Dear members of the Avila community,

As our busy Term 1 draws to a close, it is appropriate to reflect on the many and varied learning opportunities that our students have been afforded at Avila College throughout the term. Always wanting to ‘inspire our students today for tomorrow’ our Year 7 and 9 students have just returned from their respective camp experiences which form part of our Discovery Learning program here at the college. Our Year 10 students completed their Community Service placements that provided them with a valuable experience in giving service to members of our wider community. In addition 29 Year 10 and 11 students who study Australian and Global Politics or Legal Studies ventured to Canberra last week and toured the many educational and historical facilities and were fortunate to meet with Anna Burke, Federal member for Chisholm at Parliament House. Last week was also Catholic Education Week and we had staff and students attend the Archbishop’s Eucharist on St Patrick’s Day along with many other Catholic primary and secondary school representatives from the Melbourne dioceses. We also had student representation at the Archbishop’s Conversation with young people held at St Bernard’s College, Essendon. I would like to thank the wide range of staff who gave of their time in both the planning and implementation of these programs that extend the learning well beyond the classroom.

This past week I was most fortunate to undertake a week of principal’s enrichment leave to attend a conference in Suzhou, China along with fellow educational leaders from throughout Australia. The conference organised by connecEDaustralia was focused around responding to a White Paper titled, “Australia in the Asian Century” 2015 published by the Australian Government. Throughout the week the program included lectures, Tai Chi classes, Mandarin Language classes, some cultural excursions and a visit to a secondary school where students showed us the fine art of calligraphy. We engaged in music and art classes as well as provided students with a chance to practise their English language skills with us. As part of the conference we were also challenged with the question of how we as educators are curating the future of learning in our schools.

Community news:
Congratulations to Amanda Disilvestro (Year 12, 2016) who has been awarded a Premier’s VCE Award in acknowledgement of her outstanding result in VCE Spanish last year.

Thoughts and prayers are extended to the family and friends of Margaret Ryan, former Avila staff member in the 1970s and early 1980s, who passed away last week.

Staffing Updates:
We say farewell and thanks to Russell Curr who has been our Systems Co-ordinator for many years. Russell has been a staff member for the past 24 and a 1/2 years, commenced initially as an Economics teacher at the college. After 14 and a 1/2 years of service to our school community, Colleen Burns, from our front reception will be leaving. Most of you would know Colleen in particular as the voice on the phone handling our main reception inquiries.

Next term Madeleine Franken Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching will be on Long Service Leave and Angela Torelli (our current English Curriculum Leader) will take on this role for the term. Marie Stuart will also be on long service leave for the term and Geraldine McKenna will be away for the first four weeks.

We have commenced Holy Week leading up to Easter Sunday marking the resurrection of Jesus. Various times for Holy Family Parish services have been included in this newsletter. As this is our last newsletter for the term I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of the Avila community a peaceful and relaxing term break and look forward to seeing everyone when classes commence on Monday 11 April.

With blessings to everyone in this year of Mercy,

Louise Gunther
Principal

Cover image: Year 7 Students on camp at Marysville

FROM THE PRINCIPAL
CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
The Annual Reporting Meeting of the Avila College Board was held on the 8 March 2016. The reports presented and tabled by the Chair, Principal, Deputy Principals, Staff Representative and other Leadership Representatives informed those gathered about the direction, activities and achievements of the College community over 2015 in a diverse range of areas. Of particular note within these reports, was the outstanding success of the celebrations, which occurred during 2015 to celebrate Avila College’s Golden Jubilee. All past and present members of the community – staff, parents, students, friends and family were included, welcomed and participated in these uniquely Avila events.

At the Annual Reporting Meeting, the Avila College Board farewelled and thanked three retiring Parish Representatives: Kerry Wilson from Good Shepherd Parish, Loretta Hyland from St Mary Magdalen’s Parish and Maria Lentini from St Leonard’s Parish. Through their service, participation and commitment to the Board and the Avila College Community, Kerry, Loretta and Maria have contributed positively to the sound tradition of Founding Parish Representatives on the Avila College Board and encouraged the continued development and growth of our wonderful community. Thank you sincerely Kerry, Loretta and Maria.

Following this, the Board warmly welcomed Jodie Wyllie, a current parent and Avila Alumnae, from Good Shepherd Parish. We look forward to Jodie’s contributions to the Avila College Board and the College community.

The first Reporting Meeting occurred immediately after the Annual Reporting Meeting and I now highlight several Agenda items relating directly to Board Business.

Board Members agreed to improve Board Visibility in the community over 2016, by increased participation in Avila College daytime and evening calendar events.

Board Members considered a revised Draft of the Avila Board Constitution, reflecting proposals considered by the Board at a meeting held in November 2015. Following discussions a new revised draft will again be considered at our June Board meeting, before seeking the approval of the Archbishop.

