Dear members of the Avila community,

As the term draws to a close it is appropriate to give thanks to members of the Avila College community who have contributed to a term full of many highlights. Students, staff and our parent community have all worked together in strengthening inspired learning opportunities and outcomes, as well as enhanced connections with our parent network. I am often reminded of a quote by Henry Ford that I read sometime ago and that I witness each day at Avila College - "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

I recently returned from two weeks of professional learning leave where I was fortunate to complete a pilgrimage in Ireland - Walking in the Footsteps of Nano Nagle. The group included fellow pilgrims from Presentation Schools from throughout Australia including Madeleine Franken, Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching. Nano Nagle founded the Presentation Sisters and it was Presentation Sisters who commenced our College 51 years ago. Sr Anna Fewer pbvm (from WA) led our pilgrimage and she was born in Ireland and was assigned to Australia some fifty years ago. ‘Pilgrimage has always been, and still is, an important expression of the spiritual journey. At the heart of the longing of all pilgrims, lay the hope and dream that by travelling to a special place they might somehow be changed and renewed.’ These words were shared with us as we began our pilgrimage in Cork – the birthplace of the Presentation Story.

A significant highlight of the pilgrimage was visiting many of the Presentation Convents throughout Ireland and meeting the Sisters. They were genuinely grateful and pleased to know that their work is being continued throughout Australia in schools that the Presentation Sisters were so instrumental in forming. Walking through the streets of Cork and seeing the buildings and places where Nano provided education to the very poor was most memorable. Visiting and staying at the Nano Nagle Centre in Ballygriffin, the birthplace of Nano was also an unforgettable experience. We were blessed to have Fr Michael Rodgers lead us in Eucharist at Glendalough on Trinity Sunday in the ruins of Trinity Church. While a pilgrimage is a very personal experience I feel somehow be changed and renewed.’ These words were shared with us as we began our pilgrimage in Cork – the birthplace of the Presentation Story.

A significant highlight of the pilgrimage was visiting many of the Presentation Convents throughout Ireland and meeting the Sisters. They were genuinely grateful and pleased to know that their work is being continued throughout Australia in schools that the Presentation Sisters were so instrumental in forming. Walking through the streets of Cork and seeing the buildings and places where Nano provided education to the very poor was most memorable. Visiting and staying at the Nano Nagle Centre in Ballygriffin, the birthplace of Nano was also an unforgettable experience. We were blessed to have Fr Michael Rodgers lead us in Eucharist at Glendalough on Trinity Sunday in the ruins of Trinity Church. While a pilgrimage is a very personal experience I feel so blessed and humbled to have had this opportunity. I would particularly like to thank Christine Kralj, Deputy Principal Wellbeing who most capably took on the role as Acting Principal in my absence.

Community News:
We remember in our prayers Marie Stuart (staff member) whose father passed away last week. Marie sadly has lost both her parents in recent weeks.

I would like to thank staff who have joined the Avila College community this term for various short replacement positions and wish staff who are taking leave next term a well earned break.

Nicola Taylor, Finance Officer, will be finishing at the College on Friday 24 June after three years. We wish Nicola all the best.

A reminder that end of semester online reports will be available for all parents to access on Friday 17 June, the end of Term 2 and the start of the three-week mid-year break.

I wish all members of the Avila College community a safe and relaxing break and extend an invitation for families to attend our next College whole school assembly on Tuesday 12 July commencing at 8.50am in the Hall. You are welcome to join us for morning tea in the Gathering Space following the assembly. Please RSVP by Wednesday 6 July via email to lrank@avilacollege.vic.edu.au

With blessings to everyone in this year of Mercy,
Louise Gunther
Principal

Cover image: Michael Long at Federation Square before the Long Walk.
FAITH NEWS

Becoming Peacemakers' Conference

The Catholic faith can be something of a challenge to understand from time to time and be open to, especially in our modern and changing world. On Thursday 9 June the Faith and Mission Captains for 2016, Danielle Darbyshire, Tiana Chandraratne and Chiara Smith were given the opportunity to hear from Nathan Schneider, who shared his journey into the Catholic faith as a teenager and his thoughts on leadership.

Nathan Schneider (born 1984) is a journalist and author who covers religion and political movements in the United States. He was among the first journalists to cover the Occupy Wall Street movement during its planning stages and wrote about it for Harper’s Magazine, The Nation, The New York Times, and other publications. In his recent times Nathan has written several books and spoken at various conferences about ‘Becoming Peacemakers’.

