THIS WEEK … We had students head off to the CIS Athletics Day and our chess teams continued to compete. Years 3 and 4 have been busy rehearsing for their concert. All students from Kindy to Year 6 enjoyed the dress rehearsal on Wednesday, and families and friends were absolutely blown away by the performance on Thursday night. A huge thanks to the Year 3 and 4 teachers and Mrs Campbell for all the time and energy they put into making this musical such a great experience for our students.

NEXT WEEK … We have a flurry of activity - Year 4 South America Day on Monday, Year 5 Gold Rush Day and Year 2 Science Day on Wednesday, Mufti Day to raise money for the Blossom Project on Thursday and Kindy and Year 1 Sports Day on Friday.

DID YOU KNOW … that when students participate in a school production they learn many skills apart from performance skills. They learn confidence and humility. They learn to work with others, to persevere and to be their best. The experience of working together to achieve such a great performance will live long in their memories.

We look forward to seeing you at the Family Festival on Sunday. Make sure you invite your friends and family.

MAKING A MARK … “it’s not that I’m so smart, it’s just that I stay with problems longer.” Albert Einstein

DONE AND DUSTED … Our HSC Music students performed to BOSTES markers on Monday – a great finish point for them! The HSC D&T major works were also marked on Wednesday – a true sense of accomplishment for these Year 12ers. Some of our young men teamed up to play chess against Belmont Christian School and then in a Central Coast Comp – in the Comp they came first! Fantastic job Jonathan and Nat G, Zack M and Ty D! Prefect processes were fully engaged this week, capitulating in online voting today. And I note that our campus is very busy at present as many students finish projects, tidy up assessments and prepare for tests next week!

CHALKBOARD ITEMS … Coming up for air after the weekend, Year 11 go into full swing with exams, Year 12 wrap up their school career of classes and bells and we slide into a well-deserved holiday period! We do wish Year 11s much success in their Preliminary Exams and say goodbye to our Year 12s officially on Friday in their special chapel. Term 3 is almost over, folks!

BEFORE IT’S ERASED … A really useful piece of information (!!) – what is called a ‘French kiss’ in the English speaking world is known as an ‘English kiss’ in France. Our Choir hits Hillview SDA Church tomorrow (11.00 am) – we’d love to see you there. Of course failing that, we’ve got the Family Festival kicking into high gear on Sunday! I’m sure we’ll bump into you on campus!

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

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

ZooWhiz Learning Home Access Discount Cards
Our school is participating in the ZooWhiz Learning Community Subscription Plan. ZooWhiz enables your child to work on Maths, Spelling, Word Skills and Reading. Through the Community Subscription Plan our school now has FREE access to ZooWhiz Learning (www.zoowhiz.com) during school hours. Parents are able to access ZooWhiz at home at a very special price by using the Home Access Discount Card. Please note, the ZooWhiz Learning Home Access Discount Card must be used to activate a subscription by October 19, 2015 as it will expire after this date. The ZooWhiz Home Access Discount Cards have been sent home with students today, Friday, September 11.

ADRA Blossom Project Fundraising Mufti Day
Thursday, September 17
Next Thursday, September 17, we are having a Mufti Day to raise money to help girls in Vanuatu to be treated fairly, kept safe and educated. The theme of our Mufti Day is bright, floral and tropical! Please note that students need to wear closed-in shoes. We ask that students bring a minimum donation of $2.00. All donations over $5.00 are tax deductible. Special envelopes will be sent home early next week and need to be returned to their class teacher on Thursday.

Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers
The Woolworths Earn & Learn promotion has now come to an end. Thank you for your support and stickers! Please return all stickers and sheets to the Primary Office by next Friday, September 18.

SPORT

HRIS Soccer and Netball Gala Day
Tuesday, September 15
Please note that the HRIS Soccer and Netball Gala Day is next week on Tuesday, September 15, and new permission notes should have been returned to Mr Head.

HRIS Tennis
Friday, October 16
The tennis selection games were played this week with 30 students trying out for a place on the school team. Congratulations to the following students who are representing Avondale School at the HRIS Tennis Competition in Newcastle on Friday, October 16.

