Prayer
Loving God, may we use this Easter time to ponder how we might best use our God-given gifts to build community and so live life to the full. In Jesus’ name. Amen

From the Principal

Mother’s Day
Our Year 12 Student Leaders paid fitting tribute to the many Mothers who gathered for the Mother’s Day breakfast on Monday. We remember all Mothers this week, those wonderful women in our lives who nurture, sacrifice and like God, envelop us with love.

NAPLAN
This week all students in Years 7 and 9 will take part in NAPLAN testing in Numeracy and Literacy. This national testing provides important data to inform decisions about educational provision for each student in Years 7 and 9. It is one of many sources of such data. It is important to keep NAPLAN in perspective and to remember that a Catholic education, focused on the development of the whole child, encompasses great depth and breadth, within and beyond the classroom.

Students, parents and teachers will certainly benefit from the data provided by NAPLAN, both individually and more collectively as a domain learning area. NAPLAN results certainly feed into the College Strategic Plan as we continuously reflect upon student achievement and areas for improvement.

‘Everything living is bathed in God, is enveloped by God, who is around about us all, enveloping us.’
Mechtild of Magdeburg

The earth is shrouded in a milky morning dew, transparent, yet obscuring sharp lines and blunt edges. Everything is gentled. The creeping light wraps itself around shapes and shadows, enveloping all. So does God’s grace fall, Her mighty maternal Spirit pervading all our habitat, stroking our darkened humanity in urgent invitation to gentleness and new life.
Edwina Gateley

Secondary Catholic Sports Association Athletics
Many talented Athletes headed to Lakeside Park, Albert Park last Friday for the Secondary Catholic Sports Association (SCSA) Athletics Carnival. This year the SCSA was hosted by Ave Maria College and Ms Mel Zahra and staff did a sterling job in organising a very successful day. Ave Maria College students performed very strongly, taking home second place overall, a great effort!

I congratulate all students who participated on the day and exhibited such wonderful school spirit. A particular thanks to our Year 12 Student Leaders, many of whom came along both to compete and to lead the cheering in support of their peers.

Peace,
Elizabeth Hanney

Invitation to Parents
On Monday, 2 June 2014, you are invited to participate in a discussion about Ave Maria College as part of the School Improvement Framework process, coordinated by the Catholic Education Office. This discussion will reflect on what has been achieved at the College over the last four years and what directions we need to take over the next four years to continue to provide excellence in our Catholic Education of young women. This process is part of our four Yearly Review process and will be facilitated by an External Reviewer, Mrs Liz Monahan. This is a great opportunity for parents to participate in the life of the College and help to shape our agenda for 2015 – 2018.
We would love to see you there! The open forum session will run for just 45 mins at the College and will take place from 8.30am – 9.15am on Monday, 2 June. For further information or to register your interest, please contact Chris Mann, Principal’s PA via email chris.mann@avemaria.vic.edu.au.
Deputy Principal

Following on from our earlier release, I wish to advise that the Learning and Teaching Review has now completed Stage 3 and 4 of the process. These stages looked at the core and elective studies at every year level and the number of allocated periods per study. Extensive consultation took place with staff where models were presented and discussions held around new elective and core offerings followed by period allocation and timetabling structures to support the refreshed program.

We now are ready to enter into further student and parent consultation to explain the priorities and directions that framed the construction and completion of these two stages and we seek your feedback. Accordingly, parents and students are invited to attend our information session on Tuesday, 20 May at 7.00pm where we will present the outcomes of the Learning and Teaching Review and each of its stages.

Please register your interest in attending this our information session by using this link below.
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1TJh2wqiwKWZmvbdL3aEyo6V64_IKLxOARo14lx5_Eg/viewform?usp=send_form

We look forward to releasing the full details of the Learning and Teaching Review to the community once our consultation process is complete and the program formally ratified.

If you would like to know more about the Learning and Teaching Review, please feel free to email me at philip.tascone@avemaria.vic.edu.au

Phillip Tascone
Deputy Principal

Head of School
Years 10 - 12

As we move into a heavy SAC season, and with mid-year examinations approaching for Year 10 and 11 students, a couple of academic items this fortnight.

