**THIS WEEK** ... our Girls’ Soccer Team had a blast competing against another school and Years 3-6 continued swimming lessons. Kindy students, ably assisted by their Year 6 Buddies, ran amok on their bikes. I took my life in my hands using the pedestrian crossing on the bike track! We welcomed our 2017 Kindy parents to our school family at our Orientation Evening. Students from 3M were involved in mock court cases as part of their History unit. I got to play judge and sentenced several rascals to transportation to Australia!

**NEXT WEEK ...** we’ll be busy learning. We can’t wait to meet our 2017 Kindy students on their first visit to ‘Big School’. I’m sure our students will make them feel welcome.

**EXCELLENCE ...** As we teach our students about Excellence, I am really aware that we live in a world where perseverance is often not valued or reinforced. Everyone is looking for a quick and easy way to achieve. The reality is that excellence takes practice and perseverance. At assembly several teachers shared with our students their journey in trying to be excellent. Our modelling of this value is critical in developing positive attitudes. Take the time to share with your child a story from your life on how hard you have worked to be good at something and how you have bounced back when you haven’t achieved your goal.

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“You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.” *Abraham Lincoln*

It’s only Week 3 and the feeling of being in the end game is already present! As Year 12 start to stagger their finish of the HSC, Years 7-10 are now at the beginning of thinking about revision and preparation for their exam periods. We have shared timetables, begun conversations about how to revise and encouraged students to keep focused and ensure they start the process of summarising. There is nothing more important when talking about achieving your best than putting in the time (even in small amounts) well and truly before the last minute! Please support your child(ren) in providing an environment for them to study and suggest they get every possible ounce of help from their teachers in the next few weeks. We’re all in this together!

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**Heads up**

**YEAR 9 BUNGONIA CAMP**

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**Mrs Deb Cooper**
Head of Primary
dcooper@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au

**Mr Benton Craig**
Head of Secondary
bcraig@avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au
Primary

SPORT UNIFORM TERM 4
Kindy - Year 2 wear sport uniform on MONDAYS
Years 3 & 4 wear sport uniform on WEDNESDAYS
Years 5 & 6 wear sport uniform on FRIDAYS

SPORT

PSSA Athletics
Congratulations to the following students who competed at the PSSA Athletics Championships at Homebush with outstanding results. This is the highest level of Athletics in NSW.
Joshua M 12+ Years - Discus 4th and Shot Put 9th
Greg E 12+ Years - 100m 5th and 200m 7th (finals)
Olivia G 12+ Yrs - 100m 9th (semi)

HRIS Chess
There were 240 students from 13 HRIS Primary Schools competing in this huge Chess Competition, consisting of an Open and Junior Division with 30 teams in each. Students played 7 rounds against teams that were on the same score at that round. Congratulations go to the following schools.

Junior Division
1st Newcastle Grammar School (1) 22pts
2nd Avondale School (1) 20.5pts
3rd St Phillip's Christian College (1) 18.5pts

Open Division
1st Heritage College (A) 20pts
2nd Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College (A) 19pts
3rd Avondale School (A) 19pts

All students who competed in this competition have been given a NSW Junior Chess League Ranking which is on display in the Sports Cabinet. Congratulations to the second highest ranked player in the HRIS - Ryan B, Year 6 (493).

Girls’ Soccer
The Primary Girls’ Soccer Team went to Lakes Anglican Grammar School for a friendly soccer match this week. The team has been training for several weeks and were extremely excited about this great opportunity. The girls were even more excited with their 7-2 victory. Star players were Savannah W (3 goals), Mackinley R (1 goal) and Gemma L (1 goal). The Years 7 and 8 Girls’ Soccer Team had some great teamwork but went down 3-0 to Lakes Anglican Grammar School.

Years 3-6 Swimming Program
Students in Years 3 and 4 swim on Wednesdays and Years 5 and 6 on Fridays. 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 swimmers (girls are required to wear a one-piece or a rash shirt over swimmers), towel and goggles. 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.

2017 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. All requests need to be submitted by Monday, October 31.

2017 Teacher Changes
Please note the following changes for 2017:
Year 2 - Mrs Pascoe, Mrs Hartigan, Mrs Vaughan
Year 3 - Mrs Watson, Mrs Dumbrell, Miss Moncrieff
Year 5 - Mr Skinner, Mr Venegas, Mrs K Morton
These changes give our teachers the opportunity to use and develop their skills in a way that provides excellent opportunities for our students.

K-2 Learn to Swim Program
November 7 – November 18
All students in Kindy, Years 1 and 2 will participate in a Learn to Swim Program at Morisset Heated Pool from Monday, November 7 until Friday, November 18. Students are required to bring their clearly named swimmers and towel (goggles are optional) each day for the two-week program.
ICAS Mathematics 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 for achieving a particularly noteworthy feat - obtaining a result which placed him in the top one percent of Year 8 students in NSW.
From the Secondary Mathematics students who took part in the competition, 17 students achieved certificates of Distinction, 40 students were awarded certificates of Credit and 28 students earned certificates of Merit. Those students who achieved High Distinction and Distinction certificates were presented with their awards in Chapel this week.
We celebrate the success of the following students who achieved certificates of Distinction: Liam B, Grace B, Liam C, Jeremy H, Benjamin L, Olivia M, Ethan B, Nicholas H, Brayden H, Gloria R, Cody B, Jared C, Joseph H, Michael P, Joshua M, Andrew T and Jamie P.
In recognition of meritorious achievement, Liam C (pictured below) was awarded the 2016 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 2016 ICAS Mathematics Competition!

