Welcome to the 2014 school year! Our teachers have been at school for several weeks now and have been busy planning and preparing for an exciting year with your children. Thanks for visiting classrooms on Registration Day. It was a great opportunity for teachers to share information with parents.

Our team has looked at some research that shows that positive relationships between teachers and students have a huge impact on student learning. With this in mind teachers are implementing a range of strategies that will allow them to get to know and connect with your child. Our goal is to help your child make huge steps forward with learning in a happy and safe classroom.

If I can help to improve your child’s school experience in any way, please feel free to contact me. We hope this year is an amazing year for your family.

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

Thought for the week: “Respect yourself and others will respect you.” Confucius

And so 2014 begins! And what a great start! Our Year 7s are adjusting well, having had time this week to learn about each other, engage in outdoor education … and they had a blast! And the rest of us? Well, we went straight into the business of class tasks!

Next Week - The round of information nights begins next week – letters and emails have been sent to Year 11 and 12! Please make the time to attend. Our Peer Support program should start next Thursday too (February 13), connecting some of our great Year 11 students with our new Year 7s.

Learning, Citizenship and Spiritual Journey - We truly are about learning. 2014 is about encouraging personal best and achieving success. We’re about learning to be good citizens too – not just as members of a school but as people in a global community. We are also about taking time for our Creator and God. That walk is a very important one.

Communication 2014 - We are deliberately trying to give focus to our junior students (7 – 10) this year, insisting that all information and communication should be recorded IN THEIR DIARIES. All you need to know SHOULD be in their diary! Studywiz will be now accessible via your child’s login. We appreciate your help in refocusing our students’ skills so they take responsibility for their learning in this way.

THAT’S ALL THEN … for now – adjust to the routine of school again … and we’ll catch you next week!

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

Congratulations to our Captains and Prefects for 2014.

Captains: Zoe C and Liam B
Prefects: Laura A, Maegan C, Rhianna L, Lohter T, Ty D, Nicholas H, Brayden Hunt, Elijah S

New Staff Members

We would like to welcome our new teachers.

Mr Dale Skinner is our new Year 3 teacher. He is an experienced teacher and who loves technology and sport we are delighted to welcome him to our staff.

Mr Michael Hosken joins our Year 6 team. He studied engineering before completing his teaching degree. You may recognize him as he helped run our Get Active after school care program last year.

Primary Roll Classes

To assist us with identifying classes for administrative purposes, the class in which your child/ren are in can be identified in the following way:

Mrs Cameron KC Mr Robinson 3R
Mrs Lawrence KL Miss Moncrieff 3M
Mrs Morgan KM Mrs Roberts 4R
Mrs Dumbrell KD Mrs Thomson 4T
Mrs Schur 1S Mrs Bishop 4B
Miss Cherry 1C Miss Piez 5P
Mrs Hobson 1H Mrs Quick 5Q
Mrs Van Duinen 2CVD Mr Venegas 5V
Mrs Vaughan 2V Mrs Morton 6M
Mrs Watson 2W Mrs Hill 6Hi
Miss Cobbin 2C Mr Hosken 6H
Mr Skinner 3S

Classroom Helpers

Please note that all volunteer helpers need to sign in and out of campus at the Primary Office and wear a Visitor Badge. You are also required to complete the declaration at the back of the Volunteer Code of Conduct and return it to the Office before you begin volunteer work.

Medication Forms

Should your child require medication to be dispensed at School this year, you must complete a Medication Authority Form for 2014. These are available from the Office. All medication must be in the original container prescribed for your child and clearly labelled.

Collecting Students After School

We aim to use all of our teaching time with students and find that it is less distracting if parents wait in the lunch sheds rather than outside classrooms for their children. Thanks for helping us finish the day in a focused way!

Uniform Matters

Thank you to all our students for looking fantastic in their school uniform this week! Just a reminder that as per our Student Handbook, page 27, all students are expected to have an “appropriate, neat and tidy hairstyle. Girls’ hair should be their natural colour and long hair should be tied back. Boys’ hair should be their natural colour, neat and above collar length.”