He challenged the idea of what it means to be a leader and presented students with the concept of peace is just "doing conflict better". Mr Schneider reminded us that leadership comes from a community and that there is journey that is undertaken before a destination. We are called to work in humility, on a path towards Becoming Peacemakers.

Nathan spoke of the need for 'ordinary people' to make change in the world. He commented that to be a peacemaker one must listen to the stories of those we encounter and use people power, not violence, to change the world.

The call to be modern day, young, faith-filled leaders is a call to action. The conference allowed us to discuss the issues that we face as young leaders with other students from an array of Catholic Schools around Melbourne. Mr Schneider’s presentation was inspiring and it gave us the motivation to continue to develop in our faith and be the call to justice in our leadership roles. We are also determined to be the voice that encourages others and develops a movement of change by listening to others. Change can happen through peace and it can make a difference in this ever changing world.

Tiana Chandraratne
Year 10 Faith and Mission Captain

Above: (L-R) Danielle Darbyshire, Chiara Smith, Nathan Schneider and Tiana Chandraratne
LEARNING AND TEACHING NEWS

Semester Reports
Semester reports will be released to parents via the Parent Access Module (PAM) on SIMON on Friday 17 June. Parents will be sent an email to advise them when reports have been finalised and uploaded. A “Report Guide” explaining the codes used on the reports is available from a link on SIMON. Of course, students will also be able to access their semester reports from their personal profile page on SIMON.

Any parent with queries about accessing reports via PAM may contact the College Help Desk via email support@avilacollege.vic.edu.au or phone 9831 9634.

Subject Selection
The Curriculum Guide for 2017 will be available from both SIMON and the College website from Thursday 16 June. All students in Years 8 to 11 and their parents are encouraged to use the school holidays to explore the vast array of choices on offer at Avila in 2017. You will find written information about the different subjects and where they lead, pictures of students undertaking various learning activities, plus videos with students talking about their experience in some subjects.

In the second week of Semester 2, there are some key events to assist with subject selection. The first of the formal information sessions will be at 7:30pm on Monday 18 July for all current Year 8 students and their parents with the following evening (19 July) for Years 9, 10 and 11 students and parents.

During special year level assemblies on Tuesday 19 July Curriculum Leaders will outline to students the elective units available and some specific factors that need to be considered when selecting them. The Years 10 and 11 students will participate in a Careers Day to assist them with planning for the future.

All the general information pertaining to the subject selection process will be conveyed only in the evening sessions; hence attendance is vital for all. The process and criteria for VCE acceleration will also be explained on these evenings. It is important that both parents and students are informed accurately about this to avoid future disappointment.

Key Dates- Subject Selection

**Monday 18 July** Current Year 8 students
7.30pm – Subject Selection Information session in Bunjil for current Year 8 students and their parents

**Tuesday 19 July** Current Year 9 students
7:00pm – Careers Advisors and Curriculum Leaders available in Year 10 Area for informal questions from current Year 9 parents and students
8:15pm – Subject Selection Presentation in Bunjil for current Year 9 students and their parents

**Tuesday 19 July** Current Year 10 students
7:00pm - Subject Selection Presentation in Bunjil for current Year 10 students and their parents.
8:00pm - Careers Advisors and Curriculum Leaders available in Year 10 Area for informal questions from Years 10 into 11 students and parents.

**Monday 25 July** By Invitation Current Year 10 and 11 students
7:30pm VCAL Information Evening

Oral Reports
Tuesday 16 August 3.15pm-8.30pm
Thursday 18 August 3.15pm-8.30pm

As I step down from the Acting Deputy Principal, Learning and Teaching role, I would like to thank Louise Gunther, Principal, for trusting me with this rewarding and challenging role over the term. I also would like to thank the staff and Avila parent community for their support and kind words of advice and encouragement.

*Angela Torelli*
Acting Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching
THE LONG WALK
Avila College students, parents and teachers took part in the Long Walk on Saturday 28 May to celebrate National Reconciliation Week.
They met at Federation Square to hear from the founder of the walk Michael Long and the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull before walking to the MCG with others who support the cause of getting indigenous issues on the national agenda.
Students proudly walked behind the Avila College banner, which was signed on the day by Kevin Sheedy, Bill Shorten, Patrick Dodson and Nova Peris.

Pictured: (Top L-R) Avila students with the Reconciliation banner, Michael Long and Malcolm Turnbull presenting at Federation Square and (Bottom L-R) Patrick Dodson and Nova Peris sign the Avila College banner
KEYARNY LAMB VISITS AVILA COLLEGE

Everyone has a history, a story, a future. Indigenous Australian land rights activist and writer, Alexis Wright stated, “It’s a really important thing for Aboriginal people to remember how stories are told and the power of stories, and make it an important feature in our world again.”

