When it comes to getting our kids to do homework and study, it's not always an easy task. We have spent significant airtime sharing various study tips with you via our connection to a 'study skills handbook' and referring you to the link we have to a Study Skills website. It continues to be something I wish to encourage our students to be successful at, and endeavour to grow themselves in the challenges of preparing for assessments, class tasks and exams. Here are some really great suggestions as parents that we can pursue.

1. Get Organised. With homework, tests and extracurricular activities, a planner can help your child keep everything organised and written down. Review it together at the beginning and end of the day.

2. Know the Expectations. Be sure your child knows how and what they will be graded on. If expectations aren’t clear, encourage your child to seek clarification from their teacher – or if they can’t do that, don’t be afraid to ask yourself!

3. Designate a Study Area. Provide a quiet, well-lit, low-traffic space for study time. Take it one step further and institute a ‘communications blackout’ policy with no cell phones or instant messaging allowed until schoolwork is done. Turn the TV set off too!

4. Think Positively. Encourage your child to think positively when studying or heading into an exam and by all means, avoid catastrophic thinking.

5. Practice Active Listening. Encourage your child to try concentrating on the main points being made in class, think about what the speaker is saying and pay attention to how things are said (gestures, tone of voice, etc.). They should avoid talking or thinking about problems when listening.

6. Read Actively. It’s all too easy for students to skim over an assigned book chapter and not know the main points of what they just read. Consider helping your child develop: taking notes as a chapter is read; learning to skim material, learning to study tables and charts; learning to summarise what has been read in his/her own words; and learning to make flashcards for quick review of dates, formulas, spelling words, key terms/concepts.

7. Allow for regular time. Create a certain time each night where school work is being done. The regularity and consistency of this really helps establish those study patterns.

8. Watch for signs of frustration during homework sessions. No learning can take place if a child is angry or upset over an assignment that is too long or too difficult. You might have to step in and simply halt the homework for that night, offering to write a note to the teacher explaining the situation – you may even like to suggest talking together with the teacher to sort things out.

9. Help with homework. If it is productive to do so, calmly and cheerfully help with work, but not if it is a task your child must do on his/her own or learn themselves from the process.

Everything we’re aiming to do is about bringing the best out in your child(ren)!

Thanks for a great term of support!

Benton Craig
Head of Secondary

REFERENCES:
https://childdevelopmentinfo.com/learning/tips-for-helping-kids-and-teens-with-homework-and-study-habits/lt.WOWXz7Gr1gg
Year 2 Wetlands Excursion
On Tuesday, Year 2 went on a discovery excursion to the Hunter Wetlands Centre. They had a wonderful time dip netting in the wetlands and then investigating the live pond animals they collected under a microscope. Students enjoyed observing birdlife and nature through their own set of binoculars when walking through the Shortland Estuary habitat.

Cross Country
The Primary Cross Country events were held this week on a very wet and muddy track. Many parents and friends were there to support and cheer on the students as many pushed themselves to the limit. Over the course of the day only one record was broken by Caitlin C in the 8 Year Girls 2km (9.08 min). Congratulations Caitlin! This year students ran with coloured wristbands to support students running in the same Sporting House. Congratulations to Pacific House for winning the Shield for 2017:

1st 203 pts Pacific House
2nd 200 pts Hunter House
3rd 183 pts Macquarie House
4th 149 pts Watagan House

Congratulations to the following students who were Age Champions:
6 Years (1km) Winnie L & Seth H
7 Years (1km) Addison M & Dylan J
8 Years (2km) Caitlin C (record) & Max T
9 Years (2km) Ella J & Jayden T
10 Years (2km) Joelle C & William L
11 Years (3km) Kaitlyn B & Talen B
12 Years (3km) Mackinley R & Luke P

Presentation of trophies will be held at the first assembly next term on Wednesday, April 26.

HRIS Cross Country
Thursday, 4 May 2017
The HRIS Cross Country will be held at Avondale College on Thursday, May 4. Congratulations to the students below who came in the top five places for their age group and have been selected for the team. These students are strongly encouraged to make a commitment to continue training over the holidays so that they can compete at their best in their HRIS event. Please note that only the 8-12 year age groups compete at HRIS.

8 Years Boys & Girls
Max T Caitlin C
Mitchell L Sienna C
Tom K Kayela H
Xander H Sienna B
Rylan B Carissa L

8 Years Girls
Jayden T Ella J
Lachlan C Amelia S
Jack H Hannah L
Luke S Amayah D
Brent R Mahalia P

9 Years Boys & Girls
Lachlan C Amelia S
Jack H Hannah L
Luke S Amayah D
Brent R Mahalia P

9 Years Girls
Jayden T Ella J
Lachlan C Amelia S
Jack H Hannah L
Luke S Amayah D
Brent R Mahalia P

10 Years Boys & Girls
William L Joelle C
Ethan C Samantha C
Tallan E Ellah-Rose A
Zack M Emma P
Harry K Siena C

You’re invited to a fun morning of activities, craft and an Easter Egg Hunt!
Bring your family and friends!
Where: Kindy Area, Avondale School
When: Sunday, April 9
Time: 9:30am -10:30am
Ages: 12 and under
Year 10 Anna Bay Camp

Congratulations Ty!

Year 8 Broken Bay Camp

Abseiling, cooking damper on the campfire, archery, ropes courses and time with friends. Walks along the beach, fun new games and a chance to connect with God out in nature. What more could you ask for? The annual Year 8 camp at Broken Bay on the Hawkesbury River was so much fun that one student asked if they could go again next year! Although the scattered showers made some of the activities a little more difficult than usual the Year 8’s got in and made the most of the opportunities. Some challenged themselves by abseiling for the first time on a 12m cliff while others revealed a hidden talent for archery. Although the students came back with energy levels near zero (and a lot of wet clothes), awesome memories were made and adventures shared. Thanks to all the parents and staff who contributed to making this special event possible for our Year 8 students!
Our Book Fair is Coming!
We’d love you to know that our annual Book Fair will be held from Monday, May 22 to Wednesday, May 24 in the library. There will be book bargains galore that you won’t want to miss! Please note that this year we are holding our Book Fair in Week 5 of Term 2 instead of during our Term 3 Book Week activities. Watch this space for more information.

Winter Uniform
Students are required to wear their full winter uniform from Day 1, Term 2. For all your winter uniform needs, the Uniform Shop will be open for two days during the school holidays.

UNIFORM SHOP HOLIDAY HOURS
SUNDAY 23 APRIL, 9AM-5PM
MONDAY 24 APRIL, 9AM-5PM

ANZAC Day March - April 25
We invite students to attend the ANZAC Day March in Morisset on April 25. Students are to wear their full winter school uniform and meet in the top railway commuter car park from 9.30 am, ready to begin the march at 10:00 am.

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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

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

We Value Resilience