The Board agreed that the Constitution Working party will now be renamed Board Development Working Party. The tasks for this working party will include various actions arising from the revision of the Constitution including the development of a Board Handbook, a key document to support the Board Constitution.

Sally-Anne Petrie
Chairperson
Avila College Board

UNIFORM CHANGEOVER
Changeover to Winter Uniform: The changeover period from summer to winter uniform will be 11 April through to 24 April. All students need to be in winter uniform on Tuesday 26 April 2016.

ATTENDANCE OF STUDENTS OVER THE TERM BREAK
Students are asked not to attend the College over the term break unless they have had notification from their teacher that an additional class has been organised. We ask that all visitors sign in at the General Office.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICE TIMES
The Catholic Parish of The Holy Family, Mount Waverley Easter Mass times are as follows:

- Holy Thursday 24 March: 7.30pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper followed by Adoration until Midnight.
- Good Friday 25 March: Stations of the Cross – 9.15am, Confession – 9.45am – 10.30am, Ecumenical Stations of the Cross – 11.15am, St Johns Uniting Church, Virginia Street, Mount Waverley, Celebration of the Lord’s Passion – 3.00pm, Confession – 4.00pm
- Holy Saturday 26 March: No Confession or morning Mass, Easter Vigil Mass – 8.00pm
- Easter Sunday 27 March, Masses: 8.45am, 10.30am, 12.00 noon (Korean Mass), no Evening Mass

For other Easter Service times in the Glen Waverley district, please see http://glenwaverleychurches.org/news.xml
LEARNING AND TEACHING

Congratulations
Avila Art teacher Mrs Anne-Maree Wise was awarded a Commendation for her artistic talent and fund raising for cancer research from the City of Casey at last week’s Council meeting. Anne-Maree’s paintings have been reviewed favourably in a number of exhibitions over the past twelve months. We are proud to have such talented teachers who are practitioners in their teaching specialty. We congratulate Anne-Maree on this award.

Oral Report Bookings Now Open
3:15 – 8:30pm Thursday 14 April
3:15 – 8:30pm Tuesday 19 April
Classes will finish at 1:10 pm on both days
All parents are reminded that bookings for Oral Reports need to be made using their PAM logins. Once in PAM, parents should click on the link to Parent Teacher Interviews in the top right corner. For more detailed instructions, including screen shots, please see Avila College Newsletter published on 8 March 2016.

We encourage all students to attend with their parents to discuss progress and to plan for future learning. The informality of such meetings can ease anxieties and provide a useful opportunity to develop a better understanding of what will help each student to succeed. Although interviews are limited to five minutes each, if a longer time is required with a specific teacher, the Oral Report meeting can be used to make individual arrangements to continue discussion or review again at a time negotiated early in Term 2.

We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible so that students can take stock and address areas needing attention at the beginning of Term 2.

Parents need to make bookings by using the Parent Access Module (PAM). All parents should have their user names 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.

Bookings may be altered up to 5:00pm on Wednesday 13 April but early booking is advised. Please note carefully whether your booking is for Thursday 14 April or the following week on Tuesday 19 April.

If there are problems associated with making bookings, please contact the IT Help Desk at the College support@avilacollege.vic.edu.au or 9831 9634.

Term 2 Staffing Change
Parents and students are advised that Ms Angela Torelli will be Acting Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching during Term 2 whilst Mrs Madeleine Franken is on Long Service Leave. One of the key responsibilities she will have will include overseeing the administration of the NAPLAN tests scheduled for Years 7 and 9 on 10, 11 and 12 May.

Any other queries related to subject changes or learning and teaching should be directed to Ms Angela Torelli.

Ms Torelli’s normal duties as English Curriculum Leader will be undertaken by Mrs Louise Swift during Term 2.

Madeleine Franken
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

CSEF APPLICATION FORM
Please be advised that the CSEF application form (previously EMA Form) closing date for submission was Monday 29 February 2016. This is a reminder that if you have not already sent the forms back to the General Office, to please ensure you complete an application and submit no later than Thursday 24 March (last day of term).

To finalise your application please attach a copy of your health care card.

To obtain a copy of the CSEF form please go to http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/csef.aspx

Gabrielle Jones
Family Accounts
FAITH NEWS

Conversation with the Archbishop

On Friday 11 March, Danielle Darbyshire, Maeve Gill and Amelia David had the privilege of attending a Conversation with Archbishop Denis Hart (pictured top right). We got to meet fellow Catholic school leaders as we took part in activities and discussion around the Catholic Church’s Year of Mercy. We were encouraged to take on the mission of spreading mercy in the community, through the words of the Archbishop himself and Catholic Diocesan Youth representatives. A memorable analogy of the day was when we were asked to spread mercy like a ‘hose’ attached to God’s ‘tap of Mercy.’ As leaders we were inspired to be an example of mercy in our school community through simple acts like forgiving others or supporting those less fortunate than ourselves. We were able to engage on the day with student leaders from Catholic schools across Victoria and together we joined with the Archbishop who shared his wisdom and experience about issues facing us as Catholic teens in a Q&A session. This provided us with answers as well as extra knowledge to share with our peers. It was a great opportunity that inspired us to be the light in the world and better leaders in our school. Many thanks go to Ms Marino who made sure we all had a smile on our face throughout the day and took us safely there and back.

