Cracking the Code

We live in an ever-changing world where technology is all around us. Our children are growing up with an abundance of devices before them and using and interacting with these devices has become a part of everyday life.

At Avondale School we encourage our students to use technology in ways that help them improve their learning. Rather than simply being consumers of technology (game players, internet searchers and video watchers), our students are encouraged to be creators who use technology to learn in ways that were previously impossible. One of the ways we do this is through the structured, systematic and ongoing teaching of coding. Put simply, coding is the giving of instructions that a computer can understand. For students growing up in a digital world, having the opportunity to learn this skill is essential. At a glance it may seem very complex and difficult to learn, but for our students the learning to code experience is fun, engaging and simpler than you might think.

The coding journey begins in Kindy as students work in pairs to create a treasure hunt. One student takes on the role of a robot and their partner takes on the role of a coder. The coder gives simple instructions written on cards (lines of code) to the robot, such as ‘move forward’, ‘move backward’, ‘turn left’, ‘turn right’, ‘pick up’ and ‘put down’.

In Year 1, students build on what they learnt in Kindy and they have the opportunity to start programming basic robots. Position instructions are programmed into the robot and the coder uses the robot to complete a series of challenges. In Year 2, students begin to use iPad apps to code characters through mazes and puzzles. They also have the opportunity to engage in digital storytelling by coding a character on an iPad screen to move around, change settings and tell a story (while specifically focusing on their spelling, grammar and punctuation).

Throughout Years 3 and 4, students continue to build on their previous learning and undertake more complex coding challenges using both iPads and more complex robotic devices, and during Years 5 and 6 they move from block coding (where they drag blocks of code to create algorithms) to beginning to learn a written coding language that they can use to code a variety of robots. As students move into high school, they have had the opportunity to develop a very solid understanding of coding that they can further build upon through an ever-increasing range of subjects.

The journey that began so simply in Kindy is built upon as students progress through the various grades. A solid foundation is built and the end result is a thorough and quite complex understanding of coding.

Andrew Cameron
Learning Team
**NAPLAN Online**

The National Assessment Program, Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Planning has begun to move NAPLAN from pen and paper assessment to an online assessment. Avondale School students in Years 3 and 5 will participate in the NAPLAN Online School Readiness Test from September 11-15. This is a practice run for our school to assess our technology and it allows our school to:

- become familiar with the NAPLAN Online Test format and processes
- provide students in Years 3 and 5 with the opportunity to experience the online test question types and format by completing a practice NAPLAN online test.

The readiness test is not an assessment of student ability. Further information can be accessed on class Landscape pages.

**Bus Travel – Opal Cards Required**

Students travelling by bus to and from school MUST have an active School Student OPAL Card which is to be ‘tapped’ on the bus for each and every journey made. New applications, replacement passes or inactive cards can be ordered at www.transportnsw.info/school-students. Opal cards will be posted to your home address.

**Term 3 Sport Uniform**

- Kindy - wear sports uniform Mondays and Tuesdays
- Year 1 - 1W wear sports uniform on Mondays and Tuesdays
- 1S & 1H wear sports uniform on Tuesdays
- Year 2 - wear sports uniform Tuesdays
- Years 3-6 - wear sports uniform Tuesdays and Fridays for Term 3.

**HRIS Netball And Soccer Gala Day**

On Tuesday, up to 14 HRIS Primary Schools competed in the HRIS Netball and Soccer Gala Day at different venues in Newcastle. Avondale School had two senior and one junior team in both the Netball and Soccer. This is always a fantastic day with lots of skill and sportsmanship being displayed. Some teams had to play up to 7 matches on the day, which made for some very tired students on the way home. Thank you to all the parents who supported our students on the day. Also a big thank you to the staff who put in many hours of training to have these teams ready for the day; Mrs Hill (Netball A & B Teams), Mrs Vaughan (Netball C Team) and Mrs Lupi assisting Mrs Hill. Mr Head (Soccer A Team), Mr Hosken (B Team) and Mr Skinner (C Team), and Mr Venegas who has also put in many hours with our soccer boys before taking long service leave.

Results:

- **NETBALL**
  - Junior (C Team) 5th
  - Senior (A Team) 7th
  - Senior (B Team) 4th

- **SOCCER**
  - Junior (C Team) 8th
  - Senior (A Team) 5th
  - Senior (B Team) 5th

**NOTE:** Parents are requested to return all netball or soccer uniforms to Mr Head as soon as possible.

**Years 1 & 2 T-Ball**

Our Year 1 and 2 students have been learning the skills of playing T-Ball this term and will be having their year level competition next week. The winning class will receive a perpetual trophy which is kept on the teacher’s desk for the whole year.

**Tennis Competition**

The School Tennis Competition will be run next week. Students need to register their name with Mr Head and bring their racquets on Tuesday and Wednesday. Two boys and two girls will be selected from Years 5 and under, and from Year 6 to compete at the HRIS Tennis Competition on October 13. Please note that students wishing to enter the competition must be able to serve overarm from the baseline.

