From the Principal

Musical Performance evening

Many magical moments were enjoyed by family and friends last Friday evening at the Music Performance Evening. Every student who participated in this very successful event can be incredibly proud of themselves. Their gift to their community in sharing such talent was very much enjoyed by those present. I would also like to thank the staff and students who made the evening possible. A number of students assisted Mr McNair from IT and Mr Horne was also ably assisted by students as Stage Crew. The evening itself was the brainchild of the very talented Ms Kayla Sims who prepared and led the evening.

Learning and Teaching Program Review

This week all families will receive an overview of the Learning Program for 2015 and beyond. This document will outline the curriculum for 2015, both the courses and the structure at each Year level, brought about in consultation with staff, students and families over the course of the last 18 months. I am pleased with the outcomes of the Learning and Teaching Program Review, believing that the improvements outlined address the data, feedback and vision of the College community at the current time. The overall objective was continuous improvement in our girls' learning and I am confident that the determined outcomes reflect this objective.

I thank Mr Phil Tascone, Ms Jo Hammer and Mr Michael Horne for their diligent work with Domain Team Leaders, staff, students and parents.

This is an important and promising chapter in the Learning program at Ave Maria College. I hope all students enjoy discovering 'what's in it for them', particularly those undertaking subject selection early next term.

Student achievements

As all students complete this Semester I trust they will reflect on a semester of best efforts and learning success. A number of students have excelled in extra curricular activities and I commend them for their efforts:

Sabrina Gleeson (Year 10) has been chosen to attend the University of Melbourne's ‘Hands on Computers’ day during the holidays. Sabrina is a very worthy candidate for this program and we wish her well.

Veronica Pham (Year 10) was a finalist in the Victorian Indonesian Language Teachers’ Association Sayembara Lisa Awards for Indonesian. Veronica was presented with her Award at the University of Melbourne last Friday evening. Congratulations Veronica!

Also at Year 10, we are very pleased that four students will take up an engineering work experience placement at GM Holden for the first time this year. Only four schools are offered this opportunity and Ave Maria is pleased and proud to be amongst them. The following students will this week learn more about careers in Engineering, Mathematics and Science: Clare Whelan, Lili D’Aloia, Abbey Kelly and Janelle Farley. We wish all Year 10 Work Experience students a rich and valuable week.

Special Persons Mass

Year 8 students welcomed their Special Guest to a wonderful Mass and morning tea last Friday. We were very pleased to have Monsignor Cavarro lead the celebration where he spoke about the importance of being true to who we are, particularly in a world of distractions and competing forces; in this we are guided and supported by the Special Persons in our lives and our faith. The girls then extended hospitality to their guests and in doing so I thank past pupils Margaret Brew and Helen Marian who once again volunteered to assist with this morning tea.

Holidays

I wish all families a very restful holiday. Our Year 7 students have an opportunity to celebrate a very successful first semester at secondary school, just as our Year 12 students recognise how quickly the year progresses and they prepare themselves for a closing semester. Students in both Year levels have undertaken their studies very successfully and shown their capacity to bring life to our community. Reports for all students will be available this week.

Peace,
Elizabeth Hanney
Principal

Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the blessing of holidays. May we use them to slow down, become more aware of your Spirit at work in our lives, so that we are refreshed.

We make this prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen
Deputy Principal

One of the most exciting aspects of the Learning and Teaching Review was the prospect of exploring different learning opportunities we could offer our students and teachers. As you will read in the Learning and Teaching Program we have launched this week, there are three new studies that are not tied to one particular subject area. These studies are research based and bring together learning across multiple domains.

