THE VIEW

In this increasingly complex, fast-paced information age where we can find the answer to almost any question with just a few strokes of a keyboard, instantly connect with experts in all fields of endeavour across the globe, what is the purpose of a school? Do we even need schools anymore?

Well, if you believe the purpose of an education is to fill students with knowledge, then the answer to that question would have to be a resounding ‘No’.

If you believe a school’s purpose is to prepare young people for the world of work, that too is problematic in an age when most of the jobs our young people will do in their lifetimes don’t yet exist, and many of the jobs of today will soon vanish.

Without a doubt, the 21st century is challenging educators to redefine school’s purpose - its reason for being.

Avondale School’s purpose is encapsulated in our motto - We Learn. We Value. We Serve. But, what is it that students learn at Avondale School, and how? And how is this equipping our young people for the uncertain future that awaits them?

Throughout the rest of this term’s Newsletters you will be hearing from a range of educators at Avondale School, giving their responses to these very questions, but today I’d like to tell you about two of our school’s strategies: the creation of a new Humanities Department and the expansion of Project Based Learning (PBL).

From 2019 there will be a new Humanities Department in the Secondary School - a learning hub that will combine the current Bible, English and HSIE departments. The purpose? To help create a learning environment that more closely reflects the real world we inhabit - a world that presents us with complex problems that require deep, more connected understandings, not just subject based knowledge.

Secondly, our school is focused on expanding opportunities for students to engage in Project Based Learning. PBL can be defined in many ways, but it essentially boils down to learning by doing. Projects drive students to investigate and construct their own creative and innovative solutions to real world problems and share them with audiences beyond the school - even global audiences.

Co-founder of Apple, Steve Jobs, famously said, “The ones who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do”, and this relates to our calling, our purpose - to be a school that empowers students to not only be in the world, but to become agents of positive change for the world. It’s a huge task but, with God at the centre, this goal is manifesting here at Avondale School in some really exciting ways.

Calli Vogel
Secondary English Coordinator
SPORT

Term 4 Sport Uniform
Kindy - Year 2 – Sport Uniform on Mondays.
Years 3 & 4 – Sport Uniform on Wednesdays.
Years 5 & 6 – Sport Uniform on Fridays.

Years 3-6 Swimming Program
The swimming program for all students in Years 3-6 has commenced. 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 swimsers (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 2.25pm
Year 4 depart at 1.50pm, return at 3.00pm

Years 5 & 6 - Fridays
Year 5 depart at 1.15pm, return at 2.25pm
Year 6 depart at 1.50pm, return at 3.00pm

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 swimsers and towel (goggles are optional) each day for the two-week program.

PSSA Athletics
Wednesday, October 31
We wish the following students all the best next week at the PSSA Athletics Carnival: Tegam C (Shotput), Harry K (Discus) and Caitlin C (100m).

GENERAL

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

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 by next Friday, November 2.
CLASS

Day of STEM
This week students in both the Year 9 iSTEM and IST classes took part in The Day of STEM. The Day of STEM is a national initiative, designed to raise the National IQ for STEM and Cyber Science. The program introduces secondary and tertiary education students to STEM careers and build the skills that will open up their future and connect them to the in-demand digital workforce. This annual program is an online immersive experience that empowers students to explore a range of different STEM career paths through videos, interactive Q&A sessions with Australian STEM mentors and skill-based experiences. This fully automated online experience enables students to test-drive their future by living a day in the life of STEM leaders. Mr Hibbard facilitated the first Day of STEM session where students (pictured below) each worked with a number of self-selected Australian STEM professionals to develop a personal STEM résumé.

Following this first Day of STEM experience, Mr Oliver then worked with students in completing the Optus Cyber Security Experience. This experience explored six cyber security careers as well as the decision processes involved in a typical corporate cyber security attack. This experience is designed to give students insight into the various cyber security careers that are in high demand.

ICAS Maths Competition
Students from Avondale School have again achieved outstanding results in the University of New South Wales ICAS Mathematics Competition. We wish to congratulate Ty D (Year 10) and Liam B (Year 9) for each achieving particularly noteworthy feats - obtaining High Distinctions, placing them in the top 1% of students within their year levels in NSW. From the Secondary Mathematics students who took part in the competition, two students earned certificates of High Distinction, four students achieved certificates of Distinction, 55 students were awarded certificates of Credit and 24 students earned certificates of Merit. Those students who achieved High Distinction and Distinction certificates were presented their awards in Chapel this week. We celebrate the success of the following students who achieved certificates of Distinction: Oliver C, Gemma L, Elijah M and Nicholas H.

In recognition of meritorious achievement, Keelan A (pictured right) was awarded the 2018 ICAS Mathematics Avondale School Principal’s Award.

We are very proud of all of our students and their achievements. Congratulations to all who did their best in the 2018 ICAS Mathematics Competition!

Newcastle Mathematics Association’s Year 10 Maths 5.1 Competition
Last term, our Year 10 Mathematics 5.1 students sat the NMA Year 10 Mathematics 5.1 Competition. We congratulate Brigitte V (pictured right) for earning a certificate of Credit in this competition in which 236 students from the Hunter Valley and Central Coast participated. Congratulations Brigitte on achieving this highly commendable result.

STEP UP
3.30 - 4.30 PM THURSDAYS in the iCentre

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!
K-2 Library Borrowing

In previous years library borrowing/returning really drops off when infant swimming commences. Some library books even become wet from being in the same bag as swimmers and towels! Therefore, K-2 library borrowing will finish one week earlier than the rest of the Primary School with K-2 library books being returned in Week 4 rather than in Week 5. Library classes will still continue to run as normal with other activities rather than borrowing.

K-6 Library Year-End Activities

The end of the school year is fast approaching and lots of exciting activities will be happening in the library. Because Term 4 is only an eight week term each of the following activities has had to be moved a week earlier in the term than usual.

Week 4 (ending November 9)
Return K-2 student library books (due to daily swimming being held in Weeks 5 & 6).

Week 5 (ending November 16)
Return Year 3-6 student library books. Term 4 prizes and library party invitations awarded.

Week 6 (ending November 23)
Library parties for perfect borrowers.

Week 7 (ending November 30)
Library parties for perfect borrowers. Return all student Year 4 class library books. Return all Parent library books.

There are prizes for the first class in each Stage to return all their library books!

Scholastic Book Club

Please remember that all Scholastic Book Club orders need to be lodged online by November 2.

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 0404 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 0404 308
Garry Lawler (group lessons / ukulele) / 0438 608 180

Drums
James Dennett / 0401 549 084

We value ...

Enthusiasm