**THIS WEEK …** Teachers have finalised the collection of data for student reports. As always, we aim to provide parents with accurate information about student learning. Our Kings Chess Team performed really well in their competition and we have enjoyed the diversity of performances at class concerts. Last Saturday our String Ensembles did an amazing job at Lakeside Church. Special thanks to Mrs Campbell and Mrs Albert for working with our students.

**NEXT WEEK …** is a four day school week with Friday being a Pupil Free Day. Our very excited Basketball Teams head off to HRIS Basketball. We have lifeguards visiting to teach water safety to Kindy, Year 3 and Year 6 students.

**APPRECIATION …** is our current value. I believe that childhood is the best time to begin to develop an attitude of gratitude. It's so important that we look for opportunities to help our children understand how blessed they are. Why not set aside some time each day to share as a family the things that you are really thankful for? Looking for reasons to be grateful helps us to be happier and healthier. “The miracle of gratitude is that it shifts your perception to such an extent that it changes the world you see.” Dr Robert Holden

**MAKING A MARK …** “Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise.” Victor Hugo, Les Miserables

**DONE AND DUSTED …** Two really big whole campus events this week kept us busy on Tuesday and Wednesday: all our Year 7-10 students sat the ICAS Science Competition, along with Year 11 and 12 students who do a science; and we engaged in our Athletics Day at Mingara with no rain and impressive participation rates. Ten of our students also represented the HRIS schools at the AICES Cross Country on Thursday before completing a relatively normal day of tasks and learning on Friday!

**CHALKBOARD ITEMS …** Paul Dillon comes to talk to our Year 10-12 students on Monday, SRC meets on Tuesday at lunch, HRIS Netball is on Thursday and teachers get really serious about reports and marks on Friday (our Pupil Free Day). Bring on Week 8!

**BEFORE IT’S ERASED …** “There is more to life than increasing its speed.” Mahatma Gandhi

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

Mr Benton Craig  
Head of Secondary  
bcraig@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au
SPORT

HRIS Basketball
Tuesday, June 7
Avondale School has four basketball teams that will be competing at the HRIS Basketball Competition in Maitland next Tuesday, June 7. The Junior Boys will be playing at Hunter Valley Grammar School while the Senior Boys and both Junior and Senior Girl teams will be playing at the Maitland Basketball Stadium. Uniforms will be handed out and re-collected on the day.

Kings Chess Competition
This week our Kings Chess Team played the first five rounds of their competition against the other Kings Teams in the Newcastle area. It was a very close competition between the two top schools, Avondale School and New Lambton South Public School. The points were even at 12 each as the last game of the day drew to a close.
13 points  New Lambton South Public School (A)
12 points  Avondale School (A)
7 points   Belair Public School (A)
5.5 points St Philip’s Christian College (A)
2.5 points New Lambton Public School (A)

CIS Cross Country
The CIS Cross Country program and permission notes have been sent out and need to be returned to Mr Head by Monday, June 6. HRIS singlets will be handed out at the venue.

Athletics Training
All students from Years 2-6 are invited to train with Mr Head before school from 8.00 am until 8.45 am each morning except Wednesdays.

Music Class Concerts
The talent in this week’s Music Class Concerts was amazing! There were a huge variety of items from every class. Congratulations to all students for their individual performances. We look forward to watching more amazing acts next week.
Secondary Athletics Day
After Monday’s forecast of rain, the weather was unexpectedly beautiful for the Secondary Athletics Day. The enthusiasm of the students was infectious and the program of track and field events ran mostly like clockwork. We had eight records broken on the day: Mia M broke three records – 100m, 200m and Long Jump; Jonathan M - Discus; Tyler H – 800m; Liam B – High Jump; Chad Mackey – 400m; Jerry R – 200m. Our House Captains did a great job making sure their Houses were well represented. The relays were a highlight with some very closely contested. It was great to see the parents and grandparents who came along to support and cheer. A big thanks to the staff and students - the sportsmanship and high level of cooperation made it such a smooth day. The level of participation improved from last year, which is encouraging. We will award the Age Champions and announce the final House points after we complete the 1500m event and finish the Javelin. We will then announce the team that goes to Glendale to compete in the HRIS Athletics on July 29, the first Friday back next term. The point score before the 1500m and Javelin events are:
Pacific - 2170, Watagan - 1976, Hunter - 1780, Macquarie - 1477

