FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

Dear Avila College Community,

Although we have entered the final few weeks of the academic year, learning at Avila College continues at full pace.

Last Wednesday, whilst Year 10 and 11 students revised in preparation for their end of semester examinations, Year 9 students undertook formal exams in English, Maths and Science in the Hall. At the same time, Year 8 students visited Kryal Castle so they could experience a medieval setting to enhance their understanding of the middle-ages as studied in History this year. Year 7 students enjoyed a very active day applying mathematical problem solving skills in the Sporty maths program. They also participated in a writing workshop led by writer and Avila College alumna Dzintra Boyd. Dzintra teachers creative writing at RMIT, is mother of Year 8 student, Tarquin, a past student and a daughter of a past teacher of Avila College. The girls had a wonderful time and produced some great work which will be published within their English classes for distribution before the end of the year.

Congratulations to Year 11 students, Hannah Faraone and Sarah Dennis who have been selected to participate in the National Computer Science School (NCSS) intensive summer school computer programming course in January. Applicants from all over Australia apply each year but only a few are chosen. It is a testament to the depth and breadth of talent at Avila that we were fortunate to have two students selected to attend the program to be held at the University of Sydney in January. Selection is based on students’ academic performance, particularly in mathematics and science, as well as a demonstrated interest in computing. Personal qualities, such as commitment to community service, and social and teamwork skills are also considered in the selection process. Well done, Hannah and Sarah and thanks to teacher Mr Ziad Baroudi who encouraged them to apply.

Each year, the University of Melbourne offers the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program to selected students. This year over 1800 applications were received and I am delighted that Kiran Kottakkal (Year 10) has been awarded it. The program will provide an opportunity for Kiran to interact with other Young Scholars, attend university events and have access to the university’s library and resources for the final two years of her secondary education. It is a great opportunity to extend Kiran’s learning and I thank Gifted and Talented Coordinator, Lauren Stute for encouraging and supporting Kiran in her application for the Kwong Lee Dow program.

Parents are reminded that after Year 10 and 11 students conclude their semester exams, their Headstart program will be conducted from Friday 25 November to Friday 2 December. This program enables all students going into study of a Year 11 or 12 subject to commence their new subjects and undertake some preparatory homework to get them off to a great start in their senior studies for 2017.

Our Year 7 students will also undertake cross-curricular learning through their Integrated World Unit, designed to develop a range of skills, including civics and citizenship understanding in preparation for their City Experience in Year 8.

Students in Year 8 will undertake an alternative program that includes drug and alcohol education, application of sophisticated maths problem solving and technology activities, indigenous studies and preparation for Year 9 camp.

Year 9 students will be engaged in careers education, including occupational health and safety learning essential for Work Experience next year, preparation for Year 10 Community Service and a Reflection day with Mazenod College. I thank Avila College teachers for their commitment to providing such interesting, varied and rigorous learning programs that continue to engage our students right up to their final day for 2016.

As term 4 draws to a close, sadly we have commenced farewells to some long serving members of the College Board and the Parents and Friends Association (PFA). Sally-Anne Petrie’s (Avila College Board Chair) report later in this newsletter highlights the leadership and service of Principal Louise Gunther (9 years), Deputy Principal Christine Kralj (19 years) and Canonical Administrator Fr Brendan Dillon (22 years). We are truly appreciative of their service to Avila College over such a long time.

At the final PFA meeting for 2016, President Wasana Fernando thanked founding member Karen Roache for her generous commitment to the PFA over the past 4 years. Karen responded that she had enjoyed her time with the PFA because it had enabled greater connection with the Avila community due to social activities designed to foster a sense of belonging. The PFA have already commenced their work in making connections with new families by encouraging a large number to sign up for more PFA information at the recent Year 6 into 7 parent information evening. Wasana and PFA committee member, Kathy Pitt invited new parents to join the PFA in 2017 as a means of developing friendships to support parents with their teenage daughters at Avila. We look forward to welcoming many new students and their families to Avila College next year.

In the next newsletter, I will advise of teachers who are leaving at the end of the year.

