THIS WEEK … I have enjoyed seeing the beautiful handwriting of our Kindy students. They have been proudly showing off their writing in order to get a sticker. There has been great concentration and skill in the annual Avondale School Handball Competition. Library Parties have continued with teachers and Year 6 students enjoying the fun of a Mystery Party.

NEXT WEEK … we have our Move Up Morning to help students transition well to their 2017 classes. I can’t wait to see the Kindy Concert on Wednesday Night. Thursday is our End of Year Celebration Day and Friday is our final Chapel where we take a moment to be thankful for what we have and then respond with generosity and compassion. Students have been asked to bring some food to donate to the Salvation Army to help care for families in our community.

Year 1 students planted a vegetable garden at the beginning of this term. They have faithfully watered, weeded and watched. The garden has grown before our eyes and is now ready to be harvested. I watch our students with the same delight. They have all come so far this year. As teachers and parents we have invested our time and care to see our children learn and grow. It makes me incredibly proud (and just a little emotional) to see the growth; new skills, increased confidence, smarter choices, values in practice, and most of all choices to love Jesus.

Mrs Deb Cooper
Head of Primary
dcooper@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Martin Luther King, J

For our Year 7s, this has been a particularly big week, adjusting to the processes of exams on the Secondary Campus. But with resilience, determination and mostly cheer, we’ve now successfully completed final academic milestones over the last four days with Years 7-9. A massive congratulations to our Year 7, 8 & 9 students for doing their best in the exams. Our Year 11 (now 12) Geography class had an excellent day of fieldwork, giving them ample information ready for their HSC studies. Year 10 were engaged in ‘Peer Support Leadership Training’ and were otherwise in class, winding up the year’s processes. Teachers are marking and reporting furiously today! A quick note about the sign-off process next week. We plan to do this with students on Thursday at some stage, with things designed to be relatively painless. ALL students still need to be present at school for this day. Lockers should be cleaned out before Thursday to assist in smooth sign-off. Thank you in advance for supporting us with this.

Mr Benton Craig
Head of Secondary
bcraig@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au
Week 9 Activities
Monday – Move up Morning
Tuesday – Kindy Dress Rehearsal (9.30 am)
Thursday – End of Year Celebration Day
Friday – Final Chapel (9.00 am in the MPC)

Salvation Army Food Drive
We are inviting students to bring non-perishable food items to donate to the Salvation Army. Food will be taken to our final Chapel next Friday, December 9.

Reports Emailed Home
Tuesday, December 13
The Horizon and certificates will be given out on Speech Night. Student reports will be emailed out on Tuesday, December 13.

Get Active
Get Active classes have now finished for the year. After School Care will continue to run until the end of the school year, Monday December 12. Thank you for noting this.

Early Arrival at School
Please note that playground supervision begins at 8.00 am. For safety reasons we request that students not arrive at school before 8.00 am. Thank you for supporting us in keeping your children safe.

School Travel 2017 – Opal Cards
Students will need to keep their current Opal Cards for travel in 2017. These cards will be automatically deactivated for school holidays and then reactivated for school travel in Term 1 so do not throw them away. Please note, you will need to reapply at www.transportnsw.info/school-students only if your child is progressing from Year 2 to Year 3 or from Year 6 to Year 7 to ensure your child is able to travel in 2017.

Year 4 Powerhouse Museum Excursion
On Tuesday, Year 4 students enjoyed a wonderful day at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. The students learnt about the differences between robots and machines, and circulated through two robotic experiences – designing and building their own LittleBits electronic robots. It was fun watching Baxter, the smart and collaborative robot, and also watching some replica robots moving around a simulation of Mars. We sincerely thank our wonderful parents who helped with supervision.
The countdown to completion of the school year has almost begun. Below is an outline for the Secondary Campus, post exam periods.

**Year 11**
will be expected to work solidly on class tasks and assessments right until the last day – this continues to be the important first term of their HSC.

For all **Years 7-10** students, in the last week of school, most days are anticipated as having normal scheduled classes. Please understand that in these final stages of the year, students and teachers will be engaging in a number of simple tasks together.

- **Y7-9** formative feedback of exams, checking of marks and building of skills;
- **Y7-10** tidying of rooms, some cleaning, returning of equipment and texts;
- Celebration of a successful year within class time;
- **Y7-10** Some quiet time as teachers complete final edits and notes relating to student progress and reports;
- **Y7-11** running of our normal sport programs.

