Prayer
Loving God, may we continue to do the work of Lent – examining the ways that we can become better people and then living those ways – which draw us closer to You. We make this prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen.

From the Principal

Francis House claims Swimming Carnival Victory
In delightful sunshine we gathered for the 2016 Swimming Carnival on Friday, 26 February. As is their way, our Year 12 students led the carnival atmosphere with weird and wonderful costumes, great dance moves and House chants. In particular, our House Captains did a marvellous job in leading House spirit and participation on the day. I would also like to commend Deahna Orfini of Year 7 who led the commencement of the Carnival with a wonderful rendition of the National Anthem. Many students took part in swimming and novelty events which followed and I thank Ms Melanie Zahra for her superb organisation of the day. Congratulations to Francis House for taking home the victory shield.

Year 7
How quickly our Year 7 students have settled in! It is wonderful to see our new students become familiar with their environment, making new friends and working to establish good learning habits. It has been a pleasure to wander into several Year 7 classrooms and experience the positive environment of engagement and endeavour. My thanks to teachers, parents and our feeder parish primary schools for the ease of transition made by our students. I also thank the Year 11 Peer Support students who have welcomed and assisted the Year 7 girls so very well in Term 1. Many of them will join Year 7 students and staff on Camp this week at Camp Marysville.

Helene de Chappotin Sculpture
We have engaged the services of The Sage Sisters, sculptural artists who will capture the spirit of Helene de Chappotin in a bronze cast statue for the front of the College. Helene was the Foundress of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, the religious order of women who established Ave Maria College in 1963. Given the generosity and richness of their legacy under the inspiration of Helene, and the very beauty of the Franciscan charism, we look forward to enhancing our community understanding and faith. Images of the concept drawings have been placed in the public noticeboard adjacent to the Canteen for your interest.

Mary Centre
We are pleased to now utilise the long awaited Mary Centre, encompassing Science and Research, Year 12 and general classrooms and the third floor Arts and Media space. These spaces are designed to facilitate learning which is both specialised and flexible. All rooms are equipped with the latest in interactive technologies and functionality of furniture which is being enjoyed by students and staff alike. We look forward to our Blessing and Opening on Tuesday, 26 April 2016. Please find enclosed in this newsletter some images from the Mary Centre.

Lenten Message
The Gospel for the Fourth Week of Lent is the well known story of the Merciful Father or Prodigal Son. Read Pope Francis’ reflection on this Gospel Parable of the Merciful Father; from his recent book, the Church of Mercy.

He reminds us: God is indeed waiting for you. He asks of you only the courage to go to him.

Elizabeth Hanney
Principal
Deputy Principal Leadership & Learning

I've always viewed my part of the Newsletter as an opportunity to grow a culture of learning within the Ave Maria College Community. I've written many times about having a learning attitude and what research is telling us about reflective practice for effective learning. I have also shared the processes we have implemented in the College that drive a learning culture in our staff and students. You would also have read about these in the writings of other College Executive Team members who contribute to our Newsletter. Our writings on such matters emanate from our own learning in the research we do as part of our work in improving student learning. It is in this spirit that I offer you recent learning from my Masters in Human Resources in a unit titled ‘Leading Through Change’. This unit analyses how change agents and managers can conceptualise and lead the process of organisational and social change. We are exploring psychic prisons; change models; characteristics of innovative organisations; forces for change; resistance to change; coping with change; organisational development; contingency approaches to change; and aspects of cultural change management. There may be those amongst you who have studied similar units and hopefully like me find it particularly useful in your work or just fascinating learning anyway!

We were challenged recently to reflect on how trapped we are by our own psychic prisons; that is basically, a favoured way of thinking. Psychic prisons are often why people find change so difficult and are guided by what French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu referred to as habitus. The habitus is a set of dispositions which incline us to act and react in certain ways. As research would indicate, these dispositions, acquired through early childhood experiences and family socialisation, literally mould us and become second nature.

So how do we know if we are in fact trapped in our own psychic prisons? Joey Barton is an English soccer player who grew up in an environment where violence was the norm. He was taught that unless you fight, unless you hit back you will never get anywhere in life. This was his lesson everyday as it was for those in his social group. As a child, he said, “It’s difficult to question when you’re not given an alternative”. So I invite you to consider what psychic prisons exist for you and what more importantly for parents, what psychic prisons are we creating for our children without even realising it? Two great blogs to read and reflect on are The Circus Elephant Syndrome and Childhood Memory Healing. I hope you get something out of these reads!