In regards to jewellery, as per page 27 of the Handbook, “Jewellery, including bracelets, bands, chains, earrings, studs and rings, is not part of school uniform and is not to be worn. Any piercing must be done during school holidays to enable healing to take place and the jewellery to be removed before school – unhealed piercings will not be accepted as an excuse to wear jewellery. Plastic spacers may be worn in earlobe piercing only.”

Thank you for ensuring that your child is wearing their school uniform correctly.

Nicholas Makes The Best Decision Of His Life

Last Saturday afternoon, February 1, Nicholas H in Year 6 let all his friends and family know that he has made the choice to love and follow Jesus by being baptised. A large group of supporters gathered at Shingle Splitters to witness this important commitment.

Nicholas joins Avondale College Church and was welcomed into that spiritual family by his Pastor, Pr Eddie. Well done Nicholas. We are very proud of you.

Primary Choir

Miss Parsons is holding auditions next week for the Primary Choir. If you would like to be a part of this ensemble please see either Mrs Campbell or Miss Parsons for a note regarding rehearsal and performance information, and then write your name down for an audition time on the poster in the Music Room. The ensemble will be open to students in Years 3-6. Rehearsals for the Choir will begin on Tuesday, February 12.

Junior Band

Junior Band is on again this year with rehearsals starting Thursday, February 7. If you play and instrument or are keen to learn one, come to the Music Building next Thursday at 3.00 pm to organise it.

Ensembles - Next Week

Junior Strings - Thursday, 8.15 am - 8.45 am
Intermediate Strings - Friday, 8.15 am - 8.45 am
For more information please contact Mrs Campbell.

Sport News

Infant Sport

Infant Sport for Kindy to Year 2 students will be on Monday afternoons. Students wear their sports uniform on Mondays.

Years 3-6 Sport

We have exciting plans in place for sport this year. During Term 1 students from Years 3-6 have been organised into teams and will rotate through a variety of team sport activities. These activities provide an introduction to team sports and skill building. Towards the end of Term 1 students will be developing fitness by training for the Cross Country Run. Our focus in Term 2 will be athletics skills in preparation for our Athletics Carnival. During Term 3 all students from K-6 will be involved in an excellent program run by Sport in Schools Australia. This program incorporates gymnastic skills and focuses on fitness and flexibility. Years 3-6 will also choose one of 13 exciting sports to participate in. Term 4 will have a swimming focus with excellent professional instructors. During the year students have excellent opportunities in a whole range of different sporting experiences.

Swimming Club

What a start to the year with 59 students (record) turning up at Morisset Pool for swimming coaching. Students are swimming between 500m – 1000m per session, which helps improve their fitness very quickly. Students are enjoying a healthy breakfast at school provided by Sanitarium and the ABC Bookstore in Cooranbong. Swimming Club runs on Tuesday and Thursday at Morisset Pool from 7.00 am - 8.00 am. All participants must be able to swim 25m without stopping. There is NO minimum age required. The cost of $5 per session includes entry pool entry, swimming coach, bus and breakfast. This is to be paid to Mr Head each morning at the pool.

House Meetings

All students from Years 3-6 had their House meetings this week to select their Captains and Vice Captains. Students also selected which events they would like to compete in at the Swimming Carnival on Tuesday, February 18 at Morisset Pool. Students can enter events on the day without having to register their names. The Swimming Carnival Program was emailed to you yesterday.

HRIS Awards

The HRIS Sport Coordinators decided in 2013 to introduce two new awards for competing students. THE ALLROUNDER AWARD is presented to students who compete at CIS in three different sports in the same year. THE LONGEVITY AWARD is presented to students who have competed at CIS in the same sport for four consecutive years.
Sport is Important!

Sport is an important component of the School program. In fact, the Board of Studies requires that full participation be signed off for Certification at Year 10 and Year 11. Venues and transport have to be paid for regardless, which is a waste if students do not turn up for their sport.

Students, especially seniors, who ask their parents to sign them out of School before Sport may not complete the requirement. Parents please support the fitness and activity participation of students in the Sport program.

