THIS WEEK … our Year 6 students have all participated in a Bike Safety program. I have heard rumours that several students lost lots of points off licences. Watch out when these students are learning to drive! Students from 3M have been cooking up a storm for Kid’s Caf. They are putting their knowledge of healthy food choices into practice. Kindy students looked bright in their colourful clothes for Colour Day. Year 1 students have been busy examining small creatures for Science. They can even draw labelled diagrams of their favourite creatures.

NEXT WEEK … we will be busy completing assessments. Please avoid absences if possible. Assessments give students the opportunity to demonstrate all the fantastic learning that has taken place. On Monday morning our Knights and Rookies teams will be involved in a Chess Competition. As usual, many of our students will be involved in Bible Study groups on Friday.

DID YOU KNOW … that our value for the week is Excellence. While we all want our children to do their very best, parents and teachers create anxiety when the focus is perfection. We help our children to succeed when we value small steps forward. We all make mistakes and teaching our children that mistakes are actually part of the learning process helps them to be relaxed and resilient. Children need to hear that adults make mistakes too!

MAKING A MARK … “Be a yardstick of quality. Some people aren’t used to an environment where excellence is expected.” Steve Jobs

DONE AND DUSTED … We have had another great week – Year 10 had a superb visit to a performance of Macbeth in Sydney, learning more of the Shakespearean vernacular via the stage and cast discussion; Year 12 families purposefully engaged with staff in our Parent Teacher interviews; and our Athletics Day was a really successful day of team spirit and student participation under blue skies (which was such a blessing)! We finished the week with a Mufti Day, raising funds for families in Nepal.

CHALKBOARD ITEMS … Paul Dillon visits next Monday with our students in Years 10-12 for a couple of periods at a time; Year 10 PDM check out the landscapes of Sydney on Tuesday, while our Year 7s (and some Year 9s) have stage two of vaccinations on Wednesday. The big ticket item is the Elective Music evening on Thursday night. It’s shaping up to be an enjoyable night of talent! If you’re interested, it will be on campus at 7.00 pm.

BEFORE IT’S ERASED … Skunks can accurately spray their smelly fluid as far as 3 metres! Impressive aim!

Hoping your weekend is blissful!

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**SPORT**

**Chess Competition**
Avondale School is hosting the Chess Gala Days this term for the Kings, Knights and Rookies teams. Parents are encouraged to give their child extra game practise in the lead up to these events. The Knights and Rookies teams will play Rounds 1 to 5 on Monday, May 25 and the Kings team will play Rounds 1 to 5 on Tuesday, June 2.

**Athletics Training**
Athletics training commenced this week for students in preparation for the upcoming Athletics Days to be held in Week 9 of this term. Students in Years 2-6 are invited to throwing training before school on Oval B with Mr Head starting at 8.00 am every day except Wednesdays.

**HRIS Junior & Senior Girls Basketball**
Tuesday, June 9
Congratulations to the following students selected to represent the school at the HRIS Basketball Competition to be held at Broadmeadow Basketball Stadium on Tuesday, June 9.

- **Junior Girls Basketball Team:** Charlotte B, Erin B, Teagan C, Mackinley R, Finlay S, Amy M, Williamina U and Mia H.
- **Senior Girls Basketball Team:** Eleora T, Shakaya S, Rachael D, Rhea H, Makiah J, Gemma L, Rhiannon D and Abi U
- **Senior Boys Basketball Team:** Liam B, Ethan M, Mitchell A, Caleb S, Dontai G, Elliot M, Liam C, Blake N and Bailey S.

**GENERAL**

**ICAS Science Competition**
Wednesday, June 3
This term, students selected by teachers as our top scientific thinkers will represent our school in the ICAS Science Competition. This competition will be held at school on Wednesday, June 3. Students have been notified this week of their selection. Please note the cost of entry for each selected student will be covered by the school.
If your child was not selected but you would like them to participate, application forms are available from the Primary Office. The cost of the competition will be $8.80. All forms and money need to be returned to the Primary Office by Monday, May 25. As these are competitions, we recommend that students enter only if they show ability in a particular area.

**Kindergarten Readiness Evening**
We were delighted to have a full house on Tuesday evening for our parent information session on Kindy readiness. Our Early Learning Centre staff and Kindy teachers worked together to share tips on helping children to develop the skills that will allow them to thrive in Kindy, not just survive. If you were unable to attend our program, but would love the information pack, please contact the Primary Office.
We are currently assessing students for Kindy in 2016. If you have a child ready to start school but have not yet enrolled, please contact the Administration Office for forms.
SPORT

Secondary Athletics Day
After Monday’s forecast of rain, the weather was unexpectedly beautiful. The enthusiasm of the students was infectious and the program of track and field events ran mostly like clockwork. A list of record breakers will be printed once all events are completed and entered, including a discus record that was smashed by over 20m.

Our House Captains did a great job making sure their House was well represented. Some of the House colour costumes were very creative. It was great to see the parents and grandparents who came along to support and cheer. A big thanks to the staff and students who were just brilliant - the sportsmanship and high level of cooperation made it such a smooth and wonderful day.

We will award the Age Champions and announce the final House points after we do the 1500m event and throw the javelin in PE class time (when we can get on our wet oval). We will then announce the team that goes to Glendale to compete in HRIS Athletics on July 21, the second day back next term.

GENERAL

Year 8 Camp
Year 8 students headed down to the Hawkesbury River for their annual camp last week. Broken Bay Sport and Recreation Centre is an ideal venue, just next to the mouth of the Hawkesbury River.

Students participated in a range of activities including abseiling, ropes, archery and bushwalking. Even though the weather was cold, each evening the students gathered wood for a cozy fire in the large open fireplace inside the dining hall.

One of the special things the students did on the camp was the early morning worships and fitness on the beach. This was a great way to start each day before sitting down to a scrumptious breakfast.

Special thanks to Fr Brian, Miss Knopper, Miss Scheman and Mr Oliver for their valuable assistance on the camp.

STEP UP

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!

3.30 - 4.30 PM THURSDAYS
ALL THIS TERM in the iCentre
Early one chilly morning an American soldier was making his way back to the barracks in London. As he turned the corner in his Jeep, he spotted a little orphan boy with his nose pressed to the window of a pastry shop. Inside, the cook was kneading dough for a fresh batch of doughnuts. The hungry boy stared in silence, drooling and watching the cook’s every move. The soldier pulled his jeep to the curb, stopped, and got out. “Son, would you like some of those?” The boy was startled. “Oh yeah... I would.” The soldier stepped inside and bought a dozen, put them in a bag and walked back to where the boy was standing. He smiled, held out the bag and said simply, “Here you are”. As he turned to walk away, he felt a tug on his coat. He looked back and heard the child ask quietly, “Mister... are you God?” When we respect and love people with no strings attached, we are doing something quite godly. We are demonstrating in a very real way what God is like. God loves us with an unconditional love which is gracious, kind and rare. We are God’s agents in this world, and when we serve others and love them with courtesy and respect, we are showing people what God is like.

‘Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.’

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NIV)

Enjoy the news for this week!

Dr David Faull
Principal