String Ensemble at Lakeside Church
The Avondale School String Ensembles delighted the audience of church goers, parents and visitors to Lakeside Church last Saturday. The junior violin section demonstrated their talents. A number of students spoke eloquently to introduce parts of the program. The cello ensemble were amazing! This church service was an excellent program. Special thanks goes to Mrs Letitia Campbell, Miss Natasha Knopper, Mrs Shelley Cooper and Mrs Esther Albert. Well done Avondale School Strings!

Band & Choir Pre-Tour Concert
Saturday, June 25, 7.00 pm
Avondale School MPC

Family ($20) / Adult ($10) / Student/Pensioner ($5)

We Learn - We Value - We Serve
PLEASE NOTE

Canteen - Thursday is the New Friday FOR 1 WEEK ONLY
For one week only The Munchery will be offering Friday’s menu next Thursday, June 9. This is the Thursday before the long weekend. There is no school on Friday, June 10 as it is a Pupil Free Day.

Bus Travel – Opal Cards
Students who travel on the School Bus are reminded that they need to present their Opal Card for every trip. From July 2016 any student who does not have an Opal Card will not be permitted to travel on a school bus. All Opal Card enquiries can be made by phoning 131 500 or visiting www.transportnsw.info/school-students. Thank you for noting this.

Entertainment Books
Thank you to those families who have purchased an Entertainment Book this year. Just a reminder, if you are not wanting to purchase the book it needs to be returned to the School ASAP. Lost or unreturned books will incur a replacement fee.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

According to a prominent University Medical Center researcher, “If thankfulness were a drug, it would be the world’s best-selling product with [health benefits] for every major organ system”.
For some, being thankful means simply living with a sense of gratitude - taking time to recognise and focus on the things we have, instead of the things we wish we had.
The Bible takes the idea of thankfulness to a deeper level. The act of giving thanks causes us to recognise the One who provides our blessings. (James 1:17) True thankfulness appreciates the Giver more than the gift.
It has been said that things don’t do anything to make your life any better… I know a lot of people who have a lot of everything, and they’re still miserable. But I can guarantee that you simply will not be the same person two months from now after consciously giving thanks each day for the abundance that exists in your life and for life itself. “Gratitude (appreciation) is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others.” Cicero
Enjoy the stories we share in this week’s Newsletter.
Dr David Faull
Principal

CALENDAR

Primary Calendar - Term 2
- HRIS Basketball.................................................................June 7
- Pupil Free Day .................................................................June 10
- Queen’s Birthday Holiday.............................................June 13
- CIS Cross Country.............................................................June 16
- Years 3 & 4 Athletics Day ...............................................June 21
- Years 5 & 6 Athletics Day ...............................................June 22
- Year 5 IMAX Excursion ..................................................June 23
- Get Active Ends for Term 2 ............................................June 23
- Year 2 Athletics Day .......................................................June 24
- Primary Parent Teacher Interviews in the iCentre...........June 28

Secondary Calendar - Term 2
- Year 10-12 Paul Dillon Visit .............................................June 6
- Year 9 Geography Excursion ..........................................June 7
- Year 12 Maths Extentions 1 & 2 Excursion........................June 7
- Year 12 Geography Excursion ..........................................June 8
- HRIS Netball .................................................................June 9
- Pupil Free Day .................................................................June 10
- Queen’s Birthday Holiday.............................................June 13
- HRIS Junior Touch Football ...........................................June 14
- Year 10 English Excursion .............................................June 14
- Duke of Edinburgh Camp.............................................June 15 - 20

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SCHOOL TERMS 2016

Term 2  Tuesday, April 26 - Friday, July 1
Term 3  Monday, July 25 - Friday, September 23
Term 4  Monday, October 10 - Monday, December 12