THIS WEEK … we have been focused on ensuring our Years 3 and 5 students have been relaxed and confident to do their best in the NAPLAN tests. Our other students have also been involved in some assessments as teachers prepare to write Mid Year Reports. Our Basketball and Netball teams have been practising hard in preparation for HRIS Gala Days and loads of students from Years 4-6 had great fun in Bible study groups.

NEXT WEEK … our Year 6 students will be heading off campus for bike safety training. On Tuesday evening, we have a Parent Meeting run by our ELC and Kindy staff. This information session will look at school readiness and strategies for the transition to school. We want our students to not just survive, but thrive! We would love you to invite your friends and neighbours to this event.

DID YOU KNOW … that two of our Primary teachers attended a STEM conference. Our teachers have returned to school with great ideas to share with our staff about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Watch our Newsletter for more information about how we plan to engage students in STEM.

EXCELLENCE … We are encouraging our students to strive to be excellent. The best way to nurture your child to be excellent is to praise their positive attitudes and efforts to succeed. Self-esteem is built when children know we believe in them. This gives them the confidence to take risks.

‘Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.’ – Winston Churchill

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MAKING A MARK … “The desire to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your full potential … these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.” – Confucius

DONE AND DUSTED … Our Year 7s and 9s appeared to be quite the seasoned veterans when it came to doing the NAPLAN tests. They’re a big chunk of three days, but we’ve been preparing for them, have tackled them and we’re done! Great effort, students. Of course our Year 10s smashed their Work Experience, doing themselves proud in skills, conduct and attitude. From vets to mechanics, our students were engaged in this ‘taste’ of life after school. Year 8 had opportunity to develop their team skills on camp while Year 12 had time to reflect on what needs to be done from here to the HSC during their retreat. It’s been a pretty big week for Year 11 with some starter discussions on making relationships that last, together with a rather significant assessment schedule, so there’ll be a few of us celebrating we’ve reached the weekend after a very full five days!

CHALKBOARD ITEMS … A pretty important reference point for Year 12 families is the Parent Teacher night on Tuesday next week – a chance to connect, discuss performance and improvement for Trial Exams and the HSC Exams (which are not that far away)! The entire Secondary Campus does ‘athletics’ on Wednesday – a normal school day (just outside and at Mingara). Year 10 head to Sydney for an insight into Macbeth and our Year 11s and 12s have a number of significant assessments looming. Running into next week at full tilt!

BEFORE IT’S ERASED … Sloths take two weeks to digest their food … I guess if you don’t move much, this is a given, right?

May your weekend be a blessed one with family and friends!

Take a moment to share your heart with your loved ones!

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GENERAL

ICAS Science Competition
Wednesday, June 3
This term, students selected by teachers as our top scientific thinkers will represent our school in the ICAS Science Competition. This competition will be held at school on Wednesday, June 3. Students have been notified this week of their selection. Please note the cost of entry for each selected student will be covered by the school.

If your child was not selected but you would like them to participate, application forms are available from the Primary Office. The cost of the competition will be $8.80. All forms and money need to be returned to the Primary Office by Monday, May 25. As these are competitions, we recommend that students enter only if they show ability in a particular area.

Celebrating Outstanding Achievement in Music!
We would like to acknowledge our students from both the Primary and Secondary campuses who recently completed an A.M.E.B Singing Examination.

All students put in their best efforts and performed fabulously on the day. We are very proud of their achievements and look forward to celebrating many more in the future!

- Jemuel C was awarded an A (Honours) for his Grade 4 Examination
- Lisa C was awarded a B (Credit) for her Grade 4 Examination
- Olivia M was awarded an A+ (High Distinction) for her Grade 3 Examination
- Rachel C was awarded an A (Honours) for her Grade 1 Examination
- Abigail CR was awarded an A (Honours) for her Preliminary Grade Examination

SPORT

Chess Competition
Avondale School is hosting the Chess Gala Days this term for the Kings, Knights and Rookies teams. Parents are encouraged to give their child extra game practice in the lead up to these events. The Knights and Rookies teams will play Rounds 1 to 5 on Monday, May 25 and the Kings team will play Rounds 1 to 5 on Tuesday, June 2.

Athletics Training
Athletics training commenced this week for students in preparation for the upcoming Athletics Days to be held in Week 9 of this term. Students in Years 2-6 are invited to throwing training before school on Oval B with Mr Head starting at 8.00 am every day except Wednesdays.
SPORT

Athletics Day
NEXT WEEK
Wednesday, May 20 at Mingara

Our Athletics Day is next week on Wednesday, May 20 at Mingara. The buses will leave school after roll call and the first event will start at 9.45 am. Students will be back at school by 3.00 pm to catch their normal buses home.