**Friday, December 9** will be a mufti day and students will be taken to the local pool for the afternoon. This activity will cost each student $4 for pool entry and transport, and will conclude the final 2016 school week on a fun note.

**End of Year Sign-off**
If for some reason your child(ren) will be finishing earlier than Thursday, December 8, our sign-off day, you will need to have a request in writing to Mr Craig ASAP please. This will allow us to provision time for all the school processes to be completed by your child(ren) before leaving. We are required to record official attendance to December 9. If your child(ren) leave early, a note of explanation will be required for BOSTES purposes.

**Secondary Speech Night**
Monday, December 12, 7.30 pm
Speech Night changes a little this year – now on a Monday night and not long after the Primary presentation! We plan to begin proceedings promptly at 7.30 pm, with students expected to be in full summer school uniform and seated by 7.20 pm. Of course, if you are pressed for time between programs or running straight from work, food and drink will be available for purchase on campus. This is our final formal celebration of the year and we look forward to your presence at this event, right before the Christmas holidays begin.
PLEASE NOTE

School Fees
A big thank you to all the families who have paid their fees for this year! Just a reminder to those who still have a balance owing that your fees need to be paid in full by the end of this term. If you think for some unforeseen reason that you will not be able to have the fees paid, please contact the Business Office to make an arrangement. Fees are an annual account so we would encourage you to make sure no outstanding balances be transferred to the following year. THANK YOU for your commitment and support of this important aspect of our School program.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A group of rowdy teenagers once sprayed graffiti on the wall of a local library. They made an unsightly mess. The Police followed it up and were able to identify the teenagers who were then charged with malicious damage. Rather than sending them to court the Police offered them a deal. Go to court or work under supervision to repair the damage. They chose the repair deal. It took them days to remove every scrap of paint off the walls but a great lesson was learnt. I really like when justice is given by having the punishment fitting the crime. Hardly a weekend goes by that there is not some discussion of the merits of a referee’s decision on the playing field. The players appeal to reason, justice and fairness as they see it. The referee calls it as he sees it and from his perspective the principle of fairness was applied on the ruling he gave. So who was right? Sometimes in life different personalities or knowledge can color people’s views. It does not mean that one is right or the other wrong. It is in times of disagreement that a spirit of justice and fairness might just provide the solution to the disagreement. Maybe we can learn from someone who sees things with a different perspective.
Enjoy the news for this week.
Dr David Faull
Principal

CALENDAR

Primary Calendar - Term 4
Kindy Christmas Concert………………………………December 7
End of Year Celebration………………………………December 8
K-6 Final Chapel…………………………………………December 9
Last Day of Term 4………………………………………December 12
Primary Speech Night 5.00pm MPC…………………December 12
School Reports Emailed……………………………December 13
Last Day for Staff………………………………………December 14
2017
K-6 Meet the Teacher Day 9.00 am - 12.30 pm…………January 30
Years 1-6 First Day of Classes…………………………January 31

Secondary Calendar - Term 4
National Basketball Competition…………………………December 4 - 9
Official Sign-Off Day……………………………………December 8
Last Day for Term 4……………………………………December 9
Secondary Speech Night 7.30pm MPC………………December 12
School Reports Emailed………………………………December 13
Last Day for Staff………………………………………December 14
2017
Years 7, 11 & 12 First Day of Classes…………………January 30
Years 8, 9 & 10 First Day of Classes……………………January 31

Secondary School Book Returns
A huge thank you to all the Secondary students who have returned their library books this week. Please remember that a charge will be made for any books outstanding on sign-off day. Year 12’s returning in 2017 are welcome to borrow to support their learning over the year-end break, but ... they need to return all items on loan before they can borrow for the holidays.

K-6 Library Parties
Our seven library parties are over for another year. What a great time we had together enjoying party food and each others’ company! We look forward to doing it all again next year so make sure you aim to borrow and read great books EVERY week during 2017. You CAN do it!

Years 7-12 Highest Borrowers
Congratulations to these students who have won the highest borrower awards for Term 4.
Years 7-8 Grace B, Lara H
Years 9-10 Ella M, Tanya V
Years 11-12 Bryelle C

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Makerspace
Students were busily making Christmas gift tags in the iCentre Makerspace on Tuesday. A big thank you to Mrs Cheryl Smith for volunteering her time to make this activity such a success. There will be more Christmas activities in the Makerspace next Tuesday.