150 Years of Compassion

and Presentation Education
Dear Parents/Guardians, students and members of the Avila community,

These past two weeks have been a busy time for career pathway choices for most of our Avila students as well as the continued offerings to our students both within and outside their classrooms. Subject selection assemblies and information evenings were held for both students and their parents as well as a careers expo that provided direct connection for our students with a wide range of tertiary providers available to discuss future career paths.

In continuing to nurture the faith life of our students there have also been many Religious Education Year 10 students continue their involvement in the Building Bridges program and on Monday 18 July it was Avila's turn to host students from Emmaus College, Donvale Christian College, Minaret College, Mount Scopus, Luther College, Caulfield Grammar School and Aquinas College. The Building Bridges program promotes mutual understanding and respect as well as ethical behaviour across our cultural and religious diversities to develop competent global leaders for the 21st century. Our Year 10 students presented an informative overview of key Catholic and Avila College subjects including; the Holy Trinity, The Bible, our Catholic Mass structure, the Sacraments, St Teresa, the Avila College Crest and the significance behind the four houses – Nagle, Chisholm, Flynn and Mackillop. Students in Year 12 participated in a Reflection Day last week and Year 11 and 9 students visited various Catholic support services as well as places of worship the week prior.

Last week was the annual Public Speaking and Debating week that provides very practical opportunities for Avila students to enhance their public speaking skills. One of the highlights of this week is the annual Staff vs Students debate. This year’s topic was “That we should ban exams” and I am pleased to say a big congratulations to the staff team of Catherine Spurritt, Sam Carroll and Cherilynne Kingston who were judged this year’s winners. I thank all staff who continue to provide opportunities to extend and inspire our Avila College students.

Congratulations are extended to Mae Prado (Year 8 Red) who has been awarded first prize in the annual Nagle Education Alliance of Australia (NEAA), Nagle Art Prize. This award is a major achievement for Mae as the competition is open to all secondary school students from NEAA schools throughout Australia. An external panel judged the entries and the national top three entries were selected. Mae’s artwork is on the cover of this newsletter. This artwork clearly links to the celebration of the Presentation Sisters who are marking 150 years of Presentation Education in Australian this year – well done Mae.

Community news:
Thoughts and prayers are extended to the following staff and student who have recently suffered loss and bereavement: both Geraldine McKenna and Anne Graham whose dad’s recently passed away and to Daniela Trifilo and her niece Melissa Palumbo (Year 8) whose sister and mother died.

With blessings to everyone in this year of Mercy,

Louise Gunther
Principal

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Prayer
In the face of fear, she chose to be daring; In the face of anxiety, she chose to trust; In the face of impossibility, she chose to begin.
To universal misery she gave ministry to persons; to ignorance, knowledge; to disillusionment, tenacity of purpose; and to multiple vexations, singleness of heart.
Faced with failure, she held fast to hope; Faced with death, she believed in a living future.
The programme for that future she gave in one word LOVE.

Nano Nagle, Pray for Us
(Poem by Raphael Cosedine pbvm Songs of the Journey 2015)

Calendar dates August
Mon 8 All Schools Netball Championships
Tue 9 VTAC Information Evening, 7:30pm NEAA Student Conference (9-12 August)
Wed 10 Open Morning 9am
Tue 16 Oral Reports Evening: classes conclude at 1.30pm
Wed 17 SCSA Volleyball Tournament
Thu 18 Oral Reports Evening: classes conclude at 1.10pm
Fri 19 Student free day
Tue 23 SCSA Soccer Tournament
Thur 25 Music Festival
Mon 29 Santa Teresa Parent Information Evening

GENERAL OFFICE HOURS
Please note that the new office opening hours are 8:00am-4:30pm.

Cover image: NEAA Nagle Art Prize winning entry by Mae Prado, Year 8 Red

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

Subject Selection
It was great that so many parents and students attended the recent Subject Selection Information evenings. Students in years 8 to 11 are reminded that they need to enter their preferences via the SSO link on Simon before Monday 22 August 2016. Printed and signed copies of their selections must be submitted to Homeroom teachers by 8:45am on 22 August 2016.

