During the recent winter school holidays I had the privilege of spending a day (and a kidney) at the snow. We were lucky enough—or so we thought—to have it snowing for most of the day. With the snow came fog, mist and cloud that created a full white-out. The kind of white-out where you couldn’t see the beginning of the runs, you couldn’t see the contours of the snow beneath you, and you couldn’t even see the people you were skiing with!

However, given we only had the one day we didn’t let the less-than-optimal conditions deter us, and off we went! By mid-morning we’d found a comfortable run that was bordered by trees, which helped frame the actual skiing route. With much enthusiasm, four of us headed off down the trail … or so we thought! After a short time of skiing through the white-out I noticed that we were skiing over a lot of plants, grass, through trees, and it slowly dawned on me, that we were no longer on a groomed run. We stopped to survey our surroundings. NOTHING. We couldn’t see or hear ANY other people and when we looked back up the hill from where we assumed we had come from, we couldn’t see further than 10-15m. It was strangely eerie. We had no idea where we had come from or which way to head. One of our party suggested calling the Skidoo for help, mostly I think hoping for a fun, free ride. Luckily with modern technology we were able to phone the rest of our group and let them know that we were okay, well okay-ish, and would call again if we couldn’t find the trail soon.

We managed to walk, fall and ski our way to where we thought our white wilderness would join up with the main trail and luckily after some traversing we saw two faint silhouettes in the distance. People! We just hoped they weren’t as lost as us! Fortunately they were near the main trail and we were soon skiing back on track, having a great time, almost as though nothing had happened.

This scenario, which could have been quite serious, got me thinking about why I wasn’t more panicked at the time. I came to a few conclusions:

**Connection**—I wasn’t alone, our small group managed to stay together and could support each other with advice and ideas to solve our problem.

**Communication**—even though we couldn’t see help, we had a phone with signal. This was our lifeline to call for serious help had we really needed it.

**Growth through sharing**—I knew once we were okay that the ‘adventure’ would at least be a good story! Sharing our life experiences and stories allows us to make personal connections and provides an opportunity to grow from the mistakes and experiences of others.

Similarly, we hope as a Parents and Friends group that we can offer our school and community an opportunity to connect, communicate and to grow with others.

_Nadine Dunne_  
Parents & Friends Team
**GENERAL**

**Uniform Matters**

**HAIR**
As mentioned in the School Handbook the following applies to hair at school. An appropriate, neat and tidy hairstyle is expected at school. Girls’ hair should be their natural colour and long hair should be tied back. All hair accessories must be navy, white or black and must be plain, simple and functional. Boys’ hair should be their natural colour, neat, above the collar length, and out of the student’s face.

**GROOMING**
We are raising our children to function in a world where personal presentation is important. We ask that you partner with us to help our children learn the importance of the way they present themselves. Parents have a responsibility to ensure their children leave home each day correctly attired and that their grooming is of an acceptable standard. Teachers are working hard to help students accept responsibility for their uniform whilst at school. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that teachers are informed by note or email of any uniform variations. This will ensue that students avoid consequences for being out of uniform. Thanks for your support with this important issue.

**Head Lice**
We have had a reported case of head lice at school this week. Can you please check your child/children’s hair over the weekend and treat if necessary.

**CLASS**

**ICAS English Competition** - Tuesday, August 1
The ICAS English Competition will take place on Tuesday, August 1. The top 12 students in English from each Year Level 3-6 received an invitation this week. Participating students are asked to be at school on time by 9.00 am.

**Kindy Grandparents’ Day**

**SPORT**

**TERM 3 SPORT UNIFORM**
- Kindy - wear sports uniform Mondays and Tuesdays
- Year 1 - 1W wear sports uniform on Mondays and Tuesdays
- 1S & 1H wear sports uniform on Tuesdays
- Year 2 - wear sports uniform Tuesdays
- Years 3-6 - wear sports uniform Tuesdays and Fridays for Term 3.

**CIS Netball Participant**
Congratulations to Abigail C a Year 6 student who was selected for the HRIS Netball team that competed this week at CIS.

**Jonah - Fishy Tale**
Presented by Years 1 & 2
9 August, 6.30pm
Avondale MPC

This modern Jonah and the Whale musical has a balmy, summertime feel to it. It contains an exhilarating mix of sea-themed songs featuring sun, waves and a bunch of scurvy pirates.
**HRIS Athletics Carnival**

On Tuesday we enjoyed a magnificent day with about ninety enthusiastic students at the Glendale Athletics Track at the annual HRIS Division 2 Athletics Day. The weather was outstanding and greatly contributed to a very successful day overall. With the day held the week before the HSC Trial Exams it was difficult for some of our seniors to make it and it was great to see the positive involvement of many of our team members to step up to replace them in the senior events.

