Welcome back to Term 4. Our students are enthusiastic and keen to engage in learning. Next week swimming begins for Years 3-6 and Year 1 students head to Tocal Homestead for an excursion. Our Choir students begin rehearsals for the Combined Choirs program and our Chess Teams compete in finals.

Our current value is responsibility. This means encouraging our children to honour their commitments, take care of their own belongings and to be trustworthy. It also means encouraging children to answer for their actions. Children (and adults) often make excuses for their actions by blaming others. We take control of our own lives by accepting responsibility for our choices and actions. Model to your children the ways in which you take responsibility for your actions and don’t be tempted to help your child avoid the consequences of their actions. This is a crucial part of learning to be responsible.

‘The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.’ Denis Waitley

“In the long run, we shape our lives, and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our own responsibility.” Eleanor Roosevelt

This week we spent some time in our chapel program talking about students taking responsibility – from simple things like being sorted with uniform and caring for our environment, putting rubbish where it belongs, to bigger things like healthy relationships and owning your own learning. An important term lies ahead, with final exams for all Year groups around the corner (except Year 11). Year 11 becomes the HSC cohort, so responsibility for planning, studying and completing tasks is imperative, while our Year 12s are facing their HSC exams, taking them closer to the future they've been working towards. I hope we can work together to make this an excellent, successful term!

Mr Benton Craig  
Head of Secondary  
bcraig@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au
Year 6 Canberra Trip

Our Year 6 students had been anticipating this year’s Canberra Trip with great excitement. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy. Some of the many highlights and favourites of the students were Questacon, Parliament House, Closing Ceremony at the War Memorial, High Court, Telstra Tower and the Australian Institute of Sport.

This year’s trip also included a day at the snow and a visit to the Snowy Mountains Scheme to look at renewable energy. Students had a special time at the Adventist Alpine Village with an open fireplace for worship time. Many students had never seen real snow before, so a big highlight for them was a day snow shoeing, building snow caves, skiing, snow boarding or having a hot chocolate with marshmallows half way up the chairlift.

Georgia N & Ryan B - “The snowball fight was just the best fun.”
Rachel C - “I loved the open fire place at worship time.”
Olivia G - “I really enjoyed the whole Snowy Mountain Scheme visit and was amazed by how it all works, with so many tunnels to produce not only electricity but also irrigation.”

A big thanks to all our parents who helped make this year’s trip one of the best ever.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of $20 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

K-2 Learn to Swim Program
November 7 – November 18

All students in Kindy, Years 1 and 2 will participate in a Learn to Swim Program at Morisset Heated Pool from Monday, November 7 until Friday, November 18. Students are required to bring their clearly named swimmers and towel (goggles are optional) each day for the two-week program.

Tennis Competition

Congratulations to the following students who were presented trophies for the Tennis Competition held at the end of Term 3. These students competed at the HRIS Tennis Competition on Friday.

Year 6 Boys
1st Mitchell A
2nd Harry C

Year 6 Girls
1st Airlia K

Year 5 & Under Boys
1st Robert K
2nd Matthew G

Basketball (Years 3-6)

A Basketball Development Program will be commencing on October 18 and will run each Tuesday in the MPC for 5 weeks. This program is open for all students from Years 3-6 who would like to improve their basketball skills. This FREE program will run from 3.20 pm until 4.30 pm and joggers are required.

PSSA Athletics

Congratulations to the following students who placed in the top 3 places at CIS Athletics and now will compete at the PSSA Championships at Homebush on October 19 and 20: Joshua M (AWD) - Shot Put and Discus, Olivia G - 100m and Greg E - 100m and 200m.

HRIS Chess - Friday, October 21

Almost 200 students are expected to attend the HRIS Primary Chess Competition held in the MPC on Friday, October 21. Students will play 7 rounds of chess with no knockouts. Each student will receive a NSW Chess Ranking based on their performance on the day. Parents are encouraged to give their child extra practice before this big event. Permission notes are due to Mr Head by Tuesday, October 18.

2017 Class Lists

Teachers will be working on class lists for next year in the next few weeks. While we are unable to take requests for class lists based on preferences, we are happy to give consideration to special needs or circumstances relating to your child. Please email Deb Cooper, Head of Primary, at dcooper@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au with special considerations now.
Secondary

**GENERAL**

**MadMaker STEM Challenge Has Begun**
Budding software engineers have begun an exciting 6 week MadMaker Challenge as part of their Software Development Unit of the Information and Software Technology course. The aim of the course, which is a STEM initiative of the University of Sydney, is to educate Year 9 and Year 10 students about embedded systems and how they are used in everyday life. Students are working with Audio Esplora boards to investigate challenging and interactive ways to use Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics to solve real world problems. This highly engaging course promotes higher order thinking, problem-solving and contextualised learning of complex concepts from various Key Learning Areas.