Year 6 Boys
Champion: Elliot MQ
Runner Up Champion: Tyson H
Year 6 Girls
(No competitors)

Year 5 & under Boys
Champion: Mitchell A
Runner Up Champion: Harry C
Year 5 & under Girls
Champion: Airlia K
Runner Up: (No competitors)

Knights & Rookies Chess
Congratulations to the Knights and Rookies Chess Teams who finished the second half of their competition at Barnsley Public School this week. The Knights Team (Liam B, Caleb S, Elijah M and Alan K) have won the zone with a total of 24 points over St Marys School Warners Bay on 23.5 points. The Rookies Team (Matthew G, Rose J, Kylan M, and Ryan M) have won the zone with a total of 35 points over Barnsley Public School on 25 points. Both the Knights and Rookies team will now go to Newcastle for the regional finals next term.

The Kings Chess Team will complete their second half of the competition on Monday, September 14, at Avondale School.

Infants Sport Day
Friday, September 18
Kindy and Year 1 students will have their annual Sports Day on Friday, September 18 on the Primary School oval. A copy of the program will be emailed to all Kindy and Year 1 parents.

SPORT UNIFORM FOR TERM 3
Kindy: wear sport uniform each Monday and Tuesday.
Years 1 & 2: wear sport uniform each Tuesday only.
Years 3-6: wear sport uniform each Tuesday and Friday.

Soccer Stars 2015
Soccer Stars is a program specifically designed for primary aged children (3-12 years old). The aim of this program is to teach sports skills, confidence, communication and community in a fun and safe environment. The program is held on the Avondale School oval and run by Gateway KIDS, our Campus Church Children’s Ministries Department.

October 11, 18, 25, November 1, 8, 15, 22 (9.30 am - 10.30 am)
REGISTER ONLINE at www.gatewaycommunity.com.au
REGISTRATION CLOSES SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 20
FREE t-shirt for all registrations!

gatewaycommunity.com.au

P&F Fathers’ Day Stalls
We hope all our fathers enjoyed a wonderful day on Sunday. Our Fathers’ Day Stall last Friday, run by our Parents and Friends team, was a great success raising $850 for new Kindy play equipment. Thank you for your support. A very big thank you to our P&F volunteers for organising and running the stalls. The students loved choosing something special for their dads.
GENERAL

NSW School Year 7 Vaccination Program 2015

Our last vaccination day for Year 7 students for 2015 will be held next week on Wednesday, September 16.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS NOT RECEIVED ALL VACCINES BEFORE THE END OF 2015? Any Year 7 student with missed doses of vaccines can be caught up in 2016 or by going to your local GP. Don’t forget a Record of Vaccination is given to each student for each vaccination. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination. Any questions, visit the NSW Ministry of Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/schoolvaccination.aspx

Outstanding 2015 NAPLAN Results

Avondale School students have achieved exceptionally well in the 2015 NAPLAN tests, significantly outperforming the majority of students in NSW in the Numeracy, Reading, and Grammar & Punctuation NAPLAN tests. Below are some of the highlights for each year group:

Year 3 students not only outperformed students throughout NSW by achieving a greater number of top Band 6 results in Reading and Numeracy, they also outperformed the majority of students within Independent Schools in NSW.

Year 5 students achieved a greater proportion of top Band 8 results in their Grammar and Punctuation NAPLAN test than did students in other NSW Independent Schools.

A significantly higher proportion of our Year 9 students achieved Band 10 results in Reading and Numeracy compared with students in other NSW schools.

It is also worth noting that Avondale School students in Years 5, 7 and 9 achieved results which were above the state average in the Writing and Spelling NAPLAN tests.

Our Secondary English Coordinator, Mrs Vogel, attributed the outstanding NAPLAN results in part to the work done by our students in the weekly Literacy Segments run by each of our departments and the ongoing focus on literacy across the Secondary Campus. Similarly, Mr Hibbard, our Secondary Mathematics Coordinator, stated, “It appears that the good work that has been done by our students under the guidance of their Mathematics teachers in our weekly Problem Solving Practice sessions has contributed to an overall improvement in the Year 7 and 9 Numeracy NAPLAN results during the past couple of years. In particular, these sessions have helped our students become more familiar with and more adept at using a variety of problem solving strategies.”

We are extremely proud of all of our students who strived to achieve their very best in this year’s NAPLAN tests.

