THE VIEW

Failure IS an option

You have most likely heard the story of a tight rope walker, Charles Blondin, who with the cheers and adulation of onlookers made the perilous walk across Niagara Falls. The onlookers appeared to have full faith in his ability to do something absolutely crazy, even taking a wheelbarrow back and forth across the suspended rope. When the brave, or perhaps senseless, daredevil then asked for a volunteer to sit in a wheelbarrow and make the journey across the falls with him, guess how many onlookers had faith in his ability then? How would you have dealt with such a hazardous request of faith?

We all exercise faith in everyday (sometimes menial) circumstances. For example, I have faith my alarm will go off each morning; I have faith my car will start; I have faith that the electricity will work and water will come out of my taps when I turn them on. However, having faith to try something new and untested, walking into unchartered waters and facing failure, that’s where most people draw the line. What if we didn’t? What if we weren’t afraid to try new things for fear of failure, but took a leap of faith more often? What if our kids did?

“But failure has to be an option in art and in exploration - because it's a leap of faith. And no important endeavour that required innovation was done without risk. You have to be willing to take those risks.” James Cameron

It’s the (smart) risk-takers that create change in our world, those willing to step out in faith – faith in their own abilities; faith in the support of those around them; faith in their ability to not give up; and faith in a God who wants to see them succeed. Here are some ways you can help encourage your child to be a SMART risk-taker:

1. Provide unstructured play when they are young
2. Model it
3. Define SMART risks
4. Create a safe environment to take risks
5. Reward smart failures

In Matthew 14, we read about Peter stepping out on water and walking to Jesus, however he got only part of the way before his faith began to fail him. Keep in mind it was windy, which would have meant the water was not glassy smooth. I don’t blame him for freaking out! Christ provided the perfect example of encouraging risk-taking. Firstly, He called Peter out of the boat and encouraged him to take the risk. Secondly, He modelled walking on the water. Thirdly, He provided a safe environment for Peter to take the risk, because He was right there with him. Even though Peter failed and began to sink, Christ rewarded his small amount of faith by not letting him drown, but reaching down to pull him back to safety.

Let us encourage kids to be SMART risk-takers, willing to fail forward and be innovators of the future.

Mendi Hill
Stage 3 Coordinator
SPORT

HRIS Cross Country
The HRIS Cross Country was held at Avondale College last Friday with 17 schools competing. Even though quite a few reserves had to be called upon, our team performed to the best of their ability and secured 2nd place overall. Special congratulations to our 8 Year Boys, 9 Year and 10 Year Girls for winning the Age Banners.

Three outstanding runners on the day were 8 Year Millie G and 8 Year Nathan L who both won their 2km races. Siena C was runner/up in the 10 Year Girls 2km. There were up to 85 runners in each age group. Students who placed in the top 15 (from 9-12 years) qualify for CIS Cross Country held on June 13.

Note: There is no 8 year age group at CIS. Students in the 8 year age group can qualify as 9 year runners.

Congratulations to the following students who have made it into the CIS Cross Country for 2019:

Parents are asked to keep training these students in preparation for CIS in 5 weeks’ time.

Interschools Snow Sports
The 2019 Interschools Snow Sports competition is being held at Perisher from Tuesday July 9 - 13 (in school holidays). In 2018 Avondale School had a team of 5 students who enjoyed the winter sport activities. Students need to be registered through the School. If you would like further information please check out the following website www.interschoolssnowsports.com.au or contact Mr Head for information.

CLASS

Year 1 Reptile Park Excursion
“At the Australian Reptile Park we saw kangaroos, dingoes, spiders, crocodiles and alligators. I had a great day exploring the park with Tilly’s Dad. My favourite animal was the Komodo Dragons they were huge!”

By Zoe H (Year 1 Student)

Netball for Y3 & 4 Girls
Netball is a great team sport. If your daughter would like to learn the game of Netball and all the benefits that go along with playing a team sport, Mrs Lupi would love to see them on Thursday lunchtime at the netball court. (No previous experience necessary.) Girls are encouraged to bring their joggers.

