FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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

Last week Avila College hosted the fourth biennial Nagle Education Alliance of Australia (NEAA) student leadership conference for Year 10 students from Presentation schools throughout Australia. We welcomed almost 100 students from all over Australia and 20 staff representing 14 Presentation schools. I know the Avila College Year 10 students in attendance felt extremely proud hosting the conference at their school. The schools in attendance were: Domremy College, NSW; Iona Presentation College WA; Marian College Myrtleford; Mater Dei Catholic College, NSW; Nagle College NSW; Presentation College Windsor; St John’s Regional College Dandenong, St Mary’s College Hobart; St Patrick’s College Sutherland, NSW; St Rita’s College Clayfield, QLD; St Ursula’s College Yeppoon, QLD; Star of the Sea College Brighton and Trinity Catholic College Lismore, NSW.

The theme for this year’s conference was “You’re the Voice” and from watching and listening to students participating in the conference this was a most suitable theme. The students used their voices to present SLAM poetry messages and to share how they can take Nano Nagle’s messages back to their schools and use their voices for those groups marginalised in our community. One of the conference activities students participated in was an act of service where students working in groups gathered items and put together care packs for members of our communities who need some extra help. Bringing a conference together like this takes months and months of preparation and I would like to thank the following Avila staff who played key roles in the success of the conference; Christine Kralj, Anna Franceschini, Andrew Gutteridge, Carmela Marino, Gemma Di Bari and Roxane Lascaris. I would also like to thank Fr. Christian Fini OMI who was our celebrant at the concluding Eucharist on the Friday morning before all students departed.

Last week we also held our Term 3 Open Morning with just over 150 visitors touring the College escorted by our student ambassadors and then staying for a presentation as well as morning tea. During this time, we invited prospective families to ask any questions they may have about the enrolment process as well as specific questions about Avila College.

Community news:
I look forward to seeing many parents during our Oral report nights this week. These interviews provide a timely chance to clarify questions regarding subject choices for next year as well as glean helpful ideas from staff in supporting your daughters continued academic successes.

A reminder to all families that the college will be closed this Friday 19 August as all staff will be involved in a Faith day off campus. Also bookings are essential if you want to attend the Father’s Day Breakfast.

With blessings to everyone in this year of Mercy,

Louise Gunther
Principal

Cover image: NEAA Student Leadership Conference 2016
FROM THE CHAIR

At the June Reporting meeting the Avila College Board welcomed two new members; Jo Cowan, St Leonard’s Glen Waverley Parish Representative and Carrie Heng, St Christopher’s Syndal Parish Representative. Together these new members and Jodie Wylie, who began earlier in the year (Good Shepherd Mulgrave Parish Representative) have participated in an Induction session, to assist their smooth transition to the Avila College Board. We look forward to working with Jo, Carrie and Jodie on the Board and to the time, energy and contributions they will make to the Avila College community.

The revised Avila Board Constitution was discussed at our June meeting and a final draft is currently being prepared for approval by the Avila Board and Fr Brendan Dillon, President of the Canonical Administrator, before seeking the approval of the Archbishop.

This year, the Board’s commitment to improved Board visibility in the community over 2016, has been reflected in the presence of representative Board Members at Avila events and celebrations including Open Mornings, College Assemblies, the Creative Arts Festival and Avila / Mazenod Musical.

The Board Development Working Party has begun meeting regularly and is now preparing to begin drafting a Board Handbook for future consideration by the Board. This handbook will support the Constitution and the work of the Board by providing important information for Board Members about Meeting and Board procedures, Board Membership and clarification of Board Member roles and responsibilities.

At our June meeting, Christine Kralj (Deputy Principal Wellbeing), provided the Avila College Board with an overview of the Ministerial Order No. 870 arising out of the Betrayal of Trust Report (tabled November 2013) and the implementation of child-safe standards across organisations and schools in Victoria in 2016. All Board Members contributed to Avila College’s Statement of Commitment to child safe standards, which is available on the Avila College website under Our College Child Safe Standards. Ms Gunther and I recently wrote to the Avila College community, about Avila’s commitment to the care, safety and wellbeing of Avila College students and the implementation of child safe standards across every organisational level of our school.

I will continue to keep you informed about the work of the Board in this space.