Amelia David and Danielle Darbyshire
College Vice-Captain: Community and College Vice-Captain: Faith and Mission

Catholic Education Week

This week Avila College joined other schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne to celebrate Catholic Education Week. The theme for this annual event this year is Be the Face of Mercy, inspired by this year’s extraordinary Year of Mercy and our mission as Catholic Schools. Four representatives from Year 11 – Carly Lim, Isabella MacDonald, Sarah Ward and Gabbi Lobo (pictured below right) were present where more than 300 schools, led by Celtic pipers, joined together in prayer. The girls commented that it was amazing to see so many primary and secondary schools gathered in one place celebrating the birth of St. Patrick as a unified congregation. Archbishop Denis Hart’s homily was insightful, encouraging us to go forth and spread the Word of Christ through our deeds and action just as St Patrick did.

Year 10 Reflection Day

The program for the Year 10 Reflection day invited the students to explore their own actions and to experience God as they come to understand themselves more fully as adult Christians. They were called to reflect on their upcoming Community Service placement and the potential for them to enact their gifts from God in the community in which they will serve. The day commenced with Mass at Holy Family celebrated by Father Nicholas Pearce who encouraged the girls to follow the Gospel message and to go forth and be Christ-like to those they encounter during their placement. The girls were involved in a range of activities throughout the day to help prepare them for their week of Community Service.

Carmela Marino
Acting Director of Faith and Mission
COMMUNITY SERVICE 2016
Community Service is an integral part of the Religious Education program at Avila College. It is an opportunity for nearly 200 Year 10 students to live out the words of St Teresa of Ávila, Christ has no body now, but yours. No hands, no feet on earth, but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion into the world. Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world.

The planning and preparation for Community Service began late in Term 4 last year. Students were asked to practise the Gospel values of compassion, love and service. Local organisations such as op shops, special development schools and aged care facilities were contacted by students for a placement. The feedback from the placements has been overwhelmingly positive with many of them disappointed that the students had to return to school. “A delight, helpful, lovely, punctual, shows initiative, hard worker, great girl!” were some of the words used to describe our students. Parents should be very proud of the actions of their daughters who were the hands, feet and eyes of Christ last week.

Kate Johnston
Religious Education Curriculum Leader
YEAR 7 CAMP
Our Year 7 Camp at Marysville is about much more than simply providing the College’s newest learners with an initial experience of outdoor education. This camp plays a key part in our transition program; it is a catalyst for personal development and for the formation of new relationships with their teachers and peers.

Throughout the week, students stretched themselves physically and mentally on the climbing tower, in canoes and during off-road cycling. They explored the township and gained a new understanding of the power of the human spirit to ‘bounce back’ in times of adversity, just as the people of Marysville have done since the catastrophic bushfires of Black Saturday, 2009. They showed initiative on the ropes course and bouldering wall and got their hands dirty in the sustainable kitchen garden. In spite of some initial reservations about camping, they rallied together to set up tents and cook an evening meal together. They also enjoyed some stargazing and many viewed the moon through binoculars and telescopes for the first time.

Our theme for 2016 is “Every Voice Counts” and this was certainly the case at Camp Marysville. I commend the Year 7 students on the way that they communicated so positively with each other, ensuring that all voices were heard and that all students experienced feelings of unconditional support as they faced the challenges of the program. I extend my thanks to the incredible staff who accompanied the girls during the week, challenging them to stretch their comfort zones and build their capacity for teamwork and problem solving. Such examples of servant leadership remind me just how lucky I am to be a member of this incredible Avila College family.

Catherine Spurritt
Year 7 Co-ordinator

Above: Year 7 students on camp at Marysville
YEAR 9 CAMP
As Year 9 set off on Tuesday morning, the excitement levels were high, everyone eagerly awaiting the opportunity to immerse themselves in an interesting and challenging program. Year 9 Camp provided us with many opportunities to think positively and thoughtfully, as throughout the camp we were challenged with issues to overcome, both physically and mentally. Throughout the four days we spent at Lake Eildon, it was clearly evident that many girls transformed into experienced hikers and canoers. They also became inspired and open-minded students, working together and making difficult decisions as a team. Resilience was a key characteristic that was definitely needed, and many girls exhibited this through helping their peers. At the end of the program, a stronger, more resilient and positive side shone through, even after a whole day hiking or canoeing in the rain! Camp gave us many enriching experiences and memories that will be treasured in years to come.

