From the Principal

Pentecost

"Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth." (Psalm 103)

Celebrating the feast of Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. This gift is a powerful reminder of God’s presence within and around us daily; in the here and now. The peace which Jesus assured would be ours with the coming of the Holy Spirit is the peace we reflect on at this time, as the source of our contentment. Laurence Freeman (a Benedictine priest), in his article The Light Within writes, “Living in the past or in the future we end up discontented. In being so concerned about what we lack, so preoccupied with what we desire, we fail to see what we have been given. Unless we change this attitude and turn around from the mirror to be present to the peace of this moment, we are condemned to being discontent.”

May Pentecost remind us what is given to us in the present moment, peace. St Francis prays that we might then share that peace: Lord, make us an instrument of Your peace.

The next step in this School Improvement process is the preparation of a Report and the development of a Strategic Plan for the period 2015 - 2018. The days last week enabled the College Executive to develop a clear ‘Strategic Intent’ for the future. The College is grateful for the work of Mrs Elizabeth Monahan from the Catholic Education Office, who expertly led the process and will present the report and framework for our Plan in July. At this time, all families will receive an overview of our commitments and direction for the forthcoming four years.

Semester 1 concludes

I commend the Year 10 and Year 11 students who have entered into this examination period with determination and purpose. The experience of adequate preparation, practice and persistence is an important one for their learning success and readiness for Year 12. All students are encouraged to reflect on their learning during this time - to identify what they need to do more or less of in their study routine, what strengths they discovered within themselves and what resources they need to draw on to lead to further improvement in Semester 2. I encourage parents to have these discussions with their daughter, along with celebrating the success of their efforts.

Peace,

Elizabeth Hanney
Principal

School Improvement Framework

Last week the College community engaged in a process of reflection, renewal and forward planning. In timely fashion during this season of Pentecost, much reflection took place in considering the strengths of the College, the areas for growth and the directions for the future; all of which reflect the work of the Spirit in guiding and inspiring us to use the gifts of all in educating our young women. I thank those parents, students and staff who volunteered to contribute to this important conversation. It is abundantly clear that the Spirit of Ave Maria College is infused with creativity, compassion and a very real commitment to excellence for all.

Prayer

Loving God, we thank you for the gifts that, through the Holy Spirit, you have lavished on us. Knowing that we each have a part to play, may we each value and use the gifts you have given us. We make this prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen
Head of School
Years 10 - 12

Two things from me this fortnight. Firstly an enormous and sincere well done to our Year 10 and 11 students who finished examinations yesterday. Mid-year examinations are one of the most intense periods of study and application for students and it is no small measure of our girls' work ethic and determination that they approached them with such focus.

Secondly, I would like to flag the letter that has gone home with students this week regarding the wearing of uniform. It stated that we have noted a number of students recently whose appearance has been slipping, particularly in terms of:

- wearing too much make-up;
- wearing earrings which have just a bit too much bling;
- wearing skirts and kilts which are too short.

As outlined in the Student Planner and School Uniform Guidelines the dress or kilt is to be knee length. A useful, and reliable, means of checking this is to have your daughter kneel to check that the dress touches the floor. In order to reinforce to students how seriously we take the standards with which they present themselves, from Monday, 16 June we will be asking parents to collect from the College any student who is not in compliance with uniform expectations and is unable or unwilling to rectify the problem straight away herself. This will apply to newly-pierced ears as well as the worn uniform.

Of course, we would prefer to be expending time and energy developing our courses and ensuring that we're teaching in an innovative and relevant way rather than chasing up uniform issues, but we have hit a point where this has become necessary. We'd also very much prefer not to be calling and inconveniencing parents by asking you to collect your daughter from school. But we will do these things, and unapologetically, because we expect a high standard from our girls, and know that you don't want any less.

On a final note, thank you to all parents who have provided feedback about communication from the College to home. We're working on a number of means to make this communication smoother, and look forward to making things much easier for parents in future.

Michael Horne
Head of School Years 10—12
### Faith and Religious Education

On Friday, 16 May all of the Year 7 students went down to the Maribyrnong Park Bowls Club with Mr Jurd, Mrs Hall and our RE teachers to have our Reflection Day. The day consisted of games and a speech about belonging to communities and our Year Seven charity, the Samaritans Purse. We all had a fun day with something to walk away with.

We hope that you can join us at our inaugural Timor-Leste Benefit Ball on Saturday, 16 August. The St Maria Mazzarello school in Venilale helps girls’ education in Timor-Leste. A very significant way that you can help, whether you can attend the Benefit Ball or not, is by helping to source items for the auctions that will be held on the night. Goods or services up to $150 will be part of the silent auction, while more significant items will be auctioned on the night. If you can help, or know someone who can, please contact Ms Jo Hammer at the College.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Cor 12:4-7)

There are some people who might find the notion that they have gifts revelatory. There are also times when our self-esteem can take a battering; when we don’t feel we have anything to offer. It is also important to note that there is a distinct difference between being self-assured and egotistical. But the key to this quote is that our God-given gifts are ‘for the common good’ - they are given through the Holy Spirit whose coming at Pentecost we celebrate this week. How am I using my gifts to build community? Are there new ways to use my gifts?