As young women begin shaping their life story, they need role models to help them understand their worth in a world where fashion, body image and self esteem collide. Enter a beautiful Indigenous model named Keyarny Lamb. Recently Keyarny came to address a group of students as part of Reconciliation week activities. And she arrived, all 5 feet 11 inches. Tall, beautiful, humble and eager to share the importance of self acceptance, values and kind living. She spoke with pride about her history and she was an open book about the love she has for her family.

I observed as the students listened to her message. She was frank, funny and filled with the same spirit that dominates the land upon which we live and call home. When asked who her role models are she responded by saying that her mum and nan have shaped her more than anyone else. She spoke about how much she misses them. They are in Echuca while her new life is in Melbourne. One country, two worlds.

Keyarny’s message was simple but spoken with so much authenticity that it held the attention of a young audience, wanting to learn, dream and apply the small key lessons they were privy to through one young woman’s journey. There were many questions asked by her eager audience. Did you always want to be a model? Her answer was not what they expected. No she said. When she was at school she thought about getting into a trade - something that was hands on. Did she spend a lot of money on clothes? No she said. She likes a bargain and when she is not at work she likes to wear comfortable clothes. But the response that resonated most was when she said that she was not prepared to compromise who she is to become someone she is not. She felt she had a responsibility to her sisters and to young women.

Keyarny’s story is sprinkled with seedlings of possibility. It’s a story about hope, challenge and small, continuous victories. It’s a story, which speaks of a bright future - certainly one worth reading about.

Gemma Di Bari
Reconciliation Co-ordinator

Above: Keyarny Lamb (middle right) with teacher, Gemma Di Bari, Zoe Evans and Emma Spencer
RENEWED SLAM POET VISITS AVILA COLLEGE
The week before exams can be a week full of nerves so I suppose bringing in a humorous and inspiring poet is a good way to ease them. However, what Luka Lesson gave to the group of girls in Bunjil was something that no one would have expected.

On Friday 27 May, Luka Lesson the spoken word poet who has travelled all over the world, came to perform to the whole Year 11 cohort.

As a poet of Greek origin, Luka gave a sense of belonging and inclusion in the words he spoke and incorporated a great sense of humour. The emotions he evoked for every person in the room were amazing. He started with an introduction of who he was then proceeded to present his poems. Luka didn’t just recite the poetry he had created, he gave his audience a mental picture as he spoke and the audience became a part of what he was presenting.

During his performance, Luka also asked us to ‘click’ our fingers when we heard something we liked in his poetry. This is a technique used when listening to spoken word poetry that can give the poet a sense of what is having an impact on the audience, without the interruption clapping.

Another aspect of Luka’s performance was to ask for a volunteer to join him on stage. After much convincing from the whole year level, I got up in front of everyone for a ‘rap battle’ with Luka. He talked about how rapping is like poetry and explained that hip-hop and rap were originally what got him into poetry. With the whole year level chanting my name, I’ve never been so embarrassed however being on stage with such a talented poet was something I will never forget.

Luka showed us how even the most untalented rhymers could drop a few lines when writing on things we cared about. In my case, this resulted in 7 minutes on stage rapping about Greece.

When we were told we would be listening to poetry that day, honestly, some of us thought it would be just another presentation. However, by the end of that period, Luka had won us over. He had convinced us how powerful words can be and he inspired us to be passionate and creative in our writing.

Personally, I learnt about the effect and power words can have, that poetry is more exciting than I thought it could be and that I cannot rap!

Dianne O’Neill
Resource Centre

Above: Luka Lesson with Year 11 students
TERM 2 IN FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Year 8s at Dandenong Market

As part of the Year 8 course, students are introduced to the idea of food miles and sustainability and are then set a design task to use fresh seasonal produce. Students from Years 8 Gold, Green, Blue and Orange set off to explore what was on offer at Dandenong Market and purchased ingredients so they could prepare a meal for their families. The students spent time examining what was available and looking at prices to make the most of their budget. Some were delighted when stall holders gave them 2 for 1 deals and also a few free extras. The recipes needed to be grain based and there was a variety of Fried Rice, Couscous Salads and also Quinoa Salad with beets, blood orange and chimichurri, Roasted Pumpkin and Barley Risotto, and Quinoa and Haloumi Burgers.

