Prayer
Loving God, this Christmas may we recognise you in the face of each person we meet – God-with-us. We make this prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen

From the Principal

Glory to God
Take up the song of the angels who appeared to the shepherds in Bethlehem on the night when Jesus was born, it is a song which unites heaven and earth, giving praise and glory to heaven, and the promise of peace to earth and all its people. I ask everyone to share in this song: it is a song for every man or woman who keeps watch through the night, who hopes for a better world, who cares for others while humbly seeking to do his or her duty.

Above all else, this is what Christmas bids us to do: give glory to God, for he is good, he is faithful, he is merciful. Today I voice my hope that everyone will come to know the true face of God, the Father who has given us Jesus. My hope is that everyone will feel God’s closeness, live in his presence, love him and adore him. May each of us give glory to God above all by our lives, by lives spent for love of him and of our brothers and sisters.

Dear brothers and sisters, today, in this world, in this humanity, is born the Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. Let us pause before the Child of Bethlehem. Let us allow our hearts to be touched, let us not fear this. Let us not fear that our hearts be moved. We need this! Let us allow ourselves to be warmed by the tenderness of God; we need his caress. God’s caresses do not harm us. They give us peace and strength. We need his caresses. God is full of love; to him be praise and glory forever. God is peace: let us ask him to help us to be peacemakers each day, in our life, in our families, in our cities and nations, in the whole world. Let us allow ourselves to be moved by God’s goodness.

On this day illumined by the Gospel hope which springs from the humble stable of Bethlehem, I invoke the Christmas gift of joy and peace upon all; upon children and the elderly, upon young people and families, the poor and the marginalised. May Jesus, who was born for us, console all those affected by illness and suffering; may he sustain those who devote themselves to serving our brothers and sisters who are most in need.

Happy Christmas to all!  Pope Francis

Elizabeth Hanney
Principal

In signing off on the 2016 school year, I extend Christmas blessing to all families. This comment from Pope Francis offers a nice reflection for all.
Deputy Principal Leadership & Learning

As each year draws to a close I often have people ask me, “Well things must be winding down for you now hey?” It’s a question, or perhaps more a statement, often put to teachers. Nothing could be further from the truth! In fact the end of an academic year can be one of the busiest times in a teacher’s year. At Ave Maria College we take great pride and care in ensuring our students are engaged in meaningful learning experiences right up to their very last day on campus. An incredible amount of planning has gone into both the VCE Orientation Commencement Week and Year 7 to 9 End of Year programs. It can be very easy at the end of such a big year to lower our expectations of students as the year’s end draws close. However this would be completely unfair for our students as we know that they are just as interested in learning at this time of year as they are at any other time. Our job is to ensure that we offer the appropriate learning experiences that suit their needs at this stage in their learning journey. We are very proud of the efforts of our staff in ensuring the programs we have provided over the last fortnight have brought valuable academic and personal learning to our students. I also wish to acknowledge the great attitude our students brought with them in participating fully in these programs. We have every confidence that such a strong year will augur well for the start of 2017.

I have often spoken to students and staff about the importance of professional and personal self-reflection as a means to growth and improvement. Again, I invite everyone to take the time to engage in some form of reflective practice over this Christmas period. Often the term personal-reflective practice conjures up images of isolation in a yoga position out on the top of a hill somewhere. If that works for you then great. For me it’s as simple as, every so often, not taking my headphones or phone with me when I take the dog for a walk. I take these moments to allow my mind to process my experiences and thoughts; to let go of tensions and then just let my mind wander about without the rigour of thinking. I also find great value in intentionally recognising and being grateful for the goodness in my life; goodness that I know comes from God. It is in these moments of gratefulness I am able to recognise what is working well, where I’ve grown and where I can grow. I have always found this kind of reflection gives energy to my next steps.

I hope our parents, students and staff are able to find and take advantage of such moments in whatever form they come and I wish all members of the Ave Maria College community a safe and blessed Christmas.

