Dear members of the Avila community,
This past fortnight has provided some memorable opportunities for our College community to come together and rejoice. On Thursday 15 October we gathered together to celebrate Avila Day with even more significance this year as it not only marked this day of commemoration for the College during our Golden Jubilee Year but also coincided with the 500th anniversary of the birth of St Teresa of Avila. The day commenced with a memorable Eucharist concelebrated by Fr Elio Capra sbd and Fr Christian Fini OMI where we were joined by many parents and visitors including principals, staff and students from Presentation College Windsor, Mazenod, St John’s Dandenong, Holy Family Primary School, Good Shepherd Primary School, St Mary Magdalen’s Primary School and St Simon’s Rowville. The Eucharist was a wonderful way to start our feast day and I would like to acknowledge the preparation and organization of this Eucharist by Renee Fleeton, Director of Faith and Mission and Roxane Lascaris, Music Co-ordinator for the wonderful music and choir that we all appreciated. The Eucharist concluded with the official blessing of our statue of St Teresa by Sr Maria Lazzaro pbvm, Congregation Leader of the Presentation Sisters and our former College Chaplain (pictured right).

The remainder of the day was filled with College activities for all staff and students to be involved in and I would like to extend a sincere thanks to the numerous staff and students who were involved in the planning and delivery that made this day, in the words of many students, “the best Avila Day ever.”

On Monday 19 October we said thanks and farewell to our Year 12 students of 2015. They conducted themselves in a most appropriate way with many recognizable heroes of the past 50 years greeting staff and students as they arrived at the college for their last day. Following a shared breakfast with the staff and a final assembly with the whole school, that evening we celebrated with family and friends in a final Graduation Eucharist and Dinner at Caulfield Racecourse. Thanks are extended to Fr. Brendan Dillon, our celebrant, Renee Fleeton and Roxane Lascaris who brought this Eucharist together so credibly. I would also like to make mention of Anna Marvelli, Year 12 Co-ordinator, the Year 12 homeroom teachers and subject teachers who have played a key role in supporting these students throughout the year. We remember in our prayers our students who commence their exams on Wednesday 28 October.

Community news:
Our new student leaders for 2016 have been announced and I would like to congratulate: Caitlyn Quinn (College Captain), Danielle Darbyshire (College Vice-Captain Faith and Mission) and Amelia David (College Vice-Captain Community). Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to perform in next year’s Time To Shine Concert organized by Catholic Education Melbourne; Inalya Altmann will perform with the Orchestra playing the flute, Amalia Cuda will perform as a dancer and Sarah Lambourne will perform as a musician sharing her skills in playing both the harp and piano.

We welcome to the Avila College community Caroline Bando who has been appointed to a new role in the College – Human Resources and Compliance Manager. Caroline has a wealth of industry and educational experience that will support various management areas of the college.

A reminder that all parents are invited to join our College Assembly followed by morning tea this Friday 30 October. Please RSVP to avila@avilacollege.vic.edu.au

With blessings to everyone in our Golden Jubilee Year,
Louise Gunther
Principal

Cover image: Sr Maria Lazzaro pbvm blessing the statue of St Teresa of Avila
AVILA DAY

As a College community we celebrated a very spirited Avila Day on Thursday 15 October. The day coincided with the 500th anniversary of the birth of St Teresa of Avila and, of course, the Golden Jubilee celebrations of our College. We were fortunate to have Sr Maria Lazaro pbvm, and Sr Michele Kennan pbvm present as well as principals, staff and students from Presentation College Windsor, St John’s Dandenong, Mazenod College and many local primary schools to join us for the Eucharist. Following the service, Sr Maria blessed the statue of St Teresa, which stands in St Teresa’s Garden. Students, staff and other guests watched this exciting event via live feed.

The festivities continued with the inaugural Avila Feud. Many laughs were shared as representatives from the four Houses competed against each other, as well as with staff, for the right to be declared the first winner of this competition. Congratulations to the staff on a memorable victory. The schoolyard transformed into a carnival to rival any summer fair. All members of the College Community were united through their love of all things Avila, as they enjoyed food, games and the pumping tunes of DJ Milz (Mr Bernardo) in the Hall.

The day concluded with a series of ‘Happy Birthday Avila’ video messages from young people across the world and most specially, the sealing of a time capsule. This will be opened in 50 years when the College celebrates its 100th Avila Day.

We would like to express our gratitude to all staff and students involved in making Avila Day such a success. This occasion will be fondly remembered as a spirited celebration of our College, as well as the rich life of St Teresa of Avila.

