

Prayer

Loving God, may we continue to reflect upon our Easter blessings – that you are with us every day – so that we might live life to the full. We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen



From the Principal

Student Leaders

I am pleased to issue within this newsletter a full listing of Student Leaders for 2016, following the recent appointments at Year 7. Congratulations to all students taking on these roles. Leadership at Ave Maria requires a service mentality and it has been very pleasing to see students taking initiative, identifying need, speaking up and representing their peers so very well thus far.

Important Reminders

Mission Action Day pledge: All students were asked to pledge a minimum of \$20 for Mission Action Day. These funds will go directly to support the provision of girls' education in a remote Catholic school in Venilale, St Maria Mazzarello School, Timor-Leste. I remind students who have not yet handed in their pledged money to please do so by the end of this week.

Parent/Daughter Spirituality Evening – This evening has been prepared by Mr Patrick Jurd and will focus on our Easter Liturgy. Parents are warmly invited and encouraged to come with their daughter to reflect on being Easter people – that is, people of peace, joy and fullness of life. All are welcome this Thursday, 21 April 2016 at 7.00pm.

Dr Michael Carr Gregg. All families have recently received details of this important event within our community. All parents share with us a desire to ensure that our young women continue to develop as confident, positive, strong and capable adults. As educators and parents we know that this relies on good relationships, good role modelling from influential adults, ensuring girls feel heard and respected, an adaptive attitude, sound social skills, as well as positive and safe engagement with social media (to name a few!). These factors will be discussed by renowned leader in adolescent wellbeing, Dr Michael Carr-Gregg. Please make Thursday, 5 May 2016 a priority in your calendar.

House Athletics Carnival

We look forward to our Annual House Athletics Carnival this Friday, 22 April 2016. All students are reminded of the importance of these school events and we ask for parent support as we adhere to our expectation around attendance and participation in the events and spirit of the day. As always, parents are welcome to drop in on the Carnival.

Staff movements

For the first four weeks of this term, Mr Tim Nolan will be on Long Service Leave. Ms Jennifer Lorrimar has been appointed Acting Year 10 Team Leader and Ms Elise Scoglio has been appointed to take his classes. Ms Scoglio comes to us as an experienced teacher and we welcome her to the College. Ms Bernie Stutterd Lane, Leader of our Learning Enhancement Team and known to many families, has accepted a leadership position in a Catholic Primary school and will be leaving by the end of this term. Ms Lane has shown great commitment to the students in her care over her years on staff. We thank her and wish her every happiness in her new role.

Anyone following Ave Maria College on Instagram would have seen many images of student engagement in their learning on both the Year 9 camp and the recent Italy LOTE trip. Congratulations and thank you to Ms Joanne Fastuca and Mrs Carla Godoy, along with all participating staff for providing such successful experiences for our students.

Elizabeth Hanney
Principal





Deputy Principal Leadership & Learning

Last week I had the great privilege to join our Year 9 students on their Outdoor Adventure Camp. Both current and past parents of Year 9 girls have heard lots of stories about their daughter's experience on this camp! It is a great opportunity for the girls. This was about the sixth camp of this kind for me but my first at Ave Maria. Not that I ever believed otherwise but I was reminded of how resilient our young people are and the growth they are capable of when we set them a challenge or have high expectations of them. The very first task set was to pack a backpack with their own essential items and that of the group. For most this was a completely new experience and students responded in a variety of ways to the task of thinking not only of their own needs but also that of the group. For example, if no one was prepared to carry their share of the group's food then there would be less to eat for everyone. If no one was prepared to carry the hygiene items then group hygiene would have been compromised. If individuals didn't play their part in preparing, cooking and cleaning up meals then the whole group was delayed. So the situation the girls found themselves in required that they step up. The experience demanded more from them and pushed them out of their comfort zone in ways they might not otherwise have chosen to do voluntarily. Many students reflected afterwards that they did not want to do it initially but were so glad for having been made do it. I can't help but think that this is so true for all of us in our learnings in life.

The greatest learning can come when we are in the midst of our most challenging experiences; experiences that force us to step out of our comfort zone. What this camp also reminded me of was the importance of setting high expectations for our young, in fact anyone we lead. In a publication titled *The Politics of Collaborative Expertise*, John Hattie wrote "Students of high expectation teachers are very successful in achieving their teacher's expectations. Students of low expectation teachers are similarly successful at making lower gains". In this context I invite you to reflect on the expectations you set and model for your children in any given situation. My learning over nearly 30 years of teaching is not to be surprised by what our young are capable of if we demand and hold them to account for their best. The students I have seen grow and achieve the most are those surrounded by higher expectations. The hardest part for us is resisting the natural urge to rescue or at least smooth out the path ahead for them. It is a balancing act that is part of our own learning journey as adults.