Phillip Tascone
Deputy Principal Leadership & Learning

Heads of School
Student Leadership Development Day

On Tuesday, 23 February the newly appointed Year Level Captains and Faith & Social Justice Captains, along with the Senior Student Leadership team participated in a Student Leadership Development day. The students were joined by the S.W.A.T team of student leaders from St Bernard’s College. The focus of the day was building leadership capacity and developing skills that would see both groups successfully represent their respective cohorts. The students participated in a range of activities, including a presentation from Project Rockit (www.projectrockit.com.au) that focused on the values and attitudes that underpin good leadership. They also looked at the upcoming events for each year level and began planning activities for the year. It was a great day and the student leaders have made a terrific start to the year.

Timor-Leste Benefit Ball

The third annual Timor-Leste Benefit Ball is taking place on Saturday, June 18 2016 at Lakeside events, Albert Park. All parents, and students in Years 11 & 12 are invited to the event. Further details will be provided in a ‘Save the Date’ card that will be sent home in the coming weeks. We also invite parents to join the Ball committee, whose main focus is on the fundraising component of the night. The team usually meet at 5.00pm, at the College, every 3 weeks in the lead up to the Ball. Expressions of interest to join the Ball committee can be sent to timorbenefit@avemaria.vic.edu.au

Uniform Reminder

A gentle reminder to all families about adhering to all aspects of the Uniform regulations. A number of students are wearing jewellery that is not permitted. Likewise, some students’ earrings are bigger than the prescribed 5mm diameter. Other regular infringements include: short dresses; short white socks with the summer dress; and black socks with the HPE uniform. On the whole most students look very well presented and are abiding by the uniform rules, however, we do ask that parents continue to monitor their daughter at home as well. With just a few weeks until Term 2, now is also a good time to check that all elements of the winter uniform are in order, and the skirt is the correct length.

Head of School Years 7-9 Jo Hammer
Head of School Years 10-12 Matt Smith

Guest Speaker Dr Michael Carr-Gregg
Thursday, 5 May 2016

Ave Maria College is proud to announce that Dr Michael Carr-Gregg will be giving a presentation to interested parents on Thursday, 5 May 2016 at the College. Further details will be provided.

Dates
Term 1 - Monday, 1 February - Thursday, 24 March
Term 2 - Monday, 11 April - Friday, 24 June
Term 3 - Monday, 13 July - Friday, 16 September
Term 4 - Monday, 3 October - Thursday, 8 December
Teaching and Learning Leader

Student Devices: Laptops

A reminder that students must be charging their laptop overnight. Excessive use before school or during recess and lunch is likely to result in the device going flat prior to the end of the day. Students are asked to shut down their device if they are not using it. If your daughter is concerned about the battery life of her device I encourage her to take her laptop to IT during recess or lunch and they will conduct a battery test to check the efficiency.

Subject Spotlight: IRIS

Students in Year 9 are currently completing an Independent Research and Investigative Study (IRIS). Last week there was a focus on questioning as students sought to unpack their group’s big essential question. To encourage a greater depth of thinking, students were introduced to the question matrix and used this as a resource as they formulated and explored focus questions. These questions will help frame their research in upcoming lessons.

Learning in the Mary Centre

This year marks the unveiling of our new Mary Centre. Containing a number of multi-purpose collaborative learning spaces, an outdoor science lab, research lab and open art studios, the Mary Centre helps to facilitate innovative teaching and learning in the 21st century. Students have been enjoying their new surroundings and the opportunities these learning spaces provide. With multiple writeable surfaces, larger LED screens and flexible furniture options, these areas foster greater collaboration amongst students, enhancing their engagement and strengthening their learning.

Faith and Religious Education

Fr Minh Tran, one of the College chaplains, was our celebrant for the recent Year 10 and 11 Family Mass on Tuesday, 1 March in the St Clare Chapel. Fr Minh gave a thought-provoking homily on the importance of forgiveness and compassion. Ms Sims and the choir greatly added to our celebration in the lovely ambiance of the Chapel which was filled with students and their families. During this busy time, it was lovely to see all those who attended. Thank you to Ms Lovell, Mr Nolan, their Year Level teams and the Year 10 and 11 RE teachers who each supported the Mass and contributed to its success.

During Lent, we are encouraged to build our relationship with God through prayer. Day 2 at lunchtime in the St Clare Chapel we have held Taize prayer. We are very grateful for the support of Sr Connie FMM who has been the driving force behind these prayerful experiences. Our final Lenten Taize prayer service will be held Tuesday, 15 March. All members of the Ave Maria community are most welcome.

