One of the things I love most about Avondale is the constant action and wide variety of opportunities for students to get involved.

**THIS WEEK:**
- Kindy students celebrated ‘T Week’ by wearing technicolour ties.
- Year 6 students were exhausted but exhilarated after a day of physical challenges and teamwork on Challenge Day.
- 3M have been cooking up a storm.
- Mothers’ Day gifts and cards have been under construction.
- Our HRIS Cross Country Team represented us brilliantly.
- Years 3 and 5 have been doing some final preparation for NAPLAN testing.

**NEXT WEEK:**
- NAPLAN testing commences on Tuesday.
- We continue to learn and work together on a myriad of amazing projects.

We have been learning to cooperate over the past two weeks. Collaboration and teamwork is such an important life skill. Why not work as a team to make Mothers’ Day special at your home. We have been learning to cooperate over the past two weeks. Collaboration and team-work is such an important life skill. Why not work as a team to make Mothers’ Day special at your home. You are really special and very much loved!

**Mrs Deb Cooper**
*Head of Primary*

dcooper@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au

**Thought for the week:** “The keystone of successful business is cooperation. Friction retards progress.” *James Cash Penney*

**Week 2 – check!**
If we were back on the bike last week, we’re peddling like mad in Week 2! We had HRIS Soccer on Tuesday which saw our boys and girls teams do us proud. Then HRIS Cross Country on Thursday had our Secondary team come second out of 16! A great result, bettered only by our Primaries! An awesome effort from each runner – just being involved can make the difference! All year groups were given their assessment schedules this week – hard copy, email and links to iCal. NO EXCUSES to get things sorted!

The week finishes with our performing groups at Memorial Church tomorrow. We really have a top group of students here at Avondale!

**On the Horizon …**
Next week begins with Year 7 & 9 Vaccinations on Monday and then for them NAPLAN takes out most of the week. Year 10s are into the throws of Work Experience – I can’t wait to hear their ‘real world’ experiences! And Years 8 and 12 go on camp/retreat from Wednesday. Year 11 will have no distractions to bed down practices for good learning!

**THAT’S ALL FOLKS … EXCEPT, I’VE OFTEN WONDERED …**
Can you daydream at night? I hope Mothers’ Day is extra special for all our mums!

**Mr Benton Craig**
*Head of Secondary*
b CRAIG@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au

**YEAR 6 CHALLENGE DAY**
This week Year 6 were pushed to their limits while participating in Challenge Day. Students had to work as a team to complete all kinds of activities including raft building, mountain bike riding, boot camp (with Sargent Hill), foot-cross and kayaking to gain as many points as possible. It was fantastic to see Avondale College students, parent helpers, teachers and students working together, cooperating and encouraging each other to give their very best. Lots of fun was had and despite the sore muscles the following day, many happy memories were created.
General News

ICAS Academic Competitions

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools are designed to challenge students who are not just achieving well at their Year Level, but are functioning above Year Level.

They are academic competitions designed to challenge top students. With this in mind, teachers will be nominating students to sit the tests based on demonstrated ability in class and on assessment tasks.

Lists of students who have been selected to enter the competitions will be posted on notice boards at school. If your child is not selected but you would still like them to sit the competitions we can enter them for you at your expense.

The costs are as follows: Science, English and Mathematics, $8.80 each and the Spelling test costs $12.10. Forms will be available from the Office soon. Watch the Newsletter for further details and dates.

NAPLAN Tests

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will participate in the NAPLAN tests which will be conducted next week from May 13 - 15.

Language Conventions and Writing May 13
Reading May 14
Numeracy May 15

In the numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors.

Friday, May 16 — A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom may be provided.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html.

Citizenship Award

Congratulations to the following students for making our school a better place:
Marcus H
Matthew L
Kaine R

Travel Safe

Students, please be safe travelling to and from school when riding or skating by following the road rules and by making wise decisions.

Parents and the school share responsibility in helping you with understanding and following safe practices when travelling to and from Avondale School.

In NSW, paths can be legally used by both pedestrians and children under 12 years of age who ride bicycles, scooters or skateboards. It is also legal for an accompanying adult who is supervising a child under 12 years old to ride on the footpath with that child.