We have an important role to play with young people. They can be caught up in a world of celebrity - where the ‘special one’ seems so distant. This focus, coupled with a developing ego, means that our role is to affirm our faith that we are each special in God’s eyes and to affirm the goodness in young people at every opportunity.

Patrick Jurd  
**Director of Faith and Religious Education**

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### Student Counsellor

It is a privilege to join the Ave Maria College community as Student Counsellor. I bring with me a range of experience from working in many Catholic schools and other educational and clinical settings. As a Psychologist and member of the Australian Psychological Society (APS) I follow specific guidelines about professional conduct, responsibilities and confidentiality that are set by the Society in the APS Code of Ethics.

Life is full of ups and downs. When we are going through some difficult times we often have a range of strategies for coping. For example, talking with a friend or parent or doing something enjoyable. Sometimes we need further assistance and counselling can be a useful process to equip us with the skills to function better and prevent problems. Seeking support is a normal and healthy part of development and counselling can assist with a range of issues. For example, help to cope with grief and loss, stress, anxiety or depression; relationship issues, or self-esteem and confidence.

When a need arises, students are encouraged to seek guidance and can refer themselves for counselling support. Alternatively, teachers and parents are able to make referrals. Prior to making a referral, it is preferable that you speak with your daughter about your concerns and the possibility of engaging with the counselling service. Parents can make referrals by calling Reception on 9331 9300. I am available four days a week, currently from Monday to Thursday.

I look forward to working with the young women, families and staff of the Ave Maria College community in supporting the educational, social and emotional development of our students.

Lauren Beatty  
**Student Counsellor**

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16 June—Assessment and Reporting Day (no classes)
Pathways News
Year 10 Work Experience Week 23-27 June

ACU Breaks down the Budget
The recent Federal Budget included changes to higher education funding which will have significant implications for Australian universities. The Australian Catholic University summarised the proposed changes that will affect students:

- Universities will set their own fees – from 1 Jan 2016, universities will set their own fees for Australian undergraduate courses.
- The government will contribute less – from 1 January, 2016, students will pay more towards the cost of their degree, and the Government will pay less. The Commonwealth contribution will reduce by 20% overall.
- Extending the demand driven system – this system has been expanded to provide Commonwealth Supported Places for any undergraduate qualification offered by a university – diplomas, associate degrees. Government funding has also been extended to students studying at registered higher education providers (including TAFE).
- Repaying the debt sooner – The HELP loan will still be available, so students will not have to pay their fees upfront. However, the Government has reduced the income threshold so graduates will start making their repayments sooner – when they are earning approximately $50,638.

For ACU students (if the changes pass in Parliament), this means: Current ACU students or those who have accepted a place at ACU and elected to defer that offer on or before 13 May, 2014, will not be affected as long as they complete their degree by the end of 2020. Students who accept an offer of enrolment from 14 May 2014, until 1 January 2016 will be charged under the existing arrangements till 31 December 2015. After that, they will be charged under the new arrangements. ACU will be consulting with stakeholders over the coming months to determine the appropriate fees for ACU’s courses. Other universities will, no doubt, make statements in due course.

Interested in a Career with Animals?
Various school holiday programs are again on offer. ‘Winter Wonderland’ is the theme this year.

- Healesville Sanctuary - a chance to get close to some of our most endangered alpine animals. The Keeper for a Day program allows you to help keepers and learn about a very rewarding job.
- Vet for a Day at Healesville Sanctuary allows you to see the vets working with real life cases involving the animal collection as well as injured wildlife brought into the hospital.
- Keeper for a Day at Werribee Open Range Zoo - find out what a keeper’s day is really like. Years 7-12; Booking: 9285 9406; Info: www.zoo.org.au/whats-on/school-holidays-at-zoos-victoria.

Art Design and Architecture (MADA)
MADA is hosting a range of three-day workshops for Year 11 and 12 students interested in studying creative disciplines. Students can build folios and attend foundation workshops in architecture, interior architecture, communication design, industrial design and fine art, and experience life at MADA. Industry professionals and academics will run the workshops and guide students through the lessons and activities. 1-3 July and 24-26 September at MADA, 900 Dandenong Road, Caulfield East. Enquiries: 9903 1517 mada@monash.edu, Information: monash.edu/mada/workshops.

Further Career News can be found on AveSpace – Learning Space – Careers and Pathways

Helen Aliaga
Careers and Pathways

R (Relationship) Day
CatholicCare Marriage Enrichment Program
Saturday, 14 June
Relax, Renew, Recall, Romance, Revisit, Revitalize, Rejuvenate and Rejoice! This one day workshop for couples is based on the seven Principles of a Sound Relationship House developed by relationship expert Dr John Gottman. During the workshop you will explore ideas for deepening connection, friendship and intimacy in your relationship. Educators from CatholicCare’s Marriage and Relationship Education Team will run the workshop.

Contact: 9287 5516 or email relationships@ccam.org.au