This week students from Years 3 and 5 have worked hard to complete NAPLAN tests. These tests provide parents with a snapshot of the skills and knowledge that students were able to demonstrate on a particular day. More importantly, the test data allows our school to identify areas of strength and weakness. We have implemented a variety of strategies to improve student outcomes in Literacy and Numeracy and we are looking forward to seeing positive results.

Our value this week is thankfulness. The current generation of children live in an age where they have many things and opportunities. It would be easy for them to take their blessed lives for granted. A great way for children to learn to be grateful is to have a regular time when your family shares the things they appreciate. An attitude of gratitude helps us to view the world through positive eyes.

Thought for the week: “Sometimes we need to remind ourselves that thankfulness is indeed a virtue.” William Bennett

Week 3 – check!
Still peddling like mad, gotta tell you! With vaccinations for Years 7 & 9 on Monday, we kicked into a top gear with NAPLAN on Tuesday. Students had to persuade the reader why they would “change a rule or law”, grapple with our language and complete a whole bunch of calculations before Thursday was done. Great effort Year 7s and 9s! Of course our Year 8s and 12s took off on Wednesday for their Broken Bay Camp and Riverwood Downs Retreat respectively and had a fun three days (minus poor Mrs Richards)! Everyone arrives back safely this afternoon and drops in a heap to recover over the weekend from exhaustion. Then Year 10 had Work Experience all week. A lot of great stories already coming back about what they got up to! A really big thanks to the Secondary staff team who managed NAPLAN, supervised at camps, visited students on their Work Experience and simply coped with a heap of relief periods for those teachers absent. Mammoth!

On the Horizon …
Very excited about next week – Paul Dillon returns to talk straight with our senior students (and then parents @ 7.00 pm); Year 12 and parents have interview night with the teachers; elective music students have a performance night; and there are a couple of excursions. And inbetween we’re working overtime to get tasks sorted, homework completed and content covered!

THAT’S ALL FOLKS … EXCEPT, I’VE OFTEN WONDERED …
Why do they call the little candy bars ‘fun sizes’. Wouldn’t it be more fun to eat a big one?

Have an absolutely brill weekend!

Mr Benton Craig
Head of Secondary
b CRAIG@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au

HEADED UP!

HRIS CROSS COUNTRY
Avondale School hosted the annual HRIS Cross country at Avondale College last week with 16 schools competing from the Hunter region. The Avondale School team led by Mr Tosen, Mrs Bradford, Mr Ward and Mr Head were ably assisted by Mr Vogel as MC and the Uniform Shop staff, Mrs McDonald and Mrs O’Rielly, who had a crew of hard working parents running the canteen all day. Thank you David Jarman, Carolyn Geary, Bruce Puller, Jacqui White, Kylie Jones, Kylie Mitchell and Melissa Blackburn for helping out. The Canteen on the day raised $2645 for the School, which is fantastic! The weather was great with predicted rain holding off. The competition was close between schools. Mr Head and the Primary team came first overall, also winning three Age Pennants. The Secondary team gained second place (only just missing out on first place) and winning two Age Pennants. A great team effort from Avondale School and the best Secondary School result in Cross Country for 10 years – well done team!!
HRIS Cross Country

Results
The Primary School was represented by 50 students at the HRIS Cross Country. Outstanding individual performances were achieved by the following students:

12 Year Boys 1st place Dylan P
10 Year Boys 2nd place Landon C
9 Year Boys 2nd place Luke P
8 Year Girls 3rd place Ella G

Congratulations go to the 8 Year Boys, 10 Year Boys and the 12 Year Boys who won their Age Banners. The girls came 2nd in the 10 and 11 Year Age Banners.

Avondale School students all put in a huge effort on the day to win the overall best performing school shield again, giving them 19 wins out of the last 23 years.

