First of all I'd like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for the chance to represent you as parents as the Avondale School P&F leader this year.

The phrase Parents & Friends actually comes from the Maori word Whanau (far-no in Aussie). Let me explain. My heritage is Maori, so family is very important to us. I have 10 aunties and have lost count of how many cousins there are. Let's just say, A LOT!

When growing up I remember always having family around, through the good times and bad times. Just thinking about them, a smile comes to my face as I remember the things as children we would get up to. We were a tight knit family or community. There was always someone in the family to listen to you, to help you or even give you the jandal (sandal/thong), if that’s what was needed. (When I say family, that automatically means friends, as everyone was a cousin or ‘cuz’ to us, even if we were not blood related.) But when I look back I remember a lot of love. There were times when I was shipped off to live with my grandparents for a little adjustment, but even that was done in love.

Wherever we are in the world today we come together once a year and spend the weekend talking, listening and there’s also a lot of laughing. My point is this, “It takes a village to raise a child”, and I think sadly we have lost that way of life, that support base where we can just say “Kia ora”, “G’day” or “How are you going? Do you need a hand?”

I encourage all parents to get involved in the P&F and let’s get ideas going on how we can best support our teachers, our parents and most of all our children.

We have a great team once again this year. Is there something we can do better? Is there something you need support with? Or is there something we have missed all together? Come let us know how we can help you as our Avondale School community.

Let me pass on some core functions of Whanau:

1. Nurturing, rearing and protection of children.
2. Maintaining and improving the wellbeing of the family members by providing them with emotional and material support.
3. Passing on culture, knowledge, values, attitudes and obligations as a member of society.

This is us - the P&F family!

Dion Spiros
Parents & Friends President
**SPORT**

**Cross Country Events**
The Primary Cross Country events will be held on Monday, April 9 on the school 1km course. We understand that this may be a problem for families who are planning to go to the Commonwealth Games. Students who are planning to be away on this date are requested to run on Tuesday, April 3. Please contact Mr Head if you would like your child to run on April 3.

**Run Around Australia**
Last week we finished 1,000km behind schedule with the wet weather but this week our students have run their legs off and we are now ahead of schedule covering 8,300km. Students who will be away on our Cross Country events on April 9, are able to run next Tuesday, April 3 to be selected in the school team to go to the HRIS Cross Country event on May 4.

**RUN4BIBLES**
The Run4Bibles program is a great program to help spread the Good News. Easter is a great time to collect more sponsors while visiting relatives and friends. Many students who have found sponsors know that they have had a part in spreading the Gospel to the world. Students are to return all donations and sponsorship forms to their classroom teacher on Monday, April 9.

**K-6 Cross Country Training Sport Uniform**
Students from Kindy to Year 6 have the option of wearing full sport uniform every day until the Cross Country event on Monday, April 9.

**K-6 Chess Competition**
**Friday, April 6**
Students from Kindy to Year 6 are invited to register their names with Mr Head for the Chess Competition being held in the MPC on Friday, April 6. Students who are away on that day can play at a later date if prearranged with Mr Head. From this competition two senior and two junior teams will be selected to represent our School in the Newcastle Junior Chess League.

**CIS Swimming**
Well done to Caitlin C and Jayden T who made the finals in their swimming events at the CIS Swimming Carnival at Homebush last week.

**Coles Sports For Schools Program**
A BIG THANK YOU to all our parents and friends who have been faithfully collecting the Coles vouchers. The program will conclude on April 3. It would be really appreciated if you could return all vouchers to school before April 5 so that they can be processed. Thank you for your support. Over Easter Coles is doubling the vouchers for each $10 spent.

Thank you to Mrs Dumbrell’s Class (3D) who have been weighing the vouchers as part of their practical Maths lessons. To date we have 19kg of vouchers packaged up ready to post. Mrs Dumbrell’s class have mathematically worked out that there are 3,350 vouchers per 1kg. With 19kg weighed, and $10 for each voucher, that equates to $636,500 being spent on groceries.

**Primary Basketball Teams**
Many of our Years 5 and 6 students have been trying out for the Senior Basketball Teams to represent at HRIS next term. Congratulations to the following students.

**Boys Team**
Aiden P  
Noah Mc  
Ezra H  
Jake B  
Ethan G  
Jason L  
Jeremiah S  
Tom C  
Kai C  
Teo P

**Girls Team**
Caleigh K  
Skye W  
Joelle C  
Ebony D  
Georgia C  
Olivia M  
Kaitlyn B  
Mattea K  
Jess W  
Tegan C

**NO PARKING – Please Use Official School Carline Service**
For the safety of our students there is no parking or collection of students from in front of the Primary Office in the afternoon. If you need to collect your children from school please use our carline service. This service is located at the back of the MPC and can be accessed by parents turning left just before the main gate entry to the school. Thank you for keeping our students safe.

**Late to School**
Just a reminder that the first bell for students to line up each morning is at 8.55am. To allow your child/children time to settle before the start of the school day we encourage students to be at school by 8.45am to put their bags away, go to the toilet and catch up with their friends. We understand due to appointments or family emergencies students from time to time are late to school. This should not be a regular occurrence. Thank you for working with us to ensure the best learning outcomes for your child/children.

