From the Principal

In Memory of those Lost

The shooting down of MH17 over the Ukraine last week was rightly described as an “Unspeakable Crime” in the weekend papers. In a globalised world, we were made acutely aware that a major conflict anywhere can be felt everywhere. And so, we learned of the death of 37 Australians amongst a loss of some 300 lives on that innocent flight. It was reported that one-third of the passengers were destined for Melbourne; families returning from holidays, many others en route to attend the International AIDS conference in Melbourne this week, and amongst the loss, children. As a Catholic community we pray for those families reeling from loss at this time. As a world community we pray for peace, healing and hope. The Ave Maria College community stood in solidarity with those who suffer during our Whole School Assembly yesterday. In prayerful silence we call on God’s spirit of peace across the globe.

May perpetual light shine upon those now at rest
May the lives they lived unfold further in spirit
May they see the reflection of their life’s goodness
In all the tears that fall for them
May they be held in Love’s embrace
May they rest in peace.
(John O’Donohue)

Welcome to new staff and students

We are very pleased to welcome Fiona Ven 10E, Charlize Somerset 9E and Otilia Wallis 8D, new students to the College this term. In addition, we welcome the following staff to our community in teaching roles:
Ms Lisa Castles, Ms Voula Sotiriou, Ms Antoinette Ciavarella and Ms Grace Ciavarella. It has been pleasing to see the ease with which they have settled in and the warmth of the welcome extended to them by staff and students alike.

Year 9 ELITE program

This week sees the culmination of the Year 9 ELITE program which commenced late last term. All Year 9 students will present their projects to parents, staff and fellow students this evening. It has been wonderful to see our Year 9 students developing skills in communication, creativity, critical thinking and collaboration. I commend Ms Tania Stangerlin and all Year 9 teaching staff for their learning support of students during this time.

External Review Report

Last week, we were pleased to receive the summary report following our External Review process in Semester 1. Ms Liz Monahan, Catholic Education Office Melbourne, presented to staff and Board of Governance representatives, bringing together an overview of the significant achievements of the last four years as a College as well as the discerned needs and directions for the forthcoming four year period. I thank all parents, staff and students who took part in this immensely valuable and positive process. Our Strategic Plan for the period 2015 - 2018 will now be finalised in consultation with staff and the Board of Governance and be communicated to the whole community later in the year.

And so Term 3 gets underway with an abundance of good gifts and rich learning; welcome back to all.

Elizabeth Hanney
Principal
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about the result. I contend, as do many others, that it is in fact

many of us have been raised to believe that everything is

desire to learn through the experience of failure? As adults, so

doubt can surface.

Can everyone be smart at everything? This post, written by

Tina Barseghian in late 2011, looks at how, in our willingness

to praise the achievements of our young, we can

unintentionally be sending the wrong message. The author

argues that simple words of praise such as “You’re so smart”
or “You have such talent” praise intelligence or inherent,

natural-born abilities. This in itself is not so much an issue

however when a child comes across a bigger challenge and
does not immediately succeed, a deep self-doubt can surface.

Barseghian contends that praising children for their

intelligence encourages them to focus on grades and awards

rather than the learning process. She goes on to highlight the

work of other researchers and writers who found that children

praised for intelligence describe it as a fixed trait more so

than children praised for hard work who believe intelligence

can improve. One researcher quoted in the post claims that

"reinforcing the idea that effort and elbow grease are as

important as, or more important than, innate smarts will place

kids on the best path of learning."

For parents and teachers, this post gives us much to reflect on

in how we instil a learning and growth mindset in our young.

Do we praise effort more so than achievement? Are we

unwittingly reinforcing the stereotype that "you either have it

or you don’t"? Do we model for them a fear of failure in trying

something different? Or do we foster the confidence and

desire to learn through the experience of failure? As adults, so

many of us have been raised to believe that everything is

about the result. I contend, as do many others, that it is in fact

more about the journey to the result - that’s where the

learning happens!

I very much commend this post to your reading!

Phillip Tascone
Deputy Principal

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Deputy Principal

In the newsletter of 4 April 2014 I wrote about recent research

into parental engagement in student learning. The research

highlighted parental behaviours that have a demonstrably

positive impact on learning and academic outcomes. These

included discussing learning strategies with children, linking

school work to current events and other topics, providing a

stimulating home learning environment, making learning

enjoyable, focusing on activities which build decision-making

and problem solving skills and affirming their growing

autonomy and independence.

