Primary Calendar - Term 2
- Mother’s Day .......................................................May 13
- Y3 & 5 NAPLAN Tests ........................May 15 - 18
- Y1 & 2 Smart Start Incursion ...............May 16
- Y2 Sunnyside Excursion ....................May 16
- School Open Day .................................May 22
- K-12 Combined Chapel ......................May 25
- Quirindi Horse Sports Day ...............May 25
- ICAS Science Competition ..........May 29
- School Open Day .................................May 31
- Knights & Rookies Chess Gala Day .... Jun 7

Secondary Calendar - Term 2
- Mother’s Day .......................................................May 13
- Y10 Work Experience .........................May 14 - 18
- HRIS Soccer ........................................................May 14
- Y12 Parent Teacher Night 4-7pm .........May 15
- Y7 & 9 NAPLAN Tests ........................May 15 - 18
- School Open Day .................................May 22
- HRIS Netball ........................................................May 22
- Y12 Food Tech Excursion ..................May 22
- Y9 History/Geography Excursion .... May 24
- K-12 Combined Chapel ......................May 25

School Terms 2018
- Term 2 ........................................................Apr 30 - Jul 6
- Term 3 .........................................................Jul 30 - Sept 28
- Term 4 .........................................................Oct 15 - Dec 7
- Term 1 2019 ............................................. Jan 29 - Apr 12

THE VIEW

What are you passionate about?
Our Marketing Communications Manager, Mr Colin Chuang, sent out an email to all parents and staff this week with a question, which I’m going answer here.

As a teenager growing up in the 80's, I was passionate about many things. 80’s music was and still is the best. Listening to my favourites from The Cure to Fleetwood Mac, Peter Gabriel to Corey Hart (who according to the song wore his sunglasses at night). I can still sing along knowing all the words much to my son’s embarrassment. I can still recite William Blake’s poem ‘The Tyger’ from Year 8 English class - I loved it. Salvadore Dali was another favourite artist. I can still talk for hours about his paintings. If I remember the correct language of the day all these favourite things of mine were ‘choice’.

Passion is a strong desire to do something you like, or think is important to do. It makes our hearts beat faster, we become more alert, our voices pick up, we become more animated. We are all in search of happiness, which is so often directly tied to life passion and doing what we were meant to do. Our passion is what we want to do naturally, not what sounds good or what others want us to do. Passion is the fuel that drives us to get out of bed in the morning; it moves us toward our goals.

Sometimes, finding our passion simply has to do with listening to our inner voice. It’s also about surrounding ourselves with people who have similar interests and passions we admire.

What am I passionate about now? Have my passions changed over the years? Yes, they have. I still love my 80’s music and am willing to share that passion with anyone who will stop and listen. I still love the art that ignited my interest in painting so many years ago. But now I also have new passions. I am passionate about my family. I want to do things with them and I want the best for them. As a teacher I get passionate about seeing my students face challenges and choose to overcome them. I get passionate about making sure they have opportunities to grow. I am passionate about my community, my school community and my church community. How can I help the school reach its potential? What can I do to help Gateway Church reach its potential?

What are you passionate about? Ask yourself and think about your answer.

Put your heart and soul into every activity you do, be passionate about it as though you are doing it for the Lord himself and not merely for others. Colossians 3:23

Ken Toscan
Secondary PDHPE Coordinator
SPORT

HRIS Cross Country

Last week there were 50 enthusiastic Cross Country runners aged from 8-12 years old competing at the HRIS Cross Country held at Avondale College. We can be proud of the way in which our students gave 100% effort which enabled them to take out 1st place again. The HRIS Cross Country was first run in 1992 and our Primary School has won the shield a total of 22 times. Special congratulations to Siena C (9 Year Girls) - 1st place. The 9 Year Girls (Siena C, Kayela H, Caitlin C, Evie R and Leila F) also took out 1st place for the Age Banner. Other high achievers were: Hannah T (8 Year Girls) - 2nd, Eliza J (10 Year Girls) - 3rd and Joelle CR (11 Year Girls) - 3rd. It also should be mentioned that we had 4 other age groups that placed 2nd overall -8 Year Girls and 9, 10, 12 Year Boys.

School Results:
1st (1827 pts) Avondale School - Primary; 2nd (1750 pts) Hunter Valley Grammar School; 3rd (1631 pts) Calrossy Anglican School; 4th (1615 pts) Macquarie College; 5th (1615 pts) Central Coast Adventist School; 6th (1521 pts) Scone Grammar School; 7th (1455 pts) St Philips Christian College - Newcastle; 8th (1450 pts) Lakes Grammar; 9th (1431 pts) St Columba Primary School; 10th (1240 pts) St Philips Primary School; 11th (1174 pts) Newcastle Grammar School; 12th (1159 pts) St Philips Christian College - Gosford; 13th (1140 pts) Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College; 14th (655 pts) St Philips Christian College - Gosford; 15th (515 pts) Manning Valley Anglican School; 16th (311 pts) Heritage College.

Please return all Cross Country Singlets to Mr Head by Monday.

School Chess Teams

Congratulations to the students listed below who have been selected in our School's Chess Teams. These teams will play 5 rounds of Chess on one day against other local schools. Rounds 6-10 will be played on one day in Term 3. All selected students are encouraged to attend the free coaching sessions on Mondays from 3.30pm - 4.30pm in Term 2 with our Professional Chess Coach, Mr Gary Losh. The Knights and Rookies will play their first matches on Thursday, June 7 at Avondale School. The Kings Team will play their first matches at Newcastle Grammar School on Tuesday, June 12.