To be safe while riding to school:
• Always wear an approved safety helmet, properly fitted and fastened to your head. The Police will fine cyclists or skaters who ride without an approved helmet.
• Always obey the road rules, including traffic lights, stop signs and give way signs.
• Ride in a predictable manner that does not require other road or path users to react suddenly to your movements.
• Give hand signals when changing direction or turning left or right.
• Make yourself as visible as possible by wearing bright, light or reflective clothing.
• Maintain control of your vehicle at all times. It is an offence to ride with both hands off the handlebars, feet off the pedals or to carry anything which prevents you from having control.

Year 2 Athletics Carnival Change of Date – Friday, June 20

Please note that the Year 2 Athletics Carnival listed in the school calendar to be held on Thursday, June 26 has been brought forward and will now be held on Friday, June 20. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Enrol now Kindy 2015

Download Enrolment Form today from our website
www.avondaleschool.com.au or phone 4977 0200
**HRIS Soccer Gala Day**

The Avondale Girls’ Soccer team competed in the annual HRIS Soccer Gala Day at Stevenson Park, Mayfield on Tuesday. Despite coming up against challenging opposition, the girls played very well and the experience was valuable. Special thanks to Eleanor J (Year 12) for coaching the girls in the lead up. Congratulations to all the players for demonstrating sportsmanship in all the games.

Sixteen enthusiastic boys from Years 10-12 represented Avondale School at the annual HRIS Soccer Gala Day in Adamstown on Tuesday, May 6. The first game against Newcastle Grammar resulted in a 0-2 loss, followed by a loss against Central Coast Adventist School of 0-1. After a third loss to St Philips School, the boys were able to muster their waning energy levels after lunch with two wins against Scone Grammar School and another school. The boys are to be congratulated for implementing our school value of cooperation and learning the importance of teamwork regardless of the outcome.

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**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. Fantastic!

1 house point for every book you read before November 3.

**BONUS** 2 points if you read 8 books.
Dr David Faull  
Principal

Enrol a friend and receive a $100 Uniform Shop voucher!  

Your children love Avondale School, so why not tell your family and friends about it? For each new family you refer to Avondale School you will receive a $100 voucher to spend at the Uniform Shop. Just remind them to include your name and phone number on the enrolment form. Once the family enrolls you will be sent your voucher.

library news

K-9 Premiers' Reading Challenge  
How is your reading going for the PRC? So far 22 students have completed their PRC! Well done! You have until August 22 to finish your reading but don’t leave it to the last minute! Happy reading everyone.

Reading Aloud Enhances Learning  
Dr Arlene Taylor, brain function guru, spoke recently to an attentive crowd of parents and students at a P&F organised event. Arlene, is the founder and president of Realizations Inc, a non-profit corporation that engages in brain-function research and provides related educational resources. She showed evidence from research demonstrating that reading aloud enhances learning and the benefits of body movement to improve brain function. Arlene is booked to return for a further presentation at the school on Tuesday evening September 2, 2015 (that’s next year), so mark it in your calendars. For more information her website is www.arlenetaylor.org The next P&F Info night is coming up on May 19, at 7.00 pm in the Music Building with Paul Dillon.

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Principal’s Message  
Can you just imagine what trying to organise seventy plus teenagers to work together on a common project in their own time would be like? Last Saturday and Sunday the musical talent of Avondale School came together for two solid days of ‘music camp’ to practice for the upcoming School Musical. It was focused and concentrated effort which exemplified what cooperation can do. At the end of the weekend, students even stacked chairs and packed up so the MPC was ready for school! Wow! Just amazing what a group of people working as a team can accomplish.

This week we began processing our Kindy applications for 2016. I had the pleasure of sharing the Mothers’ Day afternoon tea with all the little people and they had stories to tell about ‘big school’ already! If you know someone who is planning to send his or her child to Avondale School in 2015, especially for Kindergarten, now is the time to apply. You may even want to recommend that family and if they include your name on their enrolment form we will send you a $100 voucher for your next purchase at the Uniform Shop. Yes, $100 off if you bring a new family to Avondale School and they enrol for 2015. We are off to a really positive start and I trust you will enjoy the news for this week.

Principal

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