Prayer

Loving God, we ask you to pour down your blessings on our Italy study group. May they have a wonderfully enriching journey and may you hold them in the palm of your hand until school resumes.

We make this prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen

From the Principal

Lent gives way to Easter

I am the resurrection. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies, he will live. Whoever lives and believes in me will never die. John 11:23

Martha and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus are remarkable women. They live their relationship with Jesus very openly and very authentically; they demonstrate their faith against the odds of a brother dead and a culture ill-disposed to women in central roles. The story of the raising of Lazarus in this fifth week of Lent draws us closer to themes of fear and love, death and new life. Such themes see emotions running high from despair, loss, anger and grief to feelings and actions of great tenderness, passion and love. Jesus’ actions in the story of Lazarus remind us that no person, no situation is beyond God’s love. Jesus’ final words in this story, “Unbind him, let him go free”, may be worth reflecting upon as Lent draws to a close; words spoken for Lazarus, for two remarkable sisters and for us.

Parent Teacher Student Learning Conversations

I trust all parents and students availed themselves of the opportunity to meet with teachers this week. These conversations provide families with an overview of learning achievements thus far and point to ongoing priorities. I encourage all parents to raise any concerns of a wellbeing or learning nature with teachers; effective communication and partnership are vital factors in addressing issues, as is dealing with them before they escalate. My thanks to all teaching staff for their great professionalism and commitment, so evident on this occasion.

We wish our senior students and staff heading off to Italy on a Study Tour every best wish. Buon Viaggio!!

Farewell Fr Tony Kerin

On Wednesday this week, we bade a fond farewell to the Very Rev Fr Anthony Kerin EV PP, President of the Canonical Administrators of the College and Chaplain over 10 years. Fr Tony will be fondly remembered for his thought provoking and engaging homilies, his warm engagement with staff and students and his steadfast support of the College in the wider community. We thank Fr Tony for his wonderful faith leadership and his personal gifts, which he shared so generously. College Captain Ashleigh Coshan and Vice Captain Laura O’Gorman presented Fr Tony with a personalised portrait by Beth Mazarella Class of 2013. They then offered a blessing prayer to wish Fr Tony all the best in his new parish of Box Hill.

Uniform in Term 2

A reminder to all families that students must be in the College winter uniform in Term 2. Parents and students are asked to review the Uniform Guidelines (pg 28-31 of the Student Planner) to ensure that they are aware of the winter uniform requirements. In particular, please ensure that student’s skirt / kilt length complies with the length stipulated in the Uniform Guidelines.

I wish all families abundant joy this Easter.

Peace,

Elizabeth Hanney
Principal
Deputy Principal
As parents we often reflect on the wonderful opportunities we had to engage in our child’s education in primary school. We could be in the classroom as a volunteer or assisting teachers by taking an active role in children’s learning with reading assistance or excursions and day trips. As our daughters transition into secondary education, these opportunities diminish and we are left wondering how we can remain involved in their education.

A 2013 report published by the Family School and Community Partnerships Bureau, *Parental Engagement in Learning and Schooling,* contains some key, research based findings that may assist in responding to this question.

The report contends that positive parental engagement significantly influences student academic attainment. It finds that the key to facilitating positive change in a child’s academic attainment is the engagement of parents in learning outcomes in the home.

Indicators of student achievement include:
- higher grades and test scores
- enrolment in higher level programs and advanced classes
- lower drop-out rates
- higher graduation rates, and
- a greater likelihood of commencing postsecondary education.

Positive parental engagement is also closely linked to:
- better adaptation to school
- better social skills and improved behaviour
- a greater sense of personal competence and efficacy for learning
- greater engagement in school work, and
- a stronger belief in the importance of education.

Parental behaviours which have a demonstrably positive impact include:
- communicating with children about parental expectations for education and about the value and enjoyment of learning
- discussing learning strategies with children
- linking school work to current events and other topics
- fostering educational aspirations and making preparations and plans for the future
- providing a stimulating home learning environment, and
- making learning enjoyable and rewarding
- focusing on activities which are directed at building students’ decision-making and problem solving skills and affirming their growing autonomy, independence, and academic abilities.

As we journey with our children it is important to reflect on how engaged we are in our daughter’s learning? I invite you to discuss these and other strategies with your daughter.

A very blessed, safe and sacred Easter season to all.

