From the Principal

“Take courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.”

The readings for next Sunday recall Jesus walking across the lake to the distressed disciples. Jesus offers reassurance and encouragement then as he does now, inviting believers to “take courage, it is I”. Peter, the impetuous one then seems to test Jesus by ‘daring him’ to have Peter also walk on water. The focus shifts to Peter. Jesus invites him to come but will his faith and trust hold out? All begins well but with wind came fear, causing Peter to take his eyes off Jesus, his strength. Peter begins to sink. It is perhaps easy to be people of faith when we are comfortable, when things are going well. This miracle reminds us that our challenge may be to ‘keep our eyes on Jesus’, especially in those times of distress or when we may be despairing of events in our world. We too can reflect on Jesus’ invitation to come, take courage and fear not. The miracle ends with Peter’s impassioned plea to Jesus, “Lord, save me!” as Peter recognises that his hope and his strength comes from Jesus. 

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. (Matthew 14: 22 ‐ 33)

Next Monday we celebrate the Feast of St Clare. Clare was a woman of great faith and trust in God’s love. Clare had a particular love of the Eucharist and spoke of her utter reliance on remaining focussed on her relationship with Jesus, through prayer and poverty, similarly to St Francis. St Clare too recognised the need to keep her eyes on Jesus. This enabled her to live life as a strong woman with vision, resilience and joy.

I look forward to seeing many parents at the VCE Parent Teacher Student interviews this evening. These interviews are a very important aspect of ensuring students have the necessary feedback and support to successfully complete their Unit 2 studies at Year 11 and for our Year 12 students and parents to have a final opportunity to meet formally with the teachers of their daughter.

Excellence Award – Miriam Bertagnolio
(Class of 2013)

We are delighted to announce that Miriam Bertagnolio, a 2013 graduate, has been awarded the Dux of Monash Extension program in Journalism. Miriam was the top ranked student amongst a large number of students and receiving the Dux Award is certainly an achievement to be proud of. Miriam was awarded this at a recent ceremony and the College received a framed copy of the event. We congratulate Miriam and I commend all teachers and staff for their commitment to excellence which enable our girls to thrive beyond their time with us.

Peace,

Elizabeth Hanney
Principal

Student Learning

Last week many parents and students attended the Subject Selection Information sessions at the College. During the day, students had an opportunity to speak to Course providers and hear from a wide range of people speaking about their chosen field of work. The day session also provided students with the materials they need regarding Subject Selection for courses of study in 2015. I trust the evening session enabled parents to speak with teachers where required and support their daughters during this important time of decision making.

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Important Dates Term 3 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>6 August</td>
<td>VCE Parent Teacher Student Interviews</td>
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<td>11 August</td>
<td>Excursion (Year 8 Mathematics)</td>
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<td>22 August</td>
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Deputy Principal

School Improvement Principal Survey

Guided by our Strategic Improvement and Annual Action Plans, Ave Maria College places great emphasis on improving student learning through the ongoing growth of a performance and development culture within our school. The Strategic and Annual Action Plans are informed by our Mission Statement and feedback gathered from the community. This data is sourced from students, parents and staff in a range of forums across the year. Annually, Insight SRC and the Catholic Education Office Melbourne support schools to conduct their School Improvement Survey (SIS) which forms a major component of our feedback data. The SIS aims to identify the factors that contribute to the organisational health of our school and provide valuable information about what is going well and where our opportunities for improvement lie.

All members of the Ave Maria College community will be participating in the SIS over the coming weeks. Parental participation in the SIS is voluntary however we strongly encourage your support as we believe parent voice is important to help shape the ongoing improvement of our school. Parent response rates for our school have always been very high and this has added enormously to the reliability of our feedback data.

Most parents would have received a survey pack via their daughters which included a hardcopy of the survey with a return envelope and access to the online version should you prefer to submit the survey electronically. Please note that all hardcopy surveys are to be returned in the reply envelope. The survey period closes 22 August and complete instructions are included in the survey packs.

With 2015 marking the start of our renewed Strategic Improvement Plan over the next four years, we very much look forward to receiving feedback via the SIS from all members of our College community.

Phillip Tascone
Deputy Principal

Head of School Years 10 - 12

Subject Selection

It’s always an exciting time as students begin to make their selections for the following year’s studies, and we are well into that time at the moment. Thank you to the many parents who attended last Wednesday’s Subject Selection Information Night. It was exceptionally well attended, showing a real engagement with our students’ pathways for the future.