Thank you to Ms Nerida King, Mrs Roxanne Lascaris, Mrs Dianne O'Neill and Ms Jade Baker for accompanying the students.

(pictured left) Nicole Trawicka, Hashani Ekanayake and Julia Marotta, Jade Bennett and Hiruni Mendis Wijeyesekera, Meg Allan

Year 9 Master Chef Cook Off

Over April and May the three Year 9 Food Safari classes developed, trialled and then produced their own original Slider Recipes. There were nine teams from the three classes who prepared and served over 700 sliders.

Congratulations to the teams - Sliders into the DM, Summer Sliders, Serious Slider Providers, Mr Burger, Slider Crew, Damn Sliders, Burger Queens and Slip n Sliders

The winners for Semester One were Sliders in to DM and the team consisted of:

Gabrielle Ishak, Anastasia Romanoff, Larissa Porto, Isabella Rosamilia, Mia Sinclair, Briana Dealey and Julia Marcon.

Thank you to all the staff and students who were happy to sample and vote and particular thanks to the Food Technology Assistants Mrs Angie Caporale and Mrs Maureen Garrecht for all their work in assisting with the volume of ingredients required.

Year 10 High Tea

The Year 10 Food for Entertaining Class focused on planning and preparing a High Tea. The students were required to design a menu that consisted of two sweet and one savoury item and then set about trialling their recipes and examining presentation styles. The students invited a special guest so they needed to provide sufficient food for 6 to 8 people. Difficulties experienced in the trials were overcome, tables were elegantly set and guests arrived to be greeted with gourmet delights. Thank you to Mrs Angie Caporale for her assistance with this event.

Liz Trembath
Food Technology Teacher
TOP ARTS 2016

On Wednesday 4 May, the Year 10 Photography and Studio Arts classes paid a visit to the Top Arts Exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria. Both Studio Arts classes (photography and painting/drawing) attended the excursion with Trish Fleming and Jolenta Kirkwood.

Top Arts is a spectacular exhibition that displays artwork made by Year 12 students from all around Victoria. This year, 42 different artworks were displayed, each by a talented, young artist. Top Arts Exhibition is open 10am-5pm daily until Sunday 10 July, so hurry in to see it! The artwork includes painting, drawing and sculpture, photography and video so there’s bound to be something for everyone. The exhibition is open from 10am - 5pm daily.

The Year 10 excursion focused on the analysis of a chosen artwork from Top Arts, and allowed us to gain an insight to the criteria and amount of work that goes into such an exhibition. We were able to see both the finished artwork, as well as a few selected student folios. This was very interesting because it allowed us to see the artist’s design and thought process as well as the finished product, which we are not able to do very often.

Top Arts is usually a very busy exhibition, but we were lucky enough to visit it at a time when it wasn’t very crowded, so we were able to take our time looking around and enjoying the art. The students exhibited are very talented and the show is filled with fantastic art. It is a huge milestone in these student’s lives and it is lovely to know that by attending this exhibition, we are supporting them on their art journey.

Kate Tidswell
Year 10 Art Captain

CONGRATULATIONS

We offer our congratulations to past student Victoria Radnell who was recently awarded the JS Duncan Prize for Best Honours Thesis in Human Geography at the Monash University Arts Awards Night. In addition, Victoria also received the Prize for Best Honours Student in Human Geography and we wish her continued success with her tertiary studies.

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 difficult concept.

These sessions are held in Room 66.

Day 1: Mrs Talj  
Day 2: Ms Cummins  
Day 3: Mrs Trifilo  
Day 4: Mr Edwards  
Day 5: Ms R Ryan  
Day 6: Ms C Ryan  
Day 7: Mrs Lloyd  
Day 8: Ms Zammicheli  
Day 9: Ms Baka  
Day 10: Mr Francis
GIFTED AND TALENTED CONFERENCE

On Friday 20 May, eleven Year 10 students ventured off to the annual Academy Gifted and Talented Conference held at Camberwell Grammar School, accompanied by Ms Stute and Mr Bullock. At the commencement of the conference, we were openly told that we would be leaving with more questions than we came equipped with in the morning. Naively, we chuckled.

Over the six hours that followed, Julie Arliss (a lecturer who works closely with Oxford University) and Jeffrey Hodges (a performance consultant) deconstructed our minds by asking things that most of us had never questioned before. Julie talked us through something we hadn’t really ever explored before despite spending half of our lives dedicated to it; the concept of knowledge. What was it? Were we born with it, or did we acquire it through the senses? What made some people musical and others good at maths? It was enough for some of us to really question everything we knew… or what we thought we knew… or what we thought we knew we knew.

