THIS WEEK ... we hosted a chess competition for Knights and Rookies teams. Our soccer, basketball and netball teams are continuing to train hard for upcoming gala days. Our teachers spent their meeting time this week learning more about how to implement STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) into classroom learning activities. Teachers also learned more about creating multimodal texts using iPads. Our SRC (Student Representative Council) met on Thursday. They provided a long list of suggested improvements and they spent time writing thank you notes to our school team.

NEXT WEEK ... teachers will be busy marking, recording assessment results and beginning to write School Reports. Friday is a Pupil Free Day to allow teachers to focus on report writing. Our goal is to provide parents with accurate information about student achievement, along with strategies for improving.

DID YOU KNOW ... that you help your child build resilience when you don’t immediately solve their problems. When your child is having an issue, take the time to listen to them. Brainstorm with them some possible ways to help resolve the issue and encourage them to take control. Challenge them to see things from other people’s perspectives. If all of this is unsuccessful, encourage your child to enlist the help of their teacher.

AND ON BEING THANKFUL ... The happiest people do not have the best of everything, they make the best of everything they have.

Making a Mark ... “A good life is when you smile often, dream big, laugh a lot and realise how blessed you are for what you have.” Anonymous

Done and Dusted ... Our seniors had a great time with Paul Dillon (from Drugs and Alcohol Research and Training Australia), discussing how to make wise choices with peers, while driving and as they reach adulthood. He’s a really informative guy! Our Year 7s survived their second round of vaccinations and our Drama and Music students performed so well on Thursday night they did themselves real proud.

Chalkboard Items ... We only have a four day week with our students next week, with an important marking/report-writing day on Friday. So we’ll be making the most of class time until then, interspersed with an ICAS Science Competition, Year 12 Futures Day and a NAMBUS History excursion for Year 10 all on Wednesday! A few of our students will also be engaged in the AICES Cross Country on Thursday too. Who would have thought that the end of Semester One is only four weeks away?

Before it’s erased ... The duckbill platypus can store as many as six hundred worms in the pouches of its cheeks. Now that’s storage space!

Our reunion is on this weekend. The program should be awesome. Might see you there!

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

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

Impetigo
We have had a few reported cases of Impetigo at school this week. The symptoms of Impetigo are either blisters or flat, honey-coloured crusty sores on the skin. If your child has a sore that is not healing and growing in size, medical attention should be sought. As Impetigo is contagious, students are required to be excluded from school until they have commenced antibiotics and have medical clearance from a doctor to return to school. Further information can be obtained from the NSW Department of Health website or a medical practitioner.

Whooping Cough
Whooping Cough is again present within our school community. Should your child develop a persistent cough, please seek medical attention as soon as possible. Students diagnosed with Whooping Cough are to be excluded from school. More information about the illness is available on the NSW Department of Health website.

SPORT

Knights and Rookies Chess
Last week 11 chess teams from local schools competed in the Newcastle Junior Chess Competition at Avondale School. The competition ran very smoothly with all students enjoying the day. For many students this was their very first competition. Our best performing Knights player was Caleb S scoring 3.5/4. Congratulations to Rose J, Kylan M and Ryan M, who won 5/5 matches. After the first five rounds the Knights on 11 points are coming second to St Marys with 13.5 points. The Rookies are coming first with 19 points and Barnsley Public second on 12.5 points. The final 5 rounds will be played on Thursday, September 3, at Barnsley Public School.

Kings Chess Team
The Kings Chess Team will be playing at Avondale School in the MPC Gymnasium from 10.00 am until 12.30 pm on Tuesday, June 2.

Athletics Training
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.
PLEASE NOTE

Year 12 Cambodia Fundraiser
Thanks to all those families who have supported the Year 12 Cambodia Family Photo Fundraiser. A reminder that it is this Sunday, May 31 at the MPC. Please remember to come 30 minutes prior to your allocated time slot.

LIBRARY

Book Week
August 17 - 21
Our whole school Book Week celebrations are from August 17 - 21 this year and although that sounds like a long way away one activity that may take a bit of planning on your part is the biennial K-6 Book Character Parade. Please check the information below to help with designing your costumes for this fun event.