There were some excellent performances including the final event of the day, the very exciting Senior Boys Relay that Avondale School won with a time just outside the record. We won pennants in the following age groups: 12 Year Girls; 13 Year Girls; 13 Year Boys; 15 Year Boys; 17 Year Boys and 18 Year Boys. A number of students also received individual Age Champion medallions: 12 Year Girls – Reilly D; 13 Year Girls – Rhiannon D; 18 Year Boys – Lachlan B. At the end of the day Avondale School came second overall.

Big thanks to all the students who competed to the best of their ability and also to the parents who came along to support.

**Committed to Learning**

To have students who are truly engaged in the educational experiences offered at school is an ideal. The chances of students learning higher-order skills are maximised if they are interested in assigned tasks and apply themselves conscientiously. Last Sunday, our Design & Technology and Industrial Technology students attended a 6-hour session to work on their Major Projects. Many skills including problem solving, resource selection, and practical techniques were reinforced during the session. The most satisfying educational observation, however, was that every student happily gave up their own time to be immersed in a learning activity, and demonstrated total commitment to completing it.

**Year 7 & 8 Students and Their Preferred Modes of Learning**

During the first two weeks of Term 3, all Year 7 and 8 students will sit a VARK questionnaire that will provide them and their Mathematics teachers with a profile of their learning preferences. In particular, students will discover whether or not they have a strong Visual, Auditory, Read/Write or Kinesthetic learning preference or a Multimodal learning preference. These preferences illuminate the ways that students prefer to take in and give out information. Also during the first two weeks of Term 3, Year 7 & 8 Mathematics teachers will be conducting a workshop for students entitled How to Study for Mathematics Tests and Examinations. In this workshop teachers will provide students with strategies aligned with VARK learning preferences for making notes, taking notes, designing study strategies and preparing for tests, assignments, projects, reports and examinations. There will be significant focus on students making and then using better revision summary notes. Students will each be given a workshop booklet.

We encourage parents to have a go at the short VARK survey themselves (http://vark-learn.com/the-vark-questionnaire/) and to discuss their child’s learning preference and the contents of the workshop booklet with their child.
Welcome Mrs Lindsay!
We are very excited to have Mrs Helen Lindsay join our library team as the Secondary Campus Teacher-Librarian. She’s already hard at work enthusing students to read, read and read! She’d love to have you come and say “Hello!”

Book Week is Coming Soon!
Our annual Book Week activities will be held from Monday, August 21 through to Friday, August 25. There will be quizzes, competitions, our parade, storytellers and an author visit to help us focus in on books during this special week. Singer, inspirational speaker and author Harrison Craig will be visiting Avondale School on Monday, August 21 to speak about his new picture book Harrison’s Song. His book inspires children to search for and use their own talents to overcome challenges they may face. Students wishing to purchase signed copies of Harrison’s Song can pick up an order form from the library. Order forms with credit card payment are due back at the library by Friday, August 11 so that the books will have time to arrive at school by Book Week. Our biennial K-6 Book Character Parade will be held from 9.00 am in the MPC on Thursday, August 24. All parents and friends of the school are welcome to attend. How is your costume planning coming along? Please remember that your character must be from a suitable book and you will need to bring the book along on the parade day. Watch this space for more information!

Primary Calendar - Term 3
Term 3 School Fees Due ................................................. July 28
Get Active Starts for Term 3 ........................................... July 31
ICAS English Competition ................................................. August 1
Kindy Excursion to Avondale College Cafeteria ...................... August 2
Year 1 & 2 Jonah A Fishy Tale Concert ................................ August 9
HRIS Athletics Carnival .................................................... August 9
ICAS Maths Competition .................................................. August 15
School Open Day 2.00 - 6.00 pm ...................................... August 15
HRIS Debating ................................................................. August 17

Secondary Calendar - Term 3
Term 3 School Fees Due ................................................. July 28
Get Active Starts for Term 3 ........................................... July 31
Year 11 Geography Field Trip .............................................. July 31 - August 2
Year 12 Trial HSC Exams ................................................... July 31 - August 11
Year 10 Commerce Excursion ........................................... August 1
Year 11 2018 Subject Expo 7.00 pm .................................. August 1
Year 9 2018 Subject Expo 7.00 pm .................................. August 1
HRIS Junior Soccer .......................................................... August 3
Year 9 & 10 Science & Engineering Challenge ....................... August 3

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 Ontanu violin / viola 0447 282 286
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

Like us on social media for regular information updates!

SCHOOL TERMS 2017
Term 1 January 30/31 - Friday, April 7
Term 2 Wednesday, April 26 - Friday, June 30
Term 3 Monday, July 24 - Friday, September 22
Term 4 Monday, October 9 - Friday, December 8