So what really is an ATAR? What is all the fuss about? Can I get an HSC without an ATAR? Does everyone really need an ATAR? What if I don’t get the ATAR I need for the course I want to do? So many questions! So much information out there! Let me explain...

Simply, the ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) is the number that determines a student’s entry into university. Speaking in rough terms, the number scored by an individual is the percentage of students they ‘beat’ on the Higher School Certificate. For example if you scored 80, then you received a higher score than 80% of the other students in your year group who sat the HSC.

The calculation of an ATAR is complex. It is based on an aggregate of scaled marks in 10 units of ATAR courses, comprising the best 2 units of English and the best 8 units from the remaining units. It is a combination of the moderated assessment marks we send in as a school (50%) and their scaled HSC Examination mark (50%). It is important to understand that the only reason you need an ATAR is if you are planning to attend university the year after school (or after you defer for a year). If you want to read more on this subject, here is a useful link: http://www.uac.edu.au/documents/atar/ATAR-FAQs.pdf

This is also a great little video that may help you understand how the ATAR is calculated. http://www.smh.com.au/video/video-news/video-national-news/can-you-game-the-atar-20161207-4o3t1.html

I guess the important question really is - how can I get the best out of my child without pushing them over the edge??

Firstly, reassure them that there are MANY paths to a rewarding future career, be it work, an apprenticeship, travel, TAFE, university or voluntary work. There are also a myriad of opportunities for mature-aged students once they’ve gained ‘real-life’ experience. Secondly, as a parent, reassure your child that an exam mark does not define them. The pressure of one year should never hurt their self-esteem or your family relationships. Lastly, check in with them regularly and ask them how they are doing. Make sure they know you will love and support them long after the exams are over and that even if things do not go as planned, life is full of second chances!

Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid. – Albert Einstein.

Julie Carter
Secondary Director of Studies
Mid-Year School Reports and Parent Teacher Interviews

Mid-Year Reports were emailed to parents this week. Parent Teacher Interviews will be held next Tuesday, June 27 in the iCentre from 3.30 pm until 8.00 pm. Bookings can be made at www.avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au and using the code bbwv6.

Beanies for Brain Cancer Mufti Day

Thursday, June 29

Next Thursday, June 29, we are having a Beanies for Brain Cancer Mufti Day. Students are asked to wear a beanie, casual clothes, and bring a gold coin donation to support this great cause.

Get Active And After School Care

Get Active has now finished for the term. After School Care will continue until the end of term.

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.

Chickenpox

We have had reported cases of Chickenpox in the Primary School. Chickenpox is contagious and begins with a sudden onset of slight fever, runny nose, feeling generally unwell and a skin rash. Symptoms usually occur 2 weeks after exposure. For more information please view the NSW Department of Health website www.health.nsw.gov.au or contact your medical practitioner.

Year 6 E-Day

Next 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. 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.

Term 3 STEM Activities - Parent Volunteers

In Term 3 we are looking for volunteers to run some STEM activities during lunchtime. These activities could take the form of a collaborative cup stacking competition, how many drops of water on a coin, a Lego challenge, a straw construction or 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.

Athletics Carnivals

The Years 2-6 Athletics Carnivals were held this week with many parents and friends supporting our students. Our students competed in the following 8 events 100m, 200m, 60m hurdles, long jump, high jump, shot put, discus and javelin. The Athletics Team going to HRIS on August 10 will be on display in the sports cabinet next week. Students who are on the team are encouraged to train over the holidays. The Athletics presentation of ribbons and trophies will be held on Monday, July 24 after assembly.

Years 3-6 800m Athletics Event

Wednesday, June 28

Students in Years 3-6 will participate in the 800m running event next Wednesday, June 28, weather permitting. Students need to wear their sports uniform. The Avondale School Gift Race will also be held on Wednesday at lunchtime. Parents are welcome to attend. Please note that due to these events there will be no sport on Friday, June 30 and students are to wear their full winter uniform.
AICES Cross Country
Recently two students placed at the annual AICES Cross Country event in Sydney. Ethan M (Year 8) and Tyler H (Year 12) were selected for CIS Cross Country which was held last week. Both Ethan and Tyler just missed out on being selected for the All Schools Competition. However, they are on the reserve list. Congratulations on doing so well!

Senior HRIS Basketball
Who would have thought that basketball could be described as a ‘day of war’, but that is exactly what it was like on Tuesday at HRIS Basketball where our senior girls’ and boys’ teams did battle. They played over 3 hours of fast paced basketball where each team gave 100%. Various players were on the floor fighting for the ball, setting screens and taking hits to help their other team members. This intense effort was rewarded for our senior boys’ team who were victorious on the day, defeating Hunter Valley Grammar School in the semi-finals by 2 points after being behind at half time. In the finals they defeated Macquarie College by 3 points again, coming from behind with some amazing three-point shooting from Griffin L (Year 12) and some cool-headed leadership from Tyler H (Year 12). The girls were not as victorious on the day but played with commitment and style, doing our school proud. Special thanks goes to Miss Karlie Fraser and Mr Matthew Gibbons, two ex-students, who love our school and basketball so much that they are volunteer coaches. We could not do this without them.