Phillip Tascone
Deputy Principal Leadership and Learning

Heads of School

2016 VCE Results

Congratulations to all students who received their VCE results for their studies of Units 3 and 4 in 2016. The College is proud to announce the College Dux for 2016 is Veronica Pham. One in four students received an ATAR above 80, with several students achieving ATARs in the 90’s.

Notable subject performances came from Business Management; Physics; Outdoor and Environmental Studies; Media and Psychology. All of which recorded Study Scores well above those of the state.

A number of students also achieved Study Scores in the prestigious 40 plus range, with Isabella Pozzebon achieving a perfect score of 50 for Media.

Congratulations to the staff and each student’s family in supporting the students through such a critical year.

Year 10, 2017 New Laptop Device

A reminder that the new devices for Year 10 students in 2017 can be collected from the College from Wednesday, 18 January 2017. Students must have lodged their collection time via the AveSpace survey HERE. Devices must be collected by Tuesday, 31 January 2017.

2017 Start Dates

A reminder that there is a slightly staggered start to the 2017 Academic Year. Students are expected to be in their full College summer uniform on the first day of school. They should bring in half of their books (any half) on the first day, and half the following day. Students will receive their timetable and be allocated their lockers on the first day. Start dates are as follows:

Year 7 and Year 12: Wednesday, 1 February (Day 3) finish at 2.30pm, includes a BBQ lunch for students and parents.

Year 8 to Year 11: Thursday, 2 February (Day 4) finish at 3.25pm as per normal.

Christmas Wishes

We wish all families a safe, peaceful and restful Christmas and holiday.

Head of School Years 7-9  Jo Hammer
Head of School Years 10-12  Matthew Smith
Important Dates

<table>
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<td>Year 7 and Year 12 Students Only Commence</td>
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<td>Thursday, 2 February</td>
<td>Year 8 to Year 11 Students Commence</td>
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<td>Year 10 and 11 Parent Information Night</td>
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<td>Year 7 Immunisations</td>
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Teaching and Learning Leader

Awards Assembly

The Year 7 – 9 Awards Assembly is always a highlight for both staff and students as we acknowledge the great achievements of so many of our students. The Academic Excellence, Endeavour and C.A.M.P.L.E awards each recognised the efforts of students inside the classroom, whilst the Co-Curricular awards acknowledged extraordinary participation in the Co-Curricular life of the College both in sports and cultural activities. The participation in both the NCSS Coding Challenge and Maths Perfect World Championships was outstanding and students were acknowledged for their efforts during the assembly. Hannah Davies, 9D received a perfect score in the Coding Challenge and Ava Fabiani, Laura Eid, Karen Habashy, Danielle Reed, Methinya Somarathna and Mariam Touma all achieved awards for being in the top 2% of the 30,000 worldwide competitors in Maths Perfect. I would also like to take this opportunity to also acknowledge Marianne Finlay on being awarded the Best Speaker with the highest amount of points in the Interschool DAV debating competition. The breadth and depth of knowledge all of our students have shown over the course of this year has been impressive.

Finally, my sincere thanks to the teachers and support staff here at the College. Their dedication to your daughter’s learning and fostering an environment of excellence has ensured that all students can, and have achieved great learning success. I wish all families in our community a very safe and restful Christmas. I look forward to welcoming the students back in 2017 ready, and motivated to face any learning challenges that may come their way.

Jessica Hall
Teaching and Learning Leader

Faith and Religious Education

We were fortunate to have our College chaplains. Fr Joseph Olickal who was celebrant for the recent End of Year Mass for Year 10 and 11 and Fr Minh Tran who was celebrant for the Year 7-9 End of Year Mass.

