The View

Student Centred Learning
Ted Dintersmith, in his book *What School Could Be* shares that students thrive in environments where they develop four key things:

- **Purpose** - where students have the opportunity to attack challenges they know are important and will make their world better.
- **Essentials** - where students acquire the skill-sets and mind-sets needed in an increasingly innovative world.
- **Agency** - where students own their learning, become self-directed and intrinsically motivated.
- **Knowledge** - what students learn is deep and retained, enabling them to create, make and to teach others.

At Avondale School we are developing and implementing an innovative and engaging student-centred approach to learning and teaching. It encompasses these four aspects and students are showing excitement for learning. All teachers in the school have now been trained in Project Based Learning (PBL) - a teaching method that makes learning come alive for students. Over an extended period of time students work on a project in a curriculum topic that engages them in a real-world context. Students demonstrate their knowledge and skills by developing a public product or presentation for a real audience. Along the way they develop deep content knowledge, critical thinking and communication skills. Projects are done individually, in teams, by the whole class or in collaboration with other classes.

We believe that everyone has the capacity to be creative, and we want to help students develop their creative abilities while covering the mandated curriculum in an authentic and engaging way. PBL gives students a greater voice not only in their learning but in the way that they learn, increasing their intrinsic motivation. There is still a need for explicit instruction with PBL to ensure students gain the knowledge and skills required of them, especially in literacy and numeracy. Teachers also get a deeper understanding of the students’ literacy skills through the PBL method, as student engagement increases and they have more desire to learn.

We are currently working with the Association of Independent Schools on Designing for Deep Learning (DDL) which is enhancing our implementation of PBL, especially the essential skills of Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Critical Thinking. DDL brings validated tools to plan, teach and assess these essential skills to take student learning even deeper. Teachers have the opportunity to work in Year Level groups with a trained consultant to embed these skills into learning and teaching to transform learning for the students. So far we have focused on developing the skill of Character and specifically - grit, tenacity, perseverance and resilience. It’s exciting to walk into classrooms and see our students so engaged in learning, encouraging one another and having fun.

Our students are so important, and now, more than ever, we need to be educating young people who are ready, willing and able to tackle the challenges of their lives and the world they find themselves in. We are excited to be on this journey together with our school families in 2019 and beyond.

Nathan Hill
Acting Head of Primary
SPORT

**Term 3 Sport Uniform**

Kindy – wear their Sport Uniform on Mondays and Tuesdays.
Years 1 & 2 – wear their Sport Uniform on Tuesdays.
Years 3-6 – wear their Sport Uniform on Tuesdays and Fridays.

**Athletics Presentation**

Years 3-6 Athletics Age Champions and Runners Up

Congratulations to the following students who were named Age Champions and Runners Up at assembly on Monday:

- **8 Years**
  - Champions: Millie G and Ruslan B
  - Runners Up: Silla H and Logan S

- **9 Years**
  - Champions: Darcie MG and Tommy B
  - Runners Up: Hannah T and Cooper S

- **10 Years**
  - Champions: Caitlin C and Xander H
  - Runners Up: Carissa L and Rylan B

- **11 Years**
  - Champions: Mahlia P and Lachlan C
  - Runners Up: Ava M and Jayden T

- **12 Years**
  - Champions: Emma P and Harry K
  - Runners Up: Skye W and Hayden I

Congratulations also to Ben E for his 1st Place in the 2019 Avondale School Gift Race.

**HRIS Athletics Carnival**

Friday August 16

The HRIS Athletics Carnival will be held next Friday August 16 at the Hunter Sport Centre at Glendale. Please return permission notes to Mrs Bentley in the Sport Shed by Monday August 12.

CLASS

**Learning About Engineering**

Year 6 visited the Avondale Retirement Village this week to learn about engineering with some Newcastle Uni engineering students.

GENERAL

**School Photos**

Please note that School Photos were sent home with your child today. If you’d like to order any group photos, you can do so online at www.advancedlife.com.au using the school code 7LJ86X7GD.

**Year 7 2020 Expo Evening**

Year 6 Parents and Students you are invited to the Year 7 Expo Evening in conjunction with our Showcase Open Day on Thursday August 15 at 5.30pm in the Collaborative Learning Centre (CLC).

The Expo will see a variety of experiences that your child will be involved in at the Secondary School. The Open Day Showcase will take place between 3.00 - 5.30pm where you will get to do a tour with one of our Prefects, sample food, be involved in mini interactive classes, see our Project Based Learning initiatives and a variety of innovative technology used to engage our students. There will also be musical items, drama performances, sections of a Medieval Day shown plus many other exciting things to look forward to. You will then transition into the information session specifically for our 2020 Year 7 Cohort at 5.30pm. We look forward to engaging with both parents and students to share some brief information about the Secondary School processes. The Year 5 and 6 teachers will be there as a familiar face and to help with a smooth transition. There will also be time to talk one on one with some of our leading Secondary teachers. Some light refreshments will be provided. Looking forward to meeting you in two weeks’ time as your child (and you) begin the Secondary School journey at Avondale School.
**CLASS**

**Year 7C Growing ‘Green’**
This week Year 7C Food and Agriculture class visited the Avondale Retirement Village Community Garden, affectionately named ‘The Veggie Patch’, to investigate what it takes to grow a successful vegetable garden. The experienced gardeners shared with students what they do in their garden, what to grow at this time of year and they passed on many ‘secret’ tricks about how to get the best out of the garden. Students really enjoyed getting out into the sunshine and for some, getting their hands dirty. We thank the residents who volunteered their time and expertise.

**HRIS Cultural Festival**
Congratulations to our students who participated on the HRIS Cultural Festival this week. Students in Years 9-12 worked together in a long day of rehearsals to deliver polished ensemble performances in the evening. Mrs White conducted the combined Concert Band, who performed brilliantly. We are proud of all the students involved in this excellent event.

**STEP UP**

3.30 - 4.30PM THURSDAYS in the iCentre
Please note that it will not be running August 15 and September 26.

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!
LIBRARY

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
Sandi Lowe / 0447 006 209
Cybèle Coutet (AMEB) / 0423 455 977
Jan Hughes / 4977 2037
Henry Higgins / 0490 0404 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 0404 308
Garry Lawler (group lessons / ukulele) / 0438 608 180

Drums
James Dennett / 0401 549 084

OPEN DAY SHOWCASE.
WHAT A BRIGHT IDEA.
15 AUGUST. 3–6PM.

A new $100 Creative Kids Rebate can be put towards the cost of registration, participation or tuition fees for creative and cultural activities such as music lessons with registered teachers. You can apply for an active kids voucher at Service NSW online or in person.

We value ...
COMPASSION