1st 648 pts Avondale Primary School
2nd 858 pts Hunter Valley Grammar School
3rd 893 pts Central Coast Adventist School
4th 956 pts St Columba School
5th 1051 pts Lakes Anglican Grammar School

The following students will be going to the CIS Championships in Sydney on Thursday, June 12:

8 Year Event
Ella G

9 Year Event
10 Year Event
11 Year Event
Liam B, Isaac H, Ethan M, Olivia M,
12 Year Event
Zoe D, Liam B, Dylan P, Jerry R, Kaine R

School Sporting Teams
Over the next few weeks students will be selected to represent Avondale School at regional level in the following sports in both Junior and Senior teams: Basketball, Soccer, Netball and Chess. Parents are asked to encourage their children to try out for a sport even if they have never played before.

Year 2 Athletics Carnival
Change of Date – Friday, June 20
Please note that the Year 2 Athletics Carnival listed in the school calendar to be held on Thursday, June 26 has been brought forward and will now be held on Friday, June 20. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.
**GENERAL NEWS**

**Inspirational Music**

*Sharing and Celebrating at Avondale Memorial Church*

Last weekend was a time of recognition of hard work; for both the mums in our lives and also the preparation our music groups on the effort being put into our upcoming School Musical. The Concert Band and String Ensemble, which have joined forces for the term as our school Orchestra, accompanied the Choir for a number of songs from *The Story - The Musical* on Saturday at Avondale Memorial Church. The Handbell Choir also joined the Orchestra for the first time during a church service. Dr Faull spoke about different facets of God - the love of God as seen on the cross and the power of God as seen in the resurrection. Because of Jesus’ resurrection we have hope and should encourage each other. A little encouragement can go a long way as we work together to achieve great things. A big thank you to those students who have committed their time and energy to sharing their talents and God’s love with the churches and community. Special thanks to Miss Knopper, Miss Parsons and Mrs Campbell for all the hard work they put into practices and performances. Well done!

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**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!**

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**Elective Music Concert**

Showcasing our Elective Music students from grades 9 - 11. Come and support your friends and family in this fun and FREE evening of entertainment!

The Details
Where: Music Building
When: 7pm Thursday 22 May
What: Performances chosen especially for this occasion

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**Reading Rulz!**

SIGN UP TODAY AND START READING

- Collect a check sheet from your English teacher.
- Get your books signed off as you read them.
- Hand your check sheet to your English teacher by **November 3**.
- Collect house points by reading. Fantastic!

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**Years 7-10**

1 house point for every book you read before November 3.

**BONUS** 2 points if you read 8 books.
Enrol a friend and receive a $100 Uniform Shop voucher!

Your children love Avondale School, so why not tell your family and friends about it? For each new family you refer to Avondale School you will receive a $100 voucher to spend at the Uniform Shop. Just remind them to include your name and phone number on the enrolment form. Once the family enrolls you will be sent your voucher.

**Principal’s Message**

It’s ‘EOFY’ time! Popping up all over are people using EOFY to offload stock and build cash flows before June 30 when all must be counted. Taking a count of things should help us to reflect on the good things we have. Counting them helps to make us thankful.

How long since you took time to count? Clear skies, warm clothes and good food are just starters. How about shelter and a safe place to go to school? And parents who love us, teachers who really care... the list could go on. As we discuss thankfulness at Avondale School over the next two weeks we can take time to count and actually thank people. Sit down and write a list of the people who have helped you in the last week. Have you thanked them? Last week, I drove a bus for a Year 9 excursion and it was great to hear, “thank you for driving us”. It made my day! Make someone day and say THANK YOU!!

Enjoy the news for this week.

Dr David Faull  
Principal

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**Music Lessons**

The following is a list of private teachers offering music lessons at School. Please contact these teachers directly.