**Out of Uniform**
Students who are out of uniform need to send a note or an email to their class teacher with an explanation of why they are not in correct uniform. The matter should be resolved as soon as possible, with a maximum of 1 week given for the item to be replaced. Thank you for noting this.

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**FREE EVENT**
**alphabet day**
**3 MAY, 10AM-1PM**
A day of activities about all things alphabet!
Register online at avondaleschool.crowd.edu.au/toronto

Avondale School Newsletter
SPORT
Cross Country Run
The cross country was run today with only a few hiccups, including a truck turning up to the building site 2 hours early and blocking the track, which was overcome with a slight detour. The climbing temperature and humidity levels were beaten by a few boys who attempted to ‘run’ across the corner of the dam and then found out that the track was rather wet and muddy. We had excellent participation levels from the juniors with less of the seniors running this year. However, we will still have enough for our HRIS team. The final tally of times and points has not quite been completed at this stage but will be announced, along with presentation of the Age Champions medallions 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, at Chapel on Monday, April 9. The HRIS team will be listed as soon as results are completed and those students are encouraged to keep training over the holidays so the team can run like Jedi Knights once again on May 4 next term. Thanks to the students who ran and pushed their personal bests, the House Captains and student helpers as well as the parents who came to cheer.

AICES Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to Alan K and Rhiannon D on their participation in AICES Swimming. They both swam well on the day. Alan finished 4th and Rhiannon finished 10th.

Athletics State Championships
Liam B competed in high jump at the Athletics State Championships recently and came 2nd. He achieved a new personal best of 1.83m, losing to just 1.85m. Well done, Liam.

GENERAL
Exam Supervisors Needed
We are putting out a request for any parents, grandparents, caregivers or friends advising that we’re looking for volunteer supervisors for our Year 11 and Year 12 exams on the Secondary Campus. You do not need to have any teaching experience, and it is okay if your child/grandchild/relative attends here. Supervisors need to be alert for cheating, attend to exam-related needs of the students and also to help with collecting exam papers at the end. Exam dates for the year are:
- Year 12 Mid Year Exams Apr 6 - 13
- Year 12 Trial Exams July 30 - August 3
- Year 11 Final Exams September 24 - 27
Exams are a MAXIMUM of 3 hours in length for Year 12, and a MAXIMUM of 2 hours for Year 11. All exams are held in our CLC building, located on the Secondary Campus. Morning exams start at 9.00am and afternoon exams start at 1.00pm. There will usually be two supervisors on for each exam. If you have any experience with being a reader or writer for exams, we would also love to hear from you. If you have any questions or need more information please contact Louise Cooper, Student Services, on 4977 0222. Please note that we will require a volunteer’s Working With Children Check number from you.
Book Fair
Thanks so much to all the students, parents, grandparents and Avondale School friends who visited our Book Fair this week and bought LOTS of awesome books, posters and novelty items. We had a VERY busy week and your generosity will allow us to purchase more books and other needed library resources to enhance our students’ learning.

K-6 Term 1 Borrower Prizes
Congratulations to the 244 students from K-6 who have borrowed great books EVERY week this term. This is a fabulous achievement! These students will choose their prizes in library classes during the last two weeks of term. Well done!

Holiday Borrowing
This year, for the first time, we are trialling allowing Primary students to borrow library books over the holiday period. If your child/ren would like to do this, they will need to return their Term 1 library books first and then do their holiday borrowing in the last week of term. The usual Year Level borrowing limits will still apply. Parents and Year 7-12 students, you are also very welcome to borrow library books for the holiday period.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
It’s been excellent to have 182 students from Kindy to Year 9 sign up for the PRC during the month of March. After the student names have been uploaded to the PRC website we will inform you of the username and password that will be assigned to you. You will then need to log on to the PRC website and enter the PRC ID numbers for books read. Enjoy your reading! Watch this space for more information.

School Photo Day Change
Please note on your calendars that our main School Photo Day will now take place on Thursday, May 31. The original date clashed with an important PD for a lot of our staff.

Winter Uniform - Term 2
Students are required to wear full winter uniform from Day 1 of Term 2. There is no change-over period. The Uniform Shop will be open during the School Holidays on April 23 & 24, 9.00am - 5.00pm for all your winter uniform need.

Canteen Orders
Due to the large volume of orders being entered on Friday mornings between 8.00 and 8.30am, parents may experience difficulties with placing their child’s orders. To help avoid this problem, the company has suggested orders be placed the night before. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

NEW PRODUCT (Zymil) - We now have lactose-free flavoured milk ‘Zymil’ available in chocolate and strawberry for $3.50.

Entertainment Books are Coming!
We are raising funds and you can help. Order the NEW 2018 | 2019 Entertainment Book or Entertainment Digital Membership and you will receive hundreds of valuable offers and you will also be supporting our P&F Fundraising. PLUS, order now to receive over $200 of bonus Early Bird Offers (hurry, these sell out quickly).


We value ...
Patience