I recently came across this story and felt it captured an important message for all of us in a very powerful and moving way.

A man came home from work late, tired and irritated, to find his 5-year old son waiting for him at the door.

SON: “Daddy, may I ask you a question?”

DAD: “Yeah sure, what it is?” replied the man.

SON: “Daddy, how much do you make an hour?”

DAD: “That’s none of your business. Why do you ask such a thing?” he said angrily.

SON: “I just want to know. Please tell me, how much do you make an hour?”

DAD: “If you must know, I make $50 an hour.”

SON: “Oh,” the little boy replied, with his head down.

SON: “Daddy, may I please borrow $25?”

The father was furious, “If the only reason you asked that is so you can borrow some money to buy a silly toy or some other nonsense, then you march yourself straight to your room and go to bed. Think about why you are being so selfish ... I don’t work hard everyday for such childish frivolities.”

The little boy sat straight up, smiling. “Oh, thank you daddy,” he yelled. Then, reaching under his pillow he pulled out some crumpled up bills. The man saw that the boy already had money, and started to get angry again. The little boy slowly counted out his money, and then looked up at his father. “Why do you want more money if you already have some?” the father grumbled. “Because I didn’t have enough, but now I do,” the little boy replied.

“Daddy, I have $50 now. Can I buy an hour of your time? Please come home early tomorrow. I would like to have dinner with you.”

The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little son and begged for his forgiveness.

It’s just a short reminder to all of you working so hard in life. We should not let time slip through our fingers without having spent some time with those who really matter to us, those close to our hearts. Remember to share that $50 worth of your time with someone you love. If we die tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of hours, but the family and friends we leave behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives. This was brought home vividly to us last week with the unexpected death of a parent on a Year 6 excursion to Canberra from one of our schools in the NNSW Conference. How much time do I give to my family? What takes our time and our priority?

David McClintock
Principal
**GENERAL**

**Uniform Matters**

**HAIR**

As mentioned in the School Handbook the following applies to hair at school. An appropriate, neat and tidy hairstyle is expected at school. Girls’ hair should be their natural colour and long hair should be tied back. All hair accessories must be navy, white or black and must be plain, simple and functional. Boys’ hair should be their natural colour, neat, above the collar length, and out of the student’s face.

**GROOMING**

We are raising our children to function in a world where personal presentation is important. We ask that you partner with us to help our children learn the importance of the way they present themselves. Parents have a responsibility to ensure their children leave home each day correctly attired and that their grooming is of an acceptable standard. Teachers are working hard to help students accept responsibility for their uniform whilst at school.

**OUT OF UNIFORM**

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that teachers are informed by note or email of any uniform variations. This will ensure that students avoid consequences for being out of uniform. Thanks for your support with this important issue.

**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.

**School Photos**

Primary School photos were sent home with students this week. For those parents that requested to collect their photos from school, they are available at the Primary Office. Please note, due to a printing delay, Secondary Students will not receive their photos until after the week beginning August 14. We apologise for any inconvenience.

**School Captain, Prefect & Sport House Captain/Vice Captain Photos**

Order forms for the above mentioned group photos are available from the Primary Office. Photo orders can be made for the next two weeks.

**SPORT**

**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.

**Kings Chess Team**

Last week the Kings Chess team went to Newcastle Grammar School to complete rounds 6 to 10. This was the serious part of the competition with only the top two schools progressing to the finals in Newcastle in Term 4. At the end of round 10 Avondale School is now in a first place tie with Newcastle Grammar School on 24.5 points. Congratulations to Kylan M on Board 1 for winning all his games.

**Class**

**Jonah A Fishy Tale Years 1 & 2 CONCERT**

Wednesday, August 9 – 6.30pm - MPC

Next Wednesday, August 9, our Years 1 and 2 students will perform in the musical concert ‘Jonah A Fishy Tale’ commencing at 6.30 pm in the MPC. All parents, students and families are invited to attend. We will be collecting gold coins at the end of the concert to help cover costs. The P&F will be selling snacks and drinks prior to the concert from 5.30 pm. There will be hot chips, muffins, rocky road, slushies, plus a variety of hot and cold drinks. The students are very excited about their upcoming performance. We look forward to seeing you there!
GENERAL

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!

Hope to see you there!

STEP UP

We Learn ∙ We Value ∙ We Serve

SECONDARY

HRIS Cultural Festival
Avondale School was represented at the HRIS Cultural Festival this year by singers and instrumentalists. The Cultural Festival was comprised of combined school ensembles run by specialist teachers from each of the HRIS schools. Our Primary and Secondary School student representatives were attentive and presented very well at the evening concert, which is an event not to be missed in terms of quality and the collaborative nature of the event. A great job by our music students!