Newcastle Mathematics Association’s (NMA) Year 10 Mathematics 5.1 Competition
Last term our Year 10 Mathematics 5.1 students sat the NMA Year 10 Mathematics 5.1 Competition. We congratulate Jake W for earning a certificate of Credit.

Year 9 Bungonia Camp
Last week Year 9 students set up camp in the Bungonia National Park and spent the week bushwalking, swimming, abseiling, orienteering and exploring the beautiful natural caves. We were blessed with crisp, cool weather and plenty of sunshine. Students accepted new challenges as they navigated their way through the bush with maps and compasses, cooked all their own meals and completed initiative tasks that tested logic and team spirit. Congratulations to Zach W and Gloria R who scaled the mighty ‘Eflux’ in the fastest times.
Highlights of the week included refreshing swims in the Shoalhaven River and Bungonia Creek, spectacular views from the lookouts and breathtaking caving experiences. Each teacher led worship and shared anecdotes about resilience and overcoming obstacles in life. Thank you to Mrs Bradford and Mr Tosen who organise this safe and fun camp each year.

Amazing Sporting Achievement!
Griffin L (Year 11) has been awarded a rookie training contract with the Sydney Sixers Big Bash League after a tough two hour trial. The trial included 14 players selected by the Newcastle Junior Selection Committee identified through the Cricket NSW Talent pathway. Griffin will now link up with the club in December to spend a week training with the squad. He will also sit in the dugout with the team during their first match against the Sydney Thunders at Spotless Stadium and also the Sixers first home game against the Hobart Hurricanes at the SCG on December 23. In the end it was a tough decision for the trio of selectors as a number of young cricketers impressed during the trial, but Griffin stood out mainly because of his all round skill set.
Griffin will attend his first training session with the team on December 19, the day before the Sydney Smash at Spotless Stadium. What an awesome achievement!
**Please Note**

**Summer Camps**

If your child has lost items at school, there are three baskets of mixed Primary and Secondary lost property items currently at the Uniform Shop. This is a great place to start finding your lost items!

**Primary Library Landscape Page**

Learn to Knit From The Experts

Don’t know your purl from your plain? Would you like to learn how to make buttonholes (the ones you mean to make)? Maybe you’d like to make a simple toy or Christmas decoration? Commencing next week, Secondary students will have the opportunity to learn basic knitting skills from the Wangi Knitters who will be in the iCentre at lunchtime on Tuesdays. These classes will continue over several weeks. Sign up is available on the High School Landscape page. http://landscape.avondaleschool.nsw.edu.au/homepage/3315

Come and join in the fun.

**Library**

Lost Property

If your child has lost items at school, there are three baskets of mixed Primary and Secondary lost property items currently at the Uniform Shop. This is a great place to start finding your lost items!

**From the Principal**

The value we are promoting for the next week is excellence.

I watch a number of activities in school that push the students. Last Friday we had HRIS Chess and our students did their very best. They knew they were representing the team and they were ambassadors for their school. It was excellent to see them in action against 16 other schools.

As Christians we are called to reject mediocrity, and to be committed to excellence in all things. We need to be excellent because we are representing Christ. The Bible talks about this in Colossians 3:17, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of Jesus.” Excellence in whatever we do is the result of trying to do our best at all times. No matter what the task or situation, set goals that stretch (not break) your child, and insist on quality effort. Teach and re-teach the principle of learning how to be faithful in little things so that he/she is qualified to be trusted with bigger things.

“Excellence is not a skill it’s an attitude.” Marston

Enjoy the news for this week!

Dr David Faull

Principal

**Calendar**

**Primary Calendar - Term 4**

- Kindy 2017 Visit #1 .............................................. November 2
- Combined Choirs Rehearsal #2 ...................................... November 4
- Combined Choirs at Avondale College Church .............. November 5
- K-2 Swimming .......................................................... November 7 - 18
- Rookies and Knights Chess Finals .............................. November 9
- Kindy 2017 Visit #2 ................................................... November 24
- Get Active Ends for Term 4 ........................................ November 24
- Pupil Free Day .......................................................... December 2
- Kindy Christmas Concert ........................................ December 7
- Last Day of Term 4 ..................................................... December 12

**Secondary Calendar - Term 4**

- Band at Toronto SDA Church .................................. October 29
- HRIS Senior Touch Football .................................... November 3
- Combined Choirs Rehearsal #2 ................................ November 4
- Combined Choirs at Avondale College Church .............. November 5
- HRIS Senior Touch Football .................................... November 8
- Year 12 Formal ........................................................... November 10
- Year 12 Cambodia Schoolies Service Trip .................. November 13 - 28
- Year 11 Retreat .......................................................... November 16 - 18
- Year 10 End of Year Exams ........................................ November 21 - 25
- Get Active Ends for Term 4 ........................................ November 24

Like us on Facebook for regular information updates. Search for Avondale School (Preschool to Year 12).

**School Terms 2017**

- Term 1 Monday / Tuesday, 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 - Monday, December 11