Year 11 Hospitality Caters for Community Centre Volunteers
Who would have thought that basketball could be described as a ‘day of war’, but that is exactly what it was like on Tuesday at HRIS Basketball where our senior girls’ and boys’ teams did battle. They played over 3 hours of fast paced basketball where each team gave 100%. Various players were on the floor fighting for the ball, setting screens and taking hits to help their other team members. This intense effort was rewarded for our senior boys’ team who were victorious on the day, defeating Hunter Valley Grammar School in the semi-finals by 2 points after being behind at half time. In the finals they defeated Macquarie College by 3 points again, coming from behind with some amazing three-point shooting from Griffin L (Year 12) and some cool-headed leadership from Tyler H (Year 12). The girls were not as victorious on the day but played with commitment and style, doing our school proud. Special thanks goes to Miss Karlie Fraser and Mr Matthew Gibbons, two ex-students, who love our school and basketball so much that they are volunteer coaches. We could not do this without them.

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**Seussical the Musical - P&F Thank You**

What a fantastic concert last night. Thank you to all the helpers and those who purchased food at the stall. We appreciate you. To those who are booked to attend, remember we have tasty soup made by Noo, bread rolls, hot chips, cookies, cornettos, and hot and cold drinks available to purchase before and after the show. Thank you for supporting our students and school.

**Student Accident Insurance**

Please note that all students enrolled at Avondale School and ELC are covered with a 24 hour accident insurance. The forms for a claim for both school and private accidents are on our website – here’s the link:

**School Fees**

Can you believe it is nearly the end of Term 2 already? Thank you so much for your payments as they come through to the School. Your regular payments are much appreciated by us. Your commitment gives the school a saving in administration costs – thank you. For those wishing to pay Term 3 fees, your prompt payment discount date is Friday, July 28.

**Seussical The Musical - P&F Thank You**

What a fantastic concert last night. Thank you to all the helpers and those who purchased food at the stall. We appreciate you. To those who are booked in to watch the concert tomorrow night remember we have tasty soup made by Noo, bread rolls, hot chips, cookies, cornettos, and hot and cold drinks available to purchase before and after the show. Thank you for supporting our students and school.

**Library**

**Library Second-hand Book Sale**

This coming Monday, June 26, is the day we’re having a flash sale in the library. Have you got your coins ready? 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!

**Numbers on white background:**

**Primary Calendar - Term 2**

Seussical the Musical .................................................................June 24
Primary Parent Teacher Interviews 3.30 - 8.00pm CLC ..........June 27
Years 3-6 800m Athletics Run .................................................June 28
Gift Race (lunchtime) ............................................................June 28
Year 6 E-Day ........................................................................June 29
Beansie for Brain Cancer Mufti Day ......................................June 29
Kindy Grandparents Day ..........................................................June 30
Year 4 Awabanakal Excursion ...............................................June 30
Last Day of Term 2 ...............................................................June 30
Vacation Care Available .......................................................July 3 - 21

**Secondary Calendar - Term 2 & 3**

Seussical the Musical .................................................................June 24
Year 11 VET Work Placement .................................................June 26 - 30
Years 7-11 Parent Teacher Interviews 4.00 - 8.00pm CLC ......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 25
HRIS Cultural Festival ...........................................................July 26
Term 3 School Fees Due ........................................................July 28
Get Active Starts for Term 3 .....................................................July 31

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**Years 7-12 Book Review**

**Menswear Dog by David Fung & Yena Kim**

The perfect book for the gentlemen looking to update to a more modern look, or just a fan of the dog meme! Menswear Dog helps us navigate the treacherous world of men’s fashion with sound but simple advice, timeless combinations and whimsical photos (all outfits are modelled by an incredibly patient Shiba Inu called Bodhi). The book covers both seasonal and situational suggestions of how to look your best, as well as practical advice on matters as varied as tying a tie (they recommend the four-in-hand technique for a modern look), treating stains and choosing clothes that fit properly. A short but sweet offering, that provides deceptively good advice. Such menswear, very style, wow! If you’d like to read more informative book reviews, check them out on the Secondary Library Landscape page. http://landscape.avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au/homepage/3315

**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 Otonu violin / viola 0447 262 286
- 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

**Please Note**

Student Accident Insurance

Please note that all students enrolled at Avondale School and ELC are covered with a 24 hour accident insurance. The forms for a claim for both school and private accidents are on our website – here’s the link:

**School Terms 2017**

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<td>Term 3</td>
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