THE VIEW

STEM
Late last year we announced through the Newsletter the exciting news that Avondale School had been selected as one of the Partner Schools for the 2019 STEM Teacher Enrichment Academy program, run by Sydney University. This program involves Avondale School partnering with the STEM Teacher Enrichment Academy to further plan and develop Avondale School’s STEM program and involves our Secondary STEM teachers in research-backed professional development and support from STEM Academy mentors.

Established in 2014, the STEM Teacher Enrichment Academy offers knowledge, skills, resources and support to enable teachers to make real change in their classroom teaching of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. The program is the first of its kind in Australia and is helping build the nation’s STEM capability by enabling development and support from STEM Academy mentors.

At Avondale School, our primary aim in partnering with the STEM Academy is to further inspire and enthuse our secondary teachers of STEM subjects, enriching and reinvigorating their classroom practice and through this, to improve student engagement so that more continue to study these areas in Years 11-12 and beyond.

So, what is STEM Education? “STEM education is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where rigorous academic concepts are coupled with real-world lessons as students apply science, technology, engineering and mathematics in contexts that make connections with school, community, work and the global enterprise enabling development of STEM literacy and with it the ability to compete in the new economy.” (Tsoupras, Kohler & Hallinen, 2009)

And why is STEM Education important? Over the next five years, employment is predicted to increase in professional, scientific and technical services by 14% and in health care by almost 20%. Some STEM-related jobs, such as ICT professionals and engineers, have grown at about 1.5 times the rate of other jobs in recent years. Changing 1% of Australia’s workforce into STEM-related roles would add $57.4 billion to GDP (Price Waterhouse Coopers, 2015).

So, what has happened at Avondale School already this term? The Avondale School Secondary STEM Hub has:

- begun teaching an exciting new elective for the first time - Year 10 STEM;
- implemented a highly engaging, new Year 10 Mathematics STEM pathway of learning for some of our Year 10 students;
- begun delivering the following brand new NESA courses: Year 7 Mandatory Technology, Year 11 Advanced Mathematics, Year 11 Mathematics Extension 1, Year 12 Mathematics Standard 1, Year 12 Mathematics Standard 2, Year 12 Biology, Year 12 Physics and Year 12 Chemistry;
- had a team of six Avondale School Secondary STEM teachers actively involved in a 3-day professional development program with Sydney University’s STEM Teacher Enrichment Academy;
- with the expert assistance of our STEM Academy mentor, had six of our Secondary teachers collaboratively planning for the implementation of some very exciting Term 2 and 3 Year 7 integrated STEM project-based learning tasks;
- launched the Avondale School Secondary School FabLab maker space – this is an opportunity for students to come and create, build and tinker with fun STEM related activities and projects at lunchtimes in Room 16 on Tuesdays and Thursdays;
- launched our FabLab student coding initiative – students interested in coding can come along to Room 16 at lunchtimes on Thursdays to learn to code (no prior experience is necessary);
- launched our exciting Year 8 & 9 Mathematics and our new Year 9 & 10 Science SWOP Students With Outstanding Potential (SWOP) gifted and talented programs;
- trained key staff in the use of our five new 3D printers;
- celebrated some amazing women who work in STEM careers on International Women’s Day.

Anthony Hesmond
Secondary STEM Hub Leader
**GENERAL**

**Impetigo (School Sores)**
We have had a few reported cases of Impetigo in the Primary School. Impetigo is a skin infection also known as School Sores because it commonly affects school-aged children. It is highly contagious and a child with Impetigo should be kept at home until appropriate treatment has commenced. If your child/children develop blisters which weep and crust, or if they have sores that are not healing and getting larger, medical treatment should be sought. On returning to school the sores should be covered with a waterproof dressing until healed. More information can be obtained from your Medical Practitioner or NSW Department of Health.

**HRIS Cross Country**

**Held In School Holidays**
The HRIS Cross Country will be held at Avondale College on Friday, May 3. Please note that this is the last day of the school holidays. The first 5 places in the 8 to 12 years age groups will be invited to compete at the HRIS event.

**Run 4 Bibles**
Many classes have set class goals as they raise money for this worthy cause. Each $7 raised will put a Bible into a family in Africa. All money raised is to be returned to the class teacher on Monday, April 8.

**SPORT**

**Cross Country – Change Of Date**
Monday, April 1
Please note the date for the K-6 Cross Country has now changed to Monday, April 1. We apologise for any inconvenience but due to circumstances outside of our control, we have had to bring the event forward a week.

**Cross Country Run Around Australia**
Our enthusiastic students have already covered over 5,000km in training this week. Many students have received their 10km certificate. Quite a large number of students have set personal goals they want to achieve in their training. Parents, grandparents and friends are welcome to run with their kids before school each morning. Students are allowed to wear their sports uniform each day while training is on. Joggers and a spare pair of dry socks are recommended.