Year 7 Camp

Kayaking, sailing, hiking, capture the flag and challenge activities were just a few of the things Year 7 were involved in on Monday and Tuesday. The aim was to get the classes working and playing together outside the classroom. The Year 11 Peer Support leaders who came along to help and get to know the Year 7 students had a great time getting involved. The first camp was a success providing experiences that will be built upon over the next few years.

Swimming Carnival

February 11, 2014

Wyong Olympic Pool

Once again we are having our Swimming Carnival at the Wyong Olympic Pool (1 Ithome St, Wyong). There is some shade available and we will be providing some extra as well. Spectators will have a $1.70 entry fee at the front gate and are urged to bring a chair as there is limited seating. A canteen will be available on the day and the long term forecast is looking fine at this stage. Please feel welcome to come along to cheer and support.

Students do not have to pre register for events, they marshal on the day for the events they wish to enter. Ages for all events are what you will be on December 31, 2014 (what you turn this year). A competitor may compete in their age division only (ie no swimming in higher age groups, except for the relays). Age divisions for relays are Junior (ages 12-14), Intermediate (ages 15-16), Senior (ages 17-18).

Age Champion Trophies, Runner-up Age Champion Trophies and Third Place trophies will be awarded in each age division for both boys and girls. All events will contribute to Age Championships, except relays and open events.

Sports uniform is expected to be worn by students and they can change into House colours at the venue. Modest and appropriate swimwear is expected. As this is a normal school event school policies apply to behaviour.

Procedure for the Day

Departure

Students will board buses at 8.50am for a 9.00am departure after Roll Call.

At the Pool

1. Students are to assemble in the correct House Bay Area.
2. Students who go direct to the pool from home must get their name marked off at the recording table on arrival and departure.

Events

1. Event 1 will begin at 9.45am.
2. House Marshall’s and Captains will gather students together ready three events BEFORE their scheduled event.
3. The Chief Marshall will then collect competitors and direct them to the starting area.

Departure

1. Buses will leave the pool at approx 2.00pm and arrive at school in time for normal buses home.
2. Students leaving with parents prior to this time must sign out at the recording table.

Study Hall will be starting Week 4. Watch this space!
**Music Lessons**

The following is a list of private teachers offering music lessons at School. Please contact these teachers directly.

- **Kylie Stanley**: Simply Music (piano)  \(\text{0493} \ 3234\)
- **Ngareta Rorich**: Simply Music (piano)  \(\text{0493} \ 6086\)
- **Jen Hughes**: piano  \(\text{0497} \ 2037\)
- **Kylie Smith**: piano / voice  \(\text{0497} \ 1417\)
- **Cydela Coutet**: voice / piano  \(\text{0423} \ 455 \ 977\)
- **Alison Hodges**: voice  \(\text{0423} \ 523 \ 868\)
- **Esther Albert**: cello / violin / piano (Suzuki)  \(\text{0439} \ 420 \ 661\)
- **Gabriel Ontanu**: violin / viola (AMEB)  \(\text{0447} \ 282 \ 260\)
- **Emma Jones**: flute  \(\text{0432} \ 925 \ 199\)
- **Fred Cracknell**: saxophone / clarinet / brass  \(\text{0404} \ 082 \ 151\)
- **Tobias O’Keefe**: trumpet  \(\text{0402} \ 003 \ 214\)
- **Jake Bisognin**: guitar  \(\text{0400} \ 389 \ 612\)
- **Clara Michelini**: guitar  \(\text{0493} \ 000 \ 00\)
- **Garry Lawler**: group guitar lessons / ukulele  \(\text{0438} \ 608 \ 180\)
- **Brandon O’Donnell**: bass guitar / ukulele  \(\text{0416} \ 273 \ 569\)
- **Tiffiny Biddle**: drums  \(\text{0422} \ 285 \ 898\)
- **Claudio Carrasco**: guitar / piano / voice / drums / bass guitar  \(\text{0404} \ 079 \ 867\)

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**School Term Dates 2014**

- **Registration Day**: Tuesday, January 28
- **Term 1**: Wednesday, January 29 - Friday, April 11
- **Term 2**: Monday, April 28 - Friday, June 27
- **Term 3**: Monday, July 11 - Friday, September 19
- **Term 4**: Tuesday, October 7 - Wednesday, December 10

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**Principal’s Message**

It is amazing how quickly people settle into routine and the school takes on a life of its own. It’s great to have our enthusiastic students back and to see the Kindies beginning the journey while Year 12’s are already getting loaded up with assessments!

