

## Prayer

God who loved each of us into life, may we use this Advent to become more fully aware of our daily role as agents of Your love. We make this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen



## From the Principal

### Examination Period and Preparation for 2018

This week and next our Year 7 – 9 students undertake end of year examinations and, at the senior end begin classes for their 2018 course of study. I commend all students on the manner in which they have entered into this assessment period and have been pleased with their commitment to their 2018 classes. Congratulations to all. I also commend staff who have entered into this period of heightened demands in assessment, reporting, alternative programs and induction classes with their usual professionalism and good grace.

### Volunteers Dinner

On Monday, 4 December 2017, it will be a real pleasure to acknowledge and thank the many generous volunteers within our community. I thank all parents and friends of the College who give so that our students can enjoy the benefits of good food and friendly service on offer each day at the Canteen. I thank Mary Calthorpe and Kelly Lapolla for consistently providing great leadership for our volunteers and their ongoing commitment to such a busy role. We look forward to acknowledging all volunteers with thanks.

### End of Year Communication

Over the coming weeks, all families will receive further correspondence from Ave Maria College outlining important information for the end of year and more specifically for 2018. Despite the busyness of this time of year, I do urge all parents to set aside an opportunity to become familiar with important updates for the coming year.

Whilst further details regarding staffing appointments will be included in this later communication, I wish to inform families of the following leadership roles which have been assigned to staff.

### 2018 Only

(Acting roles as a result of staff resignation and parental leave)

#### Head of School Years 7 – 9

Mr Claude Ferrarese

#### Head of School Years 10 – 12

Ms Joanna Hammer

#### Year 8 Year Level Team Leader

Ms Melanie Zahra

#### Year 9 Year Level Team Leader

Ms Jennifer Lorrimer

#### Co Curricular Leader

Mr Garry Whicker

### Full Term Leadership Appointments

#### Maths and IT Domain Team Leader

Mrs Dianne Lodge

#### Horizons Leader

Gifted and Talented Leader – New Position

Ms Kate De Bolfo

Elizabeth Hanney

**Principal**



### Reminder to RSVP

By Invitation Only

Academic Community Awards Night (ACAN)

Thursday, 7 December 2017

Francis Hall, Ave Maria College

## Term Dates 2017

Term 1 - Thursday, 2 February - Friday, 31 March  
Term 2 - Tuesday, 18 April - Friday, 30 June  
Term 3 - Monday, 17 July - Friday, 22 September  
Term 4 - Monday, 9 October - Thursday, 7 December



## Term Dates 2018

Term 1 - Thursday, 1 February - Thursday, 29 March  
Term 2 - Tuesday, 17 April - Friday, 29 June  
Term 3 - Tuesday, 17 July - Friday, 21 September  
Term 4 - Tuesday, 9 October - Thursday, 6 December

# Deputy Principal Leadership & Learning

In the last newsletter I wrote about the place of examinations in our teaching and learning program with an emphasis on the learning that comes from the experience. *"Student reflection on their examination outcomes is vital for improved performance. Students must make every examination period a learning exercise in relation to how they prepared and performed in each examination with a view to improving next time. The examination grade should not be the sole focus. Their learning from the experience is of equal importance."* So taking this point further, what does this reflection look like? Well to begin with, it can be very tempting for students at this time of year to only be interested in their grade and not much else. Summer holidays are very close and the 'it doesn't matter now anyway' attitude is an easy option. However, the students who carefully review each examination and remain committed to learning and improving are the students who are more likely to do exactly that. The students who don't are more likely not to improve or in fact go backwards. Typically, a student who improves their learning in this scenario will review the teacher feedback within the examination, look for suggested responses and solutions and reflect on how they prepared for the examinations. Each of these steps are vital in order for results to improve. Particularly so is the reflection on preparation. Everyone can reflect on how well they were prepared for an examination or any other event for that matter. However, conscientiously and intentionally focussing on what needs to change in our behaviour is what is more likely to lead to a change in outcome. The theory goes that imagining a specific behaviour increases the likelihood of it happening. So in this context I encourage students to be thinking about what will their *observable* behaviour be in order to improve. Or, "What will people see me doing differently?" I should say here also that improvement is a term for every learner regardless of their achievement level. It's all about growth. Apathy is the enemy of progress in lots of ways and it always concerns me when I hear students dismiss their results because 'that subject isn't important' or 'I'm dropping this next year anyway'. This lowering of one's standards or expectations of themselves has a virus-like effect as it can spread into our whole approach to learning, even into the areas of strength.