Further opportunities to ask questions of specialist teachers have been provided to students in optional lunchtime sessions and via email. Email addresses of all Curriculum Leaders were included in the presentations on the Subject Selection Information evenings. Slides of the presentations can be accessed via the Curriculum Guide available on Simon and from the Learning Innovation-Curriculum link on the college website. Later this term, when they have more experience with the language they are studying in Semester 2, current Year 7 students will be asked to select their preferred language for next year.

VCE Acceleration
Students wishing to apply to accelerate in VCE are reminded that completed “Expression of Interest” forms must be submitted to their Year Level Co-ordinators, Janine Bauman or Sophie Clapperton, no later than Wednesday 3 August 2016. Students will be informed of the outcome of their applications by Thursday 11 August. Students and parents are reminded that the final date for submission of all subject selection forms to Homeroom teachers is by 8:45am Monday 22 August 2016.

Oral Reports
Bookings have opened for Semester 2 Oral Report interviews scheduled for Tuesday 16 August and Thursday 18 August. Please use the link on PAM to access PTI bookings. Parents are asked to select and carefully check their preferred date on their booking sheet because, in the past, some parents have inadvertently booked for the wrong day and missed their appointments. Parents are free to choose either date but as evening appointments book out quickly, we suggest you make your booking soon. Careers Advisers, Jenny Dunn and Geraldine McKenna will be available on the evening too. No booking will be required to speak with them about pathways.

Tip: use the manual booking feature and allow a 5 or 10 minutes break between appointments to move from one appointment to another, especially if located in opposite ends of the hall.

Madeleine Franken
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

Child Safe Standards
Avila College has been working to ensure that we are compliant with Ministerial Order No. 870 that sets out specific actions that registered schools need to take to meet the Child Safe Standards. The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards for all Victorian schools and are aimed at protecting children from all forms of abuse.
To create and maintain a child safe organisation, Avila College is developing:

1. strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety
2. a Child Safe Policy or Statement of Commitment to Child Safety
3. a Code of Conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour
4. screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel
5. processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse
6. strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse
7. strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.
PASTORAL CARE NEWS Continued

The College has created an action plan based on information from the VRQA and Catholic Education Melbourne. These actions are at various levels: Board, Leadership, staff, parents and students. Recently, the Board emailed a letter to all families outlining the College’s Statement of Commitment. This statement along with other Child Safe documents will soon be displayed on the College’s website. More information about Child Safe Standards can be found at www.vrqavictoria.gov.au and www.cem.edu.au/publications-policies/Child-Safety.

Notification of Infectious Diseases
We have a few students at the College who have a compromised immune system due to a variety of reasons. This puts them at serious risk if they are exposed to infectious illnesses, in particular: chickenpox, measles, mumps or shingles.

If your child is suspected of having one of these illnesses, it is very important that they do not attend school until they are well. I also encourage parents to seek medical advice as to when your daughter will be no longer contagious and can safely return to school.

If your child has chickenpox, measles, mumps or shingles or is suspected of having an illness, please contact your daughter’s Year Level Co-ordinator or the Health Centre staff. The information you supply to us will be kept confidential but it will help us to give other families general advice about protecting vulnerable students.

Please do not hesitate to contact your daughter’s Year Level Co-ordinator if you have any questions about this request. Your co-operation in this matter is appreciated.

Parenting Book Club
A Smart Girl’s Guide: Friendship Troubles
This newly revised edition of the “Friendship Troubles” guide features tips, quizzes and real-life stories from girls about their own struggles with friendship. The scenarios in this book cover everything from accidental offenses to deliberate attempts to exclude or bully. A final section covers how to figure out when a situation has reached the point that adults should get involved, and how to broach the topic when you’re looking for help with a friend. Highly recommended for ages 9 to 13.

Parent’s Support Agencies
PARENTLINE – PHONE 13 22 89
This is a free service offering telephone counselling, information and referrals to parents of children aged between 0-18 years. Parents and other carers may call to obtain advice about managing difficult behaviours – including conflict and relationship issues. People who ring while the line is busy, or outside business hours, can leave a message and they will be called back.

