Welcome back to school! We have had a great first full week. Our new Kindy students have settled in beautifully and are enthusiastically learning the routines of big school.

**THIS WEEK …** our Prefects and House Captains were involved in a leadership training program. It’s great to see our leaders rising to the challenges of their roles! We had excellent attendance at our before school swimming club. Our students are obviously enthusiastic to prepare for the swimming carnival on February 16.

**NEXT WEEK …** Year 5 students will be away at Point Wolstoncroft for their camp, Get Active begins and Kindy students have a rest day on Thursday.

STEM … This year we are focusing on getting a STEM program up and running. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, and focuses students on learning to think, plan, design and evaluate – all while having great fun! Watch for further details about the engaging activities that students can participate in! Thanks for trusting us with your children. We’re really looking forward to having each child as part of our school community this year.

**MAKING A MARK …** “Respect for ourselves guides our morals, respect for others guides our manners.” Laurence Sterne

**DONE AND DUSTED …** It’s been a great 8 days of school. Students are back on the learning journey of 2016. We’re excited about all the possibilities the year ahead holds. ID Photos, Commencement Celebrations, class routines established and new students welcomed. We’re ready to go!

**CHALKBOARD ITEMS …** Next week sees us start our information sessions for students and parents – Year 11 and 12 are on Monday night. Assessment schedules will be released in hard copy (emails have already been sent) and planning can begin to meet class deadlines. We look forward to these nights as well as those the following week. We also have our Swimming Carnival on Tuesday!

**BEFORE IT’S ERASED …** Some words of wisdom this year … “We look forward to the time when the Power of Love will replace the Love of Power. Then will our world know the blessings of peace.” William Ewart Gladstone

**HEADS UP!**

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

Mr Benton Craig  
Head of Secondary  
bcraig@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au
Makerspace
We are in the process of creating an amazing new learning space on our primary campus, named the Makerspace. What is a Makerspace all about? Collaborating, trying new ideas, making inventions, using creativity, innovating, experimenting, discovering and finding your passion! We are planning a special fundraising day to help equip our Makerspace room. Friday, February 18 will be ‘Makerday’ where all students can come to school in casual clothes and be involved in fun STEM challenges.

Medication Forms
Should your child require medication to be dispensed at school this year, you must complete a Medication Authority Form for 2016. These are available from the Office. All medication must be in the original container prescribed for your child and clearly labelled.

Before School Supervision
A teacher is on duty from 8.00 am each day. No students are permitted to be left unsupervised on campus before 8.00 am. Thank you for noting this.

Collecting Students After School
We aim to use all of our teaching time with students and find that it is less distracting if parents wait in the lunch sheds rather than outside classrooms for their children. Thanks for helping us finish the day in a focused way!

Uniform Matters
Just a reminder that as per our Student Handbook, all students are expected to have an “appropriate, neat and tidy hairstyle. Girls’ hair should be their natural colour and long hair should be tied back. Boys’ hair should be their natural colour, neat and above collar length.” The Handbook states “Jewellery, including bracelets, bands, chains, earrings, studs and rings, is not part of school uniform and is not to be worn. Any piercing must be done during school holidays to enable healing to take place and the jewellery to be removed before school – unhealed piercings will not be accepted as an excuse to wear jewellery. Plastic spacers may be worn in earlobe piercing only”. Thank you for ensuring that your child is wearing their school uniform correctly.

Bus Pass / Opal Cards
Paper bus passes have been replaced with Opal Cards. Students need to carry their cards and tap them every time they board the bus. Opal Cards were sent home this week for students who had a bus pass in 2015. If your child is in Year 3 in 2016, and you completed and returned a bus form to the school by the 20 November 2015, their pass has been posted to your home address. All new applications for bus passes and change of address etc. need to be completed online at transportnsw.info/school-students, then returned to the school for endorsement. The school will then send it through to Transport NSW, who will send the Opal Card directly to the address provided on the application. Enquiries: 131 500.

Primary Roll Classes
To assist us with identifying classes for administrative purposes, your child’s class can be identified in the following way:

| Mrs Fraser KF | Mrs Watson 2W | Mrs de Martin 5D |
| Mrs Lawrence KL | Mr Skinner 3S | Mrs Morton 5M |
| Mrs Lawson KSL | Mr Robinson 3R | Mr Venegas 5V |
| Mrs Schur 1S | Miss Moncrieff 3M | Mrs Morton /Mr Swafford |
| Mrs Wind 1W | Mrs Roberts 4R | 6SM |
| Mrs Hobson 1H | Mrs Pascoe/Mrs Rijavec | Mrs Hill 6Hi |
| Mrs Dumbrell 2D | 4PR | Mr Hosken 6Ho |
| Mrs Vaughan 2V | Mrs Bishop 4B | |

Primary Captains and Prefects
Congratulations to our Captains and Prefects for 2016.
Captains: Rachel C and Elijah M.
Prefects: Gemma L, Sarah M, Georgia N, Isabella T, Aidan B, Aidan C, Kaelan D and Caleb S.

