This has been a big week for Year 6. This year our Year 6 students have been supplied with their own iPad to use while at school. This is part of our transition program to high school, teaching our students to be responsible users of technology. It is also a great learning tool.

Our Year 2 classes hit the bush on Monday to build wet and dry environments. Due to the rain, they had an ample supply of mud to work with. It's fun to put classroom knowledge into practice!

Our Parents and Friends group invite you to come to their first meeting of the year, which will be held next Wednesday evening. The program will begin with a free BBQ tea. This is a great way for parents to get to know each other, and to support our school. Why not get involved. I look forward to seeing you there.

We have been learning about discernment over the past two weeks. Do you take the time to share with your children why you make certain decisions? Children learn a lot about making wise decisions from observing you in action.

**Avondale School Newsletter**

7 March 2014
Vol. 21 • No. 5

**Year 12 VET Work Placement**

Students studying Year 12 Vocational Educational and Training (VET) spent last week in industry gaining valuable skills including work readiness. Students where involved in a range of activities from Automotive, Commercial Cookery, Food and Beverage, Information Digital and Media Technology, Carpentry and Construction. Students were under the guidance of supervisors who have many years of experience, expertise and knowledge which they where able to pass on to our students. Avondale School would like to thank the businesses that assisted our students throughout this valuable week of placement.

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**On the Horizon**

Did anyone realise we’re now over half way through the term? Another solid week next week, with increasing assessment pressures, HRIS Swimming, a Year 8 History incursion and a trip to see The Lion King for some of our Music students. All year groups are reminded (again) that we’re all about doing your personal best – so plan, prepare, prioritise and START the work you need to so you have a strong finish with tasks set!

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**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** “The first point of wisdom is to discern that which is false; the second, to know that which is true.” Lucius Caelius Lactantius

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HRIS Swimming Carnival
Our Swimming Team did an amazing job at the HRIS Carnival last week! The competition was very tight all day. A highlight was seeing our Junior Girls win the relay. Congratulations to Rhiannon D 10-Year Girls for winning the Age Champion Award. We finished in 5th place in Division 1. This is an outstanding result! Well done team!

Division 1 Results
1st Central Coast Adventist School 1001 pts
2nd Lakes Anglican Grammar School 929 pts
3rd St Philips (Newcastle) College 922 pts
4th Newcastle Grammar School 822 pts
5th Avondale Primary School 765 pts
6th Macquarie College 748 pts
7th St Columba School 732 pts
8th Hunter Valley Grammar School 642 pts

Special congratulations to the following students who will be representing Avondale at the CIS Championships on March 26, 2014:
Erin B
Rhiannon D
Savannah W
Georgia N
Brayden H

CIS Swimming Carnival
Change of Date - March, 26

Swimming Carnival Presentation
Monday, March 10
The Swimming Carnival presentation will be held rain, hail or shine on Monday. If wet, it will be held in the Music Building.

Primary Chess Competition
New Date – Tuesday, March 11
The Primary Chess Competition will be held on Tuesday, March 11 in the MPC. Students who would like to participate are invited to register their name after assembly on Monday morning. If there are any parents willing to help run the event please contact the Primary Office.

Cross Country Training
Run Around Australia
Commences Monday, March 10
Each year as a part of training for our School Cross Country events, students run the equivalent of 11,500km (around Australia) by completing laps of the 1km school course. Students can run each day from 8.00 am to 8.45 am and at lunchtimes. Each student’s laps (km’s) are recorded and certificates are awarded in 10km increments. The training runs for two weeks and finishes on Friday, March 21.
Due to the morning dew and expected wet conditions students are encouraged to bring their joggers when training, along with a spare pair of dry socks. Parents and friends are welcome to train with students in the mornings.

Year 2 Wet and Dry Environments
Year 2 had a fun dirty and wet day on Monday creating wet and dry environments in the bush.

Year 6 iPads

Please check the school newsletter for more updates.
HRIS Hockey
Congratulations to Nyah W (Year 8) and Daniel W (Year 11) on their selection into their respective HRIS Hockey teams. They attended tryouts in Newcastle on Monday and were successful in being selected to represent the Hunter region.

HRIS Netball Trials
The HRIS Under 16 Netball Trials were held last week and Madison J (Year 8) was selected to play and Lauren P (Year 9) was selected to be the shadow player to fill in if anyone withdraws from the team.

HRIS Swimming
HRIS swimming will be on Thursday, March 13. Permission notes have been handed out. Please return them to the Sport Office ASAP and put in a few last training sessions.

Great Achievement!
Patrick B (Year 8) competed in the final round of the National Downhill Series at Thredbo last weekend and came home as the winner of the U15’s, beating his closest competitor by 0.14 of a second. He is looking forward to competing at Bright this weekend. Well done, Patrick! We wish you the best.