Community news
Prayers and sympathy are extended to Avila College staff member Veronica Nicholls on the recent death of her father-in-law Pat Nicholls. As father of foundation student and later teacher, Barbara Woods (nee Nicholls), Pat gave many years of service to Avila College and the Board from its very early days. Fr Pat Jackson celebrated a beautiful requiem Mass for Pat last week.

With blessings to all,

Madeleine Franken
Acting Principal
BA, Dip Ed (Sec), M.Ed.Leadership,
Post Grad Dip (Student Welfare),
Post Grad Cert (Careers Ed), MACE
FROM THE CHAIR

The Avila College Board gathered early in November for the Annual Board Dinner and Final Reporting Meeting of the year. Highlights of this meeting follow below.

Acknowledgement of Ms Louise Gunther’s contributions to Avila College
At the meeting, the Board acknowledged the significant contribution that Ms Louise Gunther has made to Avila College over her nine years at Avila, including her visionary leadership as Principal since 2011.

Louise was a courageous leader, initiating and leading some major changes at Avila College, which have offered extended educational opportunities to Avila students. The Avila College Board gratefully thanks Louise for all her efforts, for her commitment to the Avila College community and publicly acknowledges the following achievements realised during Louise’s leadership:

- Building connections with the Nagle Education Alliance of Australia to strengthen the connection with the Presentation Sisters’ charism
- Developing a Master Building Plan, including bringing her excellent eye for design to the interior of the new Junior School Building, construction of a new gymnasium, agricultural and horticultural science laboratory, outdoor learning spaces and the beautiful, very functional Gathering Space
- Aligning the senior timetable grid to enable more choice and opportunity for students to accelerate in their studies
- Changing the timetable to increase time in core learning areas such as Science and Languages to support deeper learning for students
- Providing increased teacher access to and understanding of assessment data (NAPLAN & VCE) to improve students’ learning outcomes
- Commissioning the beautiful statue of St Teresa of Avila in the recently landscaped St Teresa’s Garden, providing the entire Avila Community with a visible reminder of our patron and all that she represents
- Encouraging the introduction of the Discovery Learning Program with revised camp opportunities at Years 7 and 9 focussing on the development of self-confidence, resilience, awareness of indigenous and sustainability issues and problem solving skills.
- Commissioning a challenging City Experience for Year 8 students to develop skills that enhance awareness of different career options, independence and the ability to navigate their capital city, understand real social justice issues and to appreciate the beauty of Melbourne’s architecture and unique street art.
- Commissioning and overseeing the redevelopment of the Avila College website
- Formalising and streamlining the connection, communication and celebration with Avila College Alumnae
- Supporting and encouraging parents with their vision to form an active Parents and Friends Association to build greater links amongst the Avila community

The Avila College Board will be presenting Louise with a farewell gift and card to thank Louise for her significant efforts and leadership. We wish Louise every blessing and success in her future endeavours. On behalf of the Avila College Board I also invite the Avila College Community to offer expressions of gratitude and thanks to Louise for her commitment and leadership of Avila, by forwarding these to Avila Reception. We will ensure Louise receives them.

Other Board Business
Following the outstanding success of the bi-annual Nagle Education Alliance of Australia Student Leadership Conference, hosted here at Avila, the Avila College Board was delighted to hear the experiences of three students Abbey Goullet, Danielle Apidopoulos and Carla DiGregorio. All three students provided personal insights into how the conference opportunity assisted them to engage more closely with the inspiring story of Nano Nagle, affirmed by the presence of other ‘Presentation People’.
The Board has now realigned our 2017 Meeting dates, to accommodate the financial reporting requirements of the College. This will allow us to dedicate the first meeting of the year to Board Formation and goal setting for the year. The AGM will now occur at our April meeting.

The CEM (Catholic Education Melbourne) has recently begun a process for selection of a new Principal for Avila College. A selection panel consisting of representatives from CEM, school governance and Principal representatives, will be shortlisting and interviewing potential candidates. The successful applicant will be ratified by Archbishop Dennis Hart, prior to any announcement to the Avila Community.

