Not too long ago, I sat in front of the flashing TV lights with hope. Though I was on the other side of the world, I felt the rawness of every moment, as there was a growing possibility that England could find itself through to the World Cup Football (aka soccer) Final. There was just one small obstacle: Croatia... a country with a population of only 4 million people, but also the birthplace of my wife's parents! I initially felt divided due to the deep sense of pride I have for my place of origin, balanced against the potential that the result of this match could mean no dinner for me for a week. However, I sided with the English Squad and hoped that every kick would be for England, each save would be for Harry and Meghan, and every goal would be for the Queen.

Well, Croatia had other plans. When Croatia won and eliminated England's hopes, I didn't sob or sulk (though I did share a solitary tear as I knew Lizzy - Queen Elizabeth II - would have been disappointed). Instead, I was struck by the immense sense of connection one can feel for a sports team, or perhaps a contestant from The Block, or the latest ‘must do’ activity. But that's not altogether surprising, as it is a human need to belong, to be part of something more, and to contribute in some way to that community or group.

Recently, I sat with other teachers and school administrators to discuss the power of the Avondale School community. The comments were robust and evaluated the elements that make up our community, be it in the classroom, on the wider campus, in the local Cooranbong area and beyond. Underpinning the whole discussion was a clear team motto: Avondale School is intentional about developing a community of belonging.

As a group, we applauded the goals we had historically aimed for and achieved, we lamented missed opportunities, we high-fived the steps taken by individuals and teams to ‘score’ the right outcomes for students and families, and we shared our ‘game plan’ for the future good of our school community. That vision encompasses a desire to see each element of the School build and focus on a community that fosters a sense of belonging for all.

Whether we are students, parents, carers, friends or staff, we are all part of this amazing Avondale School community. We each have a role to play in connecting with and growing our students as they prepare for the greater game of life. Together, we will coach and cheer for them every step of the way. And when the whistle blows and it’s time to review the year that has been, we will be glad we all belong to the Avondale School team.

Stuart Clark
Stage 2 Coordinator
SPORT

Years 3-6 Swimming Program
The swimming program for all students in Years 3-6 will commence next week. Students in Years 3 and 4 will swim on Wednesdays and Years 5 and 6 on Fridays. Students will be under the instruction of qualified swim instructors at the Morisset Heated Pool. All students are to wear their sports uniform on their swimming day ONLY. Please note that swimming replaces Friday sport for the rest of Term 4. Students are required to bring clearly named swimmers (girls are required to wear a one-piece or a rash shirt over swimmers), towel, and goggles are optional. A signed note from home is required if students are unable to participate due to illness. Students are assessed in swimming classes and certificates are awarded.

Years 3 & 4 - Wednesdays
Year 3 depart at 1.15pm return at 2.30pm
Year 4 depart at 1.55pm return at 3.05pm

Years 5 & 6 - Fridays
Year 5 depart at 1.15pm return at 2.30pm
Year 6 depart at 1.55pm return at 3.05pm

Kindy-Year 2 Learn to Swim Program
November 12 – November 23
All students in Kindy, Years 1 and 2 will participate in a Learn to Swim Program at Morisset Heated Pool from Monday, November 12 until Friday, November 23. Students are required to bring their clearly named swimmers and towel (goggles are optional) each day for the two-week program.

GENERAL
Avondale School is very proud of our Year 3 Teacher, Miss Moncrieff, who has written two children’s books. We invite you to celebrate with her at the book launch.

ICAS English & Mathematics Presentation
The ICAS English and Mathematics presentation will take place this coming Monday, October 22 during assembly.

2019 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.

Kindy, Years 1 & 2 – wear their Sport Uniform on Mondays.
Years 3 & 4 – wear their Sport Uniform on Wednesdays.
Years 5 & 6 – wear their Sport Uniform on Fridays.

Term 4 Sport Uniform
2019 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.
Important Information for Term 4

Dear Parents and Students

We write today to let you know of some changes for Term 4.

Mr Benton Craig will not be continuing in his role as Head of Secondary for Term 4 as he will be on leave for the balance of the year and then transitioning to his new role at Charlton Christian College.