Congratulations Griffin!
Griffin L (Year 9) has received a Local Sporting Grant of $500 from Mr Pat Conroy MP. In addition to this, he was a finalist in the Lake Macquarie Junior Sportsman of the Year and received a Lord Taverner’s Scholarship for $300. Griffin was interviewed at School this week by local television network NBN. He will be touring to Sri Lanka with his NSW Cricket Team in the near future. Congratulations Griffin! We are very proud of you!

Cross Country
Please keep training for the Cross Country race which is held in the afternoon on Open Day, March 19. This is held on the school grounds, out the back paddock, running down the old airstrip and back.

Cross Country Distances
Boys
12 - 13 years 3kms
14 - 15 years 4kms
16 - 18 years 6kms

Girls
12 - 13 years 3kms
14 - 18 years 4kms

Swimming Age Champions
Swimming Carnival Age Champions received their awards in Chapel this week. Congratulations to these students. Some of them will now go on to HRIS Swimming Carnival held on Thursday, March 13 at New Lambton Swimming Pool in Newcastle.

Business Week was back this week and was better than ever. This year students offered car washing, pizza, hot chips, ice cream sundaes, cold drinks and a variety of delicious baked goods. As is tradition, students will donate 10% of their profits as a way of giving back to the community. Well done, Year 10 Commerce!

Year 10 Business Week

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

Steve Aitken, MLT

Reading Rulz!
SIGN UP TODAY AND START READING
Collect a check sheet from your English teacher. Get your books signed off as you read them. Hand your check sheet to your English teacher by November 3. Collect house points by reading. Fantastical!

Hope to see you there!

AVONDALE SCHOOL presents
Saturday 8 March 2014
7.00pm - 9.30pm @ MPC FOYER
Tickets $10 per person (inc coffee & cake)
Book online now at www.avondaleschool.com.au

1 house point for every book you read before November 3.
BONUS 2 points if you read 8 books.
Years 7-10
Principal’s Message

It seemed innocent enough at the time. Billy had just come home from high school and told his mom that he was going to a friend’s house to play football. She insisted that Billy stay home and do his homework. Instead, he slipped out the back door and spent the next two hours making tackles and tries in his friend’s backyard. But on the last play, he was tackled into a swing set and it knocked out his front tooth. It hurt like crazy, but not as badly as telling his parents.

That choice to disobey put Billy on a 10-year path of dental problems and pain that have continuing implications today. Ballplayer Roy Hobbs said in the film *The Natural*, “Some mistakes you never stop paying for”. Centuries earlier, Paul captured the same idea in the universal law of sowing and reaping. He said, “Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap”. (Galatians 6:7). Our choices often have a reach and impact that we could never imagine. Thus the apostle’s words remind us to choose wisely. The choices we make today produce the consequences we reap tomorrow. It’s far better to avoid getting into trouble, in the first place, than to struggle to overcome its consequences. Enjoy the news for this week.

Dr David Faull
Principal

First P&F Meeting for 2014

Wednesday, March 12. Starting with a FREE BBQ tea at 5.30 pm in the MPC foyer. Followed by a meeting from 7.00 - 8.00 pm. Be informed on Avondale School directions for 2014.

Avondale School OPEN DAY

19 March 2014 9.00am to 6.00pm
Cooranbong Campus 119 Avondale Road | Toronto Campus Corner Wangi Road & Parkside Parade

Premier’s Reading Challenge – K-9

March is sign up month for the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge. All students who complete the challenge will receive a certificate from the Premier of NSW and have their name included on the publicly available Honour Roll.

Years K-2 25 books from the PRC list plus 5 free choice selections

Years 3-9 15 books from the PRC list plus 5 free choice selections

A note about reading from a series: Only two books from one series may be included in those required on the PRC list. If you would like to read more from one series they need to be included as ‘free choice’ books.

Reading record sheets are available from the library. Please bring your reading record to the library each time you complete five books. More detailed information about the Premier’s Reading Challenge is available on their website: https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html

Reading Rulz – Years 7-10

This year students from Years 7-10 have the opportunity to participate in a new Avondale School reading challenge. Students are required to read eight books from a specified genre list. Each book a student reads will earn one point for their Sport House and if all eight are completed two bonus points are awarded. What a great way to earn up to ten points for your House! And there’s even more good news … If the books Years 7-9 read for this challenge are also on the Premier’s Reading Challenge list they can be included in both challenges. Checklists are available from English teachers. Please remember that each book needs to be signed off by an English teacher as soon as it is completed.

Where will I get the books I need? There is a wide selection in the school library, or you can read books you have at home or borrow from other libraries.

Sign up and start reading today!!!

canteen news

Easter is just around the corner and you will be pleased to know this means ‘Hot Cross Buns’ are available! We have a variety for sale in the canteen for $1 each, including fruity, fruitless or chocolate chip. Come buy one now!
2014 New South Wales Premier's Reading Challenge

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au