**SPORT**

**All Schools Athletics**
Congratulations to Liam B in Year 7 who came 4th in High Jump at the All Schools Athletics Day yesterday. This means he came 4th in NSW. Well done, Liam!

**STEP UP**

3.30 - 4.30 PM THURSDAYS
ALL THIS TERM 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!

Hope to see you there!
PLEASE NOTE

Canteen News
The new Summer Menu for Term 4 2016 and Term 1 2017 is out now (check your emails). The menu commences next week on Monday, October 17. NOW AVAILABLE ... Credit or eftpos cards are now accepted at The Munchery. There is a minimum of $10 per purchase. Please note that there is no cash out.

2017 Planning
We are excited about our plans that we have programmed for your child/ren in 2017. These plans are based on the assumption that your child/ren will be returning after the Christmas school holidays. However, if you find your circumstances are changing or you think they may be changing for 2017, please notify the Principal ASAP via email to admin@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au. As stated in the School Handbook, a term’s notice is required for us to plan appropriately and efficiently for your child. Thank you.

Staff STEM Personal Development
Mr Andrew Cameron, Avondale School’s Director of eLearning, along with STEM Specialist Teacher, Mr Dale Skinner, recently conducted a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) personal development exercise with a group of Avondale School’s Primary staff. Teachers from each year level were given a challenge and asked to work together to come up with a creative solution. The challenge was to create a lightweight structure that could carry a heavy load, but remain flexible enough to withstand a simulated earthquake. The group also worked together to modify learning programs with the goal of incorporating authentic STEM-based activities, using the Primary MakerSpace room as a teaching and learning resource. The group also took time to investigate the importance of MakerSpaces as places of hands-on, collaborative problem-based learning.

K-6 Term 4 Borrowing
It’s been great to see so many K-6 students remembering their library bags and borrowing lots of exciting books this week. Don’t forget that if you forget your library bag on your library day then you can come and borrow the next day, your ‘extra chance day’. If your library bag is looking a little sad we have new colourful bags for sale in the library for just $5.00. Enjoy your reading everyone!

Time is Running Out!
All Year 7-12 Reading Rulz! forms need to be handed to English teachers by November 4 so that House points can be tallied for 2016. Keep reading until then and see how many points YOU can add. There are a number of new titles on display in the library to make it easy to earn some extra points. Keep reading!

from THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back! I was working in the Office last week and the place was very quiet. That all changed this week with all the enthusiastic young people bounding off the buses to begin another adventure for Term 4.

Over the break I chatted to some Year 12 students and they were finding the responsibility of preparing for the HSC exams, which began this week, very hard to carry. We applauded their hard work! Responsibility is a duty or obligation to satisfactorily perform or complete a task (assigned by someone or created by one’s own promise or circumstances) that one must fulfill, and which has a consequent outcome. A responsible person is held accountable.

As we begin this term by talking about responsibility I support the poster that said, ‘Be responsible, be dependable, hold yourself accountable, do the right thing but apologise when you make a mistake, do your best work and complete what you set out to do’.

What a world it would be if we all did this?

Enjoy the news for first week back!

Dr David Faull
Principal

CALENDAR

Primary Calendar - Term 4
Term 4 School Fees Due .................................................. October 14
Get Active Starts for Term 4 ............................................ October 17
Screenagers Movie 7.00 pm Music Building .................. October 18
Years 3-6 Swimming Starts ............................................ October 19
Year 1 Tocal Homestead Excursion ............................ October 19
Combined Choirs Rehearsal #1 .................................... October 20
HRIS Chess ........................................................................October 21
HRIS Girls’ Soccer ........................................................... October 25
Kindy Bike Day ................................................................. October 26
Kindy 2017 Parent Info Meeting ..................................... October 26

Secondary Calendar - Term 4
Term 4 School Fees Due .................................................. October 14
Choir at Wyee SDA Church .............................................. October 15
Get Active Starts for Term 4 ............................................ October 17
Year 9 Bungonia Camp .................................................... October 17 - 21
Screenagers Movie 7.00 pm Music Building .................. October 18
Year 10 with Paul Dillon .................................................. October 19
Combined Choirs Rehearsal #1 .................................... October 20
Year 11 Food Tech Excursion ........................................ October 21
Year 11 Parent Teacher Interviews 4.00 pm CLC ............ October 25
HRIS Junior Touch Football .......................................... October 27

Like us on Facebook for regular information updates. Search for Avondale School (Preschool to Year 12).

SCHOOL TERMS 2017
Term 1 Monday / Tuesday, January 30/31 - Friday, April 7
Term 2 Wednesday, April 26 - Friday, June 30
Term 3 Monday, July 24 - Friday, September 22
Term 4 Monday, October 9 - Monday, December 11

Avondale School