As part of the End of Year program, students brought in cans which will be donated to St Vincent de Paul and the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

As we celebrate Christmas we say that hope is not dead. In the dark places of our lives, whether because of the passing of a loved one or a myriad of other difficulties, we say that hope is not dead. But rather than a Hollywood-style ‘knight in shining armour’, hope comes in the form of a defenceless baby, in the absence of power. Power doesn’t save us. Rather, power enslaves and controls. Power warps and twists us.

As Christians we believe that God took human form in the person of Jesus. Associated with that, we believe that God is present in each and every one of us. We believe that humans are created in the image and likeness of God – all 7 billion of us. This is reinforced for us in our relationships – we learn, we grow, we are more through our relationships. By imitating the self-sacrificing love of Jesus, by being our best image of God, God is at work in each of us, building community, binding us together. The power of ‘we’, not ‘me’, the building of community is a real Christmas gift.

Patrick Jurd
Director of Faith and Religious Education
Student Counsellor

Growth Mindset Verses Fixed Mindset

Ave Maria College students have received their Semester 2 reports and hopefully all students are happy with their 2016 academic achievements. If there are disappointments, it’s important to celebrate your daughter’s efforts and help her look at how she can draw on her experiences to set new goals. This will help her develop a growth mindset that fosters self-esteem, rather than a fixed mindset that hinders growth.

Mindset is an idea discovered by Stanford University psychologist Carol Dweck. Her mindset theory is a way to understand the effects of the beliefs that individuals hold for the nature of intelligence.

In a fixed mindset, people believe their basic qualities, like their intelligence or talent, are simply fixed traits. They spend their time documenting their intelligence or talent instead of developing them. A fixed mindset can have a negative effect on confidence because the person tends to doubt themselves or give up when something is hard or they get something wrong.

In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment.

Messages to children can influence the development of mindset. If parents attribute success to effort and practice (rather than innate abilities) children will be more likely to develop a growth mindset that loves challenges, is intrigued by mistakes, enjoys effort and wants to keep learning.

If your daughter succeeds, I recommend praising her efforts and strategies. If she is disappointed, show her that there is something to be learned when we don’t achieve what we set out to accomplish. Be specific about what worked, identify the emotions involved (e.g. “I can see you’re upset”) and offer her encouragement for next time.

Susanne Hall
Student Counsellor

Pathways News

Change of Preference (CoP)

VCE results became available on Monday, 12 December 2016. Students are able to change their preferences from now until Tuesday, 20 December 2016 at 12.00pm (12noon). For Year 12 students Change of Preference (CoP) is a safety net to ensure that they have made realistic decisions based on their results. Students are advised to list courses in the order they most want to study them otherwise they may end up missing out on the course they most wish to do. There is no cost involved in (CoP) as long as the VTAC application fee has been paid. Students need to keep in mind that the closing dates for any additional requirements in the selection criteria for courses may have already passed, so they must read the selection criteria carefully before adding any courses to their preference list, and contact the institution if not sure of the requirements.

Round One Offers - Wednesday, 18 January 2017

After the course selection authorities have considered an application, they will advise VTAC whether they wish to offer a student a place in the course. Then VTAC advises the student via their VTAC user account of the highest offer on their preference list. Most offers take place in the first round for example in 2014/2015 the number of main round undergraduate offers was 69,337 with an additional 3,602 offers being made in Round 2.

Round Two Offers—Tuesday, 7 February 2017 and a further three rounds during February.

Accepting an Offer

To secure a place the student must follow the enrolment instructions in their offer message.

Further details are available on Ave Space Careers and Pathways.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer holiday, filled with special times shared with family and friends.

Helen Aliaga
Pathways Co-ordinator

Administration Christmas Hours

Monday, 19 December 9.30am - 4.15pm
Tuesday, 20 December 8.15am - 4.15pm
Wednesday, 21 December 8.15am - 12.00pm

Administration will reopen on Tuesday, 10 January and return to normal hours 8.15am - 4.15pm
The Academic and Community Awards Night (ACAN) is the annual celebration of achievement by staff, students and community of Ave Maria College. This event is our forum for recognising and acknowledging excellence and high performance in a number of areas – College Spirit, Sporting and Cultural contributions, Community recognition and, of course, Academic Excellence.

