I try to make it a weekly practice to read through Garry L. Landreth’s *Principals for Relationships with Children (Play Therapy: The Art of Relationship)*. These principles really ground me and remind me about what is really important when spending time with children and adolescents. As I thought about what to write for this Newsletter, I noticed that some of these principles also hold relevance to parenting.

I know so little about the complex intricacies of childhood. Therefore, I will allow children to teach me. I find this a beautiful reminder that we cannot presume to understand everything children go through. Allowing children to teach us about their world helps us understand them more and helps them feel more supported.

I sometimes need a refuge. Therefore, I will provide refuge for children. If our relationships with children are safe, nurturing and empathetic, then they will come to us when they need refuge.

I like it when I am fully accepted as the person I am. Therefore, I will strive to experience and appreciate the person of the child. In my conversations with children and especially adolescents, this is a topic that comes up often. Children and adolescents don’t always feel accepted and appreciated for the person they are. Letting children and adolescents know that they are fully accepted is a wonderful kindness.

I make mistakes. They are a declaration of the way I am – human and fallible. Therefore, I will be tolerant of the humanness of children. It is a lovely reminder that we all make mistakes and to offer the same grace that we hope for as adults to children.

I am more fully me when I feel safe. Therefore, I will be consistent in my interactions with children. It is certainly not an easy task to be consistent in our interactions with children and adolescents. As previously acknowledged, we are human and fallible; we will all get it wrong sometimes. Knowing that it can lead to children feeling safer makes it a goal worth persisting with.

I cannot make children’s hurts, fears, frustrations and disappointments go away. Therefore, I will soften the blow. I often wish that there were a way to magically fix everything. As parents, I imagine you must feel similarly when you see your children hurting. When Gary Landreth says, “I will soften the blow”, I interpret that as meaning that:

a) I will be available and present as they work through what they are going through so they won’t be alone and;

b) I will acknowledge the difficulty of the situation and not minimise their struggle.

I believe that just by being present for children and adolescents, by listening and caring, we can make a huge impact on their lives.
**Mid-Year School Reports & Parent Teacher Interviews**

Primary Mid-Year Reports will be emailed out to parents next week. Parent Teacher Interviews will be held in the iCentre on Tuesday, June 27 from 3.30 pm until 8.00 pm. An email will be sent next week with booking details.

**Year 6 E-Day**

On Thursday, June 29, Year 6 classes will be running their E-Business stalls at school. They have been working hard this term setting up their businesses by learning about budgets, insurance, writing business proposals, creating logos and making advertising posters. Kindy to Year 5 students will be given E-dollars on the day to spend at the stalls.

All parents and grandparents are welcome to come along and check out the stalls. E-dollars for visitors will be issued when signing in at the Primary Office.

Year 6 parents, thank you for your help in organising the business from home, we look forward to seeing you on E-Day if you can attend.

**Before School Care**

Just a reminder that our duty teachers are on duty from 8.00 am each morning. To ensure the safety of students, please do not drop your child/children off at school before 8.00 am.

**After School Pickup**

Thank you to the many families that use our Carline Service in the afternoon to collect your child/children. We would like to encourage all parents that need to pick up students to take advantage of this convenient and safe service provided for the collection of your children from school. Please note that due to limited parking and after school care bus traffic, parents are asked NOT to park inside the school gates in the car parks, including the ELC (unless you are collecting children from the ELC). Thank you for noting this and helping to keep our students safe.

**Entertainment Books**

Please return all unwanted Entertainment Books to the Primary Office as soon as possible. Thank you for noting this.

**HRIS Public Speaking**

Avondale students took part in the annual HRIS Public Speaking Competition on Wednesday. This event brought some of the best orators from across Hunter region's independent primary schools into one place. Our students shone brightly as they represented their school in skill and impeccable manners. We are glad to support these friendly interschool competitions and we look for more opportunities to showcase the speaking talents of our students.

**Term 3 STEM Activities - Parent Volunteers**

In Term 3 we are looking for volunteers to run some STEM activities during lunch time. These activities could take the form of a collaborative cup stacking competition, how many drops of water on a coin, a Lego challenge or a straw construction or the many other numerous ideas out there. The activities would start with a problem or predicament and then the students are given resources that are used to complete the activity. This is a great opportunity to challenge students with a problem and watch their creative minds solve it, in some pretty spectacular ways! There will be a teacher to help organise the event. If you can only do one lunch time or a few, get in touch with the Office with your availability today.

**Years 2-6 Athletics Carnivals**

Students in Years 2-6 will need to wear their sports uniform for their carnivals held on the Primary School Oval next week, weather permitting (check Facebook for updates). Parents are most welcome to attend.

