Primary Calendar - Term 1
Super Week of Mega Praise.............Mar 11 - 15
P&F Meeting 7pm Admin Building......Mar 11
Run Around Australia Starts..........Mar 18
Parent Teacher Night.....................Mar 19
CIS Swimming..............................Mar 20
Y2 Hunter Wetlands Excursion..........Apr 3
Chess Competition.........................Apr 5
Daylight Savings Ends....................Apr 7
Primary Cross Country....................Apr 8
Y5 Camp.....................................Apr 10 - 12

Secondary Calendar - Term 1
Y10 Business Week.........................Mar 11 - 15
P&F Meeting 7pm Admin Building......Mar 11
HRIS Junior Football Trial Opens........Mar 12
Y11 & 12 Visual Arts Excursion.........Mar 13
Y11 Construction Incursion..............Mar 14 & 15
HRIS Swimming............................Mar 14
Y7-11 Parent Teacher Nights.............Mar 18-19
Outdoor Movie Night Fundraiser........Mar 23
Y7 & 10 Vaccination Day Dose 1.........Mar 26
AICES Swimming..........................Mar 26

School Terms 2019
Term 1.......................................Jan 29 - Apr 12
Term 2.......................................May 6 - Jul 5
Term 3.......................................Jul 22 - Sep 27
Term 4.......................................Oct 14 - Dec 6

THE VIEW

Deep Learning
I love learning, helping others learn and learning in a deep way. We know that education needs to be engaging and interesting for students. We want to help them create knowledge and develop skills using real life situations and problems so they can all flourish. We are currently partnering with the Association of Independent Schools NSW and working alongside other educators to build knowledge and practices that develop deep learning for all students to become lifelong learners.

The Deep Learning Competencies are the capabilities we are seeking to develop in our learners as evidence of what we call Deep Learning. These capabilities are drawn from global research over the last 20 years and are the capabilities that academics, the world of work, curriculum authorities and children acknowledge as the most important in enabling them to flourish and succeed in today’s global and connected world. The Deep Learning Competencies are known as the 6 C’s and include Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication, Character, Citizenship and Collaboration.

Our Year 3 and 6 teams are developing exciting units of work for Term 2 where they’re deliberately embedding the competency of character in their units, focusing on grit, tenacity, perseverance and resilience. The aim is to provide students with opportunities to develop grit, tenacity, perseverance and resilience to allow them to work through challenges, experiences and setbacks effectively. As learners they will understand the importance of these character qualities as essential for creating meaningful change in life, school and the world. We have amazing teachers throughout the school, doing an amazing job in their classrooms.

The Secondary School is buzzing with new initiatives in learning as well: FAB LAB – Every Thursday lunchtime students will have the opportunity to create and tinker with large and small scale projects. They will get to work with professionals in the STEM field through the “CSIRO STEM Professionals in Schools” program. One area of interest for some students is coding. This will be a time and place where they can explore block coding and coding in Python. It is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) initiative that engages students who are interested in these areas. The main aim is for students to HAVE FUN with STEM! Their first project is to build and launch their own hot air balloon!

The new direction with Project Based Learning is very evident in the English Department. In next week’s Newsletter you will see the amazing unit where Year 8 students are writing and illustrating a book of their own! Each cohort will be doing a PBL unit this year: Y7 - ‘Telling stories’ (giving voices to unsung heroes in our community), Y9 - Romeo and Juliet drama performance, and Y10 - gender stereotypes in advertising. Also save the date – August 15! There is a huge Medieval Day planned where Year 7s and 8s will be part of another PBL Cross-Curricular Project.

So much fun, so much learning!

Nathan Hill & Julie Carter
Leading Learning Team

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GENERAL

Parent Teacher Interviews
Tuesday, March 19
Primary Parent Teacher Interviews will be held in the iCentre on Tuesday, March 19 from 3.30pm until 8.00pm. These interviews are for teachers to share how your child has settled into the new school year. Teachers do not have detailed assessment data to share at this stage of the year, but are happy to discuss your child’s level of engagement, social interaction and general level of performance. Interim reports will be emailed out later next week. Bookings can be made online at https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au using the School Event Code xmacy . We look forward to seeing you there!

Before School Supervision
For your convenience we have a teacher on duty from 8.00am each day. To ensure your child’s safety, no students are permitted to be left unsupervised on campus before 8.00am. Thank you for noting this.

Play Equipment Out of Bounds After School
Just a reminder that the play equipment is ‘out of bounds’ at the end of school to all students and their siblings. Thank you for helping keep our children safe.

LEADING KIDS TO JESUS
We are looking for Students/Parents to give 1 HOUR a week to help lead our primary aged students closer to Jesus through Bible Reading/Study. If you would like to help, please contact James. Starting March 22 jgreensill@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au or 0428099996

SPORT

Swimming Carnival Awards
Primary Swimming ribbons and Age Champions were announced this week in assembly. Congratulations to Macquarie who were the overall winners on the day.

Cricket Team
Congratulations to the following students who have been trialling for the school cricket team over the last 4 weeks. The following students will play against Macquarie College and Central Coast Adventist School at Macquarie College on Thursday, March 28.

SUPER WEEK OF MEGA PRAISE

March 11 - 15
Y3-6  9.00am
K-2  10.15am

Avondale School
Learning to Count in Year 8 Digital Technology Classes

Last week those students who are part of Mrs Merriman’s Technology class utilised their problem-solving skills and creative thinking to engage in a significant enquiry learning experience, which enabled them to discover binary numbers.