Phillip Tascone
Deputy Principal Leadership & Learning

Heads of School

NAPLAN 2016

Parents of students in Years 7 and 9 have recently received notification about the upcoming NAPLAN tests.

The scheduled for testing is as follows:

Tuesday, 10 May	P2	Language Conventions (45 mins)
Tuesday, 10 May	P3	Writing (40 mins)
Wednesday, 11 May	HR+P3	Reading (65 mins)
Thursday, 12 May	P2	Numeracy: Calculator (40 mins)
Thursday, 12 May	P3	Numeracy: Non-Calculator (40 mins)

Students absent on the day of a test may be able to sit a rescheduled test, this will be in consultation with the Head of School. Details of the NAPLAN test conditions and required materials will be received closer to the day. Questions regarding NAPLAN testing should be directed to Ms Jo Hammer, Head of School Years 7-9.

Good Friday Appeal

On Friday, 25 March 2016, 16 Year 12 students volunteered as donation collectors for the 2016 Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. Located at the corner of Buckley and Waverly streets the girls were in great spirits and their enthusiasm was infectious. They collected \$6256, an amazing effort. Special mention to Hannah Semaan (Year 12) for organising the activity, the staff and parents who supported the students on the day and Calmer Cafe who graciously donated toasted sandwiches for the students.

Australian Scout Medallion

Congratulations to Freya Hamilton (Year 10) who was awarded the Australian Scout Medallion by His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden on Friday, 18 March 2016. The medallion is the highest scouting honour recognising leadership, organisation, resilience and high-level scouting knowledge.

Uniform and Behaviour Reminders

A gentle reminder for parents and students that the Winter Uniform is to be worn during Terms 2 and 3. Please note this uniform requires black tights to be worn, socks are not permitted. Likewise, during this time students must wear their Blazer to and from school.

The College has been contacted by members of the public advising their disappointment with the behaviour of some students. This is particularly in relation to unbecoming language being used. Students are reminded that when in public their behaviour and conduct should be positive and representative of the values of the College.

Head of School Years 7-9 Jo Hammer

Head of School Years 10-12 Matt Smith

Important Dates

Thursday, 21 April
Friday, 22 April
Monday, 25 April
Tuesday, 26 April
Thursday, 5 May

Parent/Daughter Spirituality Evening
House Athletics Carnival
Anzac Day Public Holiday
Mary Centre Official Blessing and Opening
Dr Michael Carr-Gregg Parent Presentation

Teaching and Learning Leader

While Term 1 brought great learning success both inside and outside of the classroom, we now focus our attention to ensure that Term 2 brings the semester to a successful conclusion. During this term teachers continue to promote active learning, challenging students to think more deeply and critically. This is particularly evident as our students in Years 10 and 11 begin preparation for their mid year exams. Another way we continue to challenge our students to try new things is through their learning goals.

Learning Goals

The Learning Goal process at the College has continued to evolve over time to respond to changing student needs and more explicit skill development. Year 7 students have each received a 'learning goals – skill development' card to work on over the course of Term 2. These goals have been developed to further assist our students with their transition to secondary school, with a particular focus on inquiry, communication and thinking skills. Throughout the term your daughter will work towards attainment of these skills, and upon demonstration will have their achievement signed off by a staff member at the College. We have encouraged the girls to discuss the acquisition of these skills with you at home.

In the final week of this term, students will be required to write a short reflection on their skill development that will then be posted home to parents.

Promoting student reflection is an effective way to engage students in metacognition. That is, students develop a greater awareness of their thought processes. When students engage in reflection, they are essentially taking ownership of their own learning. They are helping themselves be engaged students and better learners.

The learning goal process for girls in Years 8 to 10 will be communicated to the students over the coming week.

Home Study Club

A reminder that the Helene Library is open until 5.00pm Monday – Thursday, with the exception of Day 8. During this time your daughter is able to seek assistance with any of her home study from one of the Learning Support Officers who are available until 4.30pm. This is a wonderful resource for the students and can assist them with their time management, whilst having access to the multiple resources the Library has to offer.

Jessica Hall
Teaching and Learning Leader

Faith and Religious Education

The Year 10 Faith Formation Day was held at Moonee Ponds Bowls Club on Tuesday, 19 April 2016. The theme of the day, "What can I give?" focused on preparation for their FIAT placement in August, particularly exploring the faith basis for justice. We see this in passages such as: "Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'" (Matt 25:40) The social justice focus for Year 10 is Catholic Earthcare. Given the encyclical, *Laudato Si*, released by Pope Francis in 2015, with its focus on care for people and the environment, such a focus is very timely. During the course of 2016, Year 10 will take the lead, raising awareness and money around this focus which is also very Franciscan.