At Year 9 we have enjoyed the work of our students each year as they undertake their research in the Year 9 Project. This is underway with our current Year 9 students and will culminate with the presentation of their research in a few weeks’ time. The value in this work for our students is in drawing on a range of skills across multiple Domain areas and the deeper learning experienced in making connections between these skills. The motivation for learning these skills is derived from a purpose; that is to solve or research a very real issue in our world. In this context, students are learning a necessary skill in order to further their investigation or presentation. We may recall a time in our own educational journeys where we asked the question, “When am I ever going to use this?” The response has often been, “Because one day you’ll need to know this.” Whilst well intentioned and likely to be true for the purpose of assessment, it does little to spark motivation and a yearning to learn in students. Justifiably, students can become disengaged when topics are taught without a genuine context or perceived need. I would contend that all adults reading this have been motivated at some point to learn new skills beyond their training because their job or their daily life required it. Teachers work very hard to provide such contexts to student learning with each Domain area. The introduction of the new cross curriculum studies provides both students and teachers with the opportunities to bring to life the connectivity between learning areas and the application of this learning in the world around us. From a student’s perspective it is learning in order to progress. So, from 2015 the Year 9 Project will no longer be a task that sits separate to the rest of the program. We have introduced the Intensive Research and Investigative Study (IRIS) which will run across a whole Semester and draw on the learning students undertake in their individual subject areas.

At Year 10 we are also thrilled to be introducing an elective studied titled Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) which is aimed specifically at drawing these four learning areas together; again in the pursuit of solving real world problems. Further to this we are offering Extended Investigations Units 1 and 2 at both Years 10 and 11 which leads to the new VCE study Extended Investigations Units 3 and 4 in 2016. All of these studies offer students an opportunity to experience greater purpose to their learning in contexts that extend beyond learning for the sake of assessment. We look forward to our students taking up these opportunities.

Phillip Tascone
Deputy Principal

Head of School
Years 10 - 12

Occasionally we hear workers talk about Wednesday as ‘hump day’ – that day in the week when they hit the downhill slope to the weekend. Ignoring the connotations that the work week is something to be endured rather than savoured and enjoyed, the idea applies quite nicely to mid-year examinations and the end of Units 1 and 3 subjects in Years 10 to 12. The frenzy of studying for, sitting, rescheduling, worrying about and passing (finally) examinations and SACs at this time of year has our senior students coasting a little more downhill towards the mid-year holidays; they deserve at least a little coasting after a very busy first half to the year. So, well done girls on your application and hard work.

Subject Selection 2015

With the beginning of Semester 2 we start to turn our thoughts to 2015. For current Years 9-11 students particularly, this means making some important decisions about courses and subjects for Year 10 and VCE. To assist with your planning and forethought, below is an outline of the process for students choosing subjects for Years 10-12 2015. More detailed information will follow at the beginning of next term.

23 July Subject Selection Handbooks made available to students via AveSpace and to parents via the College website.

30 July Tertiary and Subject Information Day
   Period 1 Normal classes
   Period 2 Current Year 10-12 students: University, TAFE and Training Provider displays in the College Hall.
Period 3

Year 10 and 11 2015 Subject Selection Presentation from Head of School Years 10-12; Domain leaders available. for questions and discussion of options

Evening

Year 10 and 11 2015 Parent Subject Selection Information Presentations from Head of School Years 10-12; Domain information stands for questions and discussion of subjects and options.

5 August

Subject selection consultations
(2015 Year 11 students) 9.00am-12.00am
Students meet with a teacher or the Pathways Coordinator to discuss their draft selections and consider course balance, future pathways, and University or TAFE prerequisites. Parents will receive their daughter’s interview time and are very welcome to join the discussion.

8 August

Web Preferences opens for preference submission

17 August

Web Preferences closes

We look forward to working with you and your daughter to navigate the options and subjects available. In the meantime, I hope that all families have a restful and peaceful holiday break.

Michael Horne
Head of School Years 10 - 12

Faith and Religious Education

As you would be aware, the guest speaker at the Mother’s Day breakfast this year was from the organisation Headspace http://www.headspace.org.au the National Youth Mental Health Foundation, funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing under the Youth Mental Health Initiative Program. Last week the Student Wellbeing Team had a follow-up session with Headspace. This session provided an opportunity for us to learn more about some of the programs that Headspace offer. In particular, we discussed ‘skill space’, a free, interactive, program that gives young people between the ages of 12 and 25 years an opportunity to meet other young people and developing ways to stay healthy. The sessions run every Tuesday from 4.30pm-5.30pm at the Glenroy office. There are different topics each week.

A flier for these initiatives has been included in this Newsletter. We also discussed Headspace as a resource for parents. I encourage both parents and students to have a look at their website (click on the hyperlink above) to see the range of resources and information available.