Champion Students
At Avondale School we love to acknowledge champions. Sometimes students achieve amazing things outside of school sport and we would like to support these students publicly. If your child has an amazing achievement to share (eg. State Representative) please contact Mr Head.

NAPLAN Tests
NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy – important skills that each child needs to succeed in school and life. The NAPLAN tests are designed to help us make sure students are on track with their literacy and numeracy development. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in NAPLAN tests for reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. Between May 14 - 24, our school will participate in NAPLAN Online. Students do not need to be computer experts to take the NAPLAN test online. Making sure students have computer skills is part of our school curriculum, and our teachers will ensure your child is familiar with the online format. To see the types of questions and interactive features of NAPLAN Online, visit the public demonstration site.

If you have any questions about NAPLAN Online, please contact your child’s teacher. For more info:
- How to support your child during NAPLAN
- Information for parents and carers
- Watch a video that explains NAPLAN Online

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SPORT

HRIS Cross Country
Avondale School once again hosted the annual HRIS Cross Country at Avondale College. The P&F team, led by Mr Dion Spiros and Mrs Terrina Mesaric, were a crew of hardworking parents and students who ran the very successful cross country all day. A huge thanks to the Avondale College PDHPE students who helped as officials on the day.

The competition was close between schools. Congratulations to Mr Head and the Primary School team who came second overall. The Secondary School came in a very close 9th place out of the seventeen schools entered. Thank you to those who were committed enough to come and run on the last day of their holidays. Both the Secondary and Primary teams were missing a few good runners but those who ran put in a great effort—well done team!!

A big thank you to the staff who also put in the long hours to make it a successful event.

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to run in the HRIS team at the AICES Cross Country in Sydney on June 4: Tristan H, Lucas C-Z, Kaleb G, Tyson H, Ethan M.

CLASS

Y10 Work Experience
During the last week of Term 1 all Year 10 students participated in Work Experience. This provided students with learning opportunities in real work environments. They developed self-confidence and communication skills while working with other people. Students also gained clarity in career direction and possible alternate pathways.

Students made contact and arranged placements with host employers including QANTAS Airways, Royal Caribbean Cruises, Williamtown Air Base, Academy of Interactive Entertainment, Morse Micro Pty Ltd and Sanitarium Health and Wellbeing Company to name just a few. We would like to thank all Host Employers for their participation in the 2019 Work Experience Program. We appreciate that it takes time and dedication to host a student, and we value this contribution to student development.

Secondary Chess Competition
The Secondary Chess Competition was held this week with 15 competitors. Playing a full 7 round competition with students from Years 7-12 was always going to be interesting.

Congratulations to the following students who took out the top 3 places:

1st Ryan M (Y7)  5.5/7
2nd Liam B (Y10)  5.5/7
3rd Kylan M (Y7)  5/7
Welcome to Term 2

So many students have been borrowing books this week and parents have been in reading to their children. It’s great to see you all visiting the library. Look for our new book shelves too where you’ll find brand new books hot off the press!

Book Fair is Coming Soon!

It’s not long to wait now for our annual Book Fair! You’ll find book bargains galore in the library from Monday May 20 to Thursday May 23. You won’t want to miss the excellent fiction, non-fiction and picture books from Scholastic and Redgum Books, and Bibles from Better Books and Food. Parents and grandparents, you’ll want to add this much-anticipated event to your calendars! Check out the library Landscape page for more information. https://landscape.avonaleschool.nsw.edu.au/homepage/1762

PRC Finishers

Lots of students are busy reading their PRC books and there is still plenty of time to have your reading finished – by August 30. As students finish their reading and hand in their completed reading logs they will have their names added to the 2019 PRC Finishers list on the library Landscape page. Congratulations to the 9 students that have already finished their reading and have their names on this prestigious list!

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 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

We value ...

FAITH