RELATIONSHIPS AUSTRALIA
Family Dispute Resolution: Tuesday 19 July, 9:30am – 1:00pm Cost: $120
Managing Challenging Behaviours: Thursday 18 August, 9:30am – 1:00pm Cost: $120
1183 Toorak Road, Camberwell (Contact: Jodie Patten on 9261 8707 or 8573 2271)

FAMILY MEDIATION AND COUNSELLING SERVICE
Provides a range of services to support children and their families in understanding and managing difficult situations and the emotions and behaviours that come with it. Supporting children aged between 5 to 18 years. Group sessions and short courses available. Contact Sally Clarke, 41 Stamford Road, Oakleigh.
Phone: 9564 6999 Email: chadstone@mediation.com.au.
SPORT NEWS

Waverley International Netball Schools Championship

Over the holidays, while most people were enjoying their well deserved sleep-ins, ten of us were sweating it out on the netball court. We were lucky enough to participate in the Waverley International Schools Netball Championships - a four day tournament held at the Waverley Netball Centre. We competed against 21 schools from all across Australia, as well as 3 International teams: Sri Lanka, Kuala Lumpur and KK Tonga.

The team had been working hard at early morning trainings since the beginning of March, so we were very pumped and keen to see if our hard work was going to pay off. After making it through all three games on the first day undefeated, we realised that we might actually be in with a chance.

The second day proved tough, having to play four games. Our bodies were definitely beginning to feel sore and anyone who walked past our team was sure to get a whiff of the lovely aroma of Deep Heat. Although we lost our first player to injury, we were still undefeated at the end of day two meaning that we finished at the top of our pool. THINGS WERE ABOUT TO GET SERIOUS.

After winning our first game on day three, the unfortunate luck of the draw meant that we were then up against Rowville Sports Academy; a team that is well known for their MANY hours of training. We knew this would be tough. Despite some good passages of play by our Avila team, Rowville ran away with the win. Sadly, even after only losing this one game, it meant that we were knocked out of a position in the top four. We had to battle it out for places 5 to 8, but we were more than determined to get that 5th place!

For the final day we were down to eight players due to illness. We had a nervous start to the first game of the day, but eventually came away with a comfortable win. It was now on for the 5th and 6th positions! A good start to our last game of the tournament saw us up by five goals at quarter time. But after we lost another player to injury during the third quarter, there remained only a bare seven players - seven players with fatigued bodies. Down by two with only minutes to go, everyone was on edge. Thanks to some timely intercepts at both ends of the court, we were able to regain our composure and our lead, eventually winning by a narrow two goal margin.

Finishing the tournament in 5th place and being able to say that we won 10 of our 11 games, only losing to the team that took out the championship title, is something that we should be very proud of. Congratulations to all of the girls in the team for their hard work and dedication: Alannah Acciarito, Breanna Beltrame, Emily Boribon, Alyss Chapman, Jorjia Cotte, Janey Hastings, Ellie Karaula, Jess Parkes and Bridget Ryan.

A massive thank you must be given to Ms Linossier for giving up so much of her time to coach us. Thanks also to the students, parents and teachers who came down to watch. We loved hearing you cheer us on from the sidelines.

Erin Flatters – Year 12 Purple
Netball Captain
PATHWAYS AND CAREER NEWS:

ACU - Early Achievers’ Program (EAP)
As a Year 12 student, do you demonstrate leadership in your school or workplace, co-ordinate a community initiative, volunteer in a local cultural, sporting or religious group or provide care to someone in need?

Australian Catholic University's Early Achievers’ Program (EAP) recognises a student’s potential to achieve great things. Gaining a place in the desired course is dependent on meeting the university’s minimum entry requirements and subject prerequisites, regardless of success in the program. One of the biggest benefits of the program is that successful applicants receive an offer well ahead of the usual tertiary admissions announcements.

The program operates at each of the university's six campuses nationally. Applications will open on Monday 8 August 2016 and close on Monday 17 October 2016, with offers being made by the end of November 2016. Successful EAP applicants will receive a guaranteed offer through QTAC, UAC or VTAC, provided they meet the following requirements:

- The ACU course identified on your EAP application is the highest eligible preference on your TAC application at the time of the offer round
- You have satisfied prerequisite requirements for the course
- You achieve a minimum ATAR of 70 for Law, Law dual degrees and Physiotherapy*; 65 for Occupational Therapy and Speech Pathology or 58.50 for all other ACU degrees. (*subject to change)

Students are encouraged to start gathering their required documentation now to submit with along their application. Failure to meet all the requirements for the EAP will result in not being considered for the program.