Year 9 camp gave us the opportunity to connect and appreciate the great outdoors. It definitely provided us some challenges and obstacles, but we soon learned from them and it was definitely an endearing and educational experience that we will remember. Whilst camping at Lake Eildon we took part in two activities: for two days we canoed and for the other two we hiked. Whilst spending time on this camp we developed many qualities and good values such as resilience, teamwork and leadership skills. We also became very grateful for all we have at home such as our comfortable beds and hot showers. This camp tested our boundaries, physically and mentally. Each of us used optimism and supportive attitudes towards each other to help each of us rise to obstacles along the way. Spending time at Lake Eildon was an educational experience for all of us and it will not be forgotten.

Special thanks to all the teachers who supported us during this learning journey and in particular, a big thank you to Ms Flynn, Discovery Learning Co-ordinator.

Sarah Ang, Emma Gare, Chloé Smith and Chiara Smith
Year 9 Student Leaders
CANBERRA STUDY TOUR
On Tuesday 15 March, 29 Year 10 and 11 students travelled to Canberra to explore some of the nation’s major civic institutions. The trip is a compulsory part of the Australian and Global Politics course and students undertaking Unit 1 of Legal Studies are also given the chance to be involved. We stayed at the halls of residence at the Australian Institute of Sport, mingling with visiting athletic, basketball, netball and volleyball teams. After dinner, the group toured the Institute of Sport led by Alex, one of the road cyclists residing at the AIS.

Our first appointment on Wednesday morning was at the National Capital Exhibition on the banks of Lake Burley-Griffin where the process of choosing the location and layout of the city was explained. A drive-by of many of the foreign embassies followed, the group attempting to attach an identity to many of the buildings based on the distinctive architecture.

The highlight of Wednesday afternoon was a visit to Parliament House and the opportunity to observe question time in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Federal member for the electorate of Chisholm, Ms Anna Burke, joined us after question time. She answered questions about life as a parliamentarian and the challenges and achievements accompanying it. Bowling at Belconnen Bowl rounded out a full day; Svetlana Reay was crowned as the Canberra Study Tour bowling champion.

Our first official Thursday session was at the Museum of Australian Democracy where some of the girls assumed roles in a re-enactment of one of the most significant events in our political history, the sacking of the Whitlam government in 1975. After lunch, we visited the High Court where the role and function of the court was outlined to us.

Friday morning was spent at the War Memorial, a tour focusing on aspects of Australia’s involvement in WWII. The girls were then free to explore other displays and exhibits and also, as some did, to pay respect to their relatives killed in conflict. After lunch, we made the second of two visits to Old Parliament House, participating in a program focusing on Australia’s electoral processes run by the Electoral Commission. From there it was a short drive to the airport and a flight back to Melbourne. At the airport, some of the girls were lucky to see Senator Penny Wong who happily posed for a photo.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit Canberra as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist parents in meeting the cost of the trip, the Australian Government contributed funding under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution is paid directly to the school.

We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

Phil Cornell, Clare Baker and Fiona Wright
FIRECARRIERS CONFERENCE

The Aboriginal Catholic Ministry has a leadership program operating in Catholic schools throughout Victoria. This is the FIRE Carrier Program (Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education). Avila has been a part of this program since it began. Each year the students involved in educating their communities about Reconciliation meet at a conference. On Friday 11 March, the Fire Carriers and other Reconciliation Group girls attended and participated in a Fire Carriers Conference, which this year was hosted by Avila.

It was a really exciting day as 137 students from many different schools from around Melbourne and Geelong came together to enjoy a day of discussion, debate and learn through participating in a model UN meeting of the General Assembly to discuss recognition of Indigenous peoples and Treaties. The day was facilitated by the United Nations Association of Australia. Students from each school were put into teams and given a country to research and represent and, on the day, we argued in the best interest of our countries to try and create amendments to a draft resolution. The final resolution from the model UN sitting resulted in a set of conditions requiring all member nations to follow about the rights of the First Peoples in their own country which included Constitutional Recognition and providing structures and funds for Indigenous peoples to exercise self-determination. Congratulations to Avila’s Firecarrier captains who led our two teams - Emma Spencer and Zoe Evans.

Even though the day was mostly about coming to a sensible and sustainable resolution for Indigenous people, it was really rewarding as we were able to learn more about politics, the United Nations and Indigenous people around the world. This gave the Rec group members a context for understanding the discussions that are happening in Australia about “Constitutional Recognition” and “Treaty”. As well this, we also got to establish a network with other Firecarriers, make friends and improve our debating and speaking skills.

On the day, we heard from Vicki Clark who taught us more about First People’s rights in Australia. It was a privilege to have her come and speak to us and hear about all the work she does towards reconciling Australia’s peoples.

During the day we had the chance to show other schools our Wominjeka Room and Bunjil’s nest while speaking to students and their teachers about the ways in which we try to lead discussion in our school community and spread awareness of Indigenous issues in Australia through the many events, discussions and projects we have at Avila. This enabled us to get the chance to talk to students from other schools and hear about their experience as Firecarriers and the great work they are also doing.

