As I write to you for the last time in 2014, it is with great excitement. Not because the holidays are almost here, but because it is time to celebrate another amazing year here at Avondale. We have been very intentional and strategic in setting learning goals our students over the past 3 years and we are know seeing the positive impact of the strategies that have been implemented. Our NAPLAN results, along with a range of other student data, show huge improvements.

We also want to celebrate the fun we’ve had this year. As always, our students have had amazing excursions, fun learning activities, sporting events and performing arts opportunities.

Most of all we want to celebrate our God. This year we have enjoyed sharing with our students the fact that they were created by God to be amazing people. We want them to always know that they are loved!

Thanks for allowing us to be part of your children’s lives. We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know your children and genuinely love them all!

I wish you all a great holiday and look forward to seeing you again in 2015.

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

Thought for the week: “God is a God of the present. God is always in the moment, be that moment hard or easy, joyful and painful.” Henri Nouwen

Week 9 – are we done already?! The Pupil Free Day was incredibly productive for our teachers and exams went back to our Year 7-9 students after Monday. With various other tasks to complete, textbooks to be returned and Year 12 completing final assessments, the week has been busy! A handful of our boys went to the National Basketball Competition and have been doing themselves and the School proud – final details will come through late today. Well done, team! Our Year 8 and 10 students have a new laptop and our sign-off process went relatively smoothly today! A huge thank you for a year of success, fun and collaboration. A fond farewell and thank you to our teachers leaving this year: Mrs Smith, Mr Gordon, Mrs Butler, Mr Doyle and Ms Ladru. You will be missed!

THAT’S ALL FOLKS FOR 2014 … EXCEPT, I’VE OFTEN WONDERED … Why are the numbers on a calculator and a phone reversed?

Blessings for the festive season! For some, we say goodbye and wish you every success; for the majority of you, we’ll see in you 2015!

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

HEADS UP!

I wish you all a great holiday and look forward to seeing you again in 2015.

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

Last Day of School
Monday, December 8 (Sports Uniform)
Just a reminder that this coming Monday, December 8 is the last day of school for students from Kindy to Year 6. We ask that students wear their sports uniform so their summer uniform is ready for Speech Night.

Speech Night
Monday, December 8, 7.00 pm
(Years 1-6 Students)
We are looking forward to your support at Speech Night this coming Monday evening, December 8. All students in Years 1-6 are encouraged to attend the event to be held in the MPC. Students are required to wear their full summer uniform and arrive at 6.30 pm. Class teachers will be there from 6.30 pm to supervise students in their assigned seating area. Pre-program items will commence at 6.45 pm.

Canteen Closing & Reopening Dates
The Canteen has now closed for the year. Please note there will be no canteen available on the last day of school, Monday, December 8. Students will need to bring their own recess and lunch to school with them. The Munchery Canteen will not open until Week 2 of Term 1, Monday, February 2.

Class News

Year 6 Canberra Trip
‘The highlights of the Canberra trip for me were the free fall at Questacon as well as all the other exhibits, visiting Parliament House and watching the politicians behaving badly during question time. The Funnel Web ride at Jamberoo was the best!’ Elijah S
‘The Canberra trip was really fun and my favourite parts were the big waterside at the Aquatic Centre and the jumping pillow. I liked driving around and seeing all the different Diplomatic Missions. The buildings were amazing and looked like they came from different countries. Old Parliament House was really interesting, it was good to see the differences between the old senate chambers and the new.’ Ashley M
‘I loved seeing the whole city of Canberra from the Telstra Tower and the jumping pillow. I liked driving around and seeing all the different Diplomatic Missions. The buildings were amazing and looked like they came from different countries. Old Parliament House was really interesting, it was good to see the differences between the old senate chambers and the new.’ Ashley M

Australian Government Assistance For National Capital Excursion
Year 6 students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy. The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of $20 per eligible student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

Avondale School

Student At Nationals
Congratulations to Riley O (Year 6) who last week competed at the National Athletics Championships in Tasmania. Riley competed in the 100m Sprint (11 Years) and placed 4th in the final. To be the fourth fastest 11 year old in Australia is an amazing achievement. Riley then backed up as the anchor runner in the NSW 4 x 100m 11 Year Relay Team, which came 1st place in the final. See Riley pictured receiving his gold medal.

Handball Competition
Handball is a popular game played by many students at recess and lunch times. It requires incredible agility, flexibility, quick reflexes and hand-eye coordination.
The school handball competitions were held in the assembly over the last two weeks. There were over 130 students who registered their names for the Junior and Senior divisions. Several teachers then challenged some of the winning students only to find that there are some very skillful hand ballers at Avondale School.
Congratulations to the following students who will be presented with their trophies at the next assembly.