Sally-Anne Petrie
Chairperson, Avila College Board

Images from NEAA Student Leadership Conference 2016

Guest Speaker
The Honourable Justice Sharon Johns, Alumnae 1985
LEARNING AND TEACHING NEWS

Course Selection for 2017
Years 8 to 11 students and their parents are reminded that all subject selections must be completed via the Subject Selection Online (SSO) link on Simon by Monday 22 August. Although students from Years 9 to 11 make their selections online, they are reminded that signed print outs of their selections must be submitted to their homeroom teachers no later than morning homeroom on Monday 22 August. Construction of the 2017 timetable grid will commence immediately and will be based on students’ subject selections as at 22 August.

Next week, Year 7 students will have the opportunity to select their language for study in Year 8 in 2017. They will be informed of the factors to consider and how to make their online selections on Tuesday 23 August. Parents will be sent further information about this via CareMonkey.

NAPLAN Reports
The VCAA will deliver hard copies of years 7 and 9 NAPLAN reports to the College sometime this week. We will forward these to the parent’s postal address as soon as we receive them.

Madeleine Franken
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

Gifted and Talented News
We wish to extend our congratulations to our Year 11 student Javira Altmann (pictured below), who was one of only five Victorian secondary students selected to receive the Junior Tall Poppies Award. This most prestigious award recognises outstanding secondary students who have excelled in the areas of Science and Mathematics. Recipients of the award also exhibit the leadership skills required to develop projects in the school community that reinforce the importance of science in today’s society.

As a recipient of the Growing Tall Poppies Award, Javira will be mentored by a leading scientist who will aid her in engaging the wider student population at Avila in the STEMM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine). She will have the opportunity to network with like-minded students and scientists at a three day GTP Immersion Program and will have access to a network of science workshops through a membership with The Royal Society of Victoria. We are very much looking forward to following Javira’s journey through the Growing Tall Poppies Science Partnership Program and are immensely proud of her achievements.

Lauren Stute
Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator
FAITH MATTERS

World Youth Day 2016, what an experience! As we boarded the plane with excitement and anticipation along with 200 other Victorian Catholic school pilgrims, we had little insight into what was really in store for the next two weeks. After surviving the grueling 26-hour long plane trip, we landed in Poland and began our journey of mercy, joined together in unity with 3 million other young Catholics. Within the first few days, we had seen Warsaw, the Black Madonna in Czestochowa and journeyed to the city of Krakow, where World Youth Day (WYD) was awaiting. The first thing we saw of Krakow was the university “AGH” in which we’d be staying for the next week. It was an interesting experience sharing one bathroom between 10 girls, but what better way to bond with our fellow pilgrims.

In our small groups of eight girls, we attended so many amazing events including: the Australian Gathering with the 3000 other Australians that came to WYD; the Night of Mercy with 18,000 other people where we listened to Matt Maher and Audrey Assad and had a powerful moment of silence; the Papal Welcoming, where more than 1 million people welcomed the Pope to Krakow and we heard his calling to us to be the face of mercy in the world; and of course the Sleep Out, where we slept the night in a field with 3 million people and had Mass with the Pope.

World Youth Week didn’t end there for us. As Victorians we were privileged to enjoy a retreat in the famous ski town of Wisla. These were only a few of the amazing experiences we had while at WYD. We’d like to say a big thank you for the support Avila provided. We will cherish every memory from this pilgrimage for the rest of our lives.

Mauve Gill and Eliza Giulian,
Year 11

A Patch of Warmth

Late last term, the Young Vinnies group called for the community to knit squares to bind together to make blankets and scarfs. As the squares were gathered, the community was too, and through many hours of work done by Avila students, staff and relatives, we gathered many squares. These were then transferred into blankets by many hours of hard work.

These blankets and scarfs were made to be given to many organizations spread throughout Melbourne, related to St. Vincent’s De Paul. We would like to say a huge thank you to all those who contributed, providing warmth for many people in need this winter.

Chiara Smith
Year 9 Silver

Students with their creations
Year 9 Religious Education Excursion

All Year 9 students were around the city of Melbourne last week, exploring where and how the Catholic Church is in action.