Classroom Helpers
Please note that all volunteer helpers need to sign in and out of campus at the Primary Office and wear a Visitor Badge.

Primary Swimming Club
The Primary Swimming Club commenced this week with 32 students on Tuesday at Morisset Pool. This is an opportunity for students to prepare for the Swimming Carnival by correcting strokes, building fitness, practising starts and developing confidence. There is no need to book, just turn up.
Where: Morisset Swim Centre
Cost: $5.00 (covers pool entry, transport, breakfast and coaching)
When: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Coaches: Two professional coaches
Time: 7.00 - 8.00am
Breakfast: A healthy Sanitarium breakfast at school
Transport: Bus provided to school
Who: Any student who can swim 50 metres.

Sport Uniform
All students in Kindy, Year 1 and Year 2 will have sport on Mondays and full sport uniform is to be worn. Students will be developing their skills in the following areas: striking, catching, throwing, jumping, balancing and kicking. All students in Years 3 to 6 will participate in team sports on Fridays, and full sports uniform is to be worn on this day. Students will be developing their skills in the following team sports: soccer, basketball, volleyball touch football, dodgeball, gymnastics, hockey and Newcombe ball.

Swimming Carnival / House Meetings
Students in Years 3 - 6 chose their selected events to compete in at the Swimming Carnival. Students are encouraged to compete in as many events as they are able. All events are 50 m except for the 100 m freestyle. The school Swimming Carnival will be held at Morisset pool on Tuesday, February 16. The HRIS Carnival will be held on Wednesday, February 24, at Maitland Aquatic Centre.

2016 Sport House Captains
The 2016 House Captains and Vice Captains participated in a leadership training session this week. Students set achievable goals and wrote steps on how they plan to achieve those goals. Congratulations to our Captains and Vice Captains for 2016:

Hunter Captains – Bailey S, Rhiannon D
Hunter Vice Captains – Harry S, Makiah J
Macquarie Captains – Ben S, Olivia G
Macquarie Vice Captains – Oliver C, Abi U
Pacific Captains – Mitchell A, Savannah W
Pacific Vice Captains – Greg E, Jamie-Lee W
Watagan Captains – Harry C, Lilijana G
Watagan Vice Captains – Ryan B, Taylah B
House Swimming Carnival ~ 9 February
Wyong Olympic Pool

Once again we are having our swimming carnival at the Wyong Olympic Pool (1 Ithome St, Wyong). There is some shade available and we will be providing some extra as well. Spectators will be charged a $1.70 entry fee at the front gate and are urged to bring a chair as there is limited seating. A canteen will be available on the day and the long-term forecast is looking okay at this stage. Please feel welcome to come along cheer and support.

Students do not have to pre register for events, they marshal on the day for the events they wish to enter. Ages for all events are as at December 31, 2016, it is what age you turn this year. A competitor may compete in his/her age division only. ie no swimming in higher age groups except for the relays. Age divisions for relays are Junior (12, 13, 14), Intermediate (15, 16), Senior (17 & 18). Age Champion Trophies, Runner-up Age Champion Trophies and third place trophies will be awarded in each age division for both boys and girls. All events, except relays and open events, will contribute to Age Championships.

Sports uniform is expected to be worn by students and they may change into house colors at the venue. Modest and appropriate swimwear is expected. As this is a normal school event, school policies apply to behavior.

Procedure for the Day

DEPARTURE
Students will board buses at 8.50am for a 9.00am departure after roll call.

AT THE POOL
Students are to assemble in the correct House Bay Area. Students who go straight to the pool from home must get their name marked off at the recording table on arrival and departure.

EVENTS
1. Event 1 will begin at 9.45am.
2. House Marshalls and Captains will gather students together three events BEFORE they scheduled event.
3. The Chief Marshall will then collect competitors and direct them to the starting area.

DEPARTURE
1. Buses will leave the pool at approx 2.00pm and arrive at school in time for normal buses.
2. Students leaving with parents prior to this time must sign out at the recording table.

Library Activities

Who's been seen in the library lately? Lots of students have been reading, playing quiet games and even purchasing library bags in the library this week. There's always something to do in the library!