The day was very successful because of the many people involved in helping with the conference. Thank you to the Reconciliation Group girls who helped with registration, photography and filming.

Roisin Selvarajoo and Emma Spencer
Year 11

Above: Roisin Selvarajoo asking a question at the conference and some of the girls who represented Avila on the day.
AVILA’S BUNJIL MURAL

One of the lovely things that happened at the Firecarriers’ Conference was that two of the participants, a brother and sister, got to see the spectacular artwork of their father. Jahkarli and Jurin are the children of Glen Romanis, the Aboriginal artist whose art installation of Bunjil is an important feature of Avila College. It shows Bunjil soaring over the sacred land upon which Avila sits including Port Phillip Bay, the Yarra, Damper Creek and the five feeder parishes that began Avila. Jahkarli attends Sacred Heart in Geelong and Jurin is at St Josephs. Both young people were surprised, excited and proud at seeing their father’s work. Glen is a very gifted artist whose work adorns the forecourt at St Patrick’s cathedral and Australian Catholic University.

Above: (left) Jahkarli and Jurin in front of the Bunjil mural and (right) their father Glen Romanis working on the installation in 2006.

Christine Valladares
Public Speaking and Debating Co-ordinator

CATCH UP CORNER

Maths help is offered at Catch Up Corner at lunchtimes for students in Years 7 to 10 who need extra help or a more detailed explanation of a more difficult concept.

These sessions are held in Room 66.

Day 1: Mrs Talj  Day 6: Ms C Ryan
Day 2: Ms Cummins  Day 7: Mrs Lloyd
Day 3: Mrs Trifilo  Day 8: Ms Zammicheli
Day 4: Mr Edwards  Day 9: Mrs Smith
Day 5: Ms R Ryan  Day 10: Ms Gilfedder
YEARN 8 GEOGRAPHY EXCURSION

The four Year 8 classes studying Geography this semester went on an excursion to Cape Schank, Flinders and Point Leo on Friday 11 March. The aim of the excursion was to see for ourselves what we have been learning about in class - Coastal Landforms and Landscapes. We took plenty of pictures and many videos to put together a multimedia presentation about coastal processes.

Upon arriving at Cape Schank, we went down the path to the boardwalk. We saw the Cape Schank Lighthouse and went exploring around the rock pools. We went back up the boardwalk and went to a lookout. The view was amazing! It was certainly a photo hotspot.

After a stop at Flinders for lunch, we took the bus to Point Leo. One very windy road later, we arrived. We headed for the beach and made sand castles, wrote words in the sand and watched the waves wash them away. Many of us climbed up the sand dunes or worked on the grass. Everyone was disappointed when it was time to leave. It was a wonderful experience and I hope the girls next semester enjoy it as much as we did.

We now look forward to getting involved in more practical Geography, when we embark upon our City Experience later in the year.

Tiana Pincic
Year 8 Student

TOP CLASS DRAMA SUCCESS!

Avila College is proud to once again have students represented in the annual Top Class Drama concerts, part of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority’s Season of Excellence program.

2015 students Sophia Elliot (College Dux) and Lauren Ramsey were selected by the VCAA to perform their seven-minute Drama solo performance examinations in the concert on Monday 21 March at the Playhouse, Arts Centre.

The VCAA invited four 2015 Avila College Drama students to audition their solo performances for possible inclusion in Top Class Drama. Sarah Lambourne and Hannah Jac were also considered for selection in the program.

Sophia Elliott and Lauren Ramsey performed before a packed house of current Year 12 Drama students. Lauren was invited to be the student speaker at the concert, outlining her creative processes and working routine in order to inspire this year’s Drama students to do similar.

Only perfect score or near-perfect score solo performance examinations in Drama are considered for selection in the Top Class concerts. Avila College has had thirteen students represented in Top Class Drama in the past eleven years, a testament to the strength of the College’s Drama program.

Justin Cash
Drama Co-ordinator

Pictured: Sophia Elliott (top right) and Lauren Ramsey (below right)
VCE GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK
Following a trip to view the site and a survey of the local area at the former Burwood Brickworks, the Unit 3 Geography class were invited to a presentation by the developers at their head office in St Kilda Road. Valerie, Michael and Steve from Fraser Properties gave very generously of their time to share their expertise and knowledge about the Brickworks site, including the history of the site, the current earthworks and the plans for the proposed development. The students gained a great deal of information useful for their fieldwork report, and also appreciated the unique opportunity to experience a corporate environment.

Meanwhile, the Unit 1 class were investigating air pollution in Melbourne’s CBD, in particular current air quality and public opinions regarding air pollution. This was done through observations, surveys and photographic data collection at a range of prominent CBD locations, including Federation Square and Southern Cross station.