For the first three weeks of Term Four, Mr Craig will be continuing with the normal choir practice on Wednesday afternoons in preparation for the Combined Choir worship program at College Church on November 3, and we sincerely thank him for that.

We will therefore have an adjusted Secondary School admin structure for Term 4 that is as follows:

David McClintock – Acting Head of Secondary
Clinton Max – Assistant Head of Secondary and Boys Dean
Julie Carter – Director of Studies and Girls Dean

We want to take this opportunity to thank Mr Craig for his twenty years of dedicated teaching and administrative service at Avondale School. Over that time period he has been involved in a vast array of roles that have ranged from classroom teaching, music leadership in choir and large scale special events through to his current role of senior leadership in the school, caring in particular for the Secondary program. While that appears simple to list, it in no way fully captures the vast detail attached to those roles: the countless out of school hours, the weekends and nights given over to the advancing of others and the personal cost being so engaged has on both an individual and family. School has a way of grabbing hold of a person and for those willing to give, it keeps on taking, and Mr Craig has given willingly for over two decades to Avondale School and we sincerely acknowledge and thank him for that.

My dear school families

It has not worked out that I am able to return to my position as Head of Secondary for this term. As sad as this is for me, I must turn my attention to preparing for a new season as Deputy Principal at Charlton Christian College in 2019. While this has not been my plan for the remainder of the year, I do wish for all of us to make the most of the situation.

I have always been a strong believer in the possibilities of Avondale School and have often fought hard to see us embrace an acceptance of staff and students, irrespective of background. I have had a passion for bringing Jesus to everyone. I hope that I have served you all well, and given the Secondary Campus an energy and direction that has allowed students to achieve their best. In the 20 years I have been a part of the Avondale School staff, there have been so many moments of pride and sheer joy. I am grateful to have had the chance to work with all families who have believed in this school and the education we offer.

I am reminded at this time of Proverbs 3:5-6; “Trust the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths”. Nothing I do will ever come close to being more important than God’s leading. I simply pray that all of us learn to place our trust in Him.

Thank you so much for supporting me along with the secondary staff as we have worked to bring out the best in your children. It has been an absolute privilege to be part of your Avondale team.

Yours sincerely
Benton Craig
K-6 Book Club
Last chance to order from Scholastic Book Club this year! Scholastic Book Club Issue 7 should be coming home this week. This will be your last chance to order this year. Look out for a great range of books including Christmas titles and the heavily discounted books scattered through the catalogue. These books start at $2 and are chosen to try and make books affordable to everyone. There are even small posters from $1. If you would like to order books for Christmas presents, simply email us at the library (hlindsay@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au or jlitster@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au) and let us know and we will keep them aside until we have arranged a time for you to pick them up. All orders should be lodged online by Friday, November 2.

Stage 3 Book Club Meeting
Monday, October 22 at lunchtime
Stage 3 students (Years 5 & 6) also have a chance to join their own Book Club. Mrs Lindsay invites all Book Lovers in Years 5 and 6 to attend our second meeting in the iCentre Classroom on Monday, October 22. Students should bring their lunch and join in for a bit of fun and discussion. We look forward to seeing them there.

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 colourful bags for sale in the library for just $5.00. Enjoy your reading everyone!

Year 8 Author-Illustrator Visit
Year 8 English are just starting a unit of work on Writing a Children’s Picture Book. Nathaniel Eckstrom, an author and illustrator of children’s picture books, took a session with Year 8 on Thursday, October 18. He shared some information about the writing and creation of picture books and helped our students to understand more about the process. He explained how he does his illustrations and how they are often a mix of hand-drawing and technology. He shared some valuable tips on the process and students admired his work as he created a charcoal sketch right in front of them. Year 8 were a great audience and will have acquired some valuable tips to help them with their own projects.

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 040 308

Voice
Cybèle Coutet (AMEB) / 0423 455 977

Strings
Henry Higgins (cello) / 0490 040 308
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 040 308
Garry Lawler (group lessons / ukulele) / 0438 608 180

Drums
James Dennett / 0401 549 084

We value … Enthusiasm