End of Term

As the end of Term 2 approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students, parents and staff for a fantastic Semester, and further thank you for supporting me in this role. I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to Mrs Jessica Hall, who will be taking on the Acting Head of School Years 7-9 role in Semester 2. I look forward to working with her in my capacity as the Acting Director of Faith and Religious Education in Term 3, and then the Acting Head of School Years 10-12 in Term 4.

Finally, I wish all students and their families all the best for a restful and relaxing holiday, and I look forward to welcoming you all back on Monday, 14 July for Term 3.

Joanna Hammer
Head of School Years 7 - 9

Head of School

Years 7 - 9

Headspace

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Joanna Hammer
Head of School Years 7 - 9

Faith and Religious Education

During the last few weeks, students have been asked to contribute to the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal, primarily for blankets and warm clothes. The response, especially from Year 9 who have St Vincent de Paul as their Year level charity, has been very generous.

On Thursday, 19 June Year 11 students travelled to Victoria University, Footscray Park campus for their Reflection Day, the theme for which was “Awaken the Dream”. They were treated to the truly inspirational story of Michelle Newland with whom they engaged and asked wonderful questions.

After morning tea, the girls experienced a number of workshops: learning more about their Year level charity, Australian Catholic Religious Against the Trafficking of Humans (ACRATH) from Sr Therese Power; Student Voice workshop was engaging in a dialogue with Mr Horne about College matters; meditation with Ms Lovell; and I worked with groups of girls to put together our afternoon liturgy. The girls seemed to gain a great deal from the day.

The Year 12 Reflection Day, facilitated by David Kobler from Your Choicez, was focussed on relationships and
sexuality. With a mixture of input and discussion, the girls really appreciated the opportunity to engage with this pertinent topic.

I wish everyone well for the coming holidays, and Term 3, since I am fortunate to have been granted Long Service Leave.

Patrick Jurd
Director of Faith and Religious Education

Pathways News

Monash University – 26 June Teaching, Sport/Outdoor Recreation. Bookings: www.monash.edu/seminars


University Experience at ACU. Information/ registration www.acu.edu.au/uni-exp

Monash Art, Design and Architecture – Phone 9903 1517, monash.edu/mada/workshops

Nursing and Midwifery - at Deakin Phone 9251 7777 health-enquire@deakin.edu.au


Law at Melbourne – 2 July; Yvonne Au phone 8344 8879 www.jd.law.unimelb.edu.au/schools

UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS

Saturday, 2 August
Monash University (Berwick and Peninsula campuses)

Sunday, 3 August
Deakin (Warnambool), Monash (Caulfield, Clayton and Parkville), Swinburne

Sunday, 10 August
Australian Catholic University (ACU)

Graduate Entry Medicine - University of Melbourne

Medicine is a graduate-entry degree, with applicants first needing to complete a degree including prerequisite studies. Selection to this degree is based on the Graduate Medical School Admissions Test (GAMSAT), usually sat in the final year of the Undergraduate Degree, performance in the Undergraduate Degree and an interview. Students attend an interview if they meet the other two criteria. Each criteria is weighted equally by the selection panel. Information: www.medicine.unimelb.edu.au/study-here/md/application_process.

Two other graduate-entry medical degrees are offered in Victoria at Deakin University in Geelong and Monash in Gippsland.

From 2017, at least 50 of the 75 domestic places in the Monash Graduate Entry MBBS will be reserved for students who have completed Monash University’s Bachelor of Biomedical Science. The others will be for students who have completed the following Monash degrees: Bachelor of Biomedical Science, Bachelor of Pharmacy, Bachelor of Physiotherapy and Bachelor of Science. Selection of students for the Graduate-entry MBBS will include a multiple mini-interviews.

Deakin does not specify any undergraduate degree to be completed first, but applicants will need to be equipped to answer questions in the GAMSAT and complete an interview.

Year 10 Work Experience

The Year 10 Students are completing their Work Experience this week. I wish to thank the parents, employers, teachers and students for the cooperative and helpful way they have worked together to enable this Program to go ahead. I look forward to the debriefing sessions that follow in Term 3 and to meeting up with parents during the Career Expo and Subject Selection Day.

For more news on Careers and Pathways please visit the Pathways page on AveSpace

Helen Aliaga
Careers and Pathways