**Tennis**
If you would like your child to learn to play tennis after school from 3.30 - 4.30pm on our school courts, with a tennis coach from Tennis Australia, please contact Mr Head. Tennis will commence in Term 2 and will cost $65 for 8 weeks.

**School Chess Competition**
**Friday, April 5**
The School Chess Competition will be held in the MPC on Friday, April 5. Students need to register their names with Mr Head before March 29. From this competition two senior (Years 5 & 6) and two junior teams (K-Year 4) will be selected for interschool competitions.

**Vacation Care**
Bookings for April/May holidays are now available. Book online today!
SPORT

Secondary Cross Country

The Cross Country run is to be held on Thursday, March 28 during Periods 5 and 6, starting at 1.30pm. If it looks like the rain is coming we may start earlier. We will be running around the Primary Oval, School dam and along the Secondary fence line, the number of laps depending on the distances each age group has to cover.

House points and Age Champions will be announced at a Chapel program after the event. The first five runners in each age group will be selected to represent Avondale School at the HRIS Cross Country held at Avondale College on Friday, May 3 (last Friday of the school holidays).

All Year Levels have been training during Sport time in preparation for the event. Sport uniform is expected and please bring along a water bottle. It has been suggested to students to wear an older pair of joggers as the track may be muddy and wet.

Cross Country Distances

Boys                        Girls
12 years  3kms              12 years  3kms
13 years  3kms              13 years  3kms
14 years  4kms              14 years  4kms
15 years  4kms              15 years  4kms
16 years  6kms              16 years  4kms
17 years  6kms              17 years  4kms
18 years  6kms              18 years  4kms

HRIS Swimming Carnival

Avondale School has a values program which was displayed at the HRIS Swimming Carnival last week. There was respect, encouragement, positive attitude, determination, persistence, humour and teamwork, and that was even before anyone got into the pool. 29 fantastic students came to compete and did our school proud in the water. Some students did their personal best and others swum two ages up to fill in gaps. These students were supported by a vocal support crew who are to be commended for their loud cheers and never-ending encouragement. We look forward to next year where we take on the best in Division 2. Who knows what this awesome bunch of students, along with selected others, will achieve next year!

CLASS

Europe Trip 2020

On Tuesday, March 26 at 6.00pm in the CLC there will be an information night about the Europe Trip that is happening next year for all Year 10 and 11 students (current Years 9 and 10). It is not subject specific to come, although all subjects will be covered on the trip.

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Europe Trip 2020

Information Night

Tuesday 26 March

6pm CLC

(For parents of Students currently in Year 9 & 10)
**ALL SCHOOL**

**Outdoor Movie Night**
Join us on Saturday night, March 23 at 7.30pm for an Outdoor Movie Night in the MPC Carpark area. This event is to help raise some funds for our Year 12 Cambodia Mission Trip in December. Avondale School families and friends are all welcome. WONDER is based on the New York Times bestseller, and tells the incredibly inspiring and heartwarming story of August Pullman. Born with facial differences that, up until now, have prevented him from going to a mainstream school, Auggie becomes the most unlikely of heroes when he enters the local fifth grade. As his family, his new classmates, and the larger community all struggle to discover their compassion and acceptance, Auggie’s extraordinary journey will unite them all and prove you can’t blend in when you were born to stand out. (IMDB)

We will also have a special segment centred around ‘kindness’, to raise awareness of the impact of bullying and to facilitate constructive conversations around kindness on our campus. Please bring your friends and a picnic chair to sit on.

Tickets: $2 per person (to be paid on entry). There will be food and drinks available for purchase.

**Pupil Free Date Change**
Our 2019 Calendar had Friday, June 7 as a Pupil Free Day; however we need to change this to the final Friday of Term 3, September 27. We apologise if that affects any plans you might have had, but it is due to circumstances beyond our control.

**LIBRARY**

**K-9 Premier’s Reading Challenge**
If you’d like to sign up for the Premier’s Reading Challenge you have one more week to do so at the library. Check out the iCentre Landscape page for all the PRC information you need. [http://landscape.avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au/homepage/1762](http://landscape.avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au/homepage/1762) Already signed up? You have until August 30 to complete your reading.

**K-6 Library Borrowing**
So many students are enjoying borrowing and reading their favourite books from the library. If you’re looking for new exciting authors and great new book series’ why not check out our Year 3-6 Book Jar. Come and browse, and be inspired.

**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
Cybèle Coutet (AMEB) / 0423 455 977
Jan Hughes / 4977 2037
Henry Higgins / 0490 040 308
Sophie-Lee Johnson / 0490 451 781

**Voice**
Cybèle Coutet (AMEB) / 0423 455 977

**Strings**
Henry Higgins (cello) / 0490 040 308
Esther Albert (cello / violin / double bass) / 0439 420 661

**Woodwinds**
Meldi Arkinstall (flute) / 0413 548 985
Fred Cracknell (saxophone / clarinet) / 0404 082 151

**Brass**
Fred Cracknell / 0404 082 151

**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 ... PATIENCE**