Catherine Pagliaro, Chloe Azarraga, Claudia Colaneri, Melanie Linden
Year 11 House Captains

Pictured above (L-R): Top: Students decorating cupcakes and enjoying the disco.
Bottom: Lauren Radnell, Georgia Stapleton, Louise Gunther and Christiana David and students watching Avila Feud.
AVILA ART AND DESIGN EXHIBITION, 2015

This year’s exhibition coincided with Avila’s Golden Jubilee celebrations. Situated in the Hall and Gathering space, works of excellence were featured from Years 7-12.

From the Technologies Learning Area, there were stunning folios and interactive presentations on display. Parents and visitors were impressed with the quality and complexity of the work produced by our students from Year 7 to Year 12.

On Wednesday evening, Year 11 Food and Technology students conducted cooking demonstrations, using an indigenous ingredient, in response to a design brief. The 3D printer was busy throughout the show, “printing” a coffee mug. At two distinct times, everyone stopped to watch the spectacular fashion parade. A new addition to the parade was seeing and hearing the Year 12 designers on the screen describing the concepts behind their designs.

Visual Arts displayed a range of artworks including animations, stencils, product designs, Google Sketch up scenarios, lino prints, sculptures, mandalas, photographs, resin light boxes, installations, paintings and drawings. A sample of the work presented included:

- A Year 10 group ceramic tea party project
- Ciara Clarissee’s curved projection onto bottles using a 3D mapping program similar to White Night (Year 12 Studio Arts-Photography)
- Chloe Di Mieri’s surreal table installation and iced cubes of memories (Year 12 Studio Arts-Photography)
- Stephanie Le Sueur’s resin light box piece (Year 12 Studio Arts-Painting and Drawing)
- Year 7 pastel drawings
- Year 8 ceramics
- Colouring Competition winner Nerin Thomas from Good Shepherd Primary School, (pictured above with Louise Gunther) selected from over 60 entries.

Each Year 12 Visual Communication Design student became a graphic designer, creating a business logo for an imaginary client. They also designed art galleries, posters, advertisements and the surface graphics for an automobile, food and beverage packaging, stationery items, personal products, giftware and clothing.

Well done to the students whose work were on display.

Special thanks to all who participated in making this show a special one to remember.

Jane Fleming and Ziad Baroudi
Art and Technologies Curriculum Leaders
CLASS OF 2015, YEAR 12 GRADUATION

Graduation is an important milestone. It signifies the end of one journey and the start of another. Last Monday evening, we had the opportunity to honor the achievements of the class of 2015 and pay tribute to these successes, as well as acknowledge the people who have been part of the journey.

During the ceremony College Captain, Angela Stapleton delivered the following address:

My thanks go to Ms Gunther and to the Leadership Team, our teachers, families and friends. On behalf of the Year 12 Class of 2015, I would like to express our appreciation to you all for sharing this very important occasion with us. My name is Angela Stapleton and it has been the utmost privilege to represent this cohort throughout our Golden Jubilee Year.

Tonight is an emotional one for us all. As a year level we have shared many years of highs and lows, of challenges and achievements. The last 6 years have shaped us and it all culminates in our graduation from Avila College this evening. The thought of leaving a community we have all become so fond of is sad. I will miss the daily routines, the pick ups and drop offs to 35 Charles Street and the conversations that happened on those journeys; the sage words of advice on the way to a big day and the debrief afterwards.

This year, the year 12 leaders chose the theme ‘celebrating our past, creating our future’. Our time at Avila has helped us to begin to create our future. When I think about all the rich experiences I’ve had at the college, I imagine them as splashes of colour on what was otherwise a reasonably blank canvas.

Many of our canvases have a splash of baby pink across them from year 7. As new year 7’s many of us were shy and naive, new to our environment in enormous blazers. Avila felt unknown and huge at first but quickly became a safe haven. For some of us this baby pink has a smear of red through it reminding us of the beautiful soul that was Mrs Samson.

As we moved on to year 8, we had our first opportunity to choose a colour for our canvas. We felt like empowered learners when we filled out subject selection forms, for the first time choosing our subjects and direction of study. The dominant shade of year 9 has to be orange, vibrant and in your face, year 9 stands out like sore thumb. It was for many of us a tricky year; not a child any more but not a grown up either. With hormones raging, Mazenod boys looming, and a corridor all to ourselves (for obvious reasons).

