FROM THE PRINCIPAL

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

These past two weeks have seen the amazing talents of our Avila College students and most capable staff as we have celebrated Science, Book and Music weeks.

Throughout Science Week, students had opportunities to test their scientific knowledge as well as share some wonderful displays with all who came during the oral report afternoons and evenings. I would like to thank Sarah Thom-Tydell, Science Curriculum Leader and her staff for their efforts throughout Science Week.

Last week we jointly shared Book and Music weeks. The Learning Resource Centre had many and varied activities for students to participate in, as well as a competition held throughout the week. I would like to thank Di O’Neill, Learning Resource Centre Co-ordinator and her team of staff for all their initiatives throughout the week. If you were visiting the College throughout last week, you possibly would have heard the many wonderful musical and vocal sounds coming from the music school. Beginning with the X Factor competition held last Monday at lunchtime, throughout the week we were entertained by our very talented students with the highlight of the week being the Musical Festival concert being held in the College Hall on Thursday evening. This year’s theme was Screen Sounds and with over 150 guests attending the evening. The night was highly entertaining, showcasing the many and varied talents of our students. I would like to thank Roxane Lascaris, Music Co-ordinator and her music staff for their efforts during the week.

We have closed subject selections for our students in Years 8-11 and are now in the process of deciding the subjects that will be viable to offer students next year and constructing the timetabling blockings. The process always begins with considering the choices made by our Year 12 students of 2017 followed by Year 11s and so on. If for some reason a subject does not run or there is a clash of subjects, students will be well supported in re-considering other choices. I would like to thank all the staff that have been involved in the process of subject selection for our students and mentoring them as to future career pathway options.

On Friday 19 August, the staff came together for a day of prayer, reflection and meditation after a busy week and the mid-way point of the term. Paul Spence, Spiritual Director led the day with the theme being ‘I am because we are…” The day allowed us to spend time with ourselves and with one another to deepen our awareness of who we truly are. I would like to thank all staff that contributed to the success of the day including: Carmela Marino, our Acting Director of Faith and Mission for planning the day with Paul, Gemma Di Bari who led us in a very relaxing meditation session and Kim Rowland who assisted with much of the planning for the day. It was a wonderful opportunity for the staff to spend time together and nourish our own spiritual minds.

Community news:
Congratulations are extended to Christine Kralj, Deputy Principal Wellbeing, who has been appointed to the position of Deputy Principal Wellbeing at Our Lady of Sion College Box Hill commencing 2017. Christine has been at Avila College for the past 19 years and been in the role as Deputy Principal for the past 10 years. We wish her well in this new appointment. She will be sadly missed by past and current students who she has supported with much compassion and nurturing.

With blessings to everyone in this year of Mercy,

Louise Gunther
Principal

Cover image: The College celebrates Science Week
LEARNING AND TEACHING NEWS

Curriculum News
Results from the 2016 National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests, undertaken in May by Years 7 and 9 students, were released recently. Individual NAPLAN reports were mailed to parents last week. Please note that as the VCAA only provides one hard copy per student, we are not able to issue duplicate reports to families.

Of course, the NAPLAN tests are only a snapshot of a student’s ability in numeracy or literacy as demonstrated on a given day. The results are objective and standards-referenced evidence of a student’s knowledge and skills in relation to what is expected in mid-year 7 and 9. Every test includes items that assess curriculum content from year levels above and below the level assessed. In conjunction with other information about a student’s ability, the results can be used to determine whether a student may be under performing in class or whether more challenging work may be required. If there is a significant and unexpected variation between performance in the NAPLAN and assessment at Avila, we advise parents to contact their daughter’s English or Maths teacher for further discussion.

Teachers have access to much more detailed data about students’ responses in these tests. Each year, teachers review the data and use it, together with results from internal assessment, to address students’ learning needs.

In 2016, Avila students continued to show significant improvement from Year 7 to Year 9. Avila College offers a number of specific programs to extend students and to address the learning needs of students who may benefit from additional targeted teaching in numeracy or literacy. Specific teaching of core knowledge and skills through Catch Up Corner, Extra English, Literacy and Vocational Skills and the Our Australia History programs assist students to improve in these core areas, in addition to the regular learning and teaching program.

Subject selection
Earlier this week, current Year 7 students submitted their selections of the language they wish to study in Years 8 and 9. This concluded the subject selection process for the year. Construction of the timetable for 2017 has commenced based on students’ subject selections. Students will be notified in term 4 of their allocation to their elective subjects for 2017.