CLASS

High Dining Experience

Year 10 Food Technology had an exciting excursion to Sydney on Tuesday this week. Students had a behind the scenes tour of Sydney Tour Restaurants, learning about how a large restaurant in a unique location operates and then dined in the revolving buffet restaurant at Centrepoint Tower, taking in the great views of Sydney. They even got to have their photo taken with ‘Obama’ in the Pitt Street mall.

Poetry in Action

Last Friday Poetry in Action returned to Avondale School and captivated students (and staff!) with two amazing theatrical poetry performances. First up was ‘Poetry at Play’ with students in Years 7 and 8. Students went on a rollicking, hilarious, and very educational, trip to ‘Poet Town’ to learn about the five elements of poetry and helped George defeat Byron, the master of rhymes, in a triumphant rap battle. Later in the day Year 12 Standard English students were moved by the poems and life of Wilfred Owen, a British war poet who served his country and was tragically killed on a French battlefield in the last dying days of World War One; very poignant given that this year marks 100 years since the ANZAC landing on the shores of Gallipoli.

The Poetry in Action actors love coming to Avondale School and always remark on how exceptional our students are. We look forward to seeing them again in 2016.
2016 Planning
We are excited about our plans that we have programmed for your child/ren in 2016. These plans are based on the assumption that your child/ren will be returning after the Christmas school holidays. However, if you find your circumstances are changing or you think they may be changing for 2016, please notify the Principal by the end of this term via email to admin@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au. As stated in the School Handbook, a term’s notice is required for us to plan appropriately and efficiently for your child. Thank you.

K-6 Term 3 Library Prizes
Congratulations to the 254 Primary students who borrowed so many exciting books EVERY week this term! Students in Friday library classes have already chosen their library prizes with the remainder of the eligible students choosing their prizes next week. Great job! Please remember to return ALL your library books before the holidays.

Year 12 Library Books
We encourage Year 12 students to continue to use library books to support their study in the coming weeks. However, please contact the library before leaving at the end of term to renew any books you have on loan. All library books need to be returned to the library before you de-register or a fee will be charged.

Years 7-11 Returns
Year 7-11 students are welcome to borrow books over the holidays, but they need to return or renew any books currently on loan. Reminders for overdue items are being sent out this week, so please check your email for details. If you are not sure what to read you could check the ‘new books’ section in the library for some holiday reading ideas.

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE
Many years ago in England there was a small boy who talked with a lisp. While growing up, he was never a scholar. When war came along, they rejected him because ‘we need men’. He once rose to address the English parliament, called the House of Commons, and all the politicians walked out. He often spoke to empty chairs and echoes. One day he became Prime Minister of England and led his country to victory in a worldwide conflict. That man was Sir Winston Churchill, whose iron will to persevere rallied all of his countrymen to defend their land and eventually win the war.

School Teacher: “Johnny, can you tell me the difference between perseverance and obstinacy?”

Johnny: “One is a strong will and the other is a strong won’t.”

Nothing in the world, including talent, genius and education, can take the place of persistence i.e. perseverance.

‘The man who removed the mountain began by carrying away small stones.’ Chinese Proverb

Enjoy the news for this week.

Dr David Faull
Principal

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 - Wednesday, December 14 |

Primary Calendar - Term 3

Parent Perception Survey ......................................................... September 3 - 18
Family Festival ...................................................................... September 13
Year 4 South American Day .................................................... September 14
Kings Chess Competition ....................................................... September 14
HRIS Soccer & Netball Gala Day ............................................. September 15
Year 5 Gold Rush Day .............................................................. September 16
Multi Day .............................................................................. September 17
Get Active Ends Term 3 ............................................................ September 17
Kindy & Year 1 Sports Day ...................................................... September 18
Last Day of Term 3 ................................................................. September 18
Vacation Care Available ......................................................... September 21 - October 2

Secondary Calendar - Term 3

Parent Perception Survey ......................................................... September 3 - 18
Choir at Hillview Church .......................................................... September 12
Family Festival ...................................................................... September 13
Year 11 Final Exams ................................................................. September 14 - 18
CIS Athletics Day ...................................................................... September 16
Year 7 Vaccinations Dose #3 .................................................. September 16
Get Active Ends Term 3 ............................................................ September 17
Year 12 Final Farewell Chapel 9.30 am MPC ......................... September 18
Last Day of Term 3 ................................................................. September 18
Labour Day Holiday ............................................................... October 5
First Day of Term 4 ................................................................. October 6