Each homeroom visited 3 or 4 different venues such as Sacred Heart Mission, Ozanam House, St Patrick’s Cathedral, the Catholic Historical Commission, the Carmelite Monastery, Presentation College-Windsor, Mary MacKillop House, St Francis’ Church, St Vincent de Paul, Mercy Health, St Mary Star of the Sea Church-West Melbourne, Archdiocesan Office of Youth, and a talk about the works of Caritas.

The excursion allowed students to see first-hand the work of the Catholic Church in areas such as health, education, faith and welfare. This was a reminder for us all about one of Nano Nagle’s sayings, Not words, but deeds. Students saw the deeds which were available to all regardless of the person’s circumstances or religious beliefs.

All Year 11 students studying Religion and Society this semester left Avila for the day to discover what Interfaith Dialogue is. An area of their study is to discover the various religious traditions in Australia and how they have contributed to the local community and the wider Australian population.

Students visited the Turkish Islamic Cultural Centre and Mosque, a Sri Lankan Buddhist temple-Dharma Sarana, a Greek Orthodox Church-St. Panteleimon, the Cambodian Buddhists-Wat Buddharangsi, the Hindu Shri Shiva Vishnu Temple and the Sikh Gurdwaras Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

Each Place of Worship was incredibly welcoming to the Avila students.

Ms Kate Johnston
Religious Education Curriculum Leader

Ms Flynn with 9 Green outside St Patrick’s Cathedral

Ms Spiteri with 9 Orange outside the Mary MacKillop Centre
East Melbourne

Emily Camilleri and Maggie Minchin at the Turkish Mosque

Tea in the Islamic Cultural Centre
PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATING NEWS

Senior Debating Association Victoria (DAV) Competition - 7 August 2016

After many hours of preparation and many lunch times given up for impromptu practice, Dinelle Hettiarachchi (Year 10 Green) and myself arrived at St Kevin's early on Sunday 7 August to participate in the Senior DAV Public Speaking Competition. Competing against just under fifty students from schools all around Victoria, we presented one prepared speech and two impromptu speeches, enabling us the opportunity to receive valuable feedback from experienced adjudicators, and to challenge us in the skill of thinking on our feet in order to produce a speech with only five minutes of preparation time. The competition was a very valuable opportunity from which I’m sure both Dinelle and I have gained a new range of skills and a great sense of achievement from. We are very grateful to Ms Bulmer for her support and enthusiasm in the lead up to the competition and on the day, as well as Ms Valladares for her continuous support. Overall, it was a very worthwhile experience.

Georgia Pitt
Year 11 Blue

DEBATING NEWS

It has been a busy time for Avila’s debaters. The Senior DAV teams completed the season with lots of wins and some sadness as we farewell our wonderful Year 12 debaters. We are pleased to hear that a number of them are intending to become adjudicators with the DAV next year. We wish them well.

Some of the Year 12 Debating Team L-R Devni Nagodavithana, Tessa Canning, Audrey Thoman, Tavsaran Kakkar, Catherine Pagliaro, Jovita Thomas, Isha Shah

In our last round the following students received the "Best Speaker Award":
Catherine Pagliaro, Devni Nagodavithana, Atara Thenabadu, Tino Munyaniywa, Tina Shankar, Maria Yeo, Gabriella Ishak, Ahsley Ng, Shenuri Fernando and Alice Russo. Well done!

Also the Junior Internal competition has come to an end. The senior adjudicators have been very impressed with the standard of many of the speakers. At Year 7 there was only one team finish on top of the ladder and so …….

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CHAMPIONS FOR 2016
Niamh Gallagher, Neha Nair, Joyce Lay, Olivia McQuitty, Neha Cherayath

The “Best Speaker Award” winners for the final round were:
Matilda Baumann, Neha Cherayath, Natarsha Scavello, Jocelyn Satya Graha, Lucy Crowe, Anna Kouvelas. At Year 8 two teams have finished the season on equal points and will debate each other in the Grand Final. Congratulations to:
Avila 2: Tiana Pincic, Martha Sarumpaet, Shivaani Sivaraj, Ria Edward
Avila 8: Sanjana Nair, Kavia Pynadath, Sia Mattoo, Alicia Roy, Priyanka Sharma

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The “Best Speaker Award” winners for the final round were:
Matilda Baumann, Neha Cherayath, Shivaani Sivaraj, Amelia Naidoo, Sia Mattoo, Pavithra Sridhar.