Tournament of Minds
Congratulations to Avila College’s Language Literature and Social Science teams who competed at Deakin University in the Tournament of Minds last weekend.

This year’s mixed Year 7/8 teams were:
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

Avila’s teams spent many hours preparing for the competition. Earlier this term they were advised of their specific topic for the long-term challenge for which they had to devise a solution, script and rehearse a presentation. We look forward to the results of the competition that are yet to be announced. This competition is just one of the many opportunities provided by Avila to extend and challenge students in the development of their problem solving skills.

Madeleine Franken
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

Class of 1976 40 Year Reunion
We would love as many Alumnae who were with Avila College for any part of that 6 year journey to join us.

Date: Saturday 8 October 2016
Venue: to be confirmed
Contact: Jo Fernando 0417 357 358
Pastoral Care

School Improvement Survey - Invitation to Parents
Each year Avila College undertakes a set of surveys as part of a School Improvement Framework. The framework promotes an inquiry-based approach to planning within the school. An important part of this process is gaining parent, student and staff opinions. We hope to survey as many Avila parents as possible, while 350 students will anonymously also undertake the survey during class time.

We strongly encourage parents to be involved as your feedback is extremely important. Parents are invited to register to complete the survey via https://goo.gl/forms/A14ta1mRPHvU7SPu1. Parents who volunteer will receive instructions including username and password from Insight SRC. The parent survey can be completed online up until Friday 16 September 2016.

If you have any questions, please contact Christine Kralj, Deputy Principal Wellbeing, who is the school’s Survey Co-ordinator on 9831 9600.

Arranging to Go Home if Unwell
Students who become unwell during the day must arrange to go home through the Health Centre or their Year Level Co-ordinator. This includes students who come to school and feel that they need to go home before the school day begins. We ask parents not to make arrangements directly with their daughter as the College has a duty of care to students once they arrive at school. Students who leave with parent permission but without going through the correct communication channels, cause undue concern for staff. Parents are asked that, if they are called by their daughter to pick them up, they refer their daughter to the Health Centre or Year Level Co-ordinator and wait for a member of staff to call.

Child Safe Standards
The College continues to implement policies and procedures to ensure the safety of students. Recently, we have uploaded four new documents to the Child Safe Standards page on the College website. Members of the Avila community are able to access the College’s Child Safe policy, Code of Conduct, Mandatory Reporting procedures and the PROTECT document that provides guidelines in regard to identifying and responding to child abuse.

Change to Arrangements for Private Tutors
Students who have previously had private tutors come to the College for tutoring must now make alternative arrangements. The new Child Safe Standards requires the College to have all adults working with students to sign our Code of Conduct. Private tutors are not covered by this requirement to sign the Code of Conduct and therefore the College cannot take responsibility for their attendance at the school. We suggest that parents inquire at the Mt Waverley Library as a possible alternative venue or make other arrangements with the tutor.
PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATING NEWS

PUBLIC SPEAKING NEWS
On a day of heartfelt discussion of contemporary issues, we came to realise that the first time we vote may well be in a referendum to recognise our First Australians; what a momentous occasion that would be. We were lucky enough to participate in one of a series of Constitutional Conventions run for students across Victoria. The event we attended was at Mt Alexander College in Flemington. What struck us was the diversity in the demographics of this area. We sat with students who had travelled the world as tourists as well as students who had travelled to Australia as refugees and were living in housing commission flats. We were also joined by students from Thornbury Secondary College, some of whom were Aboriginal and members of the Wirrapunda Foundation.

The discussion for the day was constitutional recognition for Australia’s First Peoples. This raised questions concerning historic injustices inflicted on our Aboriginal people. With the help of Adam Bandt (Federal Greens MP for the area) and Danny Pearson (State MP for Essendon), the group explored the purpose of the Constitution and the impact of amendments. We discussed the importance of language and the need for it to be able to pass the test of time. We constructed recommendations that were to be sent onto the politicians for consideration. The best part of the day was meeting committed, like-minded students from other schools who shared our perspective and passion. It was an enriching event.

Debating News Junior DAV Debating
Our junior teams competed in their first debates of the DAV season at Brentwood Secondary College and performed very well with four out of the five teams earning full points. Congratulations to Shivaani Sivaraj, Mieke de Vries and Priyanka Sharma on their “Best Speaker” awards.
Debating News continued

Junior Finalists
Avila's internal debating competition came to an exciting close with the Grand Final at Year 8. It was a very close debate as the students grappled with the proposal that we should increase our funding to the Arts. The affirmative team won by the narrowest of margins causing the adjudicators Jovita Thomas and Tavsaram Kakkar to look closely at the skill of the students.