Find out more at Early Achievers’ Program

Aspire Program at La Trobe University
La Trobe offers an Early Entry program called Aspire. This program is designed to acknowledge secondary students who work hard to make positive changes in their schools and communities through volunteering. The Aspire Early Admissions Program acknowledges a student’s volunteering efforts when they apply. As a successful applicant, students receive an offer into their course in September before they receive their ATAR - Aspire Early Admissions Program

Applications Opened: 1 June 2016
Applications close: 31 August 2016
Notification of Outcome: from early September 2016

In the Careers Newsletter this week

Dates to Diarise in Term 3
- Design Courses at Monash University
- SpotJobs Careers Expo
- Early Achievers’ Program at ACU
- Key Dates for Tertiary Applications for 2017 Entry
- New Deakin College Pathway Courses to Deakin University
  - Diploma of Media and Communications
  - Diploma of Science
- Have you heard of a HIT Lab?
- Bachelor of Pre-Medicine, Science and Health at the University of Wollongong
- The Global Science and Technology Program at Deakin University
- Biomedicine/Biomedical Science Degrees in Victoria
- Upcoming Open Days 2016

Reminders:
VTAC Information Evening at Avila for Year 12 parents
Tuesday 9 August starting at 7.30pm in Bunjil.
- SpotJobs Careers Expo – 26, 27 & 28 August
- University / TAFE Open Days 2016 – throughout August
- Year 12 VTAC applications – throughout August and September
- ACU Early Achievers’ Program applications August 8 - October 17
- Latrobe Aspire - Applications close 31 August

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

Jenny Dunn - Pathways Coordinator
Geraldine McKenna - Careers Counsellor
Project Rockit

Ash and Caitlin from Project Rockit visited the Year 7s on Tuesday 19 July. Project Rockit is an organisation aimed at teaching Australian teenagers about bullying and how to safely use social media.

Project Rockit empowers young people to stand up and lead change in school and online. Project Rockit works with students to come up with safe, cool and credible strategies to stand up to bullying on and offline.

The presenters gave a fun, humorous and interactive presentation on using social media and how to stand up against cyberbullying. They took a very different approach to educating us about using Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other media platforms. All this was done in a positive manner, and we found the presentation very interesting and insightful. Ash and Caitlin used lots of social media themselves, and told us their personal stories and experiences, which were very engaging.

We learnt a lot about how to be safe online and what to do if we were cyberbullied. It was a great presentation!

Emma Curtis, Year 7 Blue

Monash University’s Castan Centre for Human Rights Law Conference

Four debaters from Year 11, including myself, were given the opportunity to attend the Annual Castan Centre for Human Rights Law Conference held at Deakin Edge in Federation Square. The day consisted of a number of professionals speaking on their diverse fields of work, all of which had a focus on human rights. The immensely informative day was attended by a multitude of people, namely lawyers from Maurice Blackburn and professionals from Amnesty International. Needless to say we at times found the content challenging, but we relished every minute nonetheless.

Among the speakers were Professor Anne Aly MP, an incredibly well researched expert on anti-terrorism; Stan Grant, media personality and Indigenous Affairs Editor of the Guardian Australia; Julian McMahon, a lawyer for members of the Bali Nine who spoke on the death penalty in Indonesia and the Phillipines; Tory Russell, an American man involved in the “Black Lives Matter” movement in the U.S and Kate Jenkins, the Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner, to name a few. The broad subject matter made for a most enlightening day. We also made sure the catering didn’t go unappreciated!

Brittany Moore
Year 11 Blue

Georgia Pitt, Emily Spencer, Ms Mariam Veiszadeh-Ambassador of Welcome to Australia and President of Islamaphobia Register, Brittany Moore and Zoe Evans
PFA NEWS
Year 10 Family Function

On Sunday 17 July our Year 10 girls and their parents attended a beautiful High Tea at “Gateaux” in Hampton.

The food was plentiful and delicious and the girls all enjoyed themselves in a relaxed environment. Mums and Dads got to know each other and they are looking forward to meeting again at future social gatherings.

Marc the chef introduced himself to us all when he brought out his beautiful cakes and pastries.

Everyone had plenty to eat and drink, with most people taking home very elegant doggy-bags at the end of the day.