A reminder that students need to submit their selections via the Web Preferences site between 8 August and 17 August. If you have any questions about subject selection for Years 10-12, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Year 12 Practice Examinations

Last week a letter went home to families of all students completing a Unit 3 & 4 subject about the practice examination period in the first week of the September holidays. The practice exams provide a great opportunity for students to hone their skills before the real deal in November, and to highlight any areas on which they need to really work in the intervening period.

The dates for your diary are Monday, 22 September, to Friday, 26 September.

The timetable for specific examinations went home last week, and each student will also receive a personalised schedule closer to the time. If families could endeavour to keep those dates free, it will be of great benefit in preparing for a substantial and very real academic challenge in the November examination period.

Timor-Leste Benefit Ball

The countdown is well and truly on to the night of the year – the Timor-Leste Benefit Ball on 16 August! I look forward to seeing a number of our Year 11 and 12 students and parents there, and also to afterwards sharing some photos and stories with the wider community in preparation for next year’s iteration of the event. It’s going to be a great night.

Michael Horne
Head of School Years 10 - 12

Can you help by sourcing items for the auctions that will be held on the night? Please contact Ms Jo Hammer at the College.
Head of School Years 7 - 9

It has been a busy fortnight at the College and I thank parents for their support and attendance at both the Year 9 Project Presentation Evening, and the 2015 Subject Selection Information Night. Both of these events were an opportunity to reflect on the learning that has occurred, and to look forward in anticipation for the new learning to come.

Transition Visits
Planning is well under way for our new incoming Year 7 students and over the next week or so we will begin our transition visits to primary schools. These visits provide us with the opportunity to discuss with Grade 6 teachers the student’s academic and wellbeing progress, in addition to, in most cases, meeting the students themselves. This is particularly exciting for them as they have the opportunity to ask questions about secondary school life and in particular, what it is like being a Year 7 student at Ave Maria College.

The information gathered from these visits assists in the construction of Homerooms, as well as tailoring our comprehensive wellbeing and transition programme to our new students’ needs. This programme has been designed to ensure that our new students have the best possible start to their secondary education.

During Term 4 we will be selecting peer support leaders from our current Year 10 cohort, to help support and mentor our new students, facilitating activities and conversation both on the Year 7 Orientation Day in November, and as part of the extensive transition programme in Term 1.

I look forward to meeting the girls and warmly welcoming them into the Ave Maria community.

Father’s Day Breakfast
On Tuesday, 9 September the College invites all Dads along to celebrate their hard work and support by sharing in breakfast with their daughters from 7.15am-8.15am (with Guest Speaker from 7.45am). This year our guest speaker is, Emma Doyle, a world class touring pro tennis coach and professional corporate communications coach. Her passion is inspiring children and young adults to develop coordination and confidence. Emma’s presentation aims to help dads and daughters understand each other better, provide language tips to bring out the best in each other and some general strategies to enhance two-way communication.

We hope to see many fathers and daughters at this wonderful event.

Jessica Hall
Acting Head of School Years 7 - 9

Faith and Religious Education

The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord is on 6 August. It commemorates what many Christians consider to be the highest point of Jesus’ earthly life, when he was “transfigured” as a brilliant white light at the top of Mount Tabor and proclaimed to be the loved Son of God from a heavenly voice. The purpose of the Transfiguration was to encourage and strengthen the Apostles who were depressed by their Master’s prediction of His own Passion and Death. The Apostles were made to understand that His redeeming work has two phases: The Cross, and glory—that we shall be glorified with Him only if we first suffer with Him. For Christians around the world, the Transfiguration remains an important observance. It is a chance to reflect upon the glorious divinity of Christ made manifest in the material world. The transfiguration of Christians is accomplished by the renewing of the mind.

There is a nice parallel with the timing of the Transfiguration of the Lord and this point in the academic year. With a little over three months remaining, even less for the Year 12 students, this is often the time when students make the realisation that they are responsible for their learning and indeed it becomes a focus for them. This can, in part, be attributed to the Subject Selection process where each student must consider their learning strengths and challenges coupled with their aspirations beyond school. This is a time that requires each student to look within and consider their destiny. Whilst it will not manifest itself in the same shining, bright light that Jesus displayed atop of the mountain, it may just be that the decisions and realisations that some students make over the next week become a significant turning point for them.