Jeffrey Hodges then explored how our beliefs have the potential to impact on our physical abilities. He posed a number of interesting questions - How many of our beliefs are self created or just socially accepted “truth” rather than reality? He went on to tell us the story of Roger Bannister, the first man to run a mile in under four minutes. Up until this incredible achievement in 1954, it was widely believed by physicians and athletes alike that the human body could not physically run that fast, and that it would collapse under the strain. This was, of course, until Bannister proved them wrong. In the end, we were equipped with an understanding of how to develop more empowering beliefs and a positive self image. We left this session truly believing the words of Muhammed Ali - “Impossible is nothing”.

After another session with Julie Arliss that explored the identity of self, we were left understanding that people really do change, physically and emotionally. We learned that over a period of seven years, every cell and every atom that makes up who we are will have changed. We then toyed with the concept of self - am I just a body, or am I the thing that some might call a ‘soul’? This was a great segway into our final session, which was an almighty debate between Jeffrey Hodges and Julie Arliss. The two mighty brains clashed over the topic “The house believes the existence of God can be proven”, with Julie taking the affirmative side. The debate itself was eye-opening, and students from schools all over Victoria had the chance to participate and give their opinions on the matter.

Overall, the 2016 Year 10 Gifted and Talented Conference was enlightening. Yes, it was hard, and yes, our brains did hurt by the end of it, but it was definitely worth the early morning wake up and bus trip of Mr Bullock’s dad jokes. We were exposed to many concepts and questions that most of us would never have otherwise explored, and felt like we were all challenged and extended in our understanding of both ourselves and the world around us. We were also fortunate enough to meet Ms Rachael Falloon who is the Vice Principal at the College, who is a past Avilonian herself. A big thank-you to Julie Arliss and Jeffrey Hodges, as well as Ms Stute and Mr Bullock for giving up their time to accompany us on the day.

Abbey Goullet and Kiran Kottakkal
Year 10

Above: (L-R) Avila College teachers, David Bullock and Lauren Stute, with Year 10 students at the Gifted and Talented Conference
DEBATING NEWS

Senior Rostrum

The ROSTRUM Public Speaking Competition held at Mt Scopus was a stimulating event for our Senior Public Speakers. The girls who participated spoke on a number of relevant issues ranging from domestic violence to the value of girls’ education. In the senior competition we were represented by Jovita Thomas, Gabrielle Mogg, Hannah Faraone and Tessa Canning who spoke with passion and certainly made Avila proud. It was a fun day and the many diverse speeches kept the competition interesting and exciting. Gabrielle Mogg is to be congratulated on proceeding through to the semi-finals where she was the runner-up.

Amy Bulmer
Public Speaking Co-ordinator

Rostrum Junior Competition

On Sunday 29 May Avila College had four juniors compete at the Rostrum Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition. The juniors had to prepare and present a six minute speech on topics including: The time has come, A change of heart, Moving the goalposts, Humble beginnings (which I did) and Blurring the boundaries. It was a great opportunity for us to organise a persuasive piece and deliver it to other students, teachers and family members. Congratulations to the Runner Up of the juniors, Year 8 student, Sanjana Nair.

Lily Bunning
Year 7

DAV Junior Debating

On Monday 30 May, Sherlin Kalarikkal, Ashley Ng, Emma Faraone and I, Kavia Pyndath, represented Avila College in the DAV Public Speaking Competition. It was a great experience for us all and we were encouraged to engage with students from other schools. We gained confidence through accepting this challenge. We had to present a prepared speech and two impromptus. It was exceptional hearing everyone’s prepared speeches as we learnt more about people’s perspectives about global issues. However, the impromptus were a bit difficult as the topics were only provided five minutes before hand. This challenged me as I had to think of examples and issues that related to the topic so it could enhance my speech. As I had started to speak I realised that everyone else was in the same position as me and that I would give my personal best. Overall, the whole competition was an amazing experience.

Kavia Pynadath
Year 8

Avila College congratulates Kavia and Ashley who were winners on the day and now go through to the finals.
The VCAA Plain English Speaking Award

The VCAA Plain English Speaking Award was held on Wednesday 1 June. It is a Public Speaking competition that requires competitors to deliver a prepared speech on a topic of their choice, followed by a 3-minute impromptu speech. Avila entered two competitors - Zoë Evans (Year 11) and myself. Zoë wowed the audience with an insightful speech about the alarming rates of Indigenous incarceration and deaths in custody. Then in response to the impromptu topic ‘It’s a Juggling Act’, she cleverly contended that Australian politicians had “dropped the ball” in terms of their policies and priorities. My prepared speech centred around our fight against ISIS, particularly that we should place a greater focus on counter-terrorism. For the impromptu, I discussed the “juggling act” that is the 2016 Australian election.

