Despite a grey day and drizzle, our Swimming Carnival was a huge success. We had great participation from our students, making the House scores very close! I love seeing students do their best as they work as teams. Thanks also to all of our spectators and parent helpers. Our Kindy students have finished their first weeks of school that include rest days. They now begin full weeks at school.

Next Week Year 4 have a Mini Winter Olympics program on Wednesday and HRIS Swimming is on Thursday. We are proud to be sending a strong team of capable and enthusiastic swimmers to represent Avondale. Just a reminder that our teachers make learning time a top priority. If you need to speak to a teacher, please organise a time to chat before school or after school. If you need to collect a child from class, please knock on the door and wait. Our goal is to avoid interruptions to student learning.

Mrs Deb Cooper
Head of Primary
dcooper@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au

Thought for the week: “One act of obedience is better than one hundred sermons.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Week 4 is Done!
We had an awesome Week of Worship this week – some of our Year 12 students stepped up to the microphone and connected their story with Jesus’ story. Inspiring! Our Year 10 and Year 7 information nights were incredibly well attended and gave families an opportunity to understand RoSA (Year 10) or what a new tool for learning (personal laptop) was all about (Year 7). Year 10 Visual Arts students also visited the Newcastle Gallery and city coastline today.

The Near Horizon …
Week 5 has our Year 12 VET students doing Work Placement – a whole week in industry. Vaccinations for Years 7 and 9 take place on Friday and our D of E students head off to camp next weekend. And for the rest of us, we’re doing class, engaging in tasks and doing the business of learning. Let’s not forget the importance of our diaries either!

THAT’S ALL FOLKS … EXCEPT, I’VE OFTEN WONDERED …
Is it rude for a deaf person to talk (sign) with their mouth full of food?

Enjoy a moment or two respite from the pace of the week!

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

The Primary Swimming Carnival was held this week at the Morisset Pool with a huge number of students participating. Each of the Houses had their cheer squads who supported the swimmers and Pacific House was voted as the best supporting House.

Special congratulations go to Rhiannon D who broke three records (10 year Girls 50m Freestyle / 100m Freestyle / 50m Backstroke). Congratulations go to Hunter House for winning the overall carnival.

A big thank you to all the parents and friends who helped with placings on the day. Once again the parents took out the final relay race of the day (Mr Morton, Mr van Duinen, Mr Hunt and Mr Morton).

Hunter 710 pts
Watagan 652 pts
Macquarie 651 pts
Pacific 591 pts
HRIS Swimming Carnival – Thursday, February 27
The HRIS Swimming Carnival will be held at Maitland Pool on Thursday, February 27. Permission notes have been sent home this week. The team going to HRIS has been posted in the Sport Cabinet.

Primary Chess Competition – Wednesday, March 5
The Primary Chess Competition will be held on Wednesday, March 5 in the MPC. If there are any parents willing to help run the event please see Mr Head.

Swimming Club – Last session Tuesday, February 25
The last session of Swimming Club will be Tuesday, February 25. Students in the HRIS Swimming Team are encouraged to attend this training session to help eliminate disappointing disqualifications at the HRIS Carnival.

Year 4 Winter Olympics
HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!
An email will be sent to Year 4 parents soon.
Year 7 & 9 Vaccinations

Vaccinations for Year 7 (ALL) and 9 (MALES ONLY) will be held NEXT FRIDAY, February 28. Forms were handed out today to relevant students. Year 7 students will be receiving Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis Vaccination, the Chicken Pox (Varicella) Vaccination, as well as the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination. Year 9 male students will be receiving the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination.

The 2nd dose of HPV Vaccination will be given on May 12 and the 3rd on September 15.

All forms are to be handed in to the Office ASAP. If you do not wish to have your child vaccinated please return the blank form to the Office. Students will only receive a vaccination if the form is completed and signed by a parent/legal guardian.

Year 7 students should receive a purple envelope which includes a checklist, privacy statement, a Consent Form and three Information sheets. On the consent form you must select (tick) which vaccination you wish your child to receive:
1) Human Papillomavirus (HPV) (pink)
2) Varicella (Chicken Pox) (yellow)
3) Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (dTpa) (blue)

Year 9 male students should receive an olive green Boys Human Papillomavirus (HPV) envelope which includes a Consent Form, privacy statement and an information sheet.

Why are males now included in the free HPV Vaccination program?
In 2012, the Australian Government announced that HPV vaccine would be provided free to male students in high schools from 2013. Although HPV infection is best known for causing cervical cancer, the HPV vaccine has benefits for males too. Extending the vaccination program to boys will help to protect them against some of the most common types of HPV infection and against developing a range of cancers and will also help protect women from infection.

If you have any more questions regarding Vaccinations, please contact Cherie Davey in the Secondary Office.

Secondary Chess Competition
Friday, March 7
The Secondary Chess Competition will be held on Friday, March 7 in the MPC.