Thank you parents for supporting us to be consistent by having students in uniform and all prepared for the start of school.

As we begin the year our teachers have set their personal goals and our students have set their goals to achieve personal bests. The turnout for Primary Swimming Club was fantastic. If everyone does his or her personal best this year it will be a great year. It is great to have parents keen to support and communicate with teachers. I look forward to the stories of achievement.

Avondale School promotes family values and we begin this year talking about respect. Respect is an attitude of treating others how we would like to be treated. It is always followed by action. It is more than knowing what is right. It involves doing what is right.

Our teachers will promote this with students. You will see signs and posters up in classrooms. We thank you for reinforcing these values at home. Enjoy the news for this week.

Dr David Faull

Principal

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**Library news**

**Welcome**

It’s great to see so many students have found their way to the library at the beginning of the year. Reading a book or playing a quiet game is a fantastic way to start 2014.

We are open before school, during recess and lunchtime and for a short while at the end of the day. Our opening times are shown below. A parent should accompany Primary students who visit the library after school.

**Monday – Thursday**

- 8.00 am – 4.00 pm
- 8.00 am – 3.30 pm

Parents are welcome as borrowers at the library – it’s free and takes only a few minutes to complete the application form. Membership entitles you to borrow from most sections of the library including a ‘parenting’ section.

**K-6 Library Classes**

Primary students begin their half hour weekly library classes next week. Look forward to exciting stories and books, books, books... We also remember to bring your library bags along. If you don’t have a library bag yet, you can purchase them from the library for $5. All money from the sale of library bags goes towards expanding our library resources.

**K-12 borrowing**

Borrowing for all students commences next week, Week 3. Your student card is also your library card. Returning students can continue to use last year’s student card. New students (and those who no longer have last year’s card) please visit the front desk to borrow until your new cards for 2014 are issued.

**GET ACTIVE**

Get Active classes start this Monday, February 10. There are still positions available in the following activities:

- **Monday**: Craft / Fun 4 Sports
- **Tuesday**: Chess / Jump Start
- **Wednesday**: Automotive / Robotics
- **Thursday**: Baseball / Cooking / Kenseikan / Drama

Please book through the school website: avondaleschool.com.au or email getactive@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au for any enquiries.

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**Primary Calendar - Term 1**

- **Get Active Starts**: February 10
- **Kindy Rest Day**: February 13
- **Primary Swimming Carnival (Years 3-6)**: February 18
- **Kindy Rest Day**: February 21
- **CIS Tennis**: February 24
- **Year 4 Mini Winter Olympics**: February 26
- **HRIS Swimming**: February 27
- **HRIS Soccer Trials**: March 12
- **P & F Meeting**: March 12
- **CIS Swimming**: March 14
- **HRIS Netball Trials**: March 17

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**Secondary Calendar - Term 1**

- **Get Active Starts**: February 10
- **Secondary Swimming Carnival**: February 11
- **Year 12 Information Night (7.00 pm Music Building)**: February 11
- **Year 12 Drama Excursion**: February 12
- **Year 7 Parents Essay Writing Workshop**: February 12
- **Year 11 Information Night (7.00 pm Music Building)**: February 12
- **Week of Worship**: February 17 - 21
- **Year 10 Information Night (7.00 pm Music Building)**: February 18
- **Year 7 Information Night (7.00 pm Music Building)**: February 19
- **Year 10 Visual Arts Excursion**: February 21
- **Year 10 Business Week**: February 24 - 28