It is a given that children today will be using technology and the Internet. Whether it be to play games, to find information, to communicate with others or even as a part of their learning at school, our children are living in a world where exposure to technology and the Internet cannot be avoided.

As students at Avondale School are encouraged to use technology in the classroom and as so many seek to spend time using technology at home (for learning, socialising and gaming), it is vitally important that they spend time learning how to be wise and safe digital citizens.

This year we have commenced a strategic program with our Year 5 and Year 6 students. As a part of their weekly Library lesson, students are spending time learning what it means to be a good digital citizen and learning how they (and we) can ensure that they are safe online.

Would our children willingly engage in online conversations with people they don’t know? Would they agree to meet up with a ‘friend’ that they have met online? Would they willingly share private information, photos and videos? Would they create a social networking profile that can be viewed by anyone, rather than just by friends and family?

Our discussions in Library classes have so far been enthusiastic, fruitful and most definitely worthwhile. Each class has been encouraged to come up with guidelines to help themselves and others ensure they are safe as they use the Internet. Some of these guidelines include:

• Use an alias rather than your name.
• If someone asks you for personal information, don’t give it to them.
• Don’t post photos of yourself in your school uniform.
• Check your settings to make sure they are set to private.
• If something feels creepy, tell a parent or caregiver.
• If you have profiles on social networking sites, make sure one of your parents or carers is one of your friends or followers.

Parents, do you know what your children are doing online? Are you aware of the games they are playing, the sites they visit and the social networks they are a part of? Why not take this opportunity to have an important conversation with your child about online safety. If you have a child in Year 5 or Year 6, ask them what they are learning during Library lessons. Ask them what advice they would give to help their friends or siblings stay safe online.

Technology is great and the Internet is a wonderful learning and socialising tool. Let’s make sure we keep our kids safe.

Andrew Cameron
Director of eLearning
Student Illness
We have had a number of students absent from school over the past few weeks with upset stomachs and vomiting. To help prevent the spread of this illness, we ask that students not return to school until 24 hours after their last incident. Thank you for noting this and helping keep our students well.

Mobile Phones at School
If students have mobile phones at school, phones need to be turned off and kept in bags or lockers during the day. Students are not permitted to use phones for any purpose while on the school campus. If students require assistance or need to communicate with parents, they need to come to the School Office rather than using phones to contact parents. We ask that parents reinforce our phone usage policy with students.

Parent Teacher Interviews
Primary Parent Teacher Interviews will be held in the iCentre next Thursday, March 9 from 3.30 pm until 8.00 pm. These interviews are for teachers to share how your child has settled into the new school year. Primary Interim Reports will be sent via email next week (Years 1-6). Teachers do not have detailed assessment data to share at this stage of the year but are happy to discuss your child’s level of engagement, social interaction and general level of performance. Bookings can be made online by clicking on the link below and using the School Event Code gqumq. We look forward to seeing you there! https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au

SPORT

Sport Uniform
Kindy, Year 1 and Year 2 students wear their sport uniform on Mondays. Years 3-6 students wear their sport uniform on Fridays.

HRIS Soccer Trials
Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to go to St Philip’s Christian School (Cessnock) on March 6 to try out for the Soccer Team that will go to CIS: Luke P, Antwon M, Nathan R, Junior V and Noah Mo.

HRIS Netball Trials
Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to go to Broadmeadow Netball Centre on March 14 to try out for the Netball Team that will go to CIS: Claire D, Abigail C, Amy M and Kaidence E.

Primary Chess Competition
Avondale School is known in the Hunter Region for having students with a high standard of ability when it comes to chess. The Primary Chess Competition will be held in the MPC on March 15 from 9.00 am - 2.30 pm. Any students who know how to play are invited to register their names with Mr Head at the Sport Shed. Students will play four games in the morning, playing against students with the same score in the same division, and then three games in the afternoon. There may be a cut in players at lunch. The two divisions are Junior (K - Year 4) and Senior (Year 5 & 6). Students who do well in this competition will be invited to join one of the four school chess teams (2 Junior and 2 Senior) who will play in the Newcastle Junior Chess League. These students will also compete in the HRIS Chess Competition held at Avondale School later in the year. Students who register should get as much practice as possible over the next week.

HRIS Swimming Carnival
Last week our Primary School Swim Team consisting of 40 enthusiastic students from Years 2-6 competed at the HRIS Swimming Carnival at Maitland Pool. After winning Division 2 last year we were eager to compete against the other top seven schools. Many of our students achieved their own best times in the 50m pool. While there were several delays throughout the day due to computer issues, the day finished on time with several records broken. Thank you to the parents who came to support our swimmers.