Now I’m not sure what’s on your canvas for year 10 because we were presented with such an amazing array of varied opportunities that we took up in different ways. Some of us went on the Santa Teresa Immersion, others of us travelled to Indonesia and France and we all engaged in community service of some sort. However, I am pretty certain that somewhere on our canvas is a sprinkling of MacBook silver glitter.

Green is a colour of balance and growth and I think it represents our senior years. Our senior years have been years of challenges, social and intellectual growth. The love of our families and friends and the unwavering support of our teachers have provided the balance that has been so important to our success in Years 11 and 12.

I think when the College looks back on the Class of 2015 they will remember our creativity. If life isn’t about finding yourself, and it is about creating yourself, we can see the beginning of some incredible masterpieces in our year level. Another thing the College will remember us for is our school spirit and the energy that we have put into making the College’s 50th anniversary a memorable one for the entire Avila community. We’ve been a part of Avila’s history, and as seen on Avila Day, helped create the future of the College by being models of energy for our peers.

It’s been quite a journey for us as the Class of 2015. We are here tonight as a group of young women, strong, confident, capable and compassionate and for that we cannot thank the Avila College community, our friends and family enough.

“This world is but a canvas to our imagination” and I cannot wait to see how your masterpiece turns out.

Pictured Above: (L-R): Hannah Jach, Isobel Smith and Paige McDonald; Angela Stapleton and Stephanie Vecchio with their Graduation Certificates and Eva von Struppi with her parents Ivan and Mary Ann.
To The Class Of 2015...

It has been a time of great celebration as the school year has drawn to an end.

There are always mixed emotions when we say our final farewells, the sadness of saying goodbye to people who have been such a big part of our lives over a long period is contradicted by the sense of joy we share as we reflect on the past six years.

You leave in the knowledge that your contribution to Avila College history is almost complete. Your contribution as a group has been unique and you should be very proud of what you have achieved. You have shown great loyalty to each other and a lasting impression that resonates is one of being a united, genuinely friendly, and caring group. Your strength has come through the friendships you have shared and the relationships you have forged with both your peers and teachers. You have demonstrated strong leadership in many areas and a commitment to service.

The next few weeks will be a time of great excitement, hard work and effort but hopefully a time where you will reap the rewards of your commitment. It is a time where you might feel some trepidation as you prepare to transition from a school environment where you have been nurtured and cared for to the unknown (either the workforce or university) but, no doubt, filled with potential for so many opportunities. You have the capacity to do so much; always remember to make good choices as these can shape the journey of your life.

As women of faith who have contributed to the rich tapestry of the Avila community, we know that you will go confidently in the direction of your dreams and be ambassadors for the kind of world you want to live in. We wish you the brightest future filled with hopes, dreams and promises of a wonderful life.

Anna Marvelli
Year 12 Co-ordinator

Farewell From The Samson family

A very poignant moment in the Class of 2015’s final assembly was the reading by Mrs Marvelli of a letter that had been sent by the family of Mrs Rita Samson, a much loved member of the Avila teaching staff and the Homeroom Teacher of 7 Red in 2010 - the year our graduates first became Avila girls. Mrs Samson died suddenly the night before she and they were to head off on camp. Mrs Samson loved her students and was a devotedly pastoral teacher. It is very special that her family has been thinking of our students and their progress across the years. This was their message to the students:

To Avila's Year 12 class,
Some of you would have been taught by Mrs Samson in Year 7 in 2010 and, so, as the end of your school life draws to an end we write, as Mrs Samson’s family, to wish you well...
Mrs Samson always embraced life with great enthusiasm and passion, and we know she always hoped her students would do the same.
We trust that your time at Avila since Year 7 has helped to inspire each of you to go out into the world and make a difference, each in your own way, as Mrs Samson did, and with care and compassion and with a zest for life.
Our warmest wishes surround you at this important time in your lives.
Mrs Samson’s family.

Enclosed was this prayer:

A Creed to Live By

Don’t undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others.
It is because we are different that each of us is special.
Don’t set your goals by what other people deem important. Only you know what is best for you.
Don’t take for granted the things closest to your heart.
Cling to them as you would your life - for without them life is meaningless.
Don’t let your life slip through your fingers. By living your life one day at a time you live all the days of your life.
Don’t give up when you still have something to give.
Don’t be afraid to admit that you are less than perfect. It is this fragile thread that binds us to each other.
Don’t be afraid to encounter risks. It is by taking chances that we learn to be brave.
Don’t shut love out of your life by saying it’s impossible to find. The quickest way to receive love is to give love: the fastest way to lose love is to hold it too tightly; and the best way to love is to give it wings.
We each deserve to love and be loved.
Don’t dismiss your dreams. To be without dreams is to be without hope; to be without hope is to be without purpose.
Don’t run through so fast that you forget not only where you’ve been but also where you are going.
Make each day count - life is precious and short. Life is not a race, but a journey to be savoured each step of the way.
LEARNING AND TEACHING NEWS

Subject selection confirmation for 2016

All students currently in Years 9, 10 and 11 have been issued with details of their subject allocations for 2016. When the final pieces of the timetable grid are finalized in the next couple of weeks, students in Years 7 and 8 will be given booklists and written confirmation of their subjects for 2016.