In other Faith and Social Justice news:

- Last Wednesday, members of the Religious Education Domain attended a Professional Learning day with Dr Amy-Jill Levine at St Bernard’s College. Their reflections on the day can be seen in this Newsletter’s insert.
- The Year 11 ‘Chocolate Toss’ fundraiser held on Monday, supporting Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking In Humans (ACRATH), was a huge success. Congratulations to Ms Lovell and the Year 11 Leaders for a great event. Monique Fatmous, Year 11 Faith and Social Justice Leader, has included a short article in this Newsletter reiterating the work that ACRATH do.
- Friday, 15 August is Ave Maria Day. As part of the celebrations, the College community will come together to celebrate Mass. Fr Stanley will be our celebrant.

Joanna Hammer
Acting Director of Faith and Religious Education
**Student Counsellor**

**Six Core Strengths for Healthy Development**

Bruce Perry, a renowned American psychiatrist has identified six core strengths that can help promote healthy development in both children and adults. Each core strength is considered a building block in development that helps to provide a strong basis for future health, happiness and productivity. The six core strengths are outlined below:

**Attachment:** the capacity to form and maintain healthy emotional relationships. Our brains respond positively and gain pleasure from positive interactions with others. While our attachment experiences start from birth with our primary caregivers, as children get older they begin to spend less time with parents and more time with peers and other adults. Friendships with peers and a strong connection with a nurturing teacher all provide further opportunities for ongoing emotional growth.

**Self-regulation:** being able to notice and control primary urges including hunger and sleep, as well as feelings such as frustration, anger and fear. This relates to being able to contain one’s impulses. For example, thinking before taking action.

**Affiliation:** the capacity to join others and contribute to a group. When children are born, the family is the child’s first and important group. As children grow, they begin to have experiences in many other groups, for example, in their class, in a sporting team and friendship circle. Part of being in a group involves learning the group rules and dynamics and being able to navigate these interactions.

**Awareness:** being able to recognise the needs, interests, strengths and values of others. This is a cornerstone of communication and links in strongly with the other core strength of affiliation. By watching, listening and forming relationships with others we learn to understand and appreciate how similar and different we all are as human beings.

**Tolerance:** the capacity to accept differences in others. When the previous four strengths emerge, the child feels safe, special and secure and tolerance can follow. Tolerance can be actively learned and children learn to accept and understand different perspectives, cultures and values.

**Respect:** the ability to appreciate the worth in yourself and others. As young people grow, they will be part of many groups, meet many kinds of people and will need to be able to listen, negotiate, compromise and cooperate. If a young person has respect they are able to accept others and value the differences and strengths that each person brings to their lives.

Lauren Beatty  
**Student Counsellor**

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**Pathways News**

**Year 10 Career News**

The Ave Maria College Career Expo gave Year 10 students an opportunity to receive face to face advice from a range of speakers. The President of Career Education Association of Australia (CEAV), Ms Judith Clarke, gave an opening address. Information sessions covered a range of occupations from sports management, recruitment manager, lawyer, and journalist to urban town planner. Over twenty institutions were represented at the Expo. Students came away with a lot of valuable information on careers and subject selection.

**Year 12 Career News**

Applications for University, VET and private provider courses for 2015 opened on Monday, 4 August through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre. Any Year 12 student wishing to apply for courses needs to visit [www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au). Timely applications close on Tuesday, 30 September.

**Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS)**

The Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) 2015 Guide has a section about SEAS (pages 30-43), [www.vtac.edu.au/who/seas.html](http://www.vtac.edu.au/who/seas.html). Read this to see if you are eligible for any special consideration for your course application.

**Thinking of Scholarships after Year 12?**

Most institutions listed in the VTAC Guide have a number of scholarships available to applicants. Read the Guide, see the VTAC website and institution websites.

‘Access Melbourne’ (University) provides educational opportunities for students from a range of backgrounds enrolling in undergraduate degrees. The University has a selection guarantee for eligible applicants in the following Access Melbourne categories: Disadvantaged financial background; and Applicants from rural or isolated areas

**Fine Arts at The University of Melbourne**

Some specialisations of the B. Fine Arts at the Southbank campus require VTAC applications to be completed earlier than the usual closing date (5:00pm (EST), 30 September).

**What is Industry Based Learning?**

Industry Based Learning (IBL) is a joint venture between university educators and employers offering students relevant paid industry experience. It is offered by several universities, sometimes taking place for six to twelve months prior to completing the final year of the degree.

For more information on careers visit the Careers and Pathways page on AveSpace.

Helen Aliaga  
**Careers and Pathways**