Our last week of school has been a fun celebration. Students had fun trying on Move up Morning. They enjoyed meeting new teachers and experiencing a new Year Level. We have enjoyed parties, games and a day of great outdoor activities on the oval. The Kindy Concert was a highlight as we watched all the little treasures taking centre stage. Our final Chapel is also a highlight as we celebrate the end of the year and the end of an era for Year 6 students. It’s a pleasure to share our blessings with the Salvation Army too.

As the year comes to a close, we have a chance to celebrate achievements and growth, and be grateful for all of the goods things in our lives. We also have a chance to look forward. The new year holds exciting possibilities. Many students (and parents) are apprehensive about change. As you talk with your children about 2017, make sure you frame the discussions positively. ‘The secret of change is not on fighting the old, but in building the new.’ Socrates

Thank you, on behalf of the staff, for the chance to know and love your children this year. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas.

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

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.” Albert Einstein

What an amazing ‘season’: a season of each child completing another milestone of their education; a season of another great group of Year12s successfully finishing their secondary school career; a season of many accomplishments by our student body – as individuals and as groups (in sports, classes or years). There is so much to be proud of and so much that sets the foundation for another amazing year in 2017. We say farewell to graduates of 2016 as well as a number of students who are off to try new schools or adventures. We also farewell the retiring Drs David and Adelle Fauli who have contributed so much to our student successes. And Mr Zyderveld is wished every success in pursuit of something new in his teaching position at Narrabri.

So thank you for the support you have given this year to all of our achievements; thank you for encouraging your child(ren) to attain personal bests. And in this final week, exams have been handed back, classrooms have been tidied, students have engaged in problem-solving and general review, as well as some fun class activities to see out this last week.

Don’t forget that we have our Speech Night next Monday night. We would like students there no later than 7.15 pm so that everyone can be seated and ready for a 7.30pm sharp start. Full summer uniform is requested.

Have a blessed Christmas and New Year.

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

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.” Albert Einstein

What an amazing ‘season’: a season of each child completing another milestone of their education; a season of another great group of Year12s successfully finishing their secondary school career; a season of many accomplishments by our student body – as individuals and as groups (in sports, classes or years). There is so much to be proud of and so much that sets the foundation for another amazing year in 2017. We say farewell to graduates of 2016 as well as a number of students who are off to try new schools or adventures. We also farewell the retiring Drs David and Adelle Fauli who have contributed so much to our student successes. And Mr Zyderveld is wished every success in pursuit of something new in his teaching position at Narrabri.

So thank you for the support you have given this year to all of our achievements; thank you for encouraging your child(ren) to attain personal bests. And in this final week, exams have been handed back, classrooms have been tidied, students have engaged in problem-solving and general review, as well as some fun class activities to see out this last week.

Don’t forget that we have our Speech Night next Monday night. We would like students there no later than 7.15 pm so that everyone can be seated and ready for a 7.30pm sharp start. Full summer uniform is requested.

Have a blessed Christmas and New Year.

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

Farewell
Special thanks to Mrs de Martin, Mr Swafford and Mr Robinson for their awesome contributions to Avondale School. We wish them all the best as they move on to other pursuits next year.

Kindy Concert
Our precious Kindy kids revelled in being able to present their musical ‘You are His Treasure’ to their adoring audience on Wednesday night. This year marks 12 years of our Kindy concert. This means that every child in our school up to Year 11 (of those who started in Kindy) has been a part of this special tradition!

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.

Hand Ball Competition
Last week, 80 students from Years 2-6 participated in the Handball Competition. There were two divisions, Junior and Senior. Congratulations to the following students:

Junior Handball Competition
1st - Tom C
2nd - Noah Mo
3rd - Jason L

Senior Handball Competition
1st - Matthew G
2nd - Elijah M
3rd - Gregory E
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 7.15 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.

Reports Emailed Home
Tuesday, December 13
The Horizon and certificates will be given out on Speech Night. Years 7-10 student reports will be emailed out on Tuesday, December 13.

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.

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.

Year 12 Schoolies Trip to Cambodia
Congratulations to our wonderful group of Year 12 students who recently returned from Cambodia. Incredibly proud of your journey and adventure.
As we approach the holiday season it is good to remind ourselves that in all the tinsel and lights the theme should be hope. I recently read the story of a prisoner who survived 14 years in a Cuban jail. He told how he kept his spirits up and his hope alive. He had no window in his cell so he scratched a frame on the door to his cell. He then ‘constructed’ within those crude scratches a picture in his mind. His ‘picture’ was a beautiful scene with mountains, pine trees and clear water tumbling down over rocks. It became so real to him that he could visualise every detail without effort every time he looked at the ‘window’ scratched on his door. Paul, who wrote some of the most hope-filled books in the Bible – Philippians, Colossians and Ephesians – wrote those books while on house arrest in Rome. I like Philippians 4 – it is so upbeat even though written from a place of imprisonment. Hope can lift the spirits and drive out discouragement. Hope is the emotional state which promotes the belief in a positive outcome related to events and circumstances in one’s life. Hope is the ‘feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best’ or the act of ‘looking forward to something with desire and reasonable confidence’. Paul, as he wrote those upbeat letters, did so with confidence. Do you face everyday with the hope of a better tomorrow? ‘LEARN from yesterday, LIVE for today, HOPE for Tomorrow!’

This is my last ever Principal’s Comment at Avondale School after 18 delightful years. Thank you for sharing the journey! Enjoy the news for this week!

Dr David Faull - Principal