THIS WEEK ... we packed a lot of action into our four days! The rain held off (mostly) on Tuesday for our Cross Country Carnival. It was great to see so many students running personal best times. Wednesday was a special day for all of our students as they enjoyed the Asian Stalls prepared by Year 6 students. Our assembly area was transformed into an Asian marketplace, with many countries represented. On Wednesday evening, in collaboration with the ELC staff, we ran our Kindergarten Readiness program. It was great to meet 2017 Kindergarten parents.

NEXT WEEK ... our students will enjoy SWOMP (Super Week of Mega Praise). Pr Mel has all sorts of exciting things planned. You’re welcome to join us on any day but especially on Saturday for our final program. Kindergarten students are excitedly awaiting Jolly Phonics Fun Day on Friday. This is such an awesome way to finish their first term at school.

DID YOU KNOW ... that our value for the week is generosity? We often think that this involves giving money. The most generous thing that you can do for your child is to give them your undivided attention; to listen to them. Children who are truly listened to develop the belief that their voice matters in the world. Put down your phone, stop moving and just listen! “Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.” Weil

MAKING A MARK ... “There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.” John Holmes

DONE AND DUSTED ... What a massive couple of weeks in spite of the public holidays! We’ve had excursions, Year 12 starting exams and assessments due left, right and centre. Admire all of this, we’ve rallied as a school community to support each other through a difficult time.

CHALKBOARD ITEMS ... Another big week to end the term – camps for Years 7, 8, 10 and 11 (two from Monday, one from Tuesday and one to finish out the week from Thursday)! We are looking forward to this and also hoping that Year 12 find their last leg of Mid Year Exams a positive experience. Please encourage them to ask for help if they are getting stuck.

BEFORE IT’S ERASED ... “Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.” Soren Kierkegaard

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

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

**Year 6 Asian Cultural Day**
On Wednesday, March 30, Year 6 students showcased what they had learnt about the geography and culture of various Asian countries, at a whole school ‘Expo’. Almost all 50 Asian countries were represented, from Afghanistan to Yemen. Passports were issued to Year 6 and as the students ‘travelled’ between the stalls they collected passport stamps from every country when they were able to answer a general knowledge question about that country.

**SPORT**

**Cross Country - Run Around Australia**
Last week, the Run Around Australia Program was completed covering 11,575 kms in nine days, which was an outstanding effort considering there was one wet day. The training was great preparation for the Cross Country events held on Tuesday. Congratulations go to the students listed below for achieving the following certificates:
80 km Joelle C (Year 3)
70 km Savannah W (Year 6)
60 km Nathan R (Year 5) and Luke P (Year 5)

**Cross Country - Events**
The Primary Cross Country events were held this week on a dry track with all students running very well in the overcast conditions. It was great to see so many parents come to watch and support the students in their events. There will be five students in each age group, from 8 to 12 years, who will be selected to compete at the HRIS Cross Country event to be held at Avondale College on May 6. ALL STUDENTS who came in the top five places are asked to train at home in preparation for the HRIS.

Congratulations to the following students who broke the school record for their age group:
Joelle C - 9 year olds - 2 km in 8.50 mins
Max T - 7 year olds - 1 km in 4.14 mins

Congratulations to Watagan House for winning the Cross Country Shield for 2016.

**Get Active**
Get Active has now finished for the term. After School Care will continue to run every day until the end of the school term.

**APPA - No APPA this week**
There will be no APPA on Wednesday, April 6, due to 3M Castaways Camp.

**Road Safety**
Please slow down around the school; there are precious lives moving around. You may be late but don’t put a life at risk. Please put that phone away!! Please remind students to sit in their seats on the bus and face forward at all times. Students in aisles or facing backwards are at greater risk of injury if the driver has to slow suddenly.

**Digital Relationships**
Please take time to monitor your child’s communication especially in the digital world of email, Instagram and Facebook. Settings should be ‘private’ and the guidelines given to all students are to be followed. We expect conversations to be kind and courteous. The use of bad language is not appropriate or acceptable at School. Thank you for your support.

**SPORT UNIFORM**
Kindy, Year 1 & Year 2 wear sports uniform on MONDAYS
Years 3 - 6 wear sport uniform on FRIDAYS

**GATEWAY FAMILY BUSH DANCE**
APRIL 9TH
CARE OPEN - 630PM
BUSH DANCE - 645PM
AVONDALE SCHOOL MPC
No skipping school for Marcus

Despite being hospitalised for most of Term 1, due to a serious health issue, Year 10 student Marcus Kent was an active part-time student during his time at the John Hunter Hospital School.

To acknowledge and celebrate the recent Harmony Day 2016, Marcus collaborated with the JHH’s head teacher to produce a very colourful and significant artwork. The artwork is one in a group of six, which highlighted and advocated a diversity of culture. The artworks are currently being displayed in the hospital on Level J2, just around the corner from the Hospital’s main entrance. Marcus’ artwork is called ‘Guarire’ and depicts the face of Medusa. It is very symbolic in it’s representation Marcus explained. “The snakes and their poison are the symbols of the infection/disease and death. The golden shield, used to defeat Medusa, is the symbol of the medical staff, which by their skill helps the patients heal (helped by the ultimate Healer). The veins in the leaves are the healing in our veins that removes the snakes and their poison and brings health and life”. The John Hunter School Principal, Ms Sally Graham commended Marcus and his artistic efforts with high praise. “The artworks look fantastic and the staff at the John Hunter Hospital School are very proud of Marcus’ efforts. He is a very polite and an affable young man”.