STORMCo Trip to Cobar
A team of 45 made up from Avondale School students, alumni Avondale School students and local Cobar youth joined together to serve the town of Cobar during the school holidays for the 19th consecutive year. This is one of the longest annual community partnerships by a STORMCo team anywhere in the world. A proud Avondale School heritage and legacy! The Mayor of Cobar, Liliane Brady, first became Mayor the year before our first trip to her town in 1999, and she is still Mayor. She is a huge fan and supporter of Avondale School and our STORMCo teams. This year our team ran a free holiday kids club in the local public primary school hall with songs, stories, balloons, face painting, clowns, games, and craft activities. We visited the aged care facility and brought joy to the elderly residents there who look forward to our visits each year. We helped many in the local community - elderly, single mums, incapacitated, anyone who needed a hand - with jobs in and around their home, spent lots of time at the ‘Youthie’ building friendships with the local youth, enjoyed an outdoor movie night and a State of Origin night with the locals, put on a free community pancake feed, and one morning cleaned the windscreen of every car that came into town to do shopping. Way too soon the week was over and it was time to say goodbye to our local Cobar youth team and to new and old friends. Already plans are underway for next year - our 20th year! Students in Years 10-12 in 2018, if you want to come, sign up now as places are filling fast. First in with their applications gets the spots. Applications will be out next week. Swing by the Pastoral Care Centre and grab one. The dates for the next Cobar trip are July 13-19, 2018. The next Avondale School STORMCo trip is in the upcoming September school holidays, September 22-28 to Wee Waa. This will be our 11th year to Wee Waa. Application forms will also be out next week. You can collect one from Pr Brian in the Pastoral Care Centre. Don’t miss out on this fun and amazing adventure in service to others! It will change your life!

YEAR 12 HSC MUSIC STUDENTS LIVE

AT
LIZOTTE’S!

Thursday
31 August at 7pm*
Cost $15 per person
Purchase own dinner & drinks on the night
Book online to support our students
newcastle.lizottes.com.au

STORMCo Trip to Wee Waa
A team of 45 made up from Avondale School students, alumni Avondale School students and local Wee Waa youth joined together to serve the town of Wee Waa during the school holidays for the 11th consecutive year. This is one of the longest annual community partnerships by a STORMCo team anywhere in the world. A proud Avondale School heritage and legacy! The Mayor of Wee Waa, Mr Ted Seccombe, first became Mayor the year before our first trip to his town in 1999, and he is still Mayor. He is a huge fan and supporter of Avondale School and our STORMCo teams. This year our team ran a free holiday kids club in the local public primary school hall with songs, stories, balloons, face painting, clowns, games, and craft activities. We visited the aged care facility and brought joy to the elderly residents there who look forward to our visits each year. We helped many in the local community - elderly, single mums, incapacitated, anyone who needed a hand - with jobs in and around their home, spent lots of time at the ‘Youthie’ building friendships with the local youth, enjoyed an outdoor movie night and a State of Origin night with the locals, put on a free community pancake feed, and one morning cleaned the windscreen of every car that came into town to do shopping. Way too soon the week was over and it was time to say goodbye to our local Wee Waa youth team and to new and old friends. Already plans are underway for next year - our 20th year! Students in Years 10-12 in 2018, if you want to come, sign up now as places are filling fast. First in with their applications gets the spots. Applications will be out next week. Swing by the Pastoral Care Centre and grab one. The dates for the next Wee Waa trip are July 13-19, 2018. The next Avondale School STORMCo trip is in the upcoming September school holidays, September 22-28 to Wee Waa. This will be our 11th year to Wee Waa. Application forms will also be out next week. You can collect one from Pr Brian in the Pastoral Care Centre. Don’t miss out on this fun and amazing adventure in service to others! It will change your life!
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

Library

Book Week – August 21-25
Book Week is not far away! There will be so many fun activities including our lunchtime storytellers, Harrison Craig author visit, Quizzical for Years 7-11, ‘Where will reading take you?’ competition and our very colourful Book Character Parade for K-6 with lots of book prizes.

Our fabulous Book Character Parade will in held in the MPC on Thursday August 24 at 9.00 am. Is your costume nearly ready? Remember that your character must be from a suitable book and you need to bring the book along on the parade day. Please let the library know ASAP if you would like the library staff to find a particular book to go with your costume. We can’t help you find a book on the morning of the parade! This year our esteemed judges will be choosing ten students with creative costumes from each Year Level, without ranking them, to receive awards and book prizes. It will be great fun so parents and grandparents, you won’t want to miss it!

Singer, inspirational speaker and author Harrison Craig will be visiting Avondale School on Monday, August 21 to speak about his new picture book Harrison’s Song. His book inspires children to search for and use their own talents to overcome challenges they may face. Students wishing to purchase signed copies of Harrison’s Song can pick up an order form from the library. Order forms with credit card payment are due back at the library by Thursday, August 10 so that the books will have time to arrive at school by Book Week.

Like us on social media for regular information updates!