Continuing with the question of what parents can do to assist

their child’s learning, I wish to highlight a post titled

Head of School

Years 10 - 12

With the beginning of Term 3 – only halfway through the year

– we start to turn our attention to 2015. For Year 12 students,

this means firming up tertiary preferences or work

possibilities. For lower year levels, it means making some

decisions about the subjects they would like to study in 2015.

There are two upcoming opportunities for parents and

students as we work towards making the right decisions for

2015.

VCE Parent Teacher Student Interviews

Last week you will have received information and login details

for the VCE Parent Teacher Student Interviews on

Wednesday, 6 August. The timing of these interviews are

useful as it means that there is an opportunity before the end

of Units 2 and 4 to remedy or adjust anything that might be

necessary. The Year 11 and 12 PTS interviews will be held at

the College on:

Wednesday, 6 August from 4.00pm – 7.30pm.

As has been the practice in the past, parents will book

interviews of five minutes duration with teachers using the

Parent Teacher Online (PTO) application located on the

College website. We look forward to seeing you there.

Subject Selection Information Evening

A crucial part of the program during which students choose

their subjects for 2015 is the Subject Selection Information

Evening. Your daughter will have brought home an

information letter last week, and I would like to reiterate here

the value in this evening for getting our collective heads

around the changes following on from our Learning and

Teaching Review, the new course offerings, as well as the

process for selecting preferences. Subject Selection

handbooks are available now on both AveSpace for students,

and the Learning page of the College website for parents.

I would also like to echo the invitation to parents of current

Year 10 students to attend the subject selection interviews on

Tuesday, 5 August during the morning. This is a new part of

the process giving individualised advice to students on their

draft selections. All parents very welcome at the times

indicated on the letter.

I look forward to speaking to many of you as we work together

to ensure that your daughter makes the best selections for

2015.

Michael Horne
Head of School Years 10 - 12
Head of School
Years 7 - 9
The beginning of Term 3 has brought with it much excitement from the students as they begin new Semester length subjects, and continue their learning in a number of their core studies. Yesterday’s assembly provided the School Community an opportunity to acknowledge the excellence achieved by a number of students last semester. I congratulate those girls on their achievements and encourage all students to continue in their endeavours to achieve their best.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr Dino Conversano, Acting Year 7 Team Leader, to his new role and I thank Ms Jo Hammer, Acting Director of Faith and Religious Education, for her welcome to my new role in the last issue of the Newsletter. I am looking forward to working with the College Executive during what will be a wonderful Semester.

Subject Selection
It is at this time of year that we begin to consider 2015 and the learning pathways of our students. The Learning and Teaching Review and subsequent program for 2015 provides students with greater choice and additional learning opportunities, with the introduction of several new subjects. Given this, there are a number of instances where both you and your daughter can seek additional information and support. I draw your attention to the outline below:

23 July  Subject Selection Handbooks made available to students via AveSpace and to parents via the College website
30 July  Subject Information Day
Year 8-9 2015, Web preference login and additional subject selection information distributed to students via Homeroom Period 3 Year 9 2015, Presentation from Head of School Years 7-9; Domain Leaders available for questions and discussion of options Year 9 2015, Subject Selection Information from Head of School Years 7-9; Domain information stands for questions and discussion of subjects and options
8 August  Web Preferences opens
17 August  Web Preferences closes

I look forward to working with you and your daughter to examine the subjects available for their selection.

Year 9 Project Presentation—23 July
We welcome the families of Year 9 students to view Project presentations and celebrate the students’ achievements.

Jessica Hall
Acting Head of School Years 7 - 9

Faith and Religious Education
The Gospel for today, from Matt 13:1-9, is the Parable of the Sower. It is a simple story that depicts the fate of seeds in different environmental circumstances. Whilst I am a keen, but not always successful, gardener, I can relate to the literal interpretation, as I have often rued the birds that visit my garden with the apparent belief that my seedlings and mulch are a smorgasbord of deliciousness that was planted just for them. And likewise I revel and enjoy the fruits (and flowers) of my labour when some of the seeds survive the environmental and faunal attacks to germinate and produce a beautiful array of colour, perfume and sustenance. It is, however, the figurative or analogous interpretation of this parable that aligns with education, and more specifically some of the Religious and Faith based activities that have occurred over the past fortnight.