Now I am also conscious of preaching-to-the-choir on this! I'm not sure how many students will actually read this as compared to parents. So to parents, if your daughter is one who reads the newsletter only if her or her friend's photo is in it, I ask that you please put this under her nose so that she may read it too! I encourage you also to keep the conversation going with her about her learning.

Phillip Tascone

Deputy Principal Leadership and Learning

# Heads of School

## 2018 Subject Confirmations and Booklists

Last week, all students received, via email, their 2018 subject confirmations. This email outlines the subjects they will complete in 2018, and included a link to the 2018 booklist, which can be accessed via [www.campion.com.au](http://www.campion.com.au) using the access code "CB5N". Please note, booklist orders must be placed by Friday, 8 December 2017.

## Year 9 Laptop Return

All Year 9 students will be required to return their laptops at the end of the academic year. These devices have come to the end of their lease agreement and so will need to be replaced. As has been the practice over the last few years, students will be required to hand in their device, power cord and laptop bag in the final week of school on either Tuesday, 5 December or Wednesday, 6 December 2017. New devices can be collected between Monday, 22 January and Wednesday, 31 January 2018. Please note, collection must be booked via the following [survey](#) and is only during school hours, Monday to Friday (not including Friday, 26 January 2018). Students have already been advised of this, and will be reminded, via email this week.

## End of Year Programs

The full Year 7-9 End of Year program has been distributed to students via email and SkoolBag. Parents are asked to ensure students are prepared for each days' activities, including wearing the correct uniform.

This week, students in Years 9-11 have also commenced VCE Orientation. This involves attending classes as normal and beginning work for 2018. All VCE subjects will have holiday homework set, and we seek your support in ensuring students complete these tasks in readiness for 2018.

A reminder that the End of Year program days are full school days for all students and attendance is compulsory

## Academic and Community Awards Night (ACAN)

With all semester work now complete, the 2017 Academic and Community Award recipients have now been finalised. Invitations for students being recognised are being emailed to parents this week. We look forward to celebrating with many students and parents on Thursday, 7 December 2017, from 6.30pm at Ave Maria College in the Francis Hall.

Jo Hammer  
Matthew Smith

Head of School Years 7-9  
Head of School Years 10-12

## Important Dates

Thursday, 30 November  
Monday, 4 December  
Wednesday, 6 December  
Thursday, 7 December  
**2018 Dates**  
Wednesday, 10 January  
Thursday, 1 February  
Friday, 2 February

Year 12 2018 Parent Information Night  
Student Free Day - Assessment and Reporting Day  
Year 10 and 11 Students Final Day (Dismissal 1.38pm)  
Year 7 - 9 Students Final Day (Dismissal 1.38pm), Academic and Community Awards Night  
  
Ave Maria College Office Opens  
Year 7 and Year 12 Students Commence  
Year 8 - 11 Students Commence

# Teaching and Learning Leader

## Community Activity –

### Care Packages for our Troops

As part of the Year 7-9 End of Year Program there will be a range of Community Building activities on Wednesday, 6 December 2017. One of the activities will be putting together Christmas Care Packages to send over to our troops. All students are asked to contribute to the donations and your support in helping to facilitate this would be most appreciated.