The Parent/Daughter spirituality evening will be held on Thursday, 21 April at 7.00pm in Room F203. Using the theme, "How can I be a messenger of peace?", the Easter Liturgy will be shown followed by a discussion in a relaxed and supportive setting. Those who have attended previously gained a great deal from the evening. The College is mindful of providing an opportunity to be involved in the faith life of the College, which is also a chance to discuss matters of faith with your daughter.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. (Gen 1:31)

It is easy to get bogged down in the negatives of life – real or imagined. There's more than enough to go around. This passage, and the rich theology embedded in it, remind us of the goodness and beauty in everything around us. If I can't see that goodness, what am I doing about that? It is vital that I see the goodness – the constant reminder of our loving God. It is also vital that I see the goodness in me and those around me. When I glimpse my goodness, I am more likely to add my part to life's rich symphony. When I glimpse the goodness in others and empower them, I help them to make their contribution.

To help those around us, young or not so, glimpse their goodness requires us to be paying attention. It requires us to honour God's presence in each person. We all have stories of people who provided us with 'the right word at the right time' or perhaps a loving presence that helped us be our best. Consciously or not, may we each be that loving presence in the lives of others, which reflects and radiates God's goodness.

Patrick Jurd
Director of Faith and Religious Education

Student Counsellor

The Importance of a Positive Attitude

A recent survey of nearly 19,000 young Australians (aged 15 – 19) revealed that more than half of young people believe there are barriers which will prevent them reaching their goals when they leave school (Mission Australia Annual Youth Survey, 2015). The results revealed that academic ability, financial difficulty and a lack of job opportunities are believed to negatively affect a young person's ability to achieve their goals in life.

It can be quite daunting for young people to consider the challenges that lie ahead. My advice to students is to focus on positives rather than negatives and never give up! Below are some ways to increase motivation to achieve goals:

- **Take control over what you can, and stop worrying about what you can't.** Some things are within your control, while other things are not. Learn to recognise the difference. Refuse to worry about circumstances beyond your control.
- **Be with positive people as often as possible.** Negative people and conversations will have you focused on all the wrong things and may take your focus off your goals. Seek out positive people and don't engage in negative conversations.
- **Speak positive affirmations.** Words have a creative force. Regardless of what is going on around you, speak out loud what you want to happen. Write out an affirmation that you can say daily and put it up somewhere that you are sure to see it every day, like your bathroom mirror or your refrigerator.
- **Learn from your mistakes.** We all make mistakes; the key is to learn from them and keep on moving toward your goals.
- **Make a plan.** A plan can spark ideas, improve productivity and ensure a great outcome. Once you have a written agenda, you are immediately going to be motivated to accomplish it.
- **Celebrate accomplishments, whether big or small.** Rewards play a huge part in staying motivated. Reward yourself each and every time you reach a goal. It can be as simple as going out for ice cream. Reward yourself — you are worth it!

Purposefully infusing your life with a positive perspective will keep you motivated and help you to achieve your goals.

Sue Hall
Student Counsellor

Pathways News

Making Caring Common—Rethinking Admissions with Harvard University

The launch of the 'Turning the Tide Report' marks the first step in efforts to inspire concern for others in high school students, reduce achievement pressure, and create greater equity for economically diverse students.

Turning the Tide is the first step in a two-year campaign that seeks to substantially reshape the existing college admissions process. The report stems from an exploratory meeting at the Harvard Graduate School of Education hosted by **Making Caring Common** (MCC), a project that helps educators, parents, and communities raise children who are caring, responsible to their communities, and committed to justice.

Following the recent release of Harvard's [Turning the Tide](#) report, La Trobe University have invited senior research member Philip Ballinger to join its annual Career Practitioners' Seminar to lead a discussion in rethinking admissions practices.

Following his work on the report, Philip will join La Trobe to discuss the report's recommendation to restructure admissions practices to promote greater ethical engagement among aspiring students, reduce pressure on academic achievement, and provide further opportunity for economically disadvantaged students.

Commissioned by Harvard's Making Caring Common Project, the report reinforces the need for university admissions program like the Aspire Program at La Trobe and the Early Achievers Program at ACU.

Key Dates

Tuesday, 26 April 2016: Latitude Global Volunteering Presentation at Ave Maria College in M201.

Wednesday, 8 June 2016: Year 12 University Excursion

Monday 20 – Friday, 24 June 2016: Year 10 Work Experience

Weeks 5 and 7 Term 2: Year 10 Morrisby Report

Helen Aliaga
Pathways Co-Ordinator

School Fees

Term 2 Fees were due on Friday, 15 April 2016. If you have not already done so please contact Carmela Gagliano on 9331 9307 to make a payment or setup a suitable payment plan as per Ave Maria College Fee Policy.

Finance Office