In recent conversations in our staff meeting times, there has been great discussion about the kind of students we visualise at the end of their Avondale School educational journey. Typically, consensus suggested a desire for respectful adults, individuals responsible for their own learning, students who have achieved their personal best throughout their schooling, and maturing adolescents who have developed a sense of good values and morals.

So how do we all help our students/your children grow in these traits? The Department of Education and Training suggests these 5 things:

1. **Have hopes, dreams and ambitions for each child**
   - Believe in your child’s potential and abilities and be sure to tell them!
   - Let them know you have high aspirations for them.

2. **Foster an enjoyment of learning**
   - A shared positive attitude to learning increases the likelihood of completing Year 12.
   - Help your child plan, set goals and follow through when they start something.

3. **Share moments of the day**
   - Encourage their interests, discuss current affairs and connect about TV shows, movies and books.
   - Engage in a ‘highlight’ reel of the day or week.

4. **Read together**
   - Reading aloud as an adult and/or allowing your child to read aloud to you helps them do better at school.

5. **Be involved together**
   - Research suggest when schools, families and community groups work together and support learning, children do better and develop positive attitudes to learning.

What a great set of ideas to work on together to bring the best out in our students!

Leadership Training

Last week our Primary Captains and Prefects participated in a Leadership Training Day. This day aimed to empower students to be servant leaders in our school. They learned about the leadership attributes Jesus showed us and the importance of leading by example. Pr Mel spoke to the students about their role as spiritual leaders in our school. Mrs Cooper and Mr Hill discussed the impact our leaders can have on the overall culture of our campus. It was a day of learning to work as a team and that great leaders don’t tell you what to do…they show you how it’s done.

Years 3-6 Swimming Carnival

There were 294 enthusiastic students from Years 2-6 at the Primary Swimming Carnival this week. The colourful House areas and the loud cheering from students and parents helped to make this a spectacular event on the sporting calendar. The House Captains did a great job in encouraging and motivating fellow students. There were 6 long-standing records broken on the day by the following students:

- Caitin C 8 Year 50m Freestyle & Breaststroke
- Jayden T 9 Year 50m Freestyle & Breaststroke
- Tegan C 11 Year 100m Freestyle & 50m Backstroke

Congratulations to MACQUARIE HOUSE for winning the carnival, especially since they haven’t won it since 1997!

Macquarie  784 points
Watagan     688 points
Pacific     660 points
Hunter      602 points

In the last six years, each of the four Houses have won this event. The swimming team to go to HRIS has been announced and permission notes and program have been sent home. The swimming presentation will be at assembly on Monday, February 27, weather permitting.
SPORT

Swimming Carnival
What a great Swimming Carnival we had on Tuesday at Wyong Pool. The weather was kind to us, with the rain only coming as we loaded onto the buses at the end of the day. Of the 340 students who attended we had an excellent participation rate.
The team to progress to the HRIS Swimming Carnival on March 15 is displayed in the PDHPE Office window. All team members are urged to continue to train over the next few weeks. Age Champion trophies will be presented at the start of Chapel on Monday, February 27.
Congratulations to our House Captains who coaxed and pushed team members into the races to get House points. Pacific House ended up winning the day. A big thank you to the staff for their hard work, the parents who came to cheer and the students who put in the effort in the pool.

Secondary Swimming Club
Where: Morisset Swimming Pool
When: Every Tuesday and Thursday, 6.45 – 7.45 am
Cost: $5.00 – this includes pool entry, coaching, transport back to school and breakfast.
Transport: Parents need to drop students to the pool. The School bus will then take all students back to School for breakfast.
Ability: Students need to be able to confidently swim 400m.
Please note this is not a learn-to-swim session. It will focus on some stroke correction and aerobic conditioning as well as developing overall swimming fitness.
If you have any further questions please feel free to contact Mr Ward in the PDHPE department via reception on 4977 0200 or by emailing bward@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au

2017 House Captains
Hunter (RED) Captains
Lucas J, Samantha W
Samuel S, Jemma W

Pacific (BLUE) Captains
Chad Mackey, Paige F
Lachlan B, Amity B

Watagan (GREEN) Captains
Nathaniel G, Amy M
Griffin L, Sarah A

Macquarie (YELLOW) Captains
Tyler H, Casey H
Zac H, Lisa C

STEP UP
3.30 – 4.30 PM THURSDAYS
ALL THIS TERM IN THE ICENTRE

A CHANCE TO:
» DO INDEPENDENT STUDY
» COMPLETE YOUR HOMEWORK
» GET SOME HELP WITH WRITING (JUST SORTING THAT ESSAY OUT!)
» GET SOME HELP WITH MATHS (EVEN THAT TRICKY HOMEWORK QUESTION?)
» GET SOME GUIDANCE ON THAT ASSESSMENT TASK YOU NEED TO START!

SECONDARY
K-6 Library Borrowing
Kindy to Year 6 students have been eagerly bringing their library bags to the iCentre and borrowing lots of library books this week. Most students have jumped right in and begun borrowing our colourful picture books, fabulous fiction and informative non-fiction books. Remember that if you forget your library bag on your library day you can come to the iCentre the next day and do your borrowing.

Years 7-12 Library Borrowing
Secondary students have been making the most of the library this week too. Intriguing fiction and educational non-fiction have been borrowed for leisure and study purposes. Enjoy your books!

The View Editorial
You have noticed (or maybe not) that the editorials in this year’s newsletters are longer but from different people. We are going to move through a cycle of different staff and their areas of expertise and interest to hopefully provide you as parents with some useful insights and tips on various topics over the year. Thus enjoy an editorial in sequence from the various staff including Administration - Principal, Head of Primary, Head of Secondary, our Pastoral Care Team, Learning Team, Sport Coordinators and others.

We will try and share ideas on spiritual inspiration, developing character, educational trends and support, and ways to provide you with some strategies as parents to deal with the complex world your young people are growing up in. We welcome feedback on anything in the Newsletter and we hope it engenders some positive discussion as a family as well.

What is Avondale Parents and Friends (P&F)?
We are the parent organisation at Avondale School. We are volunteers interested in nurturing the mission of the school by creating and fostering a connection among Avondale School parents, friends, students and staff.

Our mission is to support, communicate and facilitate the education of the children in positive ways.

We welcome ALL interested parents, staff, friends, relatives and guardians of students attending our school! No need to sign up … just turn up at our next meeting! Admin Building, Thursday, March 2, 3.15 - 4.00 pm sharp. See you there!