Day 4 at lunchtime in the St Clare Chapel for those who wish some quiet time and an opportunity to unwind, there is meditation.

On Sunday, 20 March at 2.00pm, people will gather at the State Library, Swanston St, Melbourne (opposite Melbourne Central) before marching down Swanston Street to raise awareness of the treatment of refugees by the Australian Government. I will be there from 1.45pm with a College banner and invite any student, staff member or Community member to join me. You can turn up on the day or email me beforehand so I know how many to expect.

Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. (Luke 6:22-23)

While some of us are indifferent to others’ concerns, many of us want to get on with those around us. So whether it is by verbal and/or body language, we gauge others’ response to us. We know the importance of community and we may make adjustments to our behaviour. Being hated, excluded, reviled and defamed don’t ‘sit well’ with us. But this passage is about being true to our faith. Being true to our faith can, painfully, set us apart. Such is the price of integrity.

God’s covenant with humanity, from both the Christian and Hebrew scriptures, could be summarised as to honour God (not money nor things) and care for those in need. To this day humanity continues to struggle with the profound simplicity of this covenant. Our task is to guide the young people in our care to focus on caring for those around them – harnessing the drive for justice placed in each of us by our loving God – without caring ‘what others might think’.

Patrick Jurd
Director of Faith and Religious Education
Student Counsellor

Bullying. No Way!

Last week I supported a student who had been the subject of bullying behaviours by students from another school. The incident had happened on her way to school and by the time she reached my office she was extremely distressed. When confronted by the offenders she froze, allowing herself to be subjected to unacceptable behaviours. The student’s reaction was not unusual. Freezing (or tonic immobility) is one of the nervous systems automatic survival actions; like a mouse going dead when caught by a cat, or like a deer caught in headlights.

When we spend most of our time in a safe and supportive environment it can come as quite a shock to be confronted by abusive behaviours. Therefore, it is important to remind ourselves of the actions we should take if we find ourselves in this situation.

If someone tries to bully you:
- Ignore them
- If you can, look them in the eye, tell them to ‘stop’ and then walk away
- Pretend you don’t care
- Go to places where you feel safe

If you have been bullied:
- Talk to an adult (parent, teacher) you trust who can help stop the bullying
- Seek support from your friends
- Keep on asking for support until the bullying stops

The 2016 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence is on Friday, 18 March 2016. On the day, students at all year levels will be encouraged to participate in activities that raise awareness of our zero tolerance of bullying.

For more information or support you may wish to contact:
- Cyber bullying www.cybersmart.gov.au 1800 880 176
- Bullying, No Way! Safe Australian Schools Together www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

Sue Hall
Student Counsellor

Pathways News

Year 12 (2015) Scholarships

The following students have been recognised and rewarded for their hard work and the many sacrifices made throughout their secondary schooling. Congratulations to Monique Fatmous who received the La Trobe University Vice Chancellor’s Excellence Scholarship, Meg O’Callaghan who received the Victoria University Chancellor’s Scholarship, Charlotte Dawson and Laura Phypers who received Achievement Scholarships from Victoria University.

Options on leaving school

One option is University Study. Research shows that those who have a University degree are (on average) less likely to be unemployed and are likely to earn more during their lifetimes than those who do not. Others will want to complete a Vocational course (VET) like hospitality, childcare or graphic design. Another significant groups will enter a trade by completing an apprenticeship or traineeship in areas such as, Beauty/Hairdressing/Make-up, Childcare, Electrician or Office Administration.

Those entering employment with no study plans need to understand that their career options and earning capacity are likely to be limited in the long term. Qualifications are essential. School students who do their research usually find it easier to make critical career/course decisions than those who do not. Recommended research includes:
- Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) website www.vtac.edu.au Do a Course Search
- On-line search for courses on Institution websites.
- Read brochures/pamphlets about courses available in the Careers Room.
- Attend career events such as Career Expos; (VCE Careers Expo 2016 at Caulfield Racecourse) or ‘Inside Monash’ and ‘Focus on Melbourne’ (University).
- Attend Institution Open Days (usually on Sundays in August).
- Attend school holiday programs run by some universities and other organisations (e.g. the Zoo and Healesville Sanctuary)
- Search Job Guide at www.jobguide.education.gov.au; this site also offers links to other useful careers websites

Further information is available on the Careers and Pathways page on Ave Space.

Helen Aliaga
Pathways Coordinator