Congratulations to four outstanding students who will now compete at the CIS Swimming Championships held at Homebush on March 23.
8 Year    Caitlin C        50m Freestyle
9 Year    Jayden T     50m Freestyle
11 Year  Tegan C           50m Back Stroke
12 Year   Jack E       50m Back Stroke & 50m Butterfly

Division 1 Overall School Points:
1st  920pts Lakes Anglican Grammar School
2nd  868pts Scone Grammar School
3rd  842pts St Philips Christian School (Waratah)
4th  839pts Newcastle Grammar School
5th  832pts St Columba Anglican School
6th  817pts Calrossy Anglican School
7th  736pts Central Coast Adventist School
8th  710pts Avondale School

Attention Parents
Please sign in at the office during school hours

Primary Chess Competition
Wednesday March 15
**SPORT**

**Duke of Edinburgh Camp**

Last weekend 12 students embarked on their practice camp for the Duke of Edinburgh expedition to Tasmania later this month. The weather was a great shakedown to prepare for the changing weather patterns in Tasmania. Students walked part of the Great North Walk in the Watagan Mountains during the weekend. The weather then turned very wet on Saturday afternoon but did not deter from getting a warm fire going. Thanks to Miss Karlie Fraser and Mr Damien Johnson for their assistance over the weekend.

**GENERAL**

**Uniform Cards**

This Tuesday students from Year 8-12 were given TWO personalised plastic Uniform Cards. One YELLOW, one BLUE. These cards will give greater responsibility to each of our students to manage their uniform and have a choice in what happens when they are out of uniform or have failed to follow our uniform process. We are sure that your child will be excited and eager enough to share with you how the Uniform Cards will be used. The Uniform Cards are plastic and should survive the usual wash. You may wish to check pockets and remove the plastic cards before you commence ironing. We are looking forward to the Uniform Cards bringing greater consistency in assisting staff and students in working together to present our school uniform with pride.

**HRIS Prefect Afternoon**

On Thursday this week, our Prefects joined with other student leaders from Macquarie College, Central Coast Adventist School, St Phillips Christian College (Waratah) and St Philips Christian College (Gosford) to engage in an afternoon of self-development activities. Hosted by Avondale College, the 5 school teams embraced the opportunity to meet each other, establish connections and wrestle with what it means to be a student leader. Conversations were had around ethical decisions, establishing relationship with fellow students and knowing when you have to stand firm. It was a meaningful and enjoyable afternoon.

**2017 Swimming Age Champions**

**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
K-9 Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC)
Will YOU sign up for the Premier’s Reading Challenge this year? During the month of March students from Kindy through to Year 9 can sign up at the library for the PRC. Students can then collect their reading record sheets and start recording the books they have read. Remember that K-2 students read 30 books and Years 3-9 read 20 books. Parents, please sign that the students have read the books that have been written on the recording sheets. Reading lists can be found at the PRC website. https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html Check out the iCentre Landscape page for all the PRC information you need. http://landscape.avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au/homepage/1762

We Value Responsibility

PRIVATE MUSIC TUTORS
Are you interested in having music lessons? We have many great tutors and instruments available to learn on. Please contact tutors directly to arrange lesson times.

- Kylie Stacey piano (Simply Music, AMEB, traditional) 0409 939 302
- Angela Miller piano (Simply Music) 0421 464 797
- Jan Hughes piano 4977 2037
- Marilyn Aveiing-Rowe piano 0422 714 747
- Cybèle Coutet voice (AMEB) / piano (AMEB) 0423 455 977
- Gabriel Ontanu violin / viola 0447 262 260
- Renee Lis violin 0413 777 477
- Esther Albert cello / violin / double bass 0439 420 661
- Emma Jones flute 0432 925 199
- Fred Cracknell saxophone / clarinet / brass 0404 082 151
- Oliver Doyle trumpet 0418 975 033
- Jake Bisognin guitar 0421 730 045
- Zayne Mariassouce guitar 0421 730 045
- Mitchell Wallace bass guitar / guitar 0435 578 723
- Garry Lawler group guitar lessons / ukulele 0438 608 180
- James Dennett drums 0401 549 084

We're on Instagram! Search for Avondale School.

Like us on Facebook for regular information updates. Search for Avondale School (Preschool to Year 12).

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 - Monday, December 11
2017 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

K-9 Students – Start Reading Now!

Opens 6 March Closes 25 August
(Online Student Reading Records must be complete)

www.premiersonreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

Illustration & Design - Chris Nixon