After lunch both classes met up at the Melbourne Star Observation Wheel to make further observations relevant to their fieldwork. The Unit 3 students gained a bird’s eye view of relative development sites including Docklands and Fisherman’s Bend, while the Unit 1 students were able to clearly see the smog haze over the city, obscuring the view to the You Yangs.

A rewarding and insightful day was had by all!

Andrea McCann and Marina Kelly
VCE Geography teachers

EXCURSION TO LUNA PARK
The Year 12 Physics class was given the wonderful opportunity to explore the many aspects of physics in the real world in a fun and exciting way.

We went to Luna Park with Mr Van Eyk and Mrs O'Neill, where we were given the opportunity to ride on different roller coaster rides (for free). Going on all the rides we were able to apply our physics knowledge to understanding how roller coasters work or forces we experience as we ride the roller coasters. We came back to school with a fresh, new understanding. Even though some of us were terrified and other people were eager risk takers, we all had a sensational and exciting time.

Thank you Mr Van Eyk and Mrs O'Neill for this amazing opportunity we will never forget.

Year 12 Physics Class
HOWARD ARKLEY EXHIBITION - VCE ART EXCURSION

At the beginning of the term, the Year 11 and Year 12 Studio Arts students gathered together and visited TarraWarra Museum of Art in Healesville. We were introduced to the world of renowned Australian artist, Howard Arkley whose studio we discovered is located locally, at Oakleigh! The Education Officer and Curator helped us to gain a greater understanding of Arkley’s methods, processes and techniques. Arkley is known for the use of layering, stencils and airbrush.

Furthermore, Arkley incorporates a personal music playlist to create a workpiece. This was evident within the gallery space, as headphones containing playlists he listened to were stationed throughout the exhibition. We were also introduced to the Curator and we listened as he spoke about how to run an exhibition as well as working within the gallery space. Arkley’s exhibition at TarraWarra is located in the middle of a vineyard in the Yarra Valley. We were lucky to visit an exhibition like Arkley’s as opportunities like these allow us to gain exposure to different methods and aspects of the Art and Design industry.

It would be really great for art and design students alike to head down to the National Gallery of Victoria- Federation Square to take a look at various exhibitions as well as TOP ARTS, over the coming school holidays. This will be a valuable and engaging opportunity to gain inspiration and take a look at some examples of folios and influential artworks.

Freda Drakopoulos and Katrina Amoranto,
Year 12 Art Captains

Above: Students at the TarraWarra Museum of Art and Katrina Amoranto (left) and Freda Drakopoulos (right) looking at the artwork.
Design and Technology Upgrade

Design and Technology at Avila has received a much anticipated upgrade in furniture. It was satisfying to once again commission Furnware, the New Zealand based company who had worked closely with me in the design of our cutting tables, to ease the congestion in the classroom.

Art 1 houses 27 sewing machines, eight overlockers and two ironing tables, as well as table space for up to 28 students to cut out materials and undertake folio work.

The new furniture improves the safety of everyday activities by providing standing height tables for each student. This relieves the potential for back strain and encourages standing whilst working. All of the new chairs and stools have been ergonomically designed to improve student comfort and focus, as well as hooking on to tables for clean up. The appealing turquoise tabletops have been positively welcomed by students and staff.

Lisa Walsh
Design and Technology Teacher

Year 9 Art Inspiration

As the Year 9 students are aware, the theme for this year is “I am never sure what is coming next, but I am an open minded person and I welcome any challenge.”

The inspiration for the artwork in the corridor and homerooms (pictured right) came from those times as a year level when we will and might have already felt like machines, doing set work in class, always being at classes at certain times and having to have test and assignments due. Sometimes though we need to acknowledge that unexpected things can happen and embrace the challenges rather than complaining or simply trying to disregard them.

Charlotte Nunn
Year 9 Art Captain
On Tuesday 8 March, four Year 11 Leaders travelled into the city to attend the annual NAB International Women’s Day Breakfast. We were lucky enough to hear from some very inspirational guest speakers, who had a lot to say about what it means to be a woman in the 21st century, namely around the topic of technology.

Angela Mentis opened the event (as the Group Executive of Business Banking in NAB) with some delightful numbers about how women are generally better at banking than men. Also that we are making progress in the scheme of gender equality, but that we still had a long way to go, including an update of the current wage gap: 15% difference between men and women. Angela then mentioned that there were many programs about women involved in technology (the underlying theme in the day’s presentation) including ‘Robogals’, a student-run organisation that teaches young schoolgirls about engineering and science. Robogals has chapters at major universities in the capital cities and also in London.

The CEO of NAB, Andrew Thorburn, discussed his concept of the workplace and made mention of how when he became CEO the board members consisted entirely of men, with no women present and how he was working to change this.

Wendy McCarthy: renowned author, feminist activist, businesswoman, and former university administrator, provided a very rich and knowledgeable insight into feminism. Her emphasis on the fact that feminism was dropping off again was a standout point. She included the point that feminism needs goals, and, as women; we need to understand that we have opportunities that we need to utilise to the best of our ability.