**Kindy & Year 1 Sports Day**

Friday, September 8

The Kindy and Year 1 Sports Day will be held next Friday, September 8 on Oval A from 9.00 am until 12.20 pm. An information sheet is on your child’s class Landscape page. Parents and friends are most welcome to attend. Barista made hot drinks and homemade cake will be available for purchase from the canteen for $6.50.
Year 10 Restaurants Rule
The Year 10 Food Technology class planned, prepared and served a range of scrumptious menus for a group of lucky teachers this week as part of their coursework. The teachers were impressed at the skills they have developed. Well done team!

ACT Mountain Bike Challenge
Last Friday a record 30 students from Avondale School participated in the All Schools ACT Mountain Bike Challenge at Stromlo Park in Canberra. It was a chilly -3°C early in the morning but later warmed up to around 15°C for the event. Avondale School had the second largest number of entrants from a school at the event. Our teams were in the top 5 positions in most categories at the end of the day. The two Junior mixed teams came 2nd and 3rd, and the Senior Boys team came a very respectable 5th place. All students really enjoyed the experience and will be back next year to further improve on the results. Special thanks to Mrs Ginn, Mrs Matthes, Mr Ginn (photo credit) and Mr Roseland. Also thanks to Central Coast Adventist School for their bike trailer and Canberra Christian School for accommodation.

Year 11 PDHPE Camp
Recently our Year 11 PDHPE class went on a camp to the Watagan Mountains as part of their option topic, Outdoor Education. Students looked at different topics including Risk Management, Environmental Impact, Camp Selection and different outdoor educational activities. A number of our students participated in abseiling during the camp. This involved a 10m and a 40m abseil. Thank you to Mr Vaughan, Mrs White, Mr Martin and Mr Hansen for their assistance during the camp.

Battle of the Books Competition
Our major high school Book Week event, Quizzical, was held on Friday, August 25. Twelve teams entered into lively competition with the following teams emerging as winners:
Junior Team: Grace B, Tilly P, Olivia M and Ben L
Senior Team: Ava S, Kasey S, Blake R, Justin D
These teams then went on to the next level, representing Avondale School at the Battle of the Books Competition at Central Coast Adventist School. Both teams placed second with the Junior team missing out on first place by one point. Both teams were excellent ambassadors for Avondale School. The other high school Book Week Competition, Escape to Everywhere involved students matching novel settings with the appropriate novel. Winners will be drawn at Chapel next week.

AICES Athletics Carnival
A full report will be in next week’s Newsletter.
K-6 ‘Where Will Reading Take You?’ Competition

Congratulations to the following winners:
Kindy - Seamus D  
Year 1 - Elise R  
Year 2 - Addison M  
Year 3 - Hannah L  
Year 4 - David M  
Year 5 - Caleb M  
Year 6 - Zara C  
Well done and enjoy your book prizes!

Attention Families

Please be mindful of the contagious nature of the different strands of flu this year and the aggressive way it can hit families. In an effort to minimise the ‘sharing’ of various colds, once your child comes down with something, could we please encourage you to keep them at home. Sharing these viruses during assessment periods and when major tasks are due is a significant stressor to our student body. Thank you for your support in this.

LIBRARY

We Value Forgiveness

Primary Calendar - Term 3

Father's Day ................................................................. September 3  
Kindy Oakvale Farm Excursion .................................... September 7  
Kindy & Year 1 Athletics Carnival ................................. September 8  
Family Festival - Colour for Cambodia Fun Run .......... September 10  
Year 5 Colonial Day .......................................................... September 11  
Kindy PJ Day ................................................................. September 13  
CIS Athletics ................................................................. September 13  
Wyong Chess Competition ........................................... September 14

Secondary Calendar - Term 3

Father's Day ................................................................. September 3  
Week of Worship .......................................................... September 4 - 8  
Year 11 General Maths Excursion ................................. September 7  
Family Festival - Colour for Cambodia Fun Run .......... September 10  
Year 11 Final Exams ...................................................... September 15 - 21  
Year 10 Food Tech Excursion ......................................... September 21  
Year 12 Final Chapel & Last Day .................................... September 22  
Last Day of Term 3 .......................................................... September 22  
Daylight Saving Starts .................................................... October 1

SCHOOL TERMS 2017

Term 1  January 30/31 - Friday, April 7  
Term 2  Wednesday, April 26 - Friday, June 30  
Term 3  Monday, July 24 - Friday, September 22  
Term 4  Monday, October 9 - Friday, December 8

Like us on social media for regular information updates!

$100 Active Kids Rebate

- Every school-enrolled child is eligible for a $100 voucher to be used for sport and fitness activities.
- All children from kindergarten to Year 12 are eligible. The program is not means tested and will be available each year for four years.
- Parents and guardians will be able to download a voucher for each child in January 2016 and take it to a registered sporting or fitness club for a $100 discount on registration and participation fees. Registrations for approved sporting clubs and fitness groups will begin in late November.
- Contact my office on 4959 3200 or log on to www.sport.nsw.gov.au/activekids for more info.

Greg Piper MP
State Member for Lake Macquarie  
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