- **Tuesday, June 20**: Years 3 & 4
- **Wednesday, June 21**: Years 5 & 6
- **Friday, June 23**: Year 2

**Athletic Carnivals – Parent Helpers**

If you would like to help at a station on any of the Athletics Days, please leave your name at the Primary Office.
An Amazing Mathematics Experience

On Tuesday, Year 12 Mathematics Extension 1 students were inspired when they enthusiastically attended the Mathematics Association of NSW Extension 1 and 2 Day at Sydney University.

Students had the opportunity to listen to a plenary presentation by Professor Jacqui Ramagge, who is the Head of the Mathematics and Statistics Faculty at Sydney University. Professor Ramagge shared with students how our students' current study of mathematics opens up an extensive range of rewarding career opportunities. She outlined many examples of how mathematics is being used to solve real world problems right around Australia.

Students had the opportunity to attend four different sessions with multiple opportunities available to them in each time slot. Some of the highlights included Dr Randell Heyman showing how division remainders and prime numbers help keep the internet secure, Dr Milena Radnovic exploring the mathematics of playing triangular and elliptical billiards, Stephen Woodcock outlining paradoxes of probability and other statistical strangeness, Dr David Gruenewald linking N-dimensional cubes to the famous Tower of Hanoi problem and Professor Chris Poulton investigating how strong Spiderman is. Dr Stephan Tillmann also gave a presentation on the shape of space and allowed students to explore some simple universes using an intuitive, hands-on computer game approach.

Our students appeared to have more fun than what they would likely have had on Christmas day! Needless to say, a great day was had.

Year 12 Geography Study Day

The Year 12 Geography Class attended the GTA HSC Study Day at St Andrews Cathedral this week, followed by a walk through Pyrmont to look at Urban Dynamics in the Sydney setting. A most valuable day in terms of preparation for the HSC.
Primary Calendar - Term 2

Years 3 & 4 Athletics Carnival ................................. June 20
Years 5 & 6 Athletics Carnival ................................. June 21
Seussical the Musical .................................................. June 21 - 24
Get Active Ends for Term 2 ....................................... June 22
Year 2 Athletics Carnival ............................................ June 23
Primary Parent Teacher Interviews .......................... June 27
Year 6 E-Day ............................................................. June 29
Kindy Grandparents Day ............................................ June 30
Year 4 Awabakal Excursion ....................................... June 30
Last Day of Term 2 .................................................... June 30

Secondary Calendar - Term 2 & 3

HRIS Basketball ........................................................... June 20
Year 11 & 12 Hospitality Community Function ............ June 20
Year 9 English Excursion ............................................. June 21
Seussical the Musical .................................................. June 21 - 24
Year 11 VET Work Placement .................................... June 26 - 30
Years 7-11 Parent Teacher Interviews ....................... June 26 & 27
Last Day of Term 2 ..................................................... June 30
Year 12 First Day of Term 3 ........................................ July 20
Year 7 - 11 First Day of Term 3 ................................. July 24
HRIS Athletics Carnival ............................................... July 26

Library

Library Second-hand Book Sale
Have you started saving up your loose change for our Library Second-hand Book Sale? On Monday, June 26 we'll be having a flash sale in the library, with some of the books that have been removed from the collection, having the chance to find a new home with YOU. There will be a large range of Primary and Secondary ex-library books, including picture books, fiction and non-fiction. All books will cost 20c or 50c each, with special deals when you purchase 5 or more.
Our flash sale will run from 8.00 am through to 4.00 pm while stocks last!

Library Book Sale

K-6 Library Prizes
Hundreds of thrilling fiction books and informative non-fiction books have been read by a great many students during Term 2. It's now time to return your library books so please remember your library bags and books next week. Congratulations to the 229 students who have borrowed library books EVERY week this term! What an excellent and enjoyable pastime! You will choose your prizes in library classes next week.

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.

Kylie Stacey piano (Simply Music, AMEB, traditional) 0409 939 302
Angela Miller piano (Simply Music) 0421 464 797
Jan Hughes piano 4977 2037
Marilyn Aveling-Rowe piano 0422 714 747
Cybèle Coutet voice (AMEB) / piano (AMEB) 0423 455 977
Alison Hodge voice 0420 528 868
Gabriel Ontanu violin / viola 0447 282 282
Renee Lis violin 0413 777 477
Esther Albert cello / violin / double bass 0439 420 661
Emma Jones flute 0432 925 199
Fred Cracknell saxophone / clarinet / brass 0404 082 151
Oliver Doyle trumpet 0418 975 033
Jake Bisognin guitar 0400 389 612
Zayne Mariassouce guitar 0455 114 448
Mitchell Wallace bass guitar / guitar 0435 578 723
Garry Lawler group guitar lessons / ukulele 0438 608 180
James Dennett drums 0401 549 084

Libraries

Like us on social media for regular information updates!

School Terms 2017

Term 1 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 - Friday, December 8