Congratulations to the winners: Sanjana Nair, Kavia Pynadath, Sia Mattoo, Alicia Roy and Priyanka Sharma.

Special congratulations to Shivaani Sivaraj who received the Best Speaker Award.

Christine Valladares
Co-ordinator of Public Speaking and Debating

Re-Enrolments Reminder
Just a reminder that 2017 Student Application - Re-Enrolment forms are due by Friday 9 September 2016. As we have students on waiting lists to enter the College, we want to ensure all current students are factored into our planning.

If you are uncertain about your intentions for 2017 please contact your daughter’s Homeroom Teacher to discuss your situation further in detail.

At all times if you are experiencing financial difficulties please email familyaccounts@avilacollege.vic.edu.au and we will contact you to organise a meeting.

Elizabeth Makhlout
Registrar
SPORT NEWS

SCSA Volleyball Tournament - Wednesday 17 August
After weeks of trials and training, it was finally the day for the Avila Volleyball teams (all 5 of them!), to show off their amazing skills at the SCSA volleyball tournament. Having both experienced and new players, our squad was a force to be reckoned with, possessing determination, team work, skill and most importantly the Avila spirit.

Both Junior teams tackled tough competition, but that did not stop them. Having a past elite volleyballer, Theresa, to help coach and guide them, our junior teams played amazingly on the day with the Junior B team making the grand final and coming second, and the Junior A team finishing fifth.

The intermediates were outstanding. Both teams had extremely consistent and high skill levels and the opposition did not stand a chance. Our Intermediate A team made the grand final and came second. Our Intermediate B team was undefeated all day, taking out 1st place. Huge congratulations to Tricia Cowan for being awarded best on ground for the Intermediate B Grand Final. It was definitely a fantastic effort.

With perfect digs, sets and spikes, the seniors were a team of talent and played incredibly well throughout the whole day. However, missing out on a chance for the grand final, the girls battled it out like superstars, and came third.

Thank you to all the teachers who supported us throughout training and on the day; Ms Flynn, Mr Bullock, Mr Kennedy and Mr Whiston, and huge congratulations to all the girls. You should be proud!

Maggie Minchin
Volleyball Captain Year 11 Pink

L-R: Leah Whiting, Meg McQueen, Logan Sharrock, Erin Ardley, Paige Tocci (with ball), Tricia Cowan, Alexia Rubino and Danielle Mattingley.

Upcoming Sports Events

IGS Gymnastics competition  
August 30 - Sept 2

SCSA Netball  
September 12
Federation of International Sport and Aerobics and Fitness State and National Titles

Over the past month a number of Avila students have competed for their respective aerobics clubs in both the FISAF (Federation of International Sport and Aerobics and Fitness) State and National Titles, and the School Aerobics State and National Titles. The girls involved were, Natasha Kerr, Paris Motta, Amy Burns, Lucy Searle, Emma Johnston, Cloe Johnston, Sophie Cantwell and Roisin Selvarajoo. The girls did both their clubs and school proud, coming away with some outstanding results. A summary of their results are below:

Paris Motta and Natasha Kerr
School Aerobics Nationals - 2nd place in the Secondary Aerobics Team
FISAF States - 2nd place in the fitness team

Lucy Searle, Amy Burns and Emma Johnston
FISAF States - Trio and Fitness Teams - 1st place in both
FISAF Nationals - Trio and Fitness Teams - 1st place in both National Champions
School Aerobics States - Fitness Team - 2nd place, Trio - 1st place
School Aerobics Nationals - Fitness and trio teams - 2nd place in both teams

Roisin Selvarajoo
FISAF States 1st place
FISAF Nationals 1st place
Qualified to be part of the Australian Team and will be competing at the FISAF World Championships which will be held in Vienna, Austria in October.

Sophie Cantwell and Chloe Johnston
FISAF State Championships - 2nd place
FISAF National Championships - 4th place

We would also like to wish Roisin Selvarajoo of Year 11, who has qualified for the Australian team, all the very best at the upcoming FISAF World Championships which are to be held in Vienna in October this year.

Tim Ross
Sports Co-ordinator

Please note
We would like to remind our community that the new sports uniform which 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
AVILA
SPORTS
Awards
NIGHT

Thursday, 15th September 2016

Time: 6.30pm - Photo Displays | Gathering Space
7.00pm - Presentations | Bunjil.

Ticket Bookings: https://www.trybooking.com/220353
Tickets On Sale 29th August