tradition. The trip opened my eyed through seeing first-hand the injustices that are faced by the Indigenous people across Central Australia. It definitely confirmed my will to work in Human Rights in the future; working towards equal opportunity for Indigenous Australians. Furthermore, the successful Youth Programs set up in the community and run by youth leaders epitomised the power of young people to make positive change in the world around us. Getting to know the strong women of the Community Centre was also definitely a highlight. These inspirational women have such integral roles for the functioning and wellbeing of the community.

I was truly inspired by the community of Santa Teresa. I long to be back in the serene landscape and to see the beautiful people again who welcomed Gen and I so warmly. Being able to walk with, listen to and learn from such strong and spiritual people was completely unique; and I know that I will hold these insights sacred for the rest of my life.

Sophia Elliott
College Vice-Captain (Community)
YEARS 12 FORMAL

Since the beginning of the year, the Year 12 corridor has been filled with euphoric excitement as students have looked forward to their Year 12 Formal, which was to be held at the Brighton International on Friday 20 February, 2015. Finally the time had come and what a night it was!

Congratulations must go to all students and their respective partners for the manner in which they presented and conducted themselves throughout the evening. Their behaviour was impeccable!

Such occasions are important milestones and celebrations to be enjoyed. These sentiments were echoed by students who were quoted as saying, “It was a fun filled, fabulous night”, where “…everyone looked glamorous” and “Hollywood ready” to “uptown funk” the evening away. The dance floor reverberated, as eager staff attempted to outdo some of the students by showing off their ‘impressive’ dance moves. The Venue was “elaborate” and the food was “amazing”. “A most perfect and memorable night.”

The evening saw the successful culmination of much preparation and planning. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincerest thanks to all the people involved in making the evening possible; in particular: the VCAL students, Jenny Dunn, Kate Macklin, Lisa Meaklin, Amelia Smith, Nicola Taylor and Lourdes Rank, the staff who attended and to all the parents/guardians who helped make the evening a memorable one for their daughters.

Anna Marvelli
Year 12 Level Co-ordinator
PFA REPORT

Twilight House Swimming Carnival
The PFA is looking forward to seeing many parents at the Twilight Swimming Carnival, next Monday 2 March at MSAC, which starts at 1.15pm and concludes at 6.00pm. It will be a great event and gives us as parents the opportunity to cheer for our daughters and their House.

The Golden Jubilee Carnival and Open Day is Coming
Be sure to mark Saturday 21 March in your diary, as it will be a wonderful Avila community day. The Carnival and Open Day will be held at the college from 10am to 2pm and there will be loads of fun for the whole family.
There will be Carnival rides, an animal farm, stalls, an expo, house activities, entertainment from students and delicious food. The KIIS FM Street Team will also have plenty of giveaways on the day.
School Tours will run throughout the day, so please be sure to spread the word to all of your friends. Visitors can register online via the college website.

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
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.

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

Cake Stall
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 would be asking for the sweet treats to be dropped off the Friday before or the morning of the Carnival.

Book, CD, DVD Stall
“Is it time you cleaned out your bookshelf and music collection? If so, please have a clean out and donate all items in good condition to the Carnival Book, DVD and CD Stall. Just drop them off at the Main Office.

Expo
We are inviting a number of small businesses that make jewellery, candles and craft items to the carnival to display and sell their wares. If you or someone you know would like a stall at the carnival please email pfa@avilacollege.vic.edu.au but don’t delay, as places are limited.

Raffle
Tickets will soon be on sale for the raffle at just $2 each of 3 for $5. 1st prize is a travel voucher for $2,000, 2nd prize is a Gold Class Party for 30 people and 3rd prize is a $500 Westfield voucher.

Year 7 Families Welcome Picnic
Thanks to all families who joined us for the Year 7 Families Welcome Picnic. Despite the inclement weather, a great time was had by all and the music from our talented Avila students was a delight to hear. Thank you to the PFA members who came along to welcome new families to the college.

Contact
If you would like to contact the PFA please email pfa@avilacollege.vic.edu.au

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
Wanted Stall Holders

Avila College Carnival
Saturday 21 March 2015
10am – 2pm

Avila College is a catholic girls’ secondary school with strong links to the local community, located in Charles Street, Mount Waverley. The college has more than 1100 students.

As part of our 50th anniversary celebrations this year we are holding a Carnival and Open Day from 10am to 2pm on Saturday 21 March.

The Carnival and Open Day will have school tours, rides, an animal farm, entertainment, musical performances and food stalls. It is a major event on our calendar for 2015 attracting members of the Avila community as well as from the general public. We anticipate there will be a very large crowd in attendance.

We are having a market area at the carnival and are seeking stallholders that will bring diversity and color to the event.

The site fee will be $50.00 and we can provide trestle table and two chairs if required. Bump in will be from 8am and pack down after 2pm. Please note there is no on site parking available.

To register your interest in having a stall at the Avila Carnival and Open Day please contact Karen Roache on karen@roache.id.au or 0417369151 by Wednesday 4 March.

You will then receive more information about being a stallholder at the Avila College Carnival and Open Day.

Places are limited.
SPORT NEWS

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 Syndal
- **Indoor Cricket** – Wednesday 3.30-4.30pm in the Avila Gym
- **Aerobics** – Tuesday and Thursday 7-8am in the Avila Gym
- **Athletics** – training will continue Tuesday and Thursday afternoons (some trainings will be at Holy Family and some at Bill Sewart check the gym foyer windows for training timetable)

Upcoming Tournaments

SCSA Tennis – Thursday March 5 at the Geelong Tennis Club, Geelong

Our Victorian High Jump Champion!

Congratulations to Monique Louey (pictured right) in Year 8 who competed in the Victorian Under 15 Championships at Albert Park in the High Jump and jumped 1.50 metres! Congratulations to Monique Louey the new Victorian Champion!

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.

*Carly Randle*
Sports Co-ordinator

PATHWAYS NEWS

Congratulations to the class of 2014. 95.55% of students who made paid applications for tertiary places through VTAC received an offer and the remaining 4.45% have been contacted and encouraged to contact institutes and take up negotiated offers. Eleven students from the cohort have chosen to pursue paid employment, apprenticeships or apply directly to TAFE and private providers for places.

All students in Years 9 to 12 have received via email the first Careers Newsletter of the year. This edition’s topics include:

- How can I choose a career?
- Where can I study in Victoria?
- What is the Undergraduate Medical and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT)?
- What is the International Student Admission Test (ISAT)?
- What kind of engineer are you?
- ‘At Monash’ seminars series
- Avalon Airshow
- Veterinary Nursing Associate degrees
- ANU Tuckwell Scholarships

The newsletter is also available via the Careers tab on SIMON under resources.

Interviews and information sessions have now begun with the current Year 12 students, and all students are welcome to visit the Careers hub at lunchtime to browse or see a counsellor.

*Jenny Dunn and Geraldine McKenna*
Pathways and Careers Counselors