Year 13 Program
I'm very pleased to be able to announce a new initiative developed by our current Academic Captain Ella McNicol, the ‘Year 13 Program’. The program is a series of lectures and workshops given to our current Year 12 by some of 2013’s highest performing students in each subject. These successful past students will share with the current classes their tips for studying and doing well in each VCE subject. I commend Ella for the initiative and look forward to welcoming back some of our brightest past students.

Homework demands Years 10-12
A number of students have been feeling under the pump with their homework lately and have raised their worries with their teachers or Year Level Team Leader, something we’d encourage them to keep doing. Curriculum leaders across the College map out the peak periods of student work as best we can, so that these can be spread as evenly as possible across a semester in order to minimise student distress. However, it is the nature of the game that there will be some periods where a number of assessments fall, and we are moving into one of these periods now.

Year 12 is the year in which this work pressure becomes the most acute. As our Year 12 now get their heads stuck down, we’d ask for your support in motivating them and reminding the girls that the Year 12 year is already nearly half over, that we’re getting there! Any Year 12 students who have three SACs in a day are reminded that they are able to speak to one of their teachers, or to me, to arrange a swap or a rescheduled time.

Michael Horne
Head of School Years 10 - 12

Student Absences
To report a student absence please telephone Ave Maria College on 9331 9359 to leave a recorded message including student’s name, date of absence and Homeroom.

Administrative Services
Head of School
Years 7 - 9

Mother’s Day Breakfast
On Monday, 12 May the Mother’s Day breakfast was held. The senior student leaders and Mary put on a delicious and plentiful selection of foods. Whilst it was a chilly morning, the turnout was fantastic, it was terrific to see students from all year levels coming along with their mums. I’ve included a few photos of the event below.

The guest speaker, Rita, from the (Headspace) office in Glenroy outlined important information for both parents / guardians and students about the importance of seeking help and support during challenging times. She identified some of the programs Headspace offers, how to get in contact with them. Rita also discussed a little about the signs and symptoms that might indicate building anxiety and depression. It was an informative session that provided all guests with some valuable information. Rita also took the opportunity to promote an upcoming event at the Headspace centre in Glenroy – the parent information session. She warmly invited members of the Ave Maria Community to attend. More information about the event can be provided by contacting the centre directly on 1300 880 218.

Year 8 Activities
Over the past few weeks, the Year 8s have had a busy time with their Wellbeing day on Thursday, 24 April, and the Humanities Medieval incursion on Friday, 9 May. The students seemed to enjoy both of these events. Thank you to Carolyn Mills, Year 8 Level Team Leader, and Christopher Moss, Humanities Domain Team Leader, respectively, for organising such wonderful events for the students.

Year 7 Reflection Day
This Friday, 16 May, all Year 7 students will participate in their first Ave Maria reflection day. This important event focuses on belonging, and is an opportunity for the students to work on their faith development, both individually and as a year level. I hope it is a wonderful day for all involved.

Uniform
Recently a number of Year 7 and 8 students have been wearing socks with the winter uniform. Parents are reminded to ensure they are familiar with the uniform regulations. Please note that it is strictly black tights (minimum 40 denier) to be worn with the new College winter uniform.

Joanna Hammer
Head of School Years 7 - 9

Faith and Religious Education
On 13 and 14 August, the Year 10 students will undertake their Faith In Action Today (FIAT) (community service) program. The recent Year 10 Reflection Day was devoted to showing the girls the importance for Catholics of living our faith through caring for those in need and giving the girls the opportunity to think through their options.

On 30 April, all of the Year 10's went to Moonee Ponds Bowls Club for our Reflection day. We spent the day reflecting on the topic of “What Can I Give?”. We had some great guest speakers including a young volunteer from St Vinnie's, who motivated us to get involved in community service and taught us about being selfless in helping others. We also began a bit of discussion about our FIAT projects which will include volunteer work in August. It helped us to see how
much we can offer to the community and we’re all excited to begin!