- **Kylie Stacey**  
  Simply Music (piano)  
  4973 3234
- **Nganita Rorich**  
  Simply Music (piano)  
  4973 6089
- **Jan Hughes**  
  piano  
  4977 2037
- **Kylie Smith**  
  piano / voice  
  0418 282 644
- **Cybil Coute**  
  voice (AMEB) / piano (AMEB)  
  0423 450 977
- **Alfred Hobbs**  
  voice  
  0502 525 858
- **Esther Alberti**  
  cello / violin / piano (Suzuki)  
  0439 420 661
- **Gabriel Cantanh**  
  violin / viola (AMEB)  
  0447 262 260
- **Emma Jones**  
  flute  
  0432 925 199
- **Fred Cracknell**  
  saxophone / clarinet / brass  
  0404 082 151
- **Tish O’Hearn**  
  trumpet  
  0402 003 214
- **Jake Bisognin**  
  guitar  
  0400 389 612
- **Gianni Michelini**  
  guitar  
  4929 3060
- **Claudio Carrasc**  
  guitar / piano / voice / drums / bass guitar  
  0404 079 867

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**School Term Dates 2014**

- **Registration Day**  
  Tuesday, January 28
- **Term 1**  
  Wednesday, January 29 - Friday, April 11
- **Term 2**  
  Monday, April 28 - Friday, June 27
- **Term 3**  
  Monday, July 21 - Friday, September 19
- **Term 4**  
  Tuesday, October 7 - Wednesday, December 10

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**Primary Calendar - Term 2**

- ICAS Science Competition  
  June 4
- Pupil Free Day  
  June 6
- Queen’s Birthday Holiday  
  June 9
- CIS Cross Country  
  June 12
- HRIS Basketball  
  June 17
- ICAS Spelling Competition  
  June 17
- Year 2 Athletics Carnival  
  June 20
- Reports to Parents  
  June 20
- Parent Teacher Interviews  
  June 23
- Year 3 & 4 Athletics Carnival  
  June 24
- Year 5 & 6 Athletics Carnival  
  June 25

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**Secondary Calendar - Term 2**

- Paul Dillon Parent Evening on Drugs and Alcohol 7:00 pm  
  May 19
- Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews  
  May 20
- Year 10 PDM Excursion  
  May 22
- Elective Music Classes Concert  
  May 22
- Duke of Edinburgh Camp  
  May 23 - 25
- Year 12 Hospitality Excursion  
  May 27
- Athletics Carnival  
  May 28
- AICES Cross Country  
  May 29
- Year 12 Avondale College Future’s Day  
  June 4
- Pupil Free Day  
  June 6
- Queen’s Birthday Holiday  
  June 9

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**library news**

**K-6 Library Borrowing**

Kindy to Year 6 students have been eagerly bringing their library bags to the iCentre and borrowing lots of library books this week. Vibrant picture books, fascinating fiction and educational non-fiction books have been borrowed by most students during the week. Remember that if you forget your library bag on your library day then come to the iCentre the next day and do your borrowing.

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**Great New Year 7-12 Read!**

**Alexander Altmann A10567 by Suzy Zail**

Alexander Altmann, a 15 year old Jewish boy, finds himself in the work camps of Nazi Germany. His survival is reliant on the taming and training of the Commander’s new horse. Alexander quickly becomes aware that to survive Auschwitz he has to toughen up. The horse he has been given has been abused, same as him, but Alexander knows that he must win the horse’s trust. If he fails, they will both be killed. This is a great story of survival as well as learning to trust again.

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**Paul Dillon Presentation**

We all need insurance to cover in case something goes wrong. Maybe you think your children will never deal with drugs or alcohol. What if they are at a party and get sucked in? What then? Paul Dillon is an outstanding presenter on the topic of drugs and alcohol. He has great material and he is very direct. Come and get some insurance for your family on May 19 and support this P&F initiative.

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**Paul Dillon is from Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Australia.**

You don’t want to miss what he has to say about drugs and your child.

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**I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. What you have done is wonderful. I know this very well. Psalm 139:14 NCV**

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