In all, Avila was extremely successful, beating representatives from Melbourne Girls Grammar, St Catherine’s, Lauriston Girls’ School and The Knox School - to name a few. Zoë won the competition and will now progress to the semifinals. I was declared runner-up.

Thank you to Mrs Valladares for her coaching and support, and to Ms Bulmer for accompanying and supporting us on the day. All the best to Zoë at the next round!

Catherine Pagliaro
Year 11

AINGER Public Speaking Competition


Ms Bulmer met us there and supported us as we delivered our speeches. I spoke on the misconceptions about Islam, and sensationalist media, while Jessica spoke on the implementation of S-plates in Victoria and Caitlin on ‘a call to action’.

This competition was unique, as it was judged based on gesture, tone and the delivery of our speeches, rather than solely on content. To score highly, we were required to use the aforementioned public speaking techniques to enhance our speeches, but also to capture the audience’s attention. Although neither of us placed, we were able to learn about the art of public speaking, and test our skills under pressure.

The experience was thoroughly enjoyable (although nerve-wracking), and proved to be a great night overall, with topics discussed ranging from “Lying” to “Human Cyborgs”.

De’Arne Cvetkovic
Year 11

Above: (L-R) De’Arne Cvetkovic, Jessica O’Neill and Caitlin O’Neill
YEAR 7 GUEST SPEAKER

The focus of our Year 7 Living and Values Program in Semester One has been on the importance of a positive mindset. Thanks to the initiative of Bronte Fisher and Bianca Leone (Year 12 VCAL students), our Year 7 girls benefitted from a visit from Andrew Gardiner of Headspace Knox. He was impressed by the students' collective understanding of the various elements of good wellbeing. His discussion with us revisited many of the key learnings of LAVP lessons throughout the semester.

Andrew's message was an empowering one - we all have an important role in supporting others when experiencing challenging times and that we can start helpful conversations when we are concerned about family members or friends. At the end of the presentation, each student traced around their hand and wrote the names of five trusted adults from whom they could seek support if necessary. This serves as a powerful, visual display of the strength of supportive relationships within our Avila community. I extend my thanks to a small group of students from Year 7 Purple who assisted in creating this display: Emma Gleeson, Laura Skipitaris, Ailish Mulrooney and Holly Whitehead. It is examples like this of leadership from some of the College's youngest students that remind me of the important work that we are doing in creating a community founded on service and respectful relationships.

I encourage students and families to access the diverse services provided by both Youth Beyond Blue and Headspace. There is a range of materials available on their websites.

Catherine Spurritt
Year 7 Co-ordinator

YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK

Over two days at the end of May all the Year 7s visited the Eastern Treatment Plant and the Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands to see the urban water cycle in action. Students observed processes at both locations that aid in the cleaning of water and were able to make connections between their lifestyles and the impact on water in our environment. We were fortunate this year to be accompanied by a number of science teachers, who were able to add details about biology and chemistry to the observations being made, and also by some art teachers who gave handy tips to enhance the fieldwork sketching. It was a wonderful cross-curricular sustainable learning experience.

Thanks to Anne-Maree Wise for the photos and to all the staff who accompanied the students.

Andrea McCann
Humanities Assistant - Geography
FROM THE YEAR 9 STUDENT LEADERS

As Semester One draws to a close, we look back at all of the wonderful things that we have achieved so far this year. Many of our elected subjects are finishing very soon, but there is still so much that we can learn from them in later years. As we are finishing our final drama plays, music performances and our geography assignments, we have been able to reflect on an exciting term in which we were able to develop our talents and conquer our challenges as part of our learning.

It was exciting for all students, to be able to experience the process of choosing a subject back in Year 8. Year 9 students have willingly incorporated our theme and everyone has challenged themselves to learn something new. Many have committed themselves to fund raising activities, ensembles and sporting teams, and have participated in the fantastic Creative Arts Festival. The girls took part in Year 9 camp with enthusiasm, pushing through the challenges that they faced with a smile. This semester provided us with knowledge and truly wonderful experiences and life skills, and we hope that next semester is just as amazing as we embark on the second part of our Year 9 journey. We would like to thank the team of Year 9 Pastoral Teachers who support us each day and encourage us to have a balanced approach with our peers, teachers and ourselves.