SPORT

Cross Country

With 30 millimetres of rain falling in the 90 minutes before race time, the Cross Country races were postponed. As a result each grade ran the events in their sport time with Year 12 having the opportunity to compete with minimal disruption to their exam preparation. There were around 360 students who completed in the cross country run across all years. Some ran flat out for HRIS selection, some to beat their time from last year and some to get house points.

The points breakdown showed that participation had a huge impact on the final score. The gaps between the final placings were very close. Congratulations to Macquarie on a deserved win; a fine performance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macquarie</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>229</td>
<td>347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watagan</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunter</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Medallions will be presented at assembly next term to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. The team to compete at HRIS next term on May 6 has been posted and a suggested training program has been emailed to each student selected. We need all our best runners there. If you are selected, please keep training. Thanks to the staff and students for their efforts, and to those parents who came along to support.

Please note: NO MUSIC REHEARSALS FOR NEXT WEEK ~ NO BAND OR CHOIR

BIG Thank you

We really appreciated the support of parents at the recent Parent Teacher Interviews. It is early in the year but having open communication and support maximises the opportunity for students to achieve their potential. Thank you for showing your support by being involved in these discussions with teachers.
**Principal’s Message**

I was packing supermarket groceries into my car, when I glanced through the window of a nearby car, to see boxes of bright red tomatoes—shiny and plump. When the car’s owner appeared, I said “What great looking tomatoes!” She replied, “I had a good crop this year. Would you like some?” I gladly accepted and she gave me several free tomatoes to take home. They tasted as good as they looked! Just a few weeks ago we gave generously to support cancer research. The Funky Hair made it fun but the generously giving was outstanding. In the Bible we read that when Israel had a need to provide materials for the sanctuary, “everyone whose spirit was willing . . . brought for the work” (Ex. 35:21). The Israelites eagerly donated their gold jewellery, colored thread, fine linen, silver, bronze, gemstones, and spices. Some also gave their time and talents (v.25-26).

There are two quotes that carry real meaning for me when we talk about generosity.

John Wesley wrote:

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

In the Bible I read:

‘Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.’

2 Corinthians 9:7

The state of our heart is more important than the size of our gift. Look for opportunities this week to be generous! It’s catching!

Dr David Faull
Principal

---

**Library News**

**Return K-6 Library Books**

Can you believe Term 1 is nearly finished and it’s time to return your library books? Please make it a priority to look under your bed or wherever else you hide your library books and have your books back to the library by the end of this term. If you have lost your library book please visit the library to check on the cost of replacing the book.

**K-6 Term 1 Library Prizes**

Congratulations to the 324 students from Kindy to Year 6 that have borrowed and read library books EVERY week this term. What an excellent effort! Students will choose their prizes during library classes next week except for students in Friday library classes who chose their prizes today.

**Parent Library**

Parents, you are very welcome to borrow books for your K-6 children to read over the holidays. If you’d like to join the Parent Library just visit the library anytime to sign up. Happy holidays!

**Holiday Borrowing – Years 7-12**

The holidays are an ideal time to catch up on a good book. Students from Years 7-12 are encouraged to borrow over the holiday break. Please ask a librarian if you aren’t sure what to borrow .… we have lots of suggestions.

**Online Library Catalogue**

The online library catalogue has been unavailable during the past week while upgrading has been carried out. We apologise for the inconvenience this has caused some of you and we are hopeful that everything will be running smoothly by the end of next week.

---

**Calendar**

### Primary Calendar - Term 1

- Daylight Savings Ends ................................................. April 3
- SWOMP ......................................................................... April 4 - 9
- 3M Castaway Camp ....................................................... April 6
- Kindy Jolly Phonics Day ............................................. April 8
- End of Term 1 .................................................................. April 8
- ANZAC Day ....................................................................... April 25
- First day of Term 2 ......................................................... April 26
- Get Active Starts .......................................................... May 2

### Secondary Calendar - Term 1

- Daylight Saving Ends .................................................... 3 April
- 8 Camp ........................................................................ April 4 - 6
- Year 12 Exams ............................................................... April 4 - 8
- Year 11 Urban Challenge ............................................. April 4 - 8
- Year 10 Camp ............................................................... April 5 - 8
- Year 7 Camp ................................................................. April 7 - 8
- End of Term 1 ............................................................... April 8
- Year 12 Work Placement .............................................. April 11 - 22
- ANZAC Day ................................................................. April 25
- First day of Term 2 ....................................................... April 26
- Year 12 Retreat ............................................................. April 27 - 29

---

**Winter Uniform Term 2**

Winter Uniform starts the first day of Term 2

The uniform shop will be open in school holidays:

- Thursday, April 21, 9am - 5pm
- Friday, April 22, 9am - 5pm

---

**Parents and Friends**

The first meeting for 2016 was full of enthusiastic plans for a Mother’s Day event to be held on Friday, April 29 and a catering event to support the HRIS Cross Country on Friday, May 6. Can you help with these events? If you don’t have the time, maybe you can make a donation of ingredients or contribute to the costs of these events. Please contact George O’Reilly on 0409 826 905 and show how you can be really generous!! The team would just love your help!!

---

**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 - Monday, December 12