In 2016 the academic award recipients again included the Subject Honour Roll, for which the highest performers in each subject, in each Year Level, are recognised. The highest performer, taking into account all assessments – both formative and summative, is awarded the Subject Dux. This year saw an increase in the number of students being acknowledged for their academic success, a testament to the depth of ability across the respective cohorts. Once again we acknowledged the top 5 students in each Year Level in the Year Level Honour Roll. These students have excelled across a number of subjects, with consistently high achievement in both Semester 1 and 2. The Year Level Dux is awarded to the overall highest performer in each Year Level. Well done to all award recipients.

Major Award Recipients
Helene de Chappotin: Matea Hrkac
St Clare Service Award: Janet Martin
St Francis Staff Service Award: Helen McCormick
Chrysanthe Bursary: Jessica Hall (Enrichment and Acceleration)

Future Leaders
Years 7-9: Madeline Saxton (Year 9)
Years 10-12: Olivia Fazio (Year 11)

House Awards
Co-Curriculum Leader Acknowledgement Award
Bianca Sprague (Year 9)
Carla Rendelmann (Year 10)

House Cultural Award
Junior: Sophie McAllister (Year 8)
Intermediate: Abbey Crowley (Year 9)
Senior: Chloe Braybrook (Year 11)

House Sports Award
Junior: Charlotte Bates (Year 7)
Intermediate: Tess Thorogood (Year 10)
Senior: Gabrielle Bassi (Year 11)

House Woman of the Year
Madeline Langenbacher (Year 7)

Sportswoman of the Year
Bridie Keogh (Year 9) - Taekwondo

Spirit of Ave Award
Year 7: Bonnie Meggs
Year 8: Lily Cervetto
Year 9: Abbey Crowley
Year 10: Maddison Cottle
Year 11: Teesha Pacifico

Caltex All-rounder
Rachel D’Andrea (Year 12)

Moonee Valley Foundation Award
Ciara Browne

Kwong Lee Dow Scholarship (Melbourne University)
Isabel Conti

ADF Long Tan Award
Yasmine Athaide (Year 10)
Agata Spanti (Year 12)

Year Level Honour Roll and Dux
Year 7 Honour Roll: Methinya Somaratna, Mariam Touma, Mia Sciberras, Jessica Lima
Year 7 Dux: Monica Trang
Year 8 Honour Roll: Chloe McMahon, Sara Hinton, Mia Kefenhoerster, Claudia Fox
Year 8 Dux: Alicia Librandi
Year 9 Honour Roll: Antonia Kerrison, Chloe Dalla-Fontana, Bianca Sprague
Year 9 Dux: Madeline Saxton, Meg Gleeson (tie)
Year 10 Honour Roll: Vanessa D’Andrea, Yasmine Athaide, Isabel Conti, Olivia Barca
Year 10 Dux: Caitlyn Fitzgerald
Year 11 Honour Roll: Bianca Fastuca, Laura Paolucci, Katie Earnshaw, Lisa Lewis
Year 11 Dux: Faith Andres
Congratulations to all Students who were Recognised for their Achievements:

