Teaching our Boys to Respect Women

Recently I have been having conversations with my three daughters about the need to respect each other – as they share space, as they sometimes need privacy and in dealing with social media. It’s actually proven a little harder than I thought! But we’re navigating things as a family as positively as we can. The idea that my girls are also interacting with others at school, church and elsewhere, learning to be respectful in a ‘say-it-as-it-is’ texting culture is also challenging. I was then forced to think about the ways boys respect girls and women when confronted with a few conversations and activities that have occurred during school time in the last few weeks.

In an attempt to raise student awareness on this, I mentioned at an assembly on Monday the need for the boys to behave as gentlemen and treat the girls like ladies, in all interactions. Simple things like letting them into class first, speaking to them politely and refraining from general name-calling. After a few snickers and smiles, I let the students know that they should not be dismissive of demeaning behaviour, or that the girls should think they were less than worthy of being treated as ladies all the time. I was unhappy. Students are old enough (even as young as 5) to understand respect and consent. No young lady should be made to feel uncomfortable and less than valued as a lovely, attractive and honoured member of the opposite sex. And non-respect leads to not accepting “No, I don’t like it” as a reason to stop behaviour or actions.

As I explored this, I came across a website (http://www.justincoulson.com/respectwomen/) that delivered some really great conversation about this. Below is an adaptation of what I found.

So it’s up to all of us to teach respect, knowing that in Australia, predominantly at the hands of males: one in three women over the age of 15 have experienced physical violence; one in five have experienced sexual violence; and one in four children in Australia experience domestic and family violence.

So here are some possible game-changers in teaching boys better:

- Show respect by example (our example can be the best model of how to treat others with respect)
- Speak kindly (simply saying “please” and “thank you” can be huge respecters of individuals)
- Be helpful (show children how to offer help)
- Monitor media (minimise exposure to games and shows that glorify violence or condone gratuitous sex)
- Pre-arm against pornography (Let boys know that pornography exists, that people might want to show it to them, that others might think it’s funny, and that it teaches bad things. Let them know they can and should talk to us if anyone tries to show it to them. It is NOT something ‘all boys do’.)
- Talk about the issues (when you see disrespect, talk about it)
- Teach intimacy (and what it means to be in a healthy relationship where people love one another and express that love in healthy, functional ways)
- Teach consent (our boys must understand that no means no)
- Call out sexism (let them know sexism is not cool and it is not funny)

Ultimately, regardless of everything that we say, it is what we do that makes the biggest impact on our boys’ respectfulness. Let’s aim to teach them well.
**Uniform Matters**
As per the School Handbook, page 27, girls are permitted to wear either white regulation school socks, turned down at the top or plain black stockings (40-80 denier), not ribbed with their winter tunic. Footless tights and leggings are NOT to be worn. Thank you for noting this.

**After School Pickup**
Thank you to the many families that use our Carline Service in the afternoon to collect your child/children. We would like to encourage all parents that need to pick up students to take advantage of this convenient and safe service provided for the collection of your children from school. Please note that due to limited parking and after school care bus traffic, parents are asked NOT to park inside the school gates in the car parks including the ELC (unless you are collecting children from the ELC). Thank you for noting this and helping to keep our students safe.

**Entertainment Books**
Please return all unwanted Entertainment Books to the class teacher as soon as possible. Thank you for noting this.

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**HRIS Basketball**
There were 13 schools from the HRIS who met at Broadmeadow Basketball Stadium for the Basketball Gala Day this week. Avondale School was represented in the Junior and Senior Divisions with a girls and boys team in both divisions. The matches were fast and at times furious as they were only 15 minutes long with no half time. Many of our students had never played in a basketball competition before so they were on a steep learning curve to match it with more experienced teams.
Each individual student is to be commended for their efforts, skill and teamwork demonstrated at this big event. Special congratulations go to our four outstanding coaches who have spent many hours preparing the students for this competition; Pr Mel (Senior Boys), Mrs Watson (Senior Girls), Mr Spiros (Junior Boys) and Mrs Vaughan (Junior Girls).

**Results:**
- Junior Boys: 2nd
- Senior Boys: 5th
- Junior Girls: 6th
- Senior Girls: 4th

**Netball Trials**
This week students were asked to register their names for Netball trials to select a Senior and Junior Girl’s team. We have had a great response from the senior girls (Years 5 & 6) and would like more juniors (Years 3 & 4) to register. Students don’t need to be experienced to try out. If you would like to learn the game of netball please register your name with Mrs Vaughan.

**CIS Cross Country – Thursday, June 15**
Our school Cross Country team will be heading down to Sydney next week for the CIS Cross Country Championships. There are 12 students representing the Primary School and we wish them all the best at the event.

**Athletics Carnivals – Parent Helpers**
If you would like to help at a station on any of the Athletics Days, please leave your name at the Primary Office.
SPORT

Athletics Carnival

It was a great day for our Athletics Carnival a few weeks ago with high participation in most age groups. The overall results had Pacific House winning by only 60 points. The House Captains stood out in their new shirts and were able to get lots of students involved. We had 11 new records set this year:

- Kameli N took 8m off a 1994 Discus record.
- Reilly D broke 3 records in the High Jump - 400m and 800m.
- Liam B beat the 14 boys high jump record by 10cm
- Chad M broke the 400m record for the 18 years boys.
- Tyler H broke the 800m record by 4 seconds.
- Joshua V broke the Discus record for the 15 years boys event.
- Jie A-B, Shakaya S and Isabelle F all broke Javelin records.

The Age Champions were acknowledged at Chapel on Monday receiving their trophies.