With the assistance of James May (one of the presenters from the cult TV series, Top Gear), students discovered the link that exists between these numbers and the ‘electronic switches’ that are used within a computer to send messages.

Students had the opportunity to link the notion of these switches and binary numbers with ASCII code. (The ASCII code is a set of 128 binary numbers, which each represent one of the 128 common characters found on the keyboard.) For example: the letter ‘a’ has the binary number 0110 0001.

Mr Hibbard assisted students in learning how to use the Indice Rules that they had recently learned about in Mathematics to convert between binary numbers and regular counting numbers.

Students were also encouraged to learn to count in binary up to 62 using the fingers on both of their hands.

Lauren D, Matilda H, Jacey C and Tanika B each received special awards for the work they did in mastering counting in binary with speed and accuracy – well done, ladies!!

SPORT

All Schools Triathlon

Avondale School attended the NSW All Schools Triathlon last Friday and competed in the teams’ event for Junior, Intermediate and Senior.

Avondale School performed very well against some very tough competition from elite schools both in greater Sydney and beyond.

Our Intermediate Team - Rhiannon D, Tyson H and Liam B were our best result coming 15th overall out of 150 teams.

Congratulations to all our other competitors for representing our school so well.

STEP UP

3.30 - 4.30PM THURSDAYS 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!

Swimming Carnival Age Champions

Congratulations to our Swimming Carnival Age Champions who received their trophies last week before Chapel. Special mention goes to Rhiannon D and Jason L, who broke long standing records. We wish these students all the best as they attend the HRIS Swimming Carnival next week on March 14.
Pupil Free Date Change
Our 2019 Calendar had Friday, June 7 as a Pupil Free Day, however we now need to change this to the final Friday of Term 3, September 27. We had initially booked over 20 of our staff into the Global Leadership Summit which was planned for the term end block. Unfortunately they have changed the date at the last minute and in order for us to make that work, we need to now swap the Pupil Free Day from Term 2 to Term 3. We apologise if that affects any plans you might have had, but it is due to circumstances beyond our control.

Absence SMS System
We are currently in the process of moving to a new school database. From the start of this year we have been entering all attendance data into this new system. However, please note that the new system has not yet been set up to send you absence SMS notifications. We thank you for your understanding and patience as we transition over.

Review of Discipline Policy
We are undertaking a major review of the Secondary Discipline Policy. We are also looking at making this an ELC - Year 12 policy, recognising it will be phrased differently at the different stages to make it age appropriate. This will be a journey that Admin and staff will work on together. We are keen to have the new policy principle-driven and focused on redemptive, restorative practice that will enable our students, and community, to learn from the situations that arise. Mr Gary Marsters will be spearheading this review and he is keen to see maximum buy-in as the process unfolds. If you have any insights as parents that you would like to see considered, please contact Mr Marsters.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
It’s been exciting to see that well over 100 students have signed up for the PRC so far in just the first week of our signup month! All through March you’ll be able to come to the library and sign up for the challenge. We have plenty of PRC titles and an abundance of books to use as free choice titles. Are you up to the challenge? Check out the iCentre Landscape page for all the PRC information you need. http://landscape.avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au/homepage/1762

Years 5-8 KidsLitQuiz
The KidsLitQuiz Selection Trials were held this week and students with great book knowledge tested their skills. The Team lists went up on the door of the iCentre today. Our school hosts the Newcastle Region Heat on March 27 and the winning team goes to the National Final in Sydney. The winning Australian team then goes on to compete in the International Final in Singapore later in the year. It is a wonderful opportunity for our readers to get involved and compete against some other great students!

Year 3-6 Book Jar
The library now has a Book Jar for Years 3-6! This is for good readers in the Primary School who can’t decide what to read next. There are 9 fiction genres, plus true stories, and these are each represented by a different colour. Students can select the book genre they want, eg. funny stories, by selecting the coloured paper assigned for that genre - yellow. Each strip of paper has a book title and the call number of the book. Students then find the book on the shelf and can get to read a book they may not have thought about reading. Why not try the Book Jar for your next book!

Private Music Tutors
Are you interested in having music lessons? We have many great tutors and instruments available to learn on. Please contact tutors directly to arrange lesson times.

Piano
Kylie Stacey (Simply Music, AMEB, traditional) / 0409 939 302
Cybèle Coutet (AMEB) / 0423 455 977
Jan Hughes / 4977 2037
Henry Higgins / 0490 040 308
Sophie-Lee Johnson / 0490 451 781

Voice
Cybèle Coutet (AMEB) / 0423 455 977

Strings
Henry Higgins (cello) / 0490 040 308
Esther Albert (cello / violin / double bass) / 0439 420 661

Woodwinds
Meldi Arkinstall (flute) / 0413 548 985
Fred Cracknell (saxophone / clarinet) / 0404 082 151

Brass
Fred Cracknell / 0404 082 151

Guitar
Jake Bisognin / 0400 389 612
Toby Zeuschner / 0405 405 131
Henry Higgins / 0490 040 308
Gary Lawler (group lessons / ukulele) / 0438 608 180

Drums
James Dennett / 0401 549 084

ALL SCHOOL

Libraries

We value ... RESPONSIBILITY