Finally, the Board also thanked and farewelled Fr Brendan Dillon and Ms Christine Kralj for their outstanding commitment to Avila College and to the work of the Avila College Board over many years. In his 22 years as Canonical Administrator, we are sincerely grateful for Fr Brendan’s presence and service to Avila and for his guidance, counsel and support of College leadership. We wish Fr Brendan health, peace and happiness in his well-deserved retirement. In her 19 years at the College, and through her pastoral care of students, families and staff, Chris has embodied Jesus’ vision of inviting others into ‘life to the full’. We wish Chris every blessing in her new appointment and school.

On behalf of the Avila College Board, I look forward to celebrating the successes of our students with the Avila Community at Presentation Night on Monday 28 November.

Sally-Anne Petrie
Chairperson
Avila College Board

At Avila College, community services is seen as an important aspect of living out our Christian Values.

Students involved in Young Vinnies have placed baskets into every classroom to encourage donations of grocery items which will be sent to St Vincent De Paul to include in their Christmas Hampers.

At left, students work together to create gift cards to be included in the hampers.
LEARNING AND TEACHING NEWS

HeadStart
This week students undertaking VCE, VCAL or VET units in 2017 are involved in the HeadStart program that is designed to provide a genuine introduction to their senior studies. All students have three lessons in each of their Semester One subjects. This program assists students to become familiar with the expectations of each subject and to make a serious start on their learning. Students will be set holiday homework that will build on the teaching and learning from the HeadStart program.

As a consequence of the HeadStart program, a few students may decide that they have chosen a subject that is not the best fit for them. In some cases, students may realise that the subject will require more or different learning than expected. They are urged to discuss such concerns both with their parents and teachers before the end of Headstart. Parents can be crucial in encouraging resilience in the students at this point. However, experience shows us that, for some students, a subject change may be necessary. These students should contact Ms Torelli as soon as possible to ascertain whether a subject change may be feasible. Subject change requests are limited by class sizes or clashes in the timetable grid. In addition, students making subject changes are expected to catch up, not only on the learning missed in HeadStart, but also with all the holiday homework that has been set.

Examination Feedback
Careful review and reflection on examination performance provides a rich learning opportunity. Year 9 students either have been or will be given feedback from their English, Maths and Science teachers during class time. Students in Years 10 and 11 should collect their marked exams between 10am-11am on Thursday 8 December. The annual Avila Yearbook will also be available at the same time. Any uncollected exams will be available during business hours from the General Office until 19 December only.

Semester Reports
Reports for students from Years 7 to 11 will be released to parents on Monday 12 December. An email alert will be sent to parents to advise when reports have been uploaded to PAM.

VCE units 3 & 4 results from the VCAA will be issued on Monday 12 December. Year 12 students have been given details of how to register to receive their results via SMS. They are reminded to do this soon to receive their results when they are released. Year 12 students are also reminded that should they wish to discuss a change of tertiary preference, Ms Jenny Dunn and Ms Geraldine McKenna will be available in the Careers Hub from Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 December. Please see Careers news page later in this newsletter. Please note that the school will be closed on Wednesday 14 December.

Booklists
Families are reminded that the final date to lodge their booklist order online is 1 December. After that date, there could be delays with delivery due to late lodgment of orders. Orders lodged on time may be collected from Campion representatives in the Gathering Space at Avila on Tuesday 24 January between 9am and 2pm. Please note that uncollected orders will be returned to Campion and parents will need to visit Campion to collect them.
Alternatively, parents can select when ordering to have their orders home delivered.

Angela Torelli
Acting Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching
PASTORAL CARE
As part of the process of developing the Child Safe Standards documentation, it was also an opportunity for the College to produce a complementary document to guide parent/guardian interaction within the College community. This document has been developed with the input of the Pastoral Care Team and the Parents and Friends Association.

The Code of Belonging will shortly appear on the College website under Our College - Policies. In the meantime, parents/guardian are asked to familiarise themselves with the Code of Belonging. If you have questions about the Code, please feel free to call Mrs Christine Kralj, Deputy Principal Wellbeing at the College.

