From the Principal’s Desk

WELCOME BACK!!!!!

Thank you to all of the wonderful staff and community for making me so welcome at Avondale. I am really looking to my time here and I am sure we will achieve great outcomes for all students.

A huge welcome also to our new families and existing families (notice I didn’t say ‘old’ families!)

The last few weeks have been very busy and productive, with a number of changes being implemented throughout the school. As a staff, we firmly believe that the changes we are making will benefit the whole school community. Some of these changes include:

- Students having play before eating time during 1st and 2nd break. This allows the children to play before going to the toilet, getting a drink and washing their hands and then eating their lunch. We feel that it is more hygienic to do this, as well as students being more settled before they return to class. It also assists us to deal with any conflicts that may have occurred during play time, without losing important teaching time.
- Introducing a 10 minute break to all students to allow them to have a piece of fruit or vegetable. This is a very short break designed to ‘fuel’ the brain ready for the next activity. Please note that only fresh fruit/veg can be eaten at this time. Dried fruit and fruit in a natural juice is also fine.
- Whole school literacy rotations 3 times per week. These 30 minute rotations allow students to work at their appropriate level and concentrate on the 3 literacy elements that we feel are the key areas for improvement this semester: (comprehension, spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- Mrs Rodgers teaching key mathematical concepts to the 3-7 class and myself teaching mathematics to the P-2 class. This allows me to work across both classrooms to gain an understanding of student progress.

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT (SWPBS)

Avondale will be joining many schools in our district by implementing this school-wide behaviour strategy. This strategy focuses on rewarding student for positive behaviour rather than waiting until we see negative behaviour and dealing with that. Please take the time to read the attached brochure and I would love your input and thoughts on this initiative. Over the next few weeks, more information will become available.

P&C AGM and GENERAL MEETING

It is going to be a great year

Please note that this date has been changed. The new date is Monday the 24th February at 6:30pm. I hope to see all families attend this meeting and get behind the Committee to ensure that the fantastic fundraising they do continues. Everything that is raised goes towards YOUR children’s educational outcomes. It would give me a great chance to meet those families that I have not yet seen, so please support us by coming along.
DENTAL VAN VISIT

If you have not returned the dental forms that were sent home last week, please do so as soon as possible. The van will be visiting from the 11th February.

PARADE

Parade has been changed to Tuesday afternoons at 2:40pm. This ensures that there is no interruption to learning in the mornings. Parents and families are very welcome to attend. We will be presenting our certificates to the Students of the Week during this time and the children love to see their family there when they do receive a special award. You will be informed if your child is receiving an award on the Friday before parade.

GUITAR LESSONS

Do you know of anyone who is a trained music teacher and who may be interested in teaching guitar at the school? We have a set of quality guitars that are not being used to their full capacity and would like to give children the opportunity to utilise them. Please contact me if you know of someone who may be interested in conducting these lessons. Please note they would need to have a blue card that allows them to work with children.

GREAT RESULTS GUARANTEE

Our school has received additional funding from the Great Results Guarantee and we need to decide how we can use this money to better support our students and improve their outcomes.

We are now working to develop our own Great Results Guarantee with evidence-based strategies and actions to improve literacy and numeracy.

Read more about the guarantee at www.education.qld.gov.au/resultsguarantee.

If you have an idea on a way to support our students to learn more or if you would like to take part in the discussion please get in touch.

HOMEWORK

Homework will begin in both classes next week.

Yours in education
Judy