Sabrina Gleeson and Matea Hrkac
Year 10 Faith and Social Justice Leaders

Liaising with the local St Vincent de Paul shop, we invite members of the College community to contribute blankets or warm clothing to our annual Winter Appeal. Any donated items can be left in the College chapel. Donations will be accepted until the end of May.

‘Cursed be anyone who deprives the alien, the orphan, and the widow of justice.’ (Deut 27:19)

It is a common misconception that the God of the Old Testament is ‘different’ from the New Testament. The Gospel thrust toward justice which is well known to Christians has its roots in this most fundamental of Jewish Scriptures, the Torah (the name given to the first five books of the Old Testament). We give our governments the responsibility to take care of those in need. Because they are human institutions, governments will always make mistakes. However, some current governments are falling well short of the mark outlined in this text and many others like in the Bible. As adults we have responsibility, thus we need to ponder: ‘Is the government representing my wishes?’

Young people can have a passion for justice. It is vital that they are taught about the justice in the Scriptures and its moral claim on our behaviour. We also should ensure that they recognise the continuity between the Old and New Testaments. It is appropriate that schools continue to provide opportunities for young people to act for justice, especially for those ‘on the outer’ of society.

Patrick Jurd
Director of Faith and Religious Education

Pathways News

Year 10 Work Experience

Work Experience arrangements should be finalised by now.

UMAT 2014

Year 11 students are reminded that registrations to sit the UMAT close on Friday, 6 June 2014 at 5.00pm sharp. Candidates who do not register by the close of late registrations (20 June 2014) will not be permitted to sit UMAT2014, which will be held on Wednesday, 30 July 2014. A reminder too that Year 11 students may not sit the UMAT2014 and should they do so, their results will be cancelled and they may not be allowed to sit the UMAT again.

News from Victoria University

Bachelor of Laws: Victoria University’s approach to learning combines theory with practice. It has partnerships with the courts and community legal services, which gives students a unique exposure to the real experience of the justice system. These opportunities challenge students through practical experiences for a rewarding career in law that could range from working for government, the community or in private enterprise.

La Trobe University New Bachelor of Commerce in 2015

La Trobe Business School will be introducing the Bachelor of Commerce at the Melbourne campus from 2015. The VCE prerequisites are VCE Units 3 and 4: minimum study score of 25 (EAL) or 20 in English. The degree will comprise of: an eight -subject core; an eight-subject primary major, chosen from five key discipline areas— Accounting, Economics, Finance, Management and Marketing, either an optional second eight-subject major, chosen from any faculty at La Trobe or eight elective subjects chosen from any faculty at La Trobe.

To receive regular updates on this course and others, visit www.latrobe.edu.au/keepintouch

Careers in Transport and Logistics

The Transport and Logistics sector which covers Road, Rail, Warehouse & Storage, Maritime and Aviation in Australia employs an estimated 500,000 individuals directly and over 1 million people in both direct and associated roles. The range of jobs or portfolios under included in Transport & Logistics include: Air Traffic Controller, Distribution Analyst, Export Officer, Supply Chain Manager. For some really handy brief job descriptions of these jobs and more visit http://tlisc.org.au/category/careers/industry-sectors/

Access Education 2014 Mid-Year Lecture Program

Access Education is pleased to offer students a comprehensive program during the first week of the July School Holidays. The Mid-Year Lectures will ensure that students are not only on track to achieve their personal best, but it will also give all the tools needed to ensure that they have the ultimate head start to their final semester of high school.

Aviation Study & Careers Expo at Swinburne University

The Faculty of Science, Engineering and Technology at Swinburne University is holding an Aviation Study & Careers Expo and prospective students are invited to attend and find out more about Swinburne’s Bachelor of Aviation or Bachelor of Aviation (Management) degree programs. Registration is essential and registrations close on Friday 30 May 2014. To register visit go to the following link and choose aviation careers expo http://www.swinburne.edu.au/science-engineering-technology/schools/engineering/departments/aviation/events/

More information on careers and pathways is available on the Careers and Pathways page of AveSpace