Parents/Guardians Code of Belonging
Parents/Guardians play a crucial role in the educational, social and emotional development of their children. At Avila College we partner with parents/guardians to ensure that the young people in our care receive a high standard of education that prioritises their wellbeing and spiritual and social growth in a safe and supportive environment.

Interactions within the College community must demonstrate respect of the rights and responsibilities of its members, including other parents and College staff. In doing so, Avila College parents/guardians are expected to model acceptable behaviour at all times within the school setting.

Avila College expects parents/guardians to partner with the College to enhance their daughter's faith development, learning and wellbeing by:

Student Engagement
- supporting the Catholic ethos of the school ensuring that, unless unwell, their daughter engages in the ‘faith-life’ of the College including attendance at Eucharists and Reflection Days;
- ensuring their daughter's attendance at school including co-curricular events and camps;
- helping their daughter to arrive punctually to school;
- showing a genuine interest in their daughter’s schoolwork and progress including reading school reports, online feedback, teacher notes and attending parent/teacher meetings as requested;
- supporting and prioritising their daughter’s learning, including maintaining appropriate time for the completion of homework learning tasks;
- encouraging their daughter to strive for their personal best in her academic endeavours;
- supporting all publicly available policies and procedures;

Health and Wellbeing
- providing timely and accurate information about their daughter's learning and health;
- supporting the College in its management of student’s behaviour and application of consequences;
- seeking appropriate professional advice, diagnoses and support when requested by school staff;
- providing all necessary items of equipment and uniform, ensuring that they are in good condition;
- encouraging their daughter to accept responsibility for her behaviour and the effect it has on others;
- actively supporting the Student Behaviour and ICT policies;
- not physically disciplining or berating their daughter whilst on school property or at a College event;

Communication:
- replying to staff communications within 48 hours for routine matters (24 hours for urgent matters)
- ensuring contact detail, in particular mobile phone and email address, remain up to date;
- communicating in a considerate, respectful and polite manner in correspondence and conversation;
- reading school communications including letters, CareMonkey requests, newsletters;
- respecting the reputation of staff and understanding that social media and other public forums are not appropriate places to air grievances or to resolve matters of concern;
- contacting staff via the College email address (general staff and teachers) or via phone/email (Year Level Co-ordinators, Curriculum leaders and senior leaders);
- respecting teachers’ preparation and meeting time during the school day and making an appointment at a mutually convenient time to speak to a staff member;
Personal Conduct
- not removing a child from the College without going through the General Office, signing and having a valid reason to do so;
- ensuring that they attend the General Office on arrival to the College;
- complying with the instructions of College staff at all times;
- conducting themselves in a lawful and ethical manner in all interactions with members of the College community;
- not smoking on the premises (buildings, grounds and vehicles) and at all College events;
- respecting and valuing the difference between people, their beliefs, ideas and opinions;
- reporting issues of safety, risk of harm or inappropriate behaviour to the College;
- ensuring upon their daughter’s exit from the College that all school properties have been returned to the appropriate department.

Matters of Concern
If a parent/guardian has a complaint, criticism or concern with a member of staff, they should:
- speak to the staff member involved and try to resolve the concern with mutual respect and clear communication.
If it is not possible to resolve the concern in this manner, then raise the matter with the:
- Year Level Co-ordinator for pastoral care concerns;
- Curriculum Leader for teaching practice concerns.

If the matter still hasn’t been resolved, or if the matter is very serious, then make an appointment to speak with the appropriate Deputy Principal or the Principal. If the problem cannot be solved within the College, we will help you to contact Catholic Education Melbourne.

If the matter is serious or is covered by the College’s Child Safe Policy, the parent will be asked to document the concern in writing.

Conflicts and incidents between students that occur at the school ought to be referred directly to the school for investigation and resolution.
Parents should:
- never approach a child of another family whilst in the care of the school to discuss or chastise them because of actions towards their own child;
- not approach other families with the intent of managing matters that arise at school;
- raise the concern with their daughter’s Homeroom teacher or Year Level coordinator.