Junior Division
Girls Boys
1st Makiah J 1st Matthew L
2nd Erin B 2nd Ryan B
3rd Amy M 3rd Antwon M

Senior Division
Girls Boys
1st Zoe D 1st Ethan M
2nd Shakaya S 2nd Adam H
3rd Isabelle F 3rd Joshua V

Year 5...Lights, Camera, Action
Last Thursday, Year 5 travelled to Sydney to see how real studios and production teams operate as part of their Media unit study. The group was split into two and spent half the day at the ABC Studios and at the Powerhouse Museum. At the ABC, the students were given an in-depth guided tour of the sets and backstage areas of many of the children's favourite shows as well as seeing a live radio broadcast on air. The visit to the Powerhouse Museum was an opportunity for students to wander around and take in the many exhibitions and displays that caught their eye. Year 5 learnt a lot about how media actually works to influence and affect those who use it. Thank you to the parents who attended and helped supervise our students. Looking forward to seeing how many of our students take an interest in career choices in the media industry.
The Secondary Speech Night will be held in the Multi-Purpose Centre (MPC) on the School campus at 7.00 pm on Wednesday, December 10. School reports will be available for collection at the close of the program. We are looking forward to a great night where we celebrate the successes of the 2014 school year. All Year 7-12 students are to wear full summer uniform. Students are to be seated in roll groups by 6.50 pm. Please note that any Primary students or other children who are attending the Speech Night MUST be supervised by parents at all times.

Please note that School Reports will not be available until Speech Night. If you are unable to attend Speech Night, School Reports will be available for pick-up only from the Admin Building from Thursday, December 11 until Thursday, December 18 after which the Office will officially close for the year. They will not be posted out! The Office will reopen on Monday, January 19, 2015.

There are still limited spaces available at all three summer camps.

Junior Camp December 16-21
Teen 1 Camp January 12-18
Teen 2 Camp January 19-25

Registrations are open 24hrs a day at http://nnsywouth-com-au.adventistconnect.org
Principal's Message

This week I went and saw the Kindy Concert. What an amazing spectacle. I love the energy and sheer joy the children have in this wonderful production. As I sat watching I reflected on the value we have chosen to promote across the school to finish our journey – JOY. As we look back on the year we have so many great memories to bring us joy! I am not talking about superficial happiness. It brings me joy when I see students doing their best in exams and really focusing on the task. It brings me joy when I meet a group of students returning from an excursion and to be told that the students have been fantastic ambassadors for Avondale School. It brings me joy to see the smiling faces of Year 12 students who have returned recently from Cambodia with stories of hard work and real needs that were met.

I don’t know about you but to finish the year on a note of joy, brings a reflection of all the good times, the jobs done well, the memories made! As we finish the year together let’s promote joy.

“When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life, for your strength. Give thanks for your food, clothes to wear and a job to do. Above all give thanks for the joy of all this and more. It is a joy to be alive!” Tecumseh

As the season of ‘Joy to the world, the Lord is come…’ approaches and the Christmas lights that decorate our homes, let’s focus on the things that really count!! Enjoy the news for this week.

Dr. David Faulk
Principal

canteen news

Thank you everyone for your support of The Munchery this year.

I hope you have enjoyed the healthy and tasty choices for your children.

The first day of Canteen for 2015 will be Monday, February 2.

Term 1: Tuesday, January 27 - Thursday, April 2
Term 2: Monday, April 20 - Friday, June 26
Term 3: Monday, July 20 - Friday, September 18
Term 4: Tuesday, October 6 - Wednesday, December 9

Primary Calendar - Term 4

Primary School Last Day of School (Sports Uniform) ... December 8
Primary School Speech Night 7.00 pm in MPC (Years 1-6) ... December 8
Last Day for Primary Staff ... December 12
Christmas Day Holiday ... December 25
Boxing Day Holiday ... December 26
New Years Day Holiday ... January 1, 2015
Uniform Shop Open 9.00 am - 5.00 pm ... January 21, 2015
Australia Day Holiday ... January 26, 2015
Optional Meet the Teacher Day K-6 ... January 27, 2015
Primary Classes Commence ... January 28, 2015

Secondary Calendar - Term 4

Last Day for all students Years 7-11 ... December 5
Secondary Speech Night 7.00 pm in MPC ... December 10
Last Day for Secondary Staff ... December 12
Christmas Day Holiday ... December 25
Boxing Day Holiday ... December 26
New Years Day Holiday ... January 1, 2015
Uniform Shop Open 9.00 am - 5.00 pm ... January 21, 2015
Uniform Shop Open 9.00 am - 5.00 pm ... January 22, 2015
Australia Day Holiday ... January 26, 2015
First Day of School for Years 7, 11 & 12 ... January 27, 2015
First Day of School for Years 8, 9 & 10 ... January 28, 2015

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