An active role in creating change for women came from Donna de Zwart, CEO of Fit for Work. Fit for Work is an organisation striving to give women the financial independence necessary for seeking employment and building upon their confidence skills.

Our personal favourite was hearing from Alisa Camplin OAM. She told us of the hardships and determination she had shown to be able to become an Olympic champion. From never seeing snow until the age of 19, to becoming a world-renowned aerial skier just eight years later, Alisa is certainly an incredible human being. The range of skills we picked up from her were astounding; from planning, to training, to financial establishment, but most importantly what was driving her. Understandably it was her dream since she was five to be in the Olympics, that was her ‘WHY’ question; ‘why was she doing this?’ She encouraged everyone in the audience to ask themselves that question multiple times to get to the root of what’s motivating them. She encouraged everyone to pursue what they want because they want it more than they wanted the thing before that.

We were privileged to be able to attend the presentations and thank Mrs Maria Frizziero for providing us with tickets for the event. We had a very insightful day, and gained much knowledge from this experience.

Sarah Baumann, Maeve Gill, Georgia Pitt and Tamara Ryan
Year 11
2016 LEADERS DAY
On the morning of Monday 22 February, leaders from every year level arose in anticipation for the first Leaders Day of 2016.

We started the day by writing leadership qualities on paper hands - a reminder that many hands make leadership work! Still a bit frosty, we ‘broke the ice’ with a ‘Name Bingo’ game. The game required students to match pre collected fun facts with their owner. As students hunted through the cohort of 55 leaders we unconsciously got to know each other as well some great secrets!

As the day reached its climax we heard some pearls of wisdom from experienced leaders found in our very own school; Ms Spurritt and Mr Isma. Ms Spurriitt, past Avila College Captain and current Year 7 Co-ordinator, shared her own experiences of being a leader. She reminded us that the greatest impact we will have is on the younger students.

Following Ms Spurriitt, Mr Isma, Professional Practice Leader, shared his views on leadership. He particularly emphasised that a leader is the one who is resilient.

After the day, I’m sure leaders throughout the school were truly inspired and have their skates on ready to achieve great things this year throughout the school. The day brought all the year levels and leaders together, because of course, in line with our school’s annual theme, it’s a year that, ‘It’s Up to Us.’

On behalf of all the leaders, a ‘thank you’ is in order to Ms Spurriitt and Mr Isma who took time out of their day to share their experiences and inspire us as leaders. A huge thank you especially goes to Mr Gutteridge, who put much planning into the day to make it one that really got us thinking and motivated for the year ahead.

Amelia David
College Vice-Captain Community

YEAR 7 AND 8 LUNCHTIME TRIVIA
On Tuesday 23 February and Monday 29 February, the Year 7 & 8 students competed in a Lunchtime Trivia against their Year Level. The Trivia was an introduction to the Public Speaking and Debating Competitions they are able to enter this year.

The girls came along with a group of friends and positive attitudes and certainly looked like they enjoyed themselves. They were tasked with answering some general knowledge, pop culture and fun bonus point questions.

The Public Speaking and Debating Captains, alongside some of the Peer Helpers ran the Lunchtime Trivia and promoted the idea of Public Speaking and Debating throughout the Junior School. Our thanks to Dinelle Hettiarachchi who put the competition together.

We hope to see the same level of enthusiasm and teamwork as we did in the Lunchtime Trivia as the girls lead up to their first few competitions!

Sinead Kelly
Year 9 Public Speaking and Debating Captain

Above: Year 7 (left) and Year 8 (right) students participating in the lunchtime trivia
PFA NEWS
We have had a wonderful start to the school year and it is hard to believe Term 1 is nearly over.

Mother’s/Special Person’s Day Breakfast
Places are filling fast for the Mother’s/Special Person’s Day Breakfast, which will be held in the Gathering Space at the college from 7.30 – 8.30am on Thursday 5 May. The event is for both mothers/special people and their daughters. It seems like a way off but it will be here before we know it. The cost is $10 per person and bookings can be made via the college website, www.avilacollege.vic.edu.au News and Events, Bookings.

Trivia Night
We are excited to announce the PFA will host a Trivia Night on Friday 22 July. It will be a fun filled night with lots of friendly competition and some great prizes on offer. More details to follow but please mark this date in your diary now.

Year Level Functions
Thank you to the busy Year Level Rep’s who are doing a great job organizing social functions for various year levels.

Year 12 Parents and Daughter Function
Year 12 Survival Kit
Guest Speaker: Dr Richard Chambers
Psychologist and Mindfulness Consultant Monash University
Date: Wednesday 4 May
Time: 7pm for finger food and refreshments (non alcoholic)
Cost: $18 per person
Venue: Ashburton Baptist Church Hall

Bookings are now open via the college website, News and Events, Bookings. This event is for both students and parents.