Jenny Satya Graha
Parent

STUDENT NEWS
The Dante Alighieri Poetry Competition Finals

2016 saw one of our Avila College students compete in the finals of the Dante Alighieri Poetry Recitation Competition.

This student was Chiara De Cruz from Year 10 (pictured left). Chiara was confident on the day and competed brilliantly. It was an enormous achievement to reach this stage in the competition as Chiara finished in the top 30 in the state. Unfortunately, she did not win but did finish in the top 4.

Chiara is to be congratulated in the way she conducted herself on the day, for the hard work put in this term and for the way she represented the college. A marvellous achievement.

Salvatore La Faucci
Languages Curriculum Leader

Please note we would like to remind our community that the new sports uniform that has been phased in over the last 2 years will be compulsory for all students starting 2017.

Upcoming Sporting events:

8 Aug - All Schools Netball Championships
17 Aug – SCSA Volleyball Tournament
23 Aug – SCSA Soccer Tournament
PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATING NEWS
The Debaters Association of Victoria Public Speaking Competition

Congratulations to Year 9 student Ashley Ng (pictured right) who represented Avila in the Semi Finals of the DAV Junior Public Speaking Competition. She was to be joined by Kavia Pynadath who also proceeded to the semi-final but was unable to compete on the night due to injury. Ashley’s speech on Homelessness was insightful and delivered with great passion. She produced a coherent and structured response to the two impromptu questions and was, overall, an excellent representative for Avila. Unfortunately, Ashley was not chosen to go through to the Grand Final, but her evaluation from the judges was most positive. Well done Ashley.

Christine Valladares
Public Speaking and Debating Co-ordinator

Legacy Junior Public Speaking Competition
On Friday 22 July Emma Gare, Sia Mattoo, Sarah Fernandes and I went to Box Hill RSL to represent Avila College in the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Competition Regional Final. Before the speeches we calmed our nerves by miming our speeches. Each entrant in the competition had to deliver a 5-minute speech and a two minute impromptu. The impromptu was slightly harder as we only had 5 minutes to plan and it required us to think on our feet and respond in detail with relevance to the topic “If I had a vision”. It was amazing to hear the different perspectives on the topic as some people spoke directly about the topic and others spoke metaphorically. During the small breaks we made new friends from other schools and we spoke to them as if we had known them for years. Ms Bulmer was most supportive when we delivered our speeches and gave us some precious last minute advice that really helped us perform well. It was a tough competition as everyone spoke exceptionally well, and we all had a wonderful morning.

Pavithra Sridhar
Year 8 Red

L-R: Sarah Fernandes, Emma Gare (Runner Up), Sia Mattoo and Pavithra Sridhar (Winner)
Evatt Trophy

On Monday 25 July, we embarked on an adventure to Melbourne University Law School, and even after the nightmare that is the Monash Freeway at 7:30 in the morning, we managed to get there with time to spare. This is when the fun began! As our designated country of Malaysia, we were prepared to debate and argue our way to peaceful and helpful resolutions. The resolutions given to us enlightened us on current world issues such as child soldiers and children in conflict; food security; and disease control in refugee detention centres. After making alliances with Spain (mainly for the free chocolate they were giving out) and Egypt, China decided to declare war against us and used their Veto power to ensure that the third resolution that we had debated for an hour was not passed. This experience for us was extremely eye opening, it challenged our debating skills, negotiation skills and on the spot communication skills. Throughout the day, we met lots of new people from other schools who all share a passion for social justice and change, and a love for arguing. Participating in a second session were Dinelle Hettiarchichi and Jessica Satya-Graha. They represented Venezuela and also enjoyed the chance to engage in world issues while meeting students from a range of Victorian schools. The day was very well run by the United Nations Youth Association.

Tynah Pearson and Javira Altmann, Year 11
Delegates for Malaysia.