Booklists

As more and more of the resources used become digital, Avila College has decided not to set up a private list for the sale of second-hand books this year. Instead, we suggest that parents may like to use any of the publicly listed websites such as eBay or Gumtree or others. This will enable parents to have a greater chance of re-selling a resource, even if students at Avila College are not using it in 2016. We remind parents that it is the purchaser’s responsibility to check that they have purchased the correct edition and, that if digital resources are required, that they have a code that is transferable and valid for 2016, CD etc.

Students are reminded that to have the required resources for HeadStart, booklists for Years 11 & 12 need to be submitted online to Campion by 30 October. All other orders may be submitted to Campion by 3 December. Hard copies of booklist orders cannot be submitted to Avila’s General Office. All orders must be lodged online directly with Campion.

Campion will distribute senior students’ orders, including oversized items, from the Gathering Space between 12:30 and 4:00pm on Tuesday 17 November. We encourage parents either to make arrangements to pick up their daughters and their booklisted resources or to send a family member or friend with a car to collect purchases between these times. Uncollected items will not be retained at the College; instead, they will go back to Campion for collection at a later date by the family.

Madeleine Franken
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

DEBATING NEWS

British Parliamentary Debating is a fast paced and exciting form of debating. It mimics the style of parliamentary debates that allow for interjections to which the speaker must reply. The Debaters Association of Victoria hosts this competition once a year for both juniors and seniors.

Last weekend a group of our Year 7 and 8 students competed in this challenging competition, often debating against students older than themselves. It was a great opportunity for them to develop skills in impromptu speaking; secret topic preparation and debating manner. They saw some excellent debaters at work and we even had a win on the day, although we were not overall winners.

Well done to Sinead Kelly, Amy Cheshire, Alexandria Peake, Olivia Gomatos, Pooja Soni and Emma Moran on a conscientious and brave effort.

Christine Valladares
Public Speaking and Debating Co-ordinator

Pictured above: Emma Moran and Pooja Soni listening to advice from the adjudicator

CANTEEN ROSTER

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BUILDING BRIDGES

Over the course of this year, 12 students in Year 10 were selected to take part in a Building Bridges Interfaith Dialogue program. This program and sharing provided an opportunity for young people like us to share our experiences of faith or life-values with each other.

The Building Bridges Interfaith Dialogue project aims to assist secondary students of different faiths, religions, cultures and values in Years 10 and 11 to build bridges of trust and friendship. We learnt key skills of dialogue and shared personal experiences of our lives, which have shaped us. These served as foundations to negotiate, respect and engage with each other’s differences and commonalities.

The schools that were a part of the Eastern Region program were Minaret College, Caulfield Grammar School, Mt Scopus, Aquinas College, Luther College, Emmaus College, Donvale Christian School and Avila College. The religions presented to us were very diverse, from Lutheran to Hindu, to Jewish and Islam.

This program definitely challenged us mentally. It gave us the opportunity to question our own religion, as well as other, more complex, religions and faiths. It helped us broaden our knowledge in regards to other customs and traditions, and how those customs affect other people’s lives daily.

Personally, this experience opened my eyes and made me much more aware of the challenges, struggles, excitement and importance of faith to others. The people I met changed my way of thinking, helped me become more open-minded and considerate of other customs and cultural values I previously would not have thought twice about. Overall, I can say on behalf of all the girls who did the program, we all learnt a lot more than we anticipated, and made many strong connections with people of different faiths that will help us in the future.

Emily Camilleri
Year 10 Student

Pictured: Year 10 Students on the Building bridges program
PFA REPORT

World Teachers’ Day Lunch

On behalf of all Avila families the PFA hosted a lunch in the Gathering Space for all Avila Staff on Friday 23 October.

The lunch coincided with World Teachers’ Day and it was a fantastic opportunity to thank the dedicated teachers and staff at Avila for all they do for our daughters. We know we are blessed to have them teach and guide our girls and the lunch was a small token of our appreciation.