UNIFORM

It is expected that all students will attend in Sport Uniform. Students may change into their House colours when they get there. It is not a mufti day. All students must have a hat!

FOOD

A canteen will be operating on the day as well as a fundraising BBQ with burgers and pancakes.

EVENTS

A program of events will be available on the day. Track and field events may occur simultaneously. When a competitor is required at both a track and field event, the track event shall take precedence. Students are to compete in their own age category only. Ages are calculated as at December 31, 2015.

Results will be used to assist in the selection of the school team that will head to the HRIS Athletics Day at Glendale on July 21.

Please note that the 1500m event will be done in a lunchtime a week after Athletics Day, and javelin will be done during PE classes at school.
We Value

We Value excellence.

The Munchery
Functions, catering, weddings.

Mad May Meal Deal
For one week only The Munchery will be offering a special meal deal for only $6 from Monday, May 18 until Friday, May 22.

Deal 1
1 x Cheese and Tomato Sandwich
1 x Curly Apple
1 x LOL
1 x Pk of Zombie Monster Munchees (these are a G/F snack made from corn)

Deal 2
1 x Cheese Sandwich
1 x Curly Apple
1 x LOL
1 x Pk of Zombie Monster Munchees (these are a G/F snack made from corn)

Library
Caught in the Library
Who's been seen in the library lately? Lots of students have been reading, borrowing, researching and playing quiet games this week. There's always something to do in the library!

K-9 Premier's Reading Challenge
How is your reading going for the PRC? So far 16 students have completed their reading and have written their names on the PRC finishers window! Well done! You have until August 21 to finish your reading but don't leave it to the last minute! Happy reading everyone.

Library Online
Have you visited Avondale School's online library catalogue yet? It's your link to books that are available and lots more, including Encyclopedia Britannica, online history databases and Referencing Generator to help get those reference lists for assignments just right. Try it today at accessit.avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au. To log in choose either PRIMARY or SENIOR. You do not need to enter a password, just leave it blank and start exploring.

Principal's Message
A little boy sat down at the kitchen table with his crayons and a big sheet of blank paper, and he started to draw. His father, noticing the younger hard at work at the table, stopped to look. "What are you doing, son?" "I'm drawing a picture of God", said the little boy. "But son", said the father, "You can't draw a picture of God. Nobody knows what God looks like." The little boy thought for a moment and said, "Well they will when I get through!" Most people would agree with the father in the story. No one knows what God looks like. All of us have the ability to represent God to the world - and to do it on our own. By extending courtesy to others as individuals you are painting your picture of God. We are to serve God uniquely, with the gifts and abilities that God has given to us, and then others will have a better idea of what God looks like. What an excellent ideal! Excellence is recognising that the world sees Jesus through us and therefore we do our very best in our work, our play and our relationships. It is not about trying to be better than anyone else, but about giving the best we can in everything we do. It means doing our best at everything we are asked to do, not because we want honour for ourselves, but because we want to bring honour to God. Enjoy the news for this week!

Dr David Faull
Principal

School Term Dates 2015

| Term 1 | Tuesday, January 27 - Thursday, April 2 |
| Term 2 | Monday, April 20 - Friday, June 26 |
| Term 3 | Monday, July 20 - Friday, September 18 |
| Term 4 | Tuesday, October 6 - Wednesday, December 9 |

Primary Calendar - Term 2

Year 6Hi Bike Day......................................................... May 18
Year 6SM Bike Day....................................................... May 19
Year 6Ho Bike Day......................................................... May 20
School Reunion........................................................ May 30
ICAS Science Competition.......................................... June 3
Pupil Free Day............................................................ June 5
Queen's Birthday Holiday............................................ June 8
HRIS Basketball.......................................................... June 9
CIS Cross Country....................................................... June 11
Year 3 & 4 Athletics Day............................................. June 16
Year 1 Reptile Park Excursion..................................... June 17

Secondary Calendar - Term 2

Year 10 English Excursion.......................................... May 19
Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews................................ May 19
Athletics Day............................................................. May 20
Chess Competition.................................................... May 21
Year 11 PDHPE Excursion............................................ May 22
Duke of Ed Camp....................................................... May 22 - 25
Year 10-12 Paul Dillon Visit........................................ May 25
Year 10 PDM Excursion................................................ May 26
Year 7 Vaccinations Dose 2......................................... May 27
AICES Cross Country Run.......................................... May 28
School Reunion........................................................ May 30

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