On Thursday 2 June, all Year 9 students participated in their first formal examinations. Throughout the day, the girls were assessed on their English, Maths and Science knowledge. Most girls set a goal for the mark that they want to achieve and they studied hard to achieve it.

Throughout the lead up to the exams, we were supported by all of our teachers, they were there to help us and sitting these exams gave us an insight into the way Year 10 and VCE is assessed. It was a long day, however but for most, it was a very rewarding experience and everyone felt a sense of accomplishment by the last “pens down”.

On Friday 3 June, the Year 9 students participated in a Careers Day. The day began with us gathering in the Old Lecture Theatre to hear from Mrs Dunn and Mrs McKenna. The focus of this was to widen our knowledge of the VCAL and VCE pathways. One of the tasks we did was to identify our character strengths to determine what occupation we would be most suited to, and later we researched these jobs. We created our very own cover letters and resumes, a life-skill that we will continue to utilise into our future. We are very grateful for this informative and beneficial experience and we would like to thank all of the supervising teachers and the wonderful Mrs Dunn and Ms McKenna.

PFA NEWS

Year 10 Families High Tea

All members of the family are invited to a High Tea with other Avila College Year 10 families from 2 – 4pm on Sunday 17 July at Gateaux by Marc Frissard in Hampton.

One of the reviews about Marc said, “Arguably one of the best French patisserie Melbourne this ‘Salon de The’, is the ultimate destination for anyone who is seeking a little bit of France.

The cost for the High Tea is $35 per person and you can book by calling Avila Year Level Reps Jenny Satya Graha on 0411 034 161 or email jsgraha@tpg.com.au or by emailing Diane Carey at diane.carey@cam.org.au by Tuesday 12 July.

New Members

The PFA are looking for some new members to join the group. We meet 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. It really is a fantastic way to meet other parents. Just email pfa@avilacollege.vic.edu.au if you can spare some time to get involved.

On behalf of all Avila parents I would like to thank the dedicated teaching staff at the College who go above and beyond to help our girls to do their very best. Wishing you and your family a wonderful mid year break.

Kind regards,

Wasana Fernando
PFA President
CATHOLIC EDUCATION TODAY

SPORT NEWS
This year, the Aerobics Squad was bigger and better than ever, with 5 teams competing in the Annual School Aerobics Competition. Girls from Years 7 to 12 gave up their precious morning sleep-in every Tuesday and Thursday throughout Terms 1 and 2, perfecting their routines in readiness for the competition. With the guidance of our amazing and dedicated coaches, Zoe Lenton (Year 12), past Avila girls Madi Heyn and Georgia Stapleton, and Miss King and Miss Linossier, we all improved dramatically and exceeded what we thought we could achieve.

On Sunday 5 June, we competed in the State final in Geelong, where all teams performed amazing routines. Special congratulations to Bounce, who placed 3rd in the State, and the Stopettes, who came 5th. Triple A placed 7th and Aqua Fusion came 5th in the Wildcard round, an awesome achievement. Unfortunately, our Super Sonic Sevens were unable to compete in this round, but they did put on an amazing display for the whole school. Congratulations to all the girls on a fantastic season, and we hope to see you all back next year!

Aretha Preethamparam and Jessica McLean
Aerobics Captains

COME AND SUPPORT OUR NETBALLERS
During the holidays Avila College is competing in the Waverley International Schools Netball Championship. We have been training really hard and would love to hear you cheering from the sidelines.

If you wish to come down and support us the details are below:
Tuesday 28 June - Friday 1 July
Approximate times 8:30am - 4pm
Find the fixture on the link below, closer to the tournament

Naomi Linossier
Teaching Staff
PATHWAYS AND CAREER NEWS:
Year 9 Careers Day
The Year 9 Careers Day on Friday 3 June provided students with information and activities designed to assist them in their future course and career planning. In Term 3 students will need to choose their subjects for Year 10 and we endeavour to assist them in making informed choices. They are encouraged to continue exploring future pathway options and to start building their career portfolio.
There were four sessions throughout the day. Students were invited to provide feedback on each session and here is a snapshot of the results of the feedback received for each session.

Session 1 - Pathways Information presentation
80% of students found this session worthwhile with comments such as:
- It helped me understand more about VET, VCE and VCAL
- I really enjoyed how we were informed about the different university degrees - Bachelor, Honours, Masters and Doctoral. The overall presentation was effective. The explanation of the ATAR score and what it stands for was clear and it helped many people. The funny video of Mr Bean got the morning off to a smooth start.