Save the Date
Invitations will be emailed soon for the following functions:
Year 11
Friday 15 April
Parent drinks at the Auburn Hotel Hawthorn after formal drop off.
Year 9
Friday 3 June
Parent gathering with finger food and drinks at the Wheeler Hill Hotel.

Parent Volunteers
If you have an hour or two to spare to help with the Mother/Special Person’s Day Breakfast or the Trivia Night, please email pfa@avilacollege.vic.edu.au We will need assistance with set up and preparation, hosting the events and then pack down. Many hands make light work and we would be so pleased if you could spare some time to assist.

Next Meeting
The PFA meets at the college for an hour or so once a month, please feel free to come along, we would love to see some new faces. The next meeting is at 7pm on Wednesday 27 April.

Wishing you and your family a happy and holy Easter.

Kind regards

Wasana Fernando
PFA President
Invites Avila College Mums/Special Persons and Daughters to a

Mother’s/Special Person’s Day Breakfast

Date: Thursday 5 May at 7.30am
Venue: Gathering Space
Cost: $10.00 per person
Bookings: www.avilacollege.vic.edu.au News & Events, Bookings

Limited Places…Bookings Essential
PATHWAYS AND CAREER NEWS

Reminders:
- Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) – Register by: 3 June; Test date: 27 July (required by undergraduate Medicine at Monash University)
- VCE and Careers Expo – Caulfield Racecourse; Thurs 5 – Sun 8 May; Cost: $10, $25 families; Info: www.vceandcareers.com.au.

OPEN DAYS
Open Days are held at universities and TAFE institutes each year, giving the public the opportunity to see the facilities, talk to staff and students, collect information and attend information sessions. They are generally held on Sundays later in the year, but dates are provided here so that you can put them in your diary now.

Some Open Day Dates for 2016:
- Sun 31 July – Swinburne University
- Sun 7 Aug – Deakin University (Warrnambool); La Trobe University (Bundoora); Monash University (Caulfield & Clayton)
- Sun 14 Aug – Australian Catholic University (Melbourne), La Trobe University (Bendigo); Monash University (Peninsula); RMIT University; William Angliss Institute
- Sun 21 Aug – Box Hill (Lilydale campus); Deakin University (Waterfront & Waurn Ponds); University of Melbourne
- Sun 28 Aug – ACU (Ballarat): Box Hill Institute (Box Hill); Deakin University (Burwood); Federation University; Victoria University (Footscray campus)

CHECK OUT STUDYING SCIENCE AT RMIT
Deciding where to study after finishing school is a challenge. One way to find out more is to visit the university that interests you and see the facilities. RMIT is offering such an opportunity in the school holidays. Go behind the scenes on a tour of the facilities. Students and parents are invited to visit RMIT’s state-of-the-art learning laboratories and to find out about how RMIT degrees provide the knowledge and skills to tackle real-world problems and advance the way we live. Programs cover biology, biotechnology, chemistry, environmental science, food science, nanotechnology and physics.

When: 11am-2pm, 30 March; Where: Building 3, Level 1, Applied Sciences Reception, RMIT City; Book/Info: www.rmit.edu.au/events/all-events/tours/2016/

DO YOU WANT TO CHECK OUT WILLIAM ANGLISS INSTITUTE IN THE CITY?
William Angliss is a provider of courses in hospitality, food, tourism and events. William Angliss is giving school students the chance to delve into the world of Tourism & Travel and Events in the school holidays. Tourism, Travel and Events – a hands-on introduction to the travel and tourism industry via an on-site amazing race-style activity. Students will then go to the new aeroplane interior demonstration area and be given a taster of what a career as a flight attendant could be. After a catered lunch, students will get the chance to jump into the world of Event Management with a table theming activity held in the Angliss Restaurant.

When: 9.30am-2.30pm, Thurs 31 March; Where: 555 La Trobe St, Melbourne; Who: Students in Years 9-11; Cost: $120 (including lunch). Enquiries: Marketing@angliss.edu.au

MONASH UNIVERSITY (BERWICK)
Many of you will have heard the news that, after about 20 years in operation, Monash has confirmed that it intends to abandon its Berwick campus at the end of 2018.

Holiday Programs at NICA
The National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA) is auspiced by Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne, and the only training institute of its kind in Australia. As well as providing professional training through a three year Bachelor of Circus Arts and foundation programs, NICA also offers a wide range of fun and safe recreational courses for children, teenagers and adults. Over the upcoming autumn school holidays, NICA has a number of programs on offer where students get to learn juggling, tumbling, mini trampoline, static trapeze, aerial ring, hula hoops, tight wire and more! To find out more and/or enrol in one of these programs, visit Holiday Programs at NICA. Alternatively, call (03) 9214 6585 or email shortcourses@nica.com.au

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

Jenny Dunn - Pathways Co-ordinator
Email: jdunn@avilacollege.vic.edu.au

Geraldine McKenna - Careers Counsellor
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