The Defence Force recommends items like toiletries (roll-on deodorant, lip balm, shower gel) and non-perishable food (biscuits, lollies, muesli bars, small tinned food, biscuits, peanuts, instant noodles). Magazines, puzzle books, DVDs, a Christmas item, socks etc. Donations will be collected up until Tuesday, 5 December 2017 from Homerooms. Thank you for your support.

## Return of Examinations

With the conclusion of the examination period for all students in Years 7-11, marked examinations will be distributed to students on Tuesday, 5 December 2017. It is important for students to reflect on both their preparation and performance. I would encourage your daughter to read her feedback carefully and reflect on what she can do differently next year to further extend her learning. When your daughter receives her examinations she may like to approach her own self-reflection by identifying the following:

1. Easy questions she got right.
2. Easy questions she got wrong – things to practice.
3. Hard questions she got right.
4. Hard questions she got wrong – next learning steps.

This routine allows her to clearly identify the next developmental progression for her in her learning and allows her focus to be on more than just the grade.

Jessica Hall  
Teaching and Learning Leader

# Faith and Religious Education

## Venilale Stationery Drive

The Ave Maria College community is invited to make donations of new or serviceable stationery items such as pens, pencils (coloured ones are very much appreciated), erasers and writing paper. Years 7 and 8 have donation boxes in their Homerooms. Years 9-11 have donation boxes outside their Year Level Team Leader's office.

## Soup Van

We will be working with St Vincent de Paul volunteers in 2018 so that students can participate in a Soup Van Street Retreat. Details early in the new year.

*Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy times seven. (Matt 18:21-22)*

The Gospels do not portray Peter as always getting it right. Then, as now, forgiveness can be an issue. Peter has heard Jesus and so knows the importance of forgiving. His answer? The 'perfect' number of 7 (numerology was a big deal at the time). Jesus blows that away with an open-hearted forgiveness unlike anything the apostles have witnessed.

A life lesson to share with the young people in our care is the importance of forgiveness to the one doing the forgiving. If we hold on to past hurts they can be like lead weights on our being and can affect us both spiritually and physically. The open-hearted forgiveness of which Jesus speaks liberates everyone and allows each of us to grow because Love has the space to do its work – turning our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh.

Patrick Jurd  
Director of Faith and Religious Education



Keep a lookout in the mail for the inaugural edition of **Women of Ave**, a new magazine published by Ave Maria College. It will be posted to all current families during the month of November.

## Student Counsellor

### Self Esteem

Of all the things we help our children learn and do, helping them to develop healthy self-esteem is probably most important. This is because self-esteem affects all aspects of our lives including how we learn, how we interact and treat others, how we problem solve, how we handle adversity, and how willing we are to try new things. *Self-esteem is the belief we hold about our self; it is how capable and loved we feel.*

So as the year wraps up, and as we come to the end of a very busy and stressful examination period, it is a great opportunity to reconnect with your daughter and engage in a positive way, with the stress of examinations and academic pressures out of the way. Following are some simple ideas to try with your daughter:

- Connect over light-hearted and fun engagement activities: board games, TV shows, music and dance;
- Find out what's going on for her in her social and peer group... if she is willing to open up. She might really enjoy the opportunity to tell you about things happening in her 'world';
- Ask about her interests, to reinforce that you encourage and support her choices and passions;
- Validate feelings – if she has experienced a blow to her self-esteem through friendship issues, or disappointing examination results, allow her space to feel hurt and upset or angry. Afterwards you can boost her up with positives;
- Praise your daughter and notice when she has done something well. She should hear 5 positives for every 1 negative thing you say.

All of these gestures as a parent can help to build self-esteem in your child, because you are making the effort to connect, and validating who she is as a unique individual.