K- 6 Library Borrowing

Primary library borrowing begins next week. Do you have your library bag ready to bring on your library day? Remember that you can continue to use your 2015 ID borrower card until we receive the 2016 cards in several weeks time. Kindy students received their temporary borrower cards this week while new students in Years 1 to 6 will receive their temporary borrower cards in library class next week. Please do not remove these library ID cards from library bags.

Music at Avondale

If you would like to be involved in any of these ensembles, please contact Mrs Cooper, Mrs Campbell, Miss Knopper or Mr Craig.

Grade 3 – 4 Choir: 8:30 – 9:15am Wed  Primary Music Room
Grade 5 – 6 Choir: 8:30 – 9:15am Thurs  Music Building
Secondary Choir: 3:30 – 5pm Wed  Music Building
Intermediate Band: 3:30 – 4:15pm Thurs  Music Building
Concert Band: 3:30 – 5pm Tues  Music Building
Junior String Ensemble: 8:15 – 8:45am Thurs Primary Music Room
Intermediate String Ensemble: 8:15–8:55am Tues Primary Music Room
Senior String Ensemble: 3:30–5pm Mon Primary Music Room
Primary Handbells: 3:20 – 4:30pm Tues Primary Ensemble Room
Junior Band will commence in a few weeks for students beginning band instruments. If you are interested in learning a new instrument or are learning, but not involved in an ensemble, please contact Mrs Shelley Cooper about joining. Please contact Miss Knopper if you wish to be involved in Stage Band and Secondary Handbells later in the year. Are you interested in having music lessons?

Alison Hodge voice 0420 528 868
Angela Miller piano (Simply Music) 0421 464 797
Claudio Carrasco bass/guitar, piano, voice, drums 0404 079 867
Cybéle Coutet voice, piano 0423 455 977
Emma Jones flute 0432 925 199
Esther Albert cello, violin, double bass 0439 420 661
Fred Cracknell saxophone, clarinet, brass 0404 082 151
Garry Lawler group guitar, ukulele 0438 608 180
Jake Bisognin guitar 0400 389 612
James Dennett drum kit 0401 549 084
Jan Hughes piano 02 4977 2037
Kylie Smith piano, voice (Suzuki, AMEB) 0418 282 644
Kylie Stacey – piano (Simply Music, AMEB, traditional) 04973 3234
Mitchell Wallace bass guitar, guitar 0435 578 723
Ngareta Rorich piano (Simply Music) 04973 6086
Trish O'Hearn brass 0402 003 214
Valmai Hill piano, theory 0414 288 931
Zayne Mariassouce guitar 0421 730 045
It was great last week as school commenced, to visit the classrooms and see the happy smiling faces. It was cute to visit the new Kindy children and watch them adjust to routine with their teachers. The Commencement Celebration with all the students present, 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. The news is usually full of the opposite. As we work together at school and home discussing and practicing the values, we hope our young people will embed these values in their lives.

The values we are promoting this term are Respect, Obedience, Discernment, Integrity and Generosity. We look forward to working with you to support your child’s education journey at Avondale this year.

Dr David Faull
Principal

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UPDATES

Attendance and Punctuality
It is great to have our students back and settled into the learning agenda with their teachers. We really do appreciate your efforts to have the children at school on time for the start of school. For the Secondary Campus, this is 8:40am and for Primary, this is 8:55am. It is a requirement that Attendance Rolls are marked and it is a huge help if everyone is on time. 

Time is not then wasted for late comers rechecking rolls.

A similar comment applies to attendance. Every class, every day is important. If students miss a day or two they can find catching up difficult. We understand if a child is sick, but we are encouraging all students to be at school on time, every time.

Apple Recall
Please note we have been advised of a safety recall for power supplies on the iPads issued to Year 8. The replacement units have been ordered and the recall replacement will take place in the coming days.

Student Well-being
Avondale takes the responsibility for student 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

MEAL DEALS FOR A SHORT TIME ONLY….

Munchery News
Welcome to the new year. If you have not already jumped online to Munch Monitor, our hassle free lunch ordering system, it’s not too late! Simply go to www.munchmonitor.com enter Username: avondale Password: munch2265 then click the Login button. Click Sign Up and follow the 3 easy steps to create your account.

Just a reminder to all of you who already have a Munch Monitor account that your child’s classes have changed this year and you need to update this information, otherwise orders will go to last years class.

Meal Deal 1 $5.50
1 X CHEESE SANDWICH
1 X HOMEMADE COOKIE
1 X CURLY APPLE
1 X POPTOP JUICE

or

Meal Deal 2 $5.50
1 X CHEESE & TOMATO SANDWICH
1 X HOMEMADE COOKIE
1 X CURLY APPLE
1 X POPTOP JUICE

Happy munching …….