To celebrate Public Speaking and Debating Week, on Monday 25 July, the Year 9 and 10 debaters were invited to participate in a Model United Nations event run by the United Nations Youth Association. The main focus concerned Middle Eastern countries and trying to come to a conclusion about the current crisis at hand. The scenario was loosely based on events happening in the world today, the Kurds fighting against the Turks for what they consider their rightful land while trying to form an alliance with Iran. We split into three different groups, and were asked to represent one them. We were then faced with unique challenges specific to each group by responding to the actions of other countries. Although all 3 groups interacted, each group was given different information which changed how everyone interpreted the conflict. The competition ended with a peace treaty and everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Sinead Kelly
Year 9 Public Speaking and Debating Captain
Congratulations to our Monash Scholars

Run by Monash University, the prestigious Monash Scholars program aids high achieving secondary students in excelling both academically and personally. Scholars are granted access to university facilities and staff, and are afforded the opportunity to build a personal network of peers and academics that will last through to university and beyond. Along with fostering leadership and study skills, the program ensures that students are supported and mentored from Year 10 throughout the completion of their VCE studies, through course selections and their university experience, and later as they embark on their chosen career paths. Scholars also have the opportunity to join ‘Monash Extension’, allowing them to boost their ATAR and get a head start at university.

We are delighted to announce that three students from Avila College were selected as Monash Scholars for 2016: Jessica Satya Graha, Dinelle Hettiarachchi and Ellie Kleins. They have been invited to attend the on-campus Welcome Ceremony this weekend, and are very much looking forward to embarking on their journey at Monash University. A big congratulation to all three deserving recipients!

L-R: Jessica Satya Graha, Ellie Kleins and Dinelle Hettiarachchi

Monash Murder Mystery

On Friday 15 July, ten eager Year 10 students ventured to Monash University to participate in the annual Monash Murder Mystery challenge. This event was aimed at highly able students with an interest in chemistry and forensic science, encouraging them to use their problem-solving and scientific analysis skills to solve a crime using state-of-the-art technology.

The day commenced with a brief introduction to the case before students from throughout Victoria were separated into groups and sent on their way to solve the grizzly crime. Students worked through six workshops that enabled them to narrow down their list of suspects, gaining skills in the areas of UV-visible spectroscopy (analysis of blood plasma), IR spectroscopy (analysis of a white powder), blood spatter analysis, fingerprinting, blood typing and DNA profiling using gel electrophoresis. The day culminated in a case presentation where groups identified the culprit from the evidence collected and speculated what their motive may have been.

According to Natasha Lucchese, “It was an amazing day that was filled with new friendships, new skills and new knowledge. The highlight, though, was the blood splatter analysis workshop because I was finally able to recreate scenes from my favourite horror movies!” Her partner in crime, Chiara de Cruz, said, “The ‘Fingerprint Analysis’ was the best; now I can figure out who leaves the milk out of the fridge!” (or what happens to all the teaspoons in the staff room) stay tuned!
Hands On Engineering Day

During the holidays, two lucky Year 10 students - Samantha Tan and Jessica Satya Graha - were invited to take part in a ‘Hands on Engineering Day’ at Melbourne University’s Parkville campus. This workshop aimed to engage high achieving Maths and Science students in interactive and challenging STEM focused workshops, which were designed to create awareness of engineering concepts and applications.

Samantha Tan said of the day, “The Hands-On Engineering Day was a very informative experience. Students of different schools came together to develop their engineering skills by solving real-life engineering problems that exist in the world. Different types of engineering were explored, such as Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Humanitarian Engineering, Chemical Engineering and constructing structures with the Melbourne Space Program. The Hands-On Engineering Day gave us an insight into the Engineering world.”

Tournament of Minds

This year, Avila College has two teams of bright and enthusiastic Year 7 and 8 students who will be competing in Tournament of Minds. This competition is a creative thinking and problem solving contest for students from all around Australia, and affords students the opportunity to challenge themselves, extend their lateral thinking skills and to engage with like-minded critical thinkers. Since the release of the Long Term Challenges over the holidays, teams have been meeting regularly in preparation for the upcoming competition day, which will be held on Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 August at Deakin University in Burwood.

This year’s mixed Year 7/8 teams are:
Language Literature Team: Imogen Galbraith (team leader), Mieke de Vries, Heidi Kleins, Tayla Grant, Niamh Gallagher, Mimi Chang and Parys Kaoulla.
Social Sciences Team: Jamie Fitzsimons (team leader), Dinara Fonseka, Tiana Pincic, Meg Allan, Emma Johnston, Katelyn Wyllie and Thehansa Seneviratne.