Thanks to the many families who donated delicious salads and desserts for the event. We would like to acknowledge the very kind gesture of Jenny Graha whose daughter is a student at Avila. Jenny donated forty Nandos chickens, which was very much appreciated by all at the lunch.

We would also like to thank URL Land Rover from Malvern who donated the door prize of the use of a new Land Rover Evoque for a weekend. We also had some minor door prizes for some lucky members of the Avila Staff.

Events such as preparing lunch for over 100 people do not just happen and my thanks go to the co-ordinator of the function, PFA member Karen Roache. Karen worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of the lunch. Her organisational skills are amazing and she manages to do it all with a minimum of fuss; many thanks again to you, Karen.

Class Reps 2016

We have an exciting 2016 planned and are going to introduce a new Class Rep system at Avila College to further strengthen ties in our parent community. You will soon be receiving a message via Caremonkey asking you to:

Grant permission for your contact details to be included on a class list. The lists will be used by the College to provide invitations to class social functions, approximately two per year, and, nominate as a Class Rep for 2016. We are seeking to appoint two Class Reps for each year level. Their main job will be to organise two social functions for their year level each year.

We are looking forward to bringing in the Class Rep system early in 2016 and we encourage you to consider taking up this role.

New Members

We are looking for new members to join the PFA in 2016. We meet once each month on a weeknight at the College and I would like to say it is so enjoyable working with a wonderful group of fun and committed Avila parents. Please email pfa@avilacollege.vic.edu.au if you would like to join us.

Wasana Fernando
PFA President

Pictured above: Annie Opray, Director of Marketing and Development, Louise Gunther, Principal and Wasana Fernando, PFA President.
PATHWAYS AND CAREER NEWS

Reminders:
Year 12 VTAC late applications – throughout October until 6 November

Coffee @ Burnley – Wednesday 28 October
On Wednesday 28 October, between 10-11am, the Faculty of Science will be hosting Coffee @ Burnley; an informal information session for students interested in horticulture, urban planning, and garden design.

Prospective students are invited to come along and chat to one of our friendly Academics about courses in these fields, and the career opportunities available in a relaxed environment over a coffee.

If you think your students would be interested in this event, please pass on the details via the following link: https://events.unimelb.edu.au/events/5873-coffee-burnley.

ConocoPhillips Science Experience Camp
The ConocoPhillips Science Experience Camp is designed for students in Years 9–10 and will provide them with an opportunity to engage with agricultural scientists and students in hands-on activities in the lab and paddock. They will also get to see first-hand how agricultural scientists contribute to real world issues at our Dookie campus, which is a working farm and a centre for agricultural and food science research.

Dates: 25–27 November 2015 Location: Dookie campus Cost: $120
Register here: http://bit.ly/1MiG4In
MORE INFO:
scienceexperience.com.au
bsc.unimelb.edu.au

Access Monash Ambassador program – applications now open
The Access Monash Ambassador program is an exciting opportunity for students who want to make a difference. Current Year 12 students who are planning to study at Monash next year can apply to become an Access Monash Ambassador (AMA). AMAs work with the Access Monash team to inspire and inform students in under-represented communities about higher education. AMAs are involved in a range of activities including mentoring, on-campus tours and presentations, in-school programs, Q&A panels, and more.

AMAs are considered for the Monash Community Leaders Scholarship ($4000 per year), and have the opportunity to develop their leadership, public speaking and teamwork skills.

For further information and to apply, visit: monash.edu.au/access/about-ama.html. Applications close on Friday 30 October 2015.

Parent / Alumnae request for Year 9 Careers Days
Tuesday 1 December and Thursday 3 December are our Year 9 Careers Days. We always try to make these days as interesting and relevant for our students as possible. We would like to invite any parents or College Alumnae who would be willing to run a 20 minute workshop / presentation / discussion about their career to contact us. We would like to expose the students to a range of career options in trades, construction, engineering, creative arts, health or any other sector. Please email Jenny Dunn (jdunn@avilacollege.vic.edu.au) or Geraldine McKenna (gmckenna@avilacollege.vic.edu.au) in the first instance with your expression of interest.

All students have been emailed the latest Career News newsletter. A copy of the Newsletter is available on Avila’s Careers Guidance site (see link on Simon).

Jenny Dunn - Pathways Leader
Geraldine McKenna - Careers Adviser
TALL TALES

YEAR 10 DRAMA FEST 2015
28 October 7:30 pm
29 October 4 pm & 7:30 pm
Old Lecture Theatre

www.avilacollege.vic.edu.au, news, events, bookings