Phillip Tascone
Deputy Principal

Head of School
Years 10 - 12

**Year 12 Persuasive Speeches**
We often hear that young people are disengaged, lazy and lack motivation. One of the nicest parts of working in a school such as Ave Maria College is that every day we see our students for the engaged, hard-working and motivated young adults they are. Earlier this week the Year 12 English students present a series of persuasive speeches on topics ranging from the degradation of the Great Barrier Reef to the dangers of over-exercise in young people. What the teachers lucky enough to be assessing these speeches (and sometimes we are lucky to be marking, although it doesn’t always feel like it!) saw was a parade of well-thought through and articulately presented arguments. Well done to all of those who presented, it was an impressive afternoon.

**Italy Study Tour**
This Friday night 39 Year 11 and 12 students and five staff will be boarding that horrendous overnight flight for our biannual Italy Study Tour. Armed with their language skills and the benefits of Ms Ralf’s art lectures, the group will land in Rome and progress via Orvieto and Assisi to Florence and finally Venice. The College wishes the group a safe trip of much learning, and welcomes the chance these students have to engage with our Franciscan heritage in the places that Francis lived his ministry. All parents are invited to follow the tour on the College’s Twitter account: @avemariacollege.

**Holidays!**
Finally, warm wishes to all of our families for a happy and restful Term 1 break. It presents a chance for rejuvenation and time together as a family. I might also suggest that it presents a chance for any dresses which are now too short to be let down so that the hem is touching the knee.

Michael Horne
Head of School Years 10 - 12

**Fee Statements**
Fee Statements can be viewed on the Parent Portal at any time. Printed Statements for Term 2 will be posted the first week of school holidays. Fees are due on the Friday of the first week of Term 2.

Finance Office
Head of School
Years 7 - 9

“Spread kindness to one person a day ... imagine the amount of happiness you would dispense in a lifetime”

anonymous

It is almost hard to believe that Term 1 has come to an end, yet here we are after nine weeks. Year 7 students have experienced Camp, Peer Support, the House Swimming carnival, Student Leadership Elections, Year Level and House Assemblies, the Opening School Mass, and of course all of their classes. It is amazing to see how well they have transitioned into their new routines and environment. It has also been challenging for them as they get to know their peers in their Homeroom, and across the year level. The kindness and warmth that I have observed as students have developed new friendships and partnerships has been an example of the students living and embracing the ‘goodness matters, beauty matters, matter matters’ theme. I would like to congratulate the Year 7s and their families on a great start to the year.

It has been equally busy for the Year 8 and 9 students, but looking ahead, Term 2 will be especially exciting for these year levels. The Year 8 students will experience their ‘Wellbeing Day’ on the first Thursday of Term 2. It is an opportunity for the girls to learn about different aspects of life from a range of external organisations and agencies. The students will hear from The Butterfly Foundation, The Resilience Project and The Moonee Valley Police Community Liaison Officers. They will also participate in a yoga session, a Beyond Blue workshop and finish the day watching a play about cyber safety.

The Year 9 students start the term with the renowned and highly-anticipated ‘survivor camp’. This year the girls will complete a three day, two night experience in the Angahook National Park, Anglesea, once again working with AusCamp. This is an amazing and challenging event that the girls will remember for many years. The camp is linked to the Year 9 project, which begins later in the term. With camp groups aligned with project groups, this event provides an opportunity for the girls to get to know their project group members a bit better. The camp activities are a wonderful opportunity for the girls to develop team-work and problem-solving skills in very practical contexts. I wish the students, and attending staff, all the best for a successful camp.

I wish all families a wonderful and peace-filled break and I hope that the Easter weekend sees you enjoying time with family and friends. I look forward to seeing the students return bright and refreshed on Tuesday, 22 April.

Joanna Hammer
Head of School Years 7 - 9

Faith and Religious Education

While this week brings Term 1 to a close, it also marks the end of Lent from a school perspective, and so we look forward to that which Lent prepares us for, Easter. Part of our Lenten obligation is to care for those in need, which is marked by our second annual Mission Action Day on Friday, 4 April. I encourage you to support our young women to gather as much money as possible for the St Maria Mazzarello girls’ school in Venilale, Timor-Leste (East Timor). Donations are due on Tuesday, 29 April. Our Easter Liturgy, which was also held on Friday, 4 April and based on the Stations of the Cross, reminds our young women that Mission Action Day is one way that we can live our faith.

On Wednesday, 2 April, the College farewelled Fr Tony Kerin. On a personal note, I would like to thank Fr Tony for his priestly ministry to our young women. I have relished working with Fr Tony due to his sense of service and open communication. In my mind he stands out as a priest who works hard to communicate the treasures of our faith in a way that young people might best comprehend.