Great Achievement
Connor R (Year 9) recently became the 2013 National Barefoot Water Skiing Champion for Junior Boys. He achieved:
1. 1st place in Slaylem
2. 3rd place in Trick
3. 3rd overall in Australia for Junior Boys
He has been selected for the Australian Team and in two weeks time he will be competing in the World Barefoot Title in Victoria. He is currently ranked 10th overall in the world for Barefoot Water Skiing. Congratulations Connor on such a great achievement. We are very proud of you!

Laptops in a room had our Year 7 students all a-quiver with excitement yesterday! As each roll class entered the Media Room in the iCentre with laptops on the tables, they began a process of unlocking, personalizing and setting up their very own computer. Each class engaged with our IT team in email, internet, filing systems and general system processes. A big thank you to Felix and Andrew for making Bootcamp fun, speedy and informative. Welcome to the world of learning linked to technology, Year 7!
**Principal’s Message**

The week has just flown by and there is lots of great things happening at our school.

The Primary Swimming Carnival was a well-run event. A BIG thank you to all the parents and grandparents who were there to support. I was impressed with the enthusiasm for the Houses and the cheering and encouragement that was a real feature of the day. Well done to Hunter House!!

This week we have had our Information Nights for Year 10 and Year 7. The Year 10 students and parents turned out to learn how to make the most of this year and set goals, including their work experience placement for the year.

The Year 7 students have settled into the Secondary program and are ready for their laptops. Technology provides a whole range of new avenues for learning and communication. The support of parents to build great ‘work’ habits on the computer is essential.

The ‘boot camps’ gave students the basic tools on how to utilise the laptops. I am sure in coming weeks we will see levels of creativity and responsibility with the laptops that even we could not imagine. We are about to commence promoting our School Open Day on March 19. If you have a friend, or your child has a friend, who would like to come to Avondale, now is a good time to invite them to lock it into their calendars so they can come and enjoy school ‘live’!! More details are on the website or listen to 99.7 Phema FM. As the year settles into routine it has been great to see the students lined up ready for class on time. Punctuality is one of the values we are promoting. Avondale students are keen to be on time, all the time. Well done!!

Enjoy the news for this week!

Dr David Faull

*Principal*

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**library news**

**Position Vacant**

Library Assistant

The library is seeking a Year 10, 11 or 12 student to work as a paid library assistant commencing as soon as possible. The position is for 5 days per week for half an hour each morning from 8.00 am – 8.30 am. Please contact the library for a detailed position description and application form. Applications close on Friday, February 28.

**Extended Opening Hours**

Commencing next week the iCentre will be open until 4.30 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday to allow Secondary School students additional access for quiet study. This will continue on a trial basis throughout Term 1. The iCentre will also be the venue for the ‘Step Up’ study program for Secondary students on Thursday afternoon until 4.30 pm. We are hoping that many students will take advantage of the opportunity to use a dedicated after school study space. Please note: Primary students coming to the library after school need to be accompanied by a parent at all times.

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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
- Ngareta Ronich: Simply Music (piano)  4973 8080
- Jim Hughes: piano  4977 2037
- Kylie Smith: piano / voice  4977 1417
- Cybille Coulter: voice / piano  0422 455 977
- Alison Hodge: voice  0420 528 868
- Esther Albert: cello / violin / piano (Suzuki)  0439 420 661
- Gabriel Ondanu: violin / viola (AMEB)  0417 205 290
- Emma Jones: flute  0412 925 199
- Freckle Cranknell: saxophone / clarinet / brass  0404 082 151
- Katie O’Heahs: trumpet  0422 003 214
- Jake Bisognin: guitar  0400 399 612
- Gianni Michelini: guitar  4929 0060
- Garry Lawler: group guitar lessons / ukulele  0438 608 180
- Brandon O’Donnell: bass guitar / ukulele  0416 275 569
- Tiffany Bowdery: drums  0422 385 828
- Claudio Carrasco: guitar / piano / voice / drums / bass guitar  0404 079 867

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**Primary Calendar - Term 1**

- CIS Tennis .................................................February 24
- HRIS Swimming .............................................February 27
- Primary Chess Competition ................................March 5
- P&P Meeting .............................................March 12
- CIS Swimming .............................................March 14
- Interim Reports ...........................................March 14
- School Open Day ........................................March 19
- Parent Teacher Interviews .............................March 24
- Get Active Ends for Term 1 ............................April 4
- Year 5 Camp .............................................April 9 - 11
- Last Day of Term 1 .......................................April 11

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**Secondary Calendar - Term 1**

- Year 12 VET Work Placement ........................February 24 - 28
- Year 9 Commerce Excursion ............................February 25
- Year 7 (all) & 9 (male) Vaccinations ..................February 28
- Duke of Edinburgh Camp .............................February 28 - March 2
- HRIS Hockey ...........................................March 3
- Year 10 Business Week ...................................March 3 - 7
- Year 9-12 Chess Competition ........................March 7
- P&P Meeting ...........................................March 12
- HRIS Swimming ........................................March 13
- Year 8 History Excursion ...............................March 13
- School Open Day ........................................March 19