The Avila College Code of Belonging is meant as a guideline to parents/guardians and not an exhaustive list. It is intended to assist parents and guardians to engage fully with the College and resolve issues that may arise so that high standards of care and education are maintained, duty of care is fulfilled and interactions between members of the school community are always respectful and in the best interest of our young people.

Photographs at Avila College
At Avila College, we take photographs for a variety of reasons – to record and recognise significant achievements, showcase activities, share experiences and create memories. We have some wonderful images that capture daily moments at school – from the sports field to the food tech kitchen – and tell a story about life at Avila College. These images may be used across a variety of channels including (but not limited to) our newsletter, website, annual yearbook, school displays, brochures and social media platforms.

Each year we will ask permission to photograph (or film) students and publish images. Please be aware that if permission is not provided, College staff will take precautions to ensure that the student is not photographed. This may mean that students are respectfully asked to remove themselves from photo opportunities that occur at school and on excursions, camps or trips.
Parents + Friends Association

We are looking for new members to join the Avila College Parents + Friends Association. This very friendly and welcoming group is designed to build relationships and connections within the school community. It is not focused on fundraising and does not demand a huge time commitment.

If you would like to meet other parents and contribute to school life, we would love to hear from you! Email marketing@avilacollege.vic.edu.au with your contact details.

Christine Kralj
Deputy Principal Wellbeing

STUDENT SECURITY

Please be reminded that the College is open to students from 8:00am to 4:30pm. A few girls have been arriving very early and, although we encourage punctuality, it is a matter of security that students do not arrive before 8:00am or remain on campus after 4:30pm. If your daughter is at school outside these hours please ensure that she is participating in an organized, supervised event and that she enters the college via the front entrance. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter.

Donna Bell
Director of Administration and VCE

NEWS

Stay in touch with Avila on Facebook!
Avila posts a range of photographs and news about daily life at school on Facebook. Simply ‘Like’ the Avila College page for a regular feed on your phone or tablet and you can stay in touch with the latest from our school community.

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If you would like to meet other parents and contribute to school life, we would love to hear from you! Email marketing@avilacollege.vic.edu.au with your contact details.

Kathy Pitt and Wasana Fernando

Upcoming Reunion: Class of 1977
Planning for the 40 year reunion for the class of 1977 is underway. If you know any former students from this class, please let them know. Details of the reunion will be posted on the website, Facebook page and invitations will be going out shortly. For more details or to send through any old photographs email marketing@avilacollege.vic.edu.au
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Year 8 Beach Aquatic Awareness Excursion
On Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 November, the Year 8 students boarded the buses for Elwood, ready to participate in the Beach Aquatic Awareness day run by Life Saving Victoria. Year 8 Blue, Gold, Green and Orange went on Wednesday and had better beach going weather than 8 Pink, Purple, Red and Silver who went on Thursday.

The girls participated in a range of water and land based activities designed to enhance their awareness of the beach environment. Activities included nipper boards, body boards, rescues, beach flags, basic CPR and understanding the beach environment.

The girls had a great day at the beach and, whilst at times it was a bit chilly, they are to be congratulated on their amazing resilience and outstanding encouragement of each other when they were getting tired. We do live in a country where going to the beach is common, and by participating in this excursion, the students have further developed their understanding of how to be safe at the beach, both in and out of the water.

A big thank you to the staff who attended the days, particularly those who were in the water with the girls the entire time.

Nerida King
Health & Physical Education Curriculum Leader

Training and awareness on Nipper Boards by Life Saving Victoria
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Year 7 Religious Education classes students have been looking at the liturgical year and studying the symbolism and themes relating to the seasons. Working together in groups, students have prepared liturgies and led the class in prayer and reflection as they explore and discuss the meaning behind the seasonal cycle.
AVILA LIFE

Year 7 Information Day

Medieval Day at Kryal Castle

Year 7 Information Evening

Sporty Maths

Year 7 Information Evening