So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. (John 13:14)

As we approach Easter, we grapple again with the meaning of the paschal mysteries. Ultimately, Easter is about life - Jesus’ death shows us how to live. A life lived for others has meaning...and inspires others. No matter how many God-given gifts you have, you need to be of service to others, building community. The more power and authority you have, the more you can be of service to others.

It is our role to be ‘translators’ of the Gospel for young people. In our work with young people, do we impose our will or, rather, do we seek to create order so that all can be respected? We could tell them the meaning we gain from the Gospel. We could use contemporary examples of service or ‘life from death’ (go to YouTube to “Landfill Harmonic Orchestra” for an example). The witness of our lives shows that we use our gifts to build community.

Patrick Jurd
Director of Faith and Religious Education
### Student Wellbeing

**Seasons**

*Why is it called Seasons?*

Seasons is based on the concept of the “seasons of the year” as a symbol, not only of the particular moments in time when grief and loss is experienced in a specific way but also the changes and movements of grief overtime.

*Why is a program like Seasons required?*

Young people need effective help when grief and loss overpower their thoughts, feelings and behaviours, often resulting in patterns of denial, isolation, disrupted behaviour or compound sadness.

*How does it run?*

The Seasons program will be delivered through 8 sessions held at the College, on Tuesdays from 3.30pm-4.45pm, starting on 6 May. Parent/guardians are responsible for their daughter’s transportation home after the sessions. As the sessions are held outside of normal school hours, your daughter’s participation will not impact on her academic activities. It will be facilitated through the school counselling service.

The aim of the program is to help adolescents articulate their feelings, process their grief, build a stronger self-esteem and begin to accept what has taken place in the family. The program will target the emotions associated with the experience.

*What do they do in the session?*

- Discussion and dialogue
- Story time, narratives
- Videos
- Poetry, journaling
- Drama, music
- Art
- Relaxation, meditation
- Rituals celebrations
- Silence, reflection
- Rituals celebrations
- Silence, reflection

Student Counselling will be running the SEASONS program (Peer support program for children and young people experiencing grief and loss) during Term 2 as part of Ave Maria’s College’s Wellbeing plan to support and strengthen families in a partnership between the college and the community. Please note that Seasons does not replace formal counselling rather complements it as feelings of grief and loss are explored in a safe space where feelings can be normalised and accepted as a constant part of their life. For further information please do not hesitate to contact me via email: Faye.evans@avemaria.vic.edu.au

Faye Evans  
**Student Counsellor**

### Pathways News

**CGBC (Computer Games Boot Camp)** is a 7-day hands-on, interactive, industry engagement event. It is open to Years 9 – 12 students. Registrations are already open! To register and/or find out more, visit [https://cgbc.infotech.monash.edu/](https://cgbc.infotech.monash.edu/)

Senior students can complete **Work Experience** at CGBC (Computer Games Boot Camp). Students are involved in all aspects of the event and schools often consider Work Experience at CGBC as the ‘ultimate work experience’. The Work Experience is completed during the weekday period of the CGBC 7-day event. The dates are therefore five days in total from Monday, 7 July until Friday, 11 July 2014. To find out more visit [https://cgbc.infotech.monash.edu/general/attendees/work-experience.html](https://cgbc.infotech.monash.edu/general/attendees/work-experience.html) or speak to your Career Advisor.

**RMIT University** offers a number of free events designed to give students in Years 10, 11 and 12 real experience and insight into life on campus. The events will run between Monday, 30 June – Friday, 4 July, the first week of the Victorian School Holidays, plus a special October Experience Project Management Day. Check the latest Career News on Careers and Pathways.

**Experience La Trobe** is designed especially for Year 10, 11 and 12 students and their parents to get a taste of what it is like to be a university student. Students may participate in workshops of their choice, find out about student life and also check out the Melbourne campus, including student accommodation. University students and staff will be there to help participants and answer any questions that might arise.

**Experience La Trobe** is a free event - with lunch and entertainment provided! Date: Friday, 11 April 2014 from 9.30am – 4.30pm. Venue: Melbourne Campus, northeastern suburb of Bundoora, at the intersection of Plenty Road and Kingsbury Drive.

To register, visit [http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience/events/experience-la-trobe-events/melbourne-program](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience/events/experience-la-trobe-events/melbourne-program), or email study@latrobe.edu.au for more information.

To find out about the dates and times of **Experience La Trobe** at its other campuses, visit [http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience/events/experience-la-trobe-events](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience/events/experience-la-trobe-events).

Helen Aliaga  
**Pathways Coordinator**