Avila is also very proud of the 31 students at Years 7 and 8 who have signed up to compete in the Junior Debaters Association of Victoria competition. The girls attended their first evening last Tuesday and were actively involved in a training night. We wish them luck as they prepare for their first inter-school debates for some of them.

Christine Valladares
Co-ordinator of Public Speaking and Debating
Girl Power in STEMM - University of Melbourne

University of Melbourne is running a 4 year STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine) program for a cohort of 30 girls with the goal of encouraging young girls to pursue careers in STEMM fields. Over 400 Year 9 girls across Victoria, including a number of Avila students, applied and we would like to congratulate Grace Joyce on being offered a position in the program. Grace shares below her experiences of the opening event which was a 3-day camp held during the mid-semester break.

On Sunday 3 July, 30 girls including myself arrived at Melbourne University. I didn't know anyone so it was a little intimidating at first but worth it when we started the actual workshops.

Over the three days we participated in 4 lectures, 9 workshops, a trivia night and a discussion with women who worked in the industry. Overall the majority of the lectures and workshops were very informative; I couldn't choose a single favourite activity but I personally enjoyed the lecture we had on the first day on Ethics of Autonomy and one of my favourite workshops would be 'Lego NXT Robots'.

The lecture on Ethics of Autonomy was a pleasant surprise, I went into the lecture theatre knowing nothing on ethics or autonomy and left with a great understanding. We discussed morals and what was 'morally correct'; we went into this by discussing the trolley problem - basically there is a 'trolley' which is going down a path with 5 people tied to the tracks and will kill all 5 unless you move the lever so it changes direction and continues down a different path killing one person tied to the tracks. We filled out an online survey saying whether we would pull the lever or leave it and approximately 85% of people said they would pull the lever. There are different variations of the trolley problem which we had to address also. Then we were given the same problem but to do with autonomy (self-driving cars) and how they should be programmed if approaching similar problems. We of course didn’t ‘solve’ it during that lecture but it was very interesting.

Over the three days we participated in many workshops, one of my personal favourite was the Lego NXT Robots (run by Robogals). We participated in a workshop using Lego NXT Robots also run by Robogals at Avila in Year 8 however that session was far shorter. In this workshop we used the Lego robots and were given a task to complete using the picture code. Each task would increase in difficulty and we were given hints such as ‘the infinity block is useful now’. I enjoyed this due to my interest in code and robotics, it is always fun to watch your code turn into something more.

Overall it was an unforgettable learning experience and I can’t wait for the next 3 years to see what the program will bring me.

Grace Joyce
Year 9 Gold
NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2016

‘Drones, Droids and Robots’ is the theme for National Science Week this year which runs from 13 to 21 August. There will be a number of challenges and lunchtime activities for students to participate in at Avila. Monday has already seen students enjoying themselves on the robot scavenger hunt and the Periodic Table quiz. We look forward to fun with quadcopters and other robots at lunchtime on Wednesday.

The staff of the Science department have also put together a Science Exhibition showcasing a sample of the work our talented students from all year levels have been producing this year. The Exhibition will be open for parents to view during the Oral Report evenings on Tuesday 16 and Thursday 18 August.

SPORT NEWS

AFL Championships

During 23-30 July 2016, Tricia Cowan of Year 9 represented Avila College in the Victorian Girls Under 15 team at the School Sports Australia Combined AFL Championships in Maroochydore, Queensland. Victoria went undefeated all week and won the Grand Final against Western Australia, 10 8 68 to 4 4 28.

Tricia played most of the week in the back line and also played up on the wing and the forward line, kicking a couple of goals, including one in the Grand Final. Congratulations to Tricia on an outstanding achievement. We look forward to seeing her skills and passion for football continue to develop in the coming years.

Upcoming Sports Events

SCSA Softball Trial dates. Trials will take place at school on the outdoor courts from 3:30-4.30 pm

- Juniors: August 23rd
- Intermediates: August 24th
- Seniors: August 25th

SCSA Soccer tournament
- August 23

IGS Gymnastics competition
- August 30 - Sept 2

SCSA Netball
- September 12

Avila College Sports Awards Night
- September 15 (more information in the next Newsletter edition)

Tim Ross
Sports Co-ordinator

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.
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