Ceci Tankey  
Student Counsellor

## Careers Pathways News

### Important Dates

**Victorian Tertiary Admission Centre (VTAC)**

**Personal Statement**

Friday, 8 December 2017

**Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATARs) Released**

Friday, 15 December 2017

**Change of Preference (COP) closes**

Wednesday, 20 December 2017

**Main Round Domestic Offers**

Tuesday, 16 January 2018

**Further Offer Rounds**

Friday, 2 February 2018 onwards

### New Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) initiative: Credit for Structured Workplace Learning

In 2018, following a pilot undertaken in 2017, the VCAA is implementing a new initiative whereby students undertaking Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) to support their VCE/ VET program may be eligible to receive credit towards their Senior Secondary Certificate (VCE or VCAL). This initiative provides an opportunity to formally recognise the learnings arising from direct experience in and involvement with authentic industry settings directly related to the VCE/VET program/s that students are undertaking. For their SWL placement to contribute credit towards their Senior Secondary Certificate, students must complete 80 hours of SWL and provide evidence of their learnings from their SWL placement (effectively completing a reflection on their experience). This credit contribution (potentially 1 additional unit of credit at Units 1 and 2 Level for VCE students for each 80 hours of SWL) is gained through enrolment on the VASS, which will ultimately be recognised on the student's statement from the VCAA relating to their Senior Secondary Certificate.

### Youth Hostelling Association (YHA)

#### Fact Sheet

YHA Australia is part of the world's largest backpacker accommodation network and has a very useful fact sheet for students going travelling or on working holidays. Below are some interesting travel tips for graduating Year 12 students:

[www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au)

[www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

[Travel Tips](#)

Helen Aliaga  
Careers Pathways Co-ordinator

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL SHOP 

## Buy and Sell

Second-hand **Textbooks**  
Second-hand **Uniforms**



**AVE MARIA COLLEGE**  
A Catholic College for Young Women

### Simply

- Register on the Sustainable School Shop website  
- [www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au)

### Second-hand textbook & uniform trading systems

- List Wanted & For Sale Ads (Browsers tell each other what they require and what they have to sell).
- The school's book and uniform lists are loaded into the system to make the Ad listing process easy, fast and accurate.
- Our Ad Matching service shows you
  - Exactly the right items to buy
  - Who has the most items you need
  - The cheapest items
- Assistance is provided to accurately price items.
- Buyers contact Sellers, and arrange where and when to transact.
- Excellent email and telephone helplines are provided:  
0438 743 444

### Cost

- Browse and search the for sale ads for free
- Single items can be advertised for \$1.50
- Annual subscriptions \$21.95 (includes Ad Matching)

### Also Buy & Sell

- Calculators
- Sporting items
- Musical items
- Electronics & DVD's
- Stationery

### Pricing Guide

- Like New 70%
- Excellent 60%
- Very Good 50%
- Good 40%

[www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au)  
ABN 55 114 136 211

### Helpful tips

- Be patient items transact all year round
- Peak trading times: Textbooks: Nov-Mar Uniforms: Change of season; end of year and year start
- Listing Wanted and For Sale Ads gets results
- Our unique Ad Matching Service shows you who to transact with, and will save you lots of time
- Be realistic when pricing items
- Telephoning sellers provides a quicker response as many people do not regularly check their emails
- Pre-arrange who to transact with if your items are still being used and write the availability date in your Ad
- Respect other browsers and remember to Delist your Ads promptly when no longer needed
- Meet somewhere convenient to transact, don't make special trips and just fit it in to your normal activities



**AVE MARIA COLLEGE**  
A Catholic College for Young Women

*faith  
caring  
learning*

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**The Rotary Club of  
Essendon North**

Supporting the Community

# CHRISTMAS TREE SALES

**November 25th & 26th  
& December  
2nd & 3rd  
9th & 10th  
16th & 17th**

**Funds  
Raised  
Donated  
To Local  
Charities**

## Collection Sites

**Essendon Keilor College**  
Cnr Buckley St & McCracken St,  
Essendon (school carpark)

**Alexander Motor Inn**  
980 Mt Alexander Road,  
Essendon

For Pre-Orders Phone

Barry 0427 852 062 or David 0417031821 Email [barry@barrycoleman.com.au](mailto:barry@barrycoleman.com.au) or complete the form over the page