K-6 Book Character Parade
August 20
This year there will be more book prizes in each Year Level so rather than awarding 1st, 2nd and 3rd place book characters, the judges will award additional ‘commendable’ costumes without ranking them. Our esteemed judges will be looking for creativity and originality in costume designs. So start thinking about your costume now to reduce stress at the last minute. Remember you need to bring along the book that your book character is from. When designing costumes please choose costumes that reflect the values of the school, and avoid supernatural, violent or superhero characters. Looking forward to seeing YOU in the MPC at 9.00 am on Thursday, August 20.

Music Lessons
The following is a list of private teachers offering music lessons at School. Please contact these teachers directly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Instruments</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kyle Stacey</td>
<td>Simply Music (piano)</td>
<td>04973 3234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngareta Rorich</td>
<td>Simply Music (piano)</td>
<td>04973 6066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaimo Hiti</td>
<td>piano / music theory</td>
<td>0414 389 031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan Hughes</td>
<td>piano</td>
<td>0477 2073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kylie Smith</td>
<td>piano / voice (Suzuki / AMEB)</td>
<td>0418 282 644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cybèle Coulou</td>
<td>voice (AMEB) / piano (AMEB)</td>
<td>0403 465 977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison Hodge</td>
<td>voice</td>
<td>0420 528 668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esther Albert</td>
<td>cello / violin / piano (Suzuki)</td>
<td>0439 420 661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Jones</td>
<td>flute</td>
<td>0412 295 199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Cracknell</td>
<td>saxophone / clarinet / brass</td>
<td>0400 082 151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trish O’Hearn</td>
<td>trumpet</td>
<td>0402 053 514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juanne Stoggin</td>
<td>guitar</td>
<td>0400 339 612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Dixon</td>
<td>guitar / ukulele</td>
<td>0414 697 882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell Wallace</td>
<td>guitar / bass guitar</td>
<td>0435 578 723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Lawler</td>
<td>group guitar lessons / ukulele</td>
<td>0438 606 830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claudio Carrasco</td>
<td>guitar / piano / voice / drums / bass guitar</td>
<td>0404 079 867</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary Calendar - Term 2
School Reunion................................................. May 30
Kings Chess ..................................................... June 2
ICAS Science Competition..................................... June 3
Pupil Free Day .................................................. June 5
Queen’s Birthday Holiday .................................... June 8
HRIS Basketball ................................................ June 9
CIS Cross Country Run ....................................... June 11
Year 3 & 4 Athletics Day ................................... June 16
Year 5 & 6 Athletics Day ................................... June 17
Year 1 Reptile Park Excursion ............................... June 17
Mid Year Reports to Parents .................................. June 17

Secondary Calendar - Term 2
School Reunion .................................................. May 30
Year 10 History Excursion ..................................... June 3
AICES Cross Country Run ..................................... June 4
Pupil Free Day .................................................. June 5
Queen’s Birthday Holiday .................................... June 8
Year 9-12 Music & Drama Excursion .......................... June 10
CIS Cross Country Run ....................................... June 11
Year 12 Geography Study Day ................................. June 11
HRIS Netball ..................................................... June 12
Year 11 Geography Field Trip ................................ June 14 - 17
Year 12 Hospitality Excursion ................................. June 17

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Making a list of the good things in life promotes better physical health, according to a recent medical study. Volunteers who kept weekly gratitude journals reported fewer aches and pains than those who recorded daily hassles or neutral events. In this study a ‘thank you visit’ was developed to promote strong emotional health. People were told to think of someone who had made an important difference in their lives. They wrote a story on how that person helped them, and then visited the person to read the story to them. Tests showed that a year later the people who had participated in this study were happier and reported fewer episodes of depression. Even more importantly, think of what it must have done to those who were thanked!

Helen Keller once said, “I have often thought it would be a blessing if each person became blind and deaf for a few days at some time during their early adult life. It would make them more appreciative of sights and the joys of sound”.

Who has helped to shape your life? Could you make a THANK YOU visit? Appreciation and thankfulness should not be an occasional incident but a continuous attitude. Enjoy the news for this week.

Dr David Faull
Principal

School Term Dates 2015
Term 1: Tuesday, January 27 - Thursday, April 2
Term 2: Monday, April 20 - Friday, June 26
Term 3: Monday, July 20 - Friday, September 18
Term 4: Tuesday, October 6 - Wednesday, December 9

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