Abbey Crowley
Abbey Nagle
Abigail Goodwin
Agata Spanti
Alannah Cutajar
Alannah Fastuca
Alexandra Bernyk
Alicia ChiaraValle
Alicia Librandi
Alicia Walker
Alysha Franze
Alyssa Chiariilli
Alyssa Soloczynskyj
Alyssa Grace Giglio
Angel Perkovic
Annabelle Beard
Antonia Kerrison
Basma Hadchiti
Belinda Eyar
Bianca Fastuca
Bianca Sprague
Bonnie Meggs
Breanna Farley
Brianna Benito
Bridie Keogh
Bridie McGuire
Brigette Auld
Bui Amanda Nguyen
Caitlyn Fitzgerald
Carissa Shamoan
Carla Rendelmann
Celia Talbot-Roche
Charlize Somerset
Charlotte Bates
Chloe Borraccino
Chloe Braybrook
Chloe Cacopardo
Chloe Dalla-Fontana
Chloe McMahon
Ciara Browne
Cindy Allen
Claire Dobbin
Clara Pupillo
Claudia Favrin
Claudia Fox
Claudia Vendramini
Cristina Gattellari
Dana Heyes
Dayna Bryce
Deanna Fimiani
Deanna Spataro
Diana Eid
Ebonie Gattellaro
Eliza Auld
Eliza Gollant
Eliza Wilson
Ella Farrell
Ella Soloczynskyj
Elyse Borderick
Emily Asta
Emily Carter
Emily Grey
Emily McMahon
Emmerson Busuttil
Faith Andres
Francesca Catanzariti
Freya Hamilton
Gabriella Serrano
Gabrielle Bassi
Gemma MacGregor
Georgia Grimaldi
Georgia Reid
Georgia Wheaton
Giuliana Lombardi
Grace Hengel
Hannah Dimeski
Hannah Portelli
Hannah Shaw
Heidi Macuz
Heidi Milne
Isabel Conti
Isabella Galea
Isabella Hynes
Jemima Jaggard
Jessica Castro
Jessica Lam
Jessica Lima
Jessica Loche
Joanna Ckuj
Julia Ellul
Juliette Gaston
Kara Murone
Karen Habashy
Karsha Pereira
Kathryn Hooper
Katia Pietrolungo
Katie Earnshaw
Katja Heard
Kira Pejcinnovski
Lara Slavich
Larissa Fazzari
Laura Eid
Laura Mammoliti
Laura Paolucci
Lauren Greige
Leanne Colaco
Liliana Morgan
Lily Cervetto
Lisa Lewis
Livana Raczynski
Liz Nguyen
Louise Garagozlo
Maddison Cottle
Maddison Ellul
Madeleine Carrick
Madeleine Grande
Madeline Langenbacher
Madeline Saxton
Madison Anderson
Mariam Touma
Marianne Salib
Marie Fratangelo
Marisa Gleeson
Marissa Buttigieg
Mary Kadar
Matea Hrkac
May Beard
Meg Gleeson
Meg Hogan
Melissa Kassis
Methinya Somarathna
Mia Kefenhoerster
Mia Salvador
Mia Sciberras
Michaela McMahon
Mikaela Benito
Mikayla Harris-Grey
Monica Failla
Monica Lettieri
Monica Trang
Monique Moore
Monique Rinaldi
Monique Williams
Naomi Gregory
Natalie Cierpisz
Nina Kotowskyj
Olivia Barca
Olivia Chan
Olivia Fazio
Olivia Robertson
Paris Luu
Pauline Boutros
Phebe Tadinac
Priyanka Anand
Rachel D’Andrea
Rachel Nguyen
Rachel Waring
Sabine Schiavone
Sara Hinton
Sarah Addinsall
Sarah Arturi
Sarah Giuffre-Fittipaldi
Sarah Hill
Sarah Lia
Sarah Loschiavo
Siena Tavolletti
Sophia Masiero
Sophie McAllister
Stephanie Said
Tasharny Claudius
Teeshas Pacifico
Tess Thorogood
Tia Ryan
Tiffenee Harrison
Valentina Favrin
Vanessa D’Andrea
Victoria Flynn
Yasmine Athaide
Academic and Community Awards Night Photos
Academic and Community Awards Night Sponsors

Ave Maria College would like to acknowledge the generous support of the following businesses and organisations in making donations to support the Academic and Community Awards Night 2016. Click on organisation logo/name to be directed to organisation website.

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