12 year girls 1st place Reilly D
12 year boys 1st place Rhett D
13 year girls 1st place Rhiannon D
13 year boys 1st place Mitchell A
14 year girls 1st place Samara B
14 year boys 1st place Gregory E
15 year girls 1st place Isabelle F
15 year boys 1st place Ty D
16 year girls 1st place Lisa D
16 year boys 1st place Jemuel C
17 year girls 1st place Casey H
17 year boys 1st place Zack M
18 year girls 1st place Bryelle C
18 year boys 1st place Chad M

HRIS Athletics Carnival this year is the second day back next term on July 25 at Glendale. Permission notes will be handed out next week.

AICES Cross Country

We had 14 students head down to the AICES Cross Country very early on Monday morning. Congratulations to our team representing the Hunter Region: Sarah A, Liam B, Oliver C, Reilly D, Ty D, Lilijana G, Tyler H, Airlia K, Ethan M, Elijah M, Olivia M, Dylan P, Abi U, Thara V.

Tyler H came 6th in his race and Ethan M came 2nd in his race. They will both be heading down to CIS Cross Country at Eastern Creek on Thursday, June 15.

CLASS

Poetic Justice

On Saturday night, June 3, Avondale School proudly hosted Asian Aid’s annual Poetic Justice Spoken Word evening and it was an inspiring event. Four of our students joined others from Macquarie College and Central Coast Adventist School, as well as three professional slam poets, to perform original poems they had written on the topic of social justice. Sarah M’s call to action on the issue of immigration detention centres was very powerful. Lohert T’s piece that she performed with Brandon F highlighted the inequity of wealth and opportunity in our world and Rachel R’s emotive expression of the fear many people have to live every day was very moving.

We are so proud of these students who are using their creativity and their voices to help make God’s world a better place!
**PLEASE NOTE**

**Primary Calendar - Term 2**

- Queen's Birthday Holiday ......................................................... June 12
- HRIS Public Speaking .............................................................. June 14
- CIS Cross Country ................................................................. June 15
- Years 3 & 4 Athletics Carnival .................................................. June 20
- Years 5 & 6 Athletics Carnival .................................................. June 21
- Seussical the Musical ............................................................... June 21 - 24
- Get Active Ends for Term 2 ....................................................... June 22
- Year 2 Athletics Carnival ......................................................... June 23
- Primary Parent Teacher Interviews ......................................... June 27
- Year 9 English Excursion ......................................................... June 27
- Secondary Grandparents Day .................................................. June 30

**Secondary Calendar - Term 2**

- Queen's Birthday Holiday ........................................................ June 12
- Year 12 Maths Extension 1 Excursion ....................................... June 13
- HRIS Basketball ..................................................................... June 20
- Year 11 & 12 Hospitality Community Function ......................... June 20
- Year 9 English Excursion ........................................................ June 21
- Seussical the Musical ............................................................... June 21 - 24
- Year 11 VET Work Placement .................................................. June 26 - 30
- Years 7-11 Parent Teacher Interviews ..................................... June 26 & 27
- Last Day of Term 2 ................................................................. June 30
- Year 12 Commence Term 3 ...................................................... July 20

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**LIBRARY**

**Library Second-hand Book Sale**

Some of you might have noticed that a number of books have disappeared from our shelves during Terms 1 and 2. We’ve been undertaking a process called weeding, which is kind of like weeding your garden. This means a lot of our books have been removed from the collection and are being replaced with newer resources.

But what if your favourite book or books have disappeared? Have no fear, on Monday, June 26 (the last Monday of Term 2) we’ll be having a flash sale in the library, with some of the books that have been removed from the collection, having the chance to find a new home with YOU. All books will cost 20c or 50c each, with special deals when you purchase 5 or more.

Our flash sale will run from 8.00 am through to 4.00 pm while stocks last! Start saving up your spare change for our ex-libris flash sale!

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**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.

- **Kylie Stacey**
  - Piano (Simply Music, AMEB, traditional) 0409 939 302
- **Angela Miller**
  - Piano (Simply Music) 0421 464 797
- **Jan Hughes**
  - Piano 0497 2037
- **Marilyn Aveling-Rowe**
  - Piano 0422 714 747
- **Cybèle Coutet**
  - Voice (AMEB) / Piano (AMEB) 0423 455 977
- **Allison Hodge**
  - Voice 0420 528 868
- **Gabriel Ontanu**
  - Violin / Viola 0447 262 280
- **Renee Lis**
  - Violin 0413 777 477
- **Esther Albert**
  - Cello / Violin / Double Bass 0439 420 661
- **Emma Jones**
  - Flute 0432 925 199
- **Fred Cracknell**
  - Saxophone / Clarinet / Brass 0404 082 151
- **Oliver Doyle**
  - Trumpet 0418 975 033
- **Jake Bisognin**
  - Guitar 0400 369 612
- **Zayne Mariassouche**
  - Guitar 0455 114 448
- **Mitchell Wallace**
  - Bass Guitar / Guitar 0435 578 723
- **Garry Lawler**
  - Group Guitar Lessons / Ukulele 0438 608 180
- **James Dennett**
  - Drums 0401 549 084

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**Announcing: One Search for Years 7-12**

Library staff are pleased to announce that One Search is now fully functional and available to Secondary students to support their research for assignments when accessing our library’s online Web App (link: http://accessit.avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au). One search allows you to enter your search terms into the school's catalogue search and see results from a variety of different local libraries (for those mad, weekend dashes to find resources for those pesky Monday morning assessment deadlines) as well as Encyclopedia Britannica online (available to Avondale School students both on and off-campus through the library’s subscription, accessing Britannica through One Search will auto-authenticate for you). We look forward to seeing the amazing research you can do using this amazingly powerful function. Please talk to library staff if you require assistance with these functions.

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**Like us on social media for regular information updates!**