>Welcome to 2016

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It was great last week, as school commenced, to visit the classrooms and see the happy smiling faces. Cute to visit the new Pre-Kindy children and watch them adjust to learning and working together. To be welcomed enthusiastically by the children and see them on task, reminded me of the privilege we have to work with such a terrific, enthusiastic group of young people.

At Avondale we actively promote family values. The first value for this year is Respect. Respect is treating others the way you want to be treated by showing kindness and cooperation. Sometimes it’s not even what you say, it’s how you say it. I hope you will take the opportunity to discuss with your child the importance of respect and the ways we can demonstrate it.

In the media there is hardly mention of our values. It’s usually the news full of the opposite. As we work together at school and home discussing and practicing the values, maybe our young people will embed these values in their lives.

The values we are promoting this term are Respect, Obedience, Discernment, Integrity and Generosity.

Meet the Teacher Day
A BIG thank you to our parents for attending ‘Meet the Teacher Day’. It was great to be able to share information about our classes and school with you. If you were unable to attend the program, please don’t hesitate to make an appointment to see your child’s teacher so that they can share important information about the class with you.

Swimming
Our swimming program will be commencing soon. Swimming lessons for this term are to take place on 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26 February. A letter with further information about our swimming program is being sent home. The Years 3-6 swimming carnival is to take place on Tuesday 16 February. Further information about this event is also being sent home.

Thank You
We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Mr Drury and Mr Crawford for all the extra work they have been doing in the garden lately. They have been clearing garden beds and planting new shrubs. We really appreciate all the hard work and we can’t wait to see what the garden will look like when it is finished. Thank you, gentlemen!

Student Well-Being
Avondale takes responsibility for students safety and wellbeing seriously. We have in place proactive measures to achieve this outcome. All Adventist schools across Australia have common practice in this area. A letter outlining these policies is attached to our school website. If you require further information. www.avondaleschool.com.au

Attendance & Punctuality
It is great to have the students back and settled into the learning agenda with the teachers. We really do appreciate your efforts to have the children at school on time for the start of school. It is a requirement that attendance rolls are marked and it is a huge help if everyone in on time. Every class, every day is important.
Our year has got off to a flying start with our new group of Pre-Kindy students. Every student has had at least one day at school so far and some students have completed day 4. A very BIG welcome to all our new Pre-Kindy families, and a very BIG welcome back to our returning Pre-Kindy families.

Over the last week, we have learnt about the letters “a”, “c”, “d” and “m”. Each time we decorated our cut out letters with something that starts with that particular sound. These letters are designed to be taken home and attached to your fridge. As you see your child’s alphabet letters, please help to reinforce the sounds the letters make. You can help your child to think about words that start with the same sound.

In Maths we made a birthday graph and the children put their name above their birthday month. Each month has a cupcake decorated with items to do with that month, or season. Thank you to all those who have signed up to our class Edmodo page. If you haven’t already done so, please sign up so you can be kept up to date with what is happening in the classroom. It is easy to use and only takes a short while to work it out. I am happy to help if you need help.

I know we are going to have a very rewarding year together. Please feel free to contact me anytime you have a question, or suggestion. Looking forward to a fantastic home and school partnership as we teach your child.

What a wonderful start it has been to a new year in the Years 3-6 class! We wish to extend a special welcome to our new students, Jonathan and Uriah. It is great to have them part of our class. Welcome also to the Year 3 students who have come up to us from the K-2 class. We are so glad that they have joined the ‘big’ class. Our teachers this year are Mrs Ryan and Miss Dias. Mrs Ryan teaches us on Tuesdays and Thursdays when Miss Dias needs to work in the office. Mrs Thompson is also one of our teachers and she will continue to take us for TCN. Mr Swafford takes us for our PE lessons on Mondays. Miss Parsons got married over the holiday break and she is now Mrs Cooper. Congratulations Mrs Cooper! Mrs Cooper is our music teacher.

We have been participating in all sorts of fun things during the first few days back at school. We have made great pictures in Visual Art and we even made ANZAC biscuits during a History lesson. They were so delicious! We have been reading great books. It is so exciting to be able to benefit from the new resources in our school. We have been learning about ‘whole numbers’ in Maths and on Thursdays we are focusing on learning how to recall our number facts quickly and accurately. We watched a special documentary about Ernest Shackleton in Bible as we are learning all about how God helps and saves us.

We even had an interesting visitor turn up earlier in the week. It was not the sort of visitor we want back again though! Miss Dias found a snake!! Thankfully no one was hurt and congratulations to everyone for listening to the lockdown siren and following the teachers’ instructions carefully.

We are settling in well to our homework program and our teachers are proud of our efforts, especially in Spelling. We need to remember to return our homework to school each day. It is important that Spelling books, in particular, come to school each day as students need to complete their spelling work in them on most days.
On Wednesday we had our gardening time with Mr Drury and we planted broccoli and tended to the worm farm. It’s always great to get our hands dirty. (K - 2)

Our Gardening time revealed lots of vines growing in the garden. We found watermelon, sweet potato, pumpkin and cucumbers!! We picked the cucumbers and ate them in our classroom. Lots of children in Pre-Kindy love eating cucumber! We also planted some tiny broccoli seeds. We will wait and see how long they take to grow out of the ground. (Pre-kind)
Prayer Requests
We would like to encourage our school community to come together in prayer.

If you have any prayer requests, please feel free to let the staff know, so that we can include your request in our prayers.

Office Hours
Monday  Closed
Tuesday  8:30am - 12:30pm
Wednesday 8:30am - 12:30pm
Thursday  8:30pm - 1:30pm
Friday  8:30am - 12:30pm

Uniform Shop Hours
(Cooranbong Campus)
Monday  8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Wednesday  8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Calendar - Term 1

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<td>Kindy Rest Days</td>
<td>10, 17 February</td>
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<td>Primary Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>16 February</td>
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<td>Parent Teacher interviews</td>
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<td>Open Day</td>
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<td>Easter weekend</td>
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<td>Primary Cross Country</td>
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<td>3 April</td>
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<td>Primary SWOMP</td>
<td>4 - 8 April</td>
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School Term Dates 2016

- **Term 1** Wednesday January 27 - Friday April 8
- **Term 2** Tuesday April 26 - Friday July 1
- **Term 3** Monday July 25 - Friday September 23
- **Term 4** Monday October 10 - Tuesday December 13