NSW Interschool Snow Sports Event

There is some interest in having an Avondale School Team enter this year's NSW Interschool Snow Sports event at Thredbo on July 10-14. The carnival covers 9 different events with two divisions for primary aged students. More information can be found on the NSW Interschools 2018 website. Competitors from all ability levels are encouraged to enter, with an emphasis on fun and participation in the initial Regional Championships. As the competitions progress to State and National levels, the level of competition and degree of difficulty increases. If you are interested in entering a student, please contact Mr Head. Entries open next week.

Please return all Cross Country Singlets to Mr Head by Monday.
SPORT

HRIS Cross Country
Avondale School once again hosted the annual HRIS Cross Country at Avondale College. The P&F team organised by Mrs McDonald and Mrs O’Reilly had a crew of hardworking parents who ran a very successful canteen all day. A huge thanks to the Avondale College PDHPE students who helped as officials on the day. The competition was close between the schools. Congratulations to Mr Head and the Primary School team who came first overall. The Secondary School came in at a very close third place. A great team effort by Avondale School and a pleasing result – well done team! The following Secondary students have been selected to run for the HRIS at the AICES Cross Country in Sydney on June 5. Congratulations!
Olivia M
Tahlia Kn
Oliver C
Elijah M
Ethan M
Ty D
Zac H

Equestrian Excursion
A group of students with special interests in equestrian sports had the opportunity to visit the Sydney International Equestrian Centre during the recent CDI (Concours de Dressage International) event. They were given a ‘behind the scenes’ tour which included meeting competitors and their horses, seeing the stables, wash bays and warm-up arenas and learning about the sport of dressage at an international level. Students were able to ask questions and learn about everything from the scientifically designed arena surfaces, to preparing horses for competition and understanding equine drug testing. The students were thrilled to meet and talk with Australian Olympic rider and coach, Heath Ryan, who encouraged them to pursue excellence with their riding but most of all enjoy the wonderful experiences of being with horses. Students also watched numerous dressage tests and some participated in judging via an app which allowed them to compare their marks with those awarded by the official judges. Thanks to Mr Toson for organising this excursion.

CLASS

Meals on Wheels
The Community and Family Studies class (CAFS) visited the ‘Meals on Wheels’ centre in Morisset on Wednesday to help the volunteers with their rounds. Students partnered up and joined a volunteer to help hand out the food orders around the neighbourhood. Some customers may have also received small treats in their orders as a Mother’s Day surprise. It was good to get out into the community and help volunteer our time to such a worthwhile organisation. Thank you to ‘Meals on Wheels’ for the opportunity to do some good in the community and spread some joy coming up to Mother’s Day.

STEP UP

3.30 - 4.30 PM 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!
**ALL SCHOOL**

**Family Festival News**
Avondale School will be taking a break from hosting its Family Festival this year. The event has dated back to 2004 when it commenced as a community fun run, and eventually evolved into more of a family event. With the emergence of the success of the Community Christmas Carols hosted at Avondale School, it was decided that two big events in a year was a lot to handle, both for personnel and financially. Community Christmas Carols will once again take place at Avondale School this year. The date is December 2. We would like to thank everyone for their support of Avondale School over the years, especially all the volunteers.

**P&F Thank You**
Thank you to the following parents who volunteered at the stall for HRIS Cross Country! George O’Reilly, Joan McDonald, Stephen McDonald, Jon Lobendahn, Andrew Cubis, Dion Spiras, Simone Callaghan, Nicola Smith, Astrid Spiros, John Roseland, Aditi Ghosh, Rachel Bentley, Sally Cubis, Hayley Tosen, Richelle Roseland.

**LIBRARY**

**Scholastic Book Club**
All Primary students should now have received their Book Club catalogues. Please remember that Book Club orders are due by Friday, May 18.

**Chess Club**
Chess Club is now up and running on a Thursday morning before school in the Library classroom. Students can arrive anytime after 8:00am and enjoy free coaching and games with friends.

**Overdue Book Returns**
Please remind your children to return any overdue books. Many recent titles are in high demand so returning books on time allows others to enjoy them too.

**Featured Author - Kevin Leman**
Are you aware of the amazing work of Christian author Kevin Leman? He has written some very humorous and user-friendly books on parenting including Parenting Your Powerful Child, Have a New Kid by Friday and The Birth Order Book: Why You Are the Way You Are.

You can borrow these titles and many others from our Parent Library. We hope to see you soon.

**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
Angela Miller (Simply Music) / 0421 464 797
Cybèle Coutet (AMEB) / 0423 455 977
Jan Hughes / 4977 2037
Henry Higgins / 0490 0404 308

**Voice**
Cybèle Coutet (AMEB) / 0423 455 977

**Strings**
Henry Higgins (cello) / 0490 0404 308
Esther Albert (cello / violin / double bass) / 0439 420 661

**Woodwinds**
Emma Jones (flute) / 0432 925 199
Fred Cracknell (saxophone / clarinet) / 0404 082 151

**Brass**
Fred Cracknell / 0404 082 151
Anna Howard (trumpet) / 0430 106 953

**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