Today the Year 12 school-based Religious Education classes participated in a forum on Domestic and Family violence. Students heard from Victoria Police, the Student Counsellor and myself. They also heard from Ashleigh Coshan, College Captain and Jack Stephens, College Captain of St Bernard’s. The two College Captains initiated the idea of this forum, to raise awareness of this devastating and prevalent societal issue and to build on the community links between both the two schools and the broader community. Ashleigh and Jack made relevant and thought-provoking contributions, presenting youth perspectives on this issue.

In the coming weeks, both the Faith and Social Justice Leaders across the College, and the Year 11 students, will raise awareness about the issue of human trafficking via a range of publications and displays. Likewise the Year 11 charity Australian Catholic Religious Against Human Trafficking (ACRATH) will be promoted as they conduct their major fundraising event on Monday, 4 August.

Events such as these bear witness to the goodness and genuine desire to care for others that the young women of Ave Maria College exhibit daily. The correlation between these events and the parable – the knowledge and opportunity that education provides are the seeds—and we must celebrate the good fortune of these ‘seeds’ falling into the open minds and hearts of our students.

Joanna Hammer
Acting Director of Faith and Religious Education
Student Counsellor

Smiling Mind

Our minds have a natural tendency to wander. How many times have you thought you were listening only to realise that you were thinking about other things? Mindfulness helps us pay attention to the present moment and helps us become more engaged in the here and now. Research has found that we are happier when paying attention to what is happening in the moment even if we don’t like what is going on or find it boring. When we increase our use of mindfulness, we create positive changes in our brain which also has a positive impact on our overall health. In addition, using mindfulness helps lower the impact of stress, improves our memory, boosts our immune system and helps us sleep.

Meditation is one form of mindfulness. A team of psychologists has developed a free Web and App-based meditation program that can be used by young people and adults called Smiling Mind. Smiling Mind offers a Mindfulness Meditation program consisting of a number of levels, each of which is designed to explore the present moment by bringing your attention and awareness of it in a specific way with curiosity and openness. It can be accessed online or as a smartphone App.

See smilingmind.com.au to get started.

Lauren Beatty
Student Counsellor

Ave Maria College Term 3 Fees

A reminder that Fees for Term 3 were due on Friday, 18 July. If you have not made your payment could you please do so as soon as possible.

Finance Office

Pathways News

Year 10 students a winning brand

I wish to congratulate all Year 10 Students on an excellent week of Work Experience. Official week 23 – 27 June 2014

Parents are to be congratulated and thanked for their contribution firstly, for bringing up such charming, intelligent, eager to learn and helpful daughters and secondly for providing advice, encouragement, and opportunities for networking to their daughters. This year many parents have gone out of their way to assist with finding challenging, exciting and interesting employment for their daughters.

The employers have been very helpful. They are making sure the girls get value from their experience and have organised amazing Work Experience Programs. For example, Royal Melbourne Hospital endeavours to give the students a wide variety of experience within the hospital setting, focusing on Nursing as a career. In addition, the students experienced a variety of other professions (Doctors, Perfusionists, Physiotherapists, Pharmacists and clerical staff). Students were given a tour of the Hospital and allowed to attend interviews with post-op angiogram patients. They were allowed to watch a variety of open heart or lung surgeries, attend post-operative ward rounds and attend a Lung Tumour Ward and a multi-discipline Lung Tumour Meeting to discuss various roles and plans of treatment for patients.

Visiting teachers commented on the value of the programs the Employers had organised for the students, examples include the Holden Project, the Magistrate Courts Project and the Human Resources Project at Moreland City Council. The five veterinary students observed operations and had incredible experiences they will never forget. The students that chose schools at which to do their Work Experience were delighted with the friendly supervisors and the opportunities they got to communicate with young children.

Other students spent their week making delectable cakes and pastries or participating in the gentle art of flower arrangement. Others were out watching pilots being trained whilst others were in the high finance section of town keeping our superannuation funds under control.

This was real work experience. The Year 10 teachers were a great support to the students in visiting them at their workplace and the Year 10 Homeroom teachers were there from the beginning of the year pushing, praising and encouraging the students to obtain meaningful Work Experience and helping in whatever way possible.

Helen Aliaga
Careers and Pathways

Important Dates Term 3 2014

23 July  Excursion (Year 12 Legal Studies)
24 July  Excursion (Year 3 Italian)
25 July  Excursion (SCSA AFL)
31 July  House Assembly
31 July  Excursion (Year 10 Mathematics)
11 August Excursion (Year 8 Mathematics)
13-14 August Excursion (Year 10 FIAT)
16 August Timor-Leste Benefit Ball
22 August Excursion (SCSA Soccer)