Over the coming weeks the students will be putting in a great deal of time and effort, not to mention brain-power and creativity in preparation for the big day. We would like to wish both teams all the very best as they prepare for the upcoming competition - good luck girls!

Lauren Stute
Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator

Student Leadership Team

On Thursday 14 July 2016 the Student Leadership Team were involved in the second leadership day of the year. We were extremely lucky to have past Avila students, Christine McGinn 2009 and Genevieve Townsend 2013 as our guest speakers for the day. Christine spoke to us about leadership in her field as a full-time journalist for the Monash Leader, whilst Genevieve engaged us with an interactive presentation of how we can be leaders within the school community and beyond.

We thank Christine and Genevieve for joining us on the day and for giving us a great insight into how we can use our leadership skills in the wider world. After the presentations the Year 12 College Captains and House Leaders were in charge of running a session to plan the upcoming Avila Day celebrations. It was during this time that we were thrown into an energetic aerobic dance activity, which saw the leaders step outside of their comfort zones and unite to share a good laugh with one another. In groups we also tried to build the highest tower out of string, sticky tape, spaghetti and a marshmallow!

One behalf of the leadership team I would like to thank Mr Andrew Gutteridge for organising the day as well as Ms Di Bari for running the meditation session in the afternoon. We appreciate all the time, effort and enthusiasm that went into making the day run as successfully as it did.

Danielle Darbyshire, Year 12 Green
College Vice Captain, Faith and Mission
DEBATING NEWS

JUNIOR INTERNAL DEBATING
The lunchtime debating competition for the Year 7s and 8s is well under way with the students enthusiastically preparing their debates and showing skill in their delivery of their speeches.

In Year 7
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING BEST SPEAKER AWARD WINNERS:

ROUND ONE: Neha Nair, Matilda Baumann, Lucy Crowe, Gurnoor Sohal, Tina Varone, Queeny Van Rest, Lucy Healy
ROUND TWO: Matilda Baumann, Pawani Bhatia, Parys Kaoulla, Tina Varone, Ally Redlich, Lucy Healy

In Year 8
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING BEST SPEAKER AWARD WINNERS:

ROUND ONE: Pavithra Sridhar, Marsha Sarumpaet, Hashani Ekanayake, Hannah White, Kavia Pynadath.
ROUND TWO: Alicia Roy, Shivaani Sivaraj, Isabel Amoranto, Kavia Pyndath

We would also like to congratulate the 5 teams of students who have signed up to represent Avila in the Debaters Association of Victoria Junior Debating competition that will this year be held at Brentwood Secondary College.

SENIOR DAV DEBATING
As we head into the last round of the Senior competition we are pleased to report that there are three teams who have an opportunity to make it through to the finals after some really competitive debating this year in the St Kevin's zone.

At Year 11 well done to Georgia Pitt, Tamara Ryan, Zoe Evans and Tynah Pearson
At Year 10 well done to Dinelle Hettiarchichi, Atara Thenabadu, Anokhi De Silva and Kate Tidswell
At Year 9 well done to Amy Cheshire, Mia Sinclair, Tricia Cowan, Elena Di Silvestro and Clare Mc Morrow.

Staff vs Student Debate

The highlight of Public Speaking and Debating Week was the Staff versus Student Debate. This year's line up was Ms Kingston, Mr Carroll and Mrs Spurritt on the affirmative against our most capable students, Georgia D'Souza, Tamara Ryan and Georgia Pitt. The subject was a most relevant one as Victoria discusses the effectiveness of the VCE and some schools move towards new models of curricula without the major examinations. Both teams managed to explore with wit and insight the pros and cons of examinations. For the first time in many years the staff were winners as they proved that their lives and the lives of the students would be more meaningful without examinations. Georgia Pitt earned the well-deserved "Best Speaker Award". It was a most entertaining event attended by about 200 students.

Christine Valladares
Coordinator of Public Speaking and Debating.
Invites Avila College Dads and Special Persons and Daughters to a Father’s Day and Special Person’s Breakfast

Date: Friday 2 September at 7.30am
Venue: Gathering Space
Cost: $10.00 per person
Bookings: www.avilacollege.vic.edu.au News & Events, Bookings

Limited Places…Bookings Essential
Avila College Music Festival 2016
25 August 7.00pm
35 Charles St, Mt Waverley
https://www.trybooking.com/211340