Some suggestions for improvement:
- If it was more detailed, and in smaller groups, so personal questions can be asked
- More interactive activities because there was a lot of listening and by the end it was a little hard to concentrate

Session 2 - The Job Test and Occupation research
86% of students found this session worthwhile with comments such as:
- The things that worked well was that it gave a good insight on jobs you could seriously consider and helped to inform you of the requirements
- We were able to explore different career paths based on our job tests
- It was good to see what our strengths were and what we were interested in. It was good to see that I was matched with what I wanted to do.

Suggestions for improvement: The session would have been better if…..
- We had more time to complete the task
- A better online survey was conducted that gave more specific results and was more fine tuned to each individual

Session 3 - Resume and Cover letter writing
75% of students found this session worthwhile with comments such as:
- I got to fully understand how to write a resume and cover letter. I was given the chance to write my own with examples to help me
- The useful websites, that give detailed instructions on how to construct a resume
- It was useful because I now know how to correctly write a resume and cover letter to give me a better chance at getting my desired work position.

Some suggestions for improvement:
- We worked on a sample resume as a class
- We got more time to do it and a little more explanation.

Session 4 - My future research
80% of students found this session worthwhile with comments such as:
- I got the chance to better understand the jobs I am thinking about for the future. I was able to understand and learn what subjects/classes needed to be able to get this job
- It gave me time to actually sit down and consider the factors needed in the jobs I’m interested in. I now have a clearer understanding of what will be expected of me in certain workplaces
- I got to see what the job I liked involved and what I need to study.

Some suggestions for improvement:
- More time to complete tasks properly. I only had time to research one occupation properly. More time would mean getting a better understanding of a range of jobs suited to me
- If we worked in groups of three.

Thank you to Year 9 students for your active participation on the day. We appreciate your feedback and will try to incorporate some of your suggestions in our planning for Careers Days in the future.
Keeper for a Day
Healesville Sanctuary
Come to Healesville Sanctuary to learn about what it takes to work in a zoo! These school holidays we are celebrating the opening of our new koala exhibit. You will have the chance to meet some of our amazing keepers and animals and find out what a zoo keeper’s day is really like.

Werribee Sanctuary
Ages: Years 7-12 students
Cost: $115; $103.50 zoo members

Careers Day at the Melbourne Boat Show
Where: Melbourne Boat Show at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre (1 Convention Place, South Wharf, VIC 3006) Schedule
10:00am - Arrival
10:30am - Career Day Panel Discussion
12pm - Explore Marine Careers Booth & Melbourne Boat Show
Please register your attendance by email to:
Arlene Adonis-Hawkins at arlene@biavic.com.au with your full name and organisation/educational institution, by no later than Monday, June 7, 2016.
For enquiries about Careers Day, contact Arlene by phone at (03) 8696-5600 or email arlene@biavic.com.au

Chisholm update
New to Chisholm is direct entry on all courses including degrees! Please note: that this means that Chisholm is only accepting direct entry for courses and will not appear on the VTAC system. This change enables students to enrol in a course and secure a place earlier. Students are encouraged to enrol ASAP for 2017 commencement. For a full list of courses visit: [http://www.chisholm.edu.au/Courses](http://www.chisholm.edu.au/Courses)
School holiday workshops – back for 2016 After a successful launch in 2015, school holiday workshops are back for the June/July holiday period in 2016. Designed to introduce Year 9-12 students to a range of activities for various career paths. These workshops are a great opportunity to discover the Frankston campus and facilities, while getting a taste of different courses available at Chisholm. Don’t miss out, Register today at [http://www.chisholm.edu.au/workshops](http://www.chisholm.edu.au/workshops)

In the Careers Newsletter this week:
• ANU One-on-One Interviews in Melbourne
• News from the University of Melbourne
  o The John Button Schools Prize
  o Focus on the Bachelor of Biomedicine
  o Experience a Day at Melbourne
• News from RMIT University
  o Experience Day
  o SLAMs at RMIT
  o Urban Futures Competition
• Cultural Care Au Pair Information Session
• CGBC - Computer Games Boot Camp 2016 at Monash University
• Graphic & Visual Design Degrees offered by Victorian Universities
• Medical Imaging Courses in Victoria
• The University of Melbourne (UoM) – Quick Facts

All Careers Newsletters are available on the Careers Guidance tab on SIMON

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

Geraldine McKenna
Careers Counsellor
Email: gmckenna@avilacollege.vic.edu.au