From the Principal’s Desk

SCHOOL OPINION SURVEY

It is that time of the year again where we ask you to fill out your parent survey. This year the survey is online so we will make computers available to families if you have difficulty accessing the internet at home. You will have a private area to complete the survey and I am happy to assist you if necessary. All surveys are anonymous and you are given your own user name and password to access the survey. We greatly value your input, as it helps us to address any issues that you may have with the school, and also to celebrate the things that you think we are doing well.

PICKING UP CHILDREN

Please contact the office, send in a note or let a staff member know if your children’s arrangements change regarding being picked up from school. We need to know if someone different is picking them up or if they are catching the bus if it is not a normal occurrence. We also need to know if they are not catching the bus when they normally do. Quite often, we have to hold the bus up while we contact families to clarify what is happening. Although you may tell your children as they walk out of the door, they often forget by 3pm!

LUNCHES

Can you please ensure that your children have enough lunch for 2 breaks. Recently, we have noticed that children are not bringing a sandwich to school and they tend to eat most of their food in the first break. We often have to make them a sandwich or give them extra food for the second break, so please make sure that they have enough lunch for 2 breaks. There are also a lot of students who do not bring fruit or veges for our ‘Brain Break’ in the mornings. This healthy snack certainly assists the students to concentrate and focus on their 2 hour session.

P&C NEWS

Congratulations to Charline Gadsby who agreed to take on the role of P&C President at our meeting on Monday night. We really appreciate the support and it is great to have another person in the Executive to share ideas and to support the school. Our next meeting is the 18th August at 6pm. It would be great to see you there.

BREAKFAST CLUB

We now provide Breakfast Club to students 2 day a week: Monday and Thursday. The students really enjoy this time with our volunteers and our Chappie: not to mention the yummy food! Thank you to Chappy Kelli and to all of our volunteers who help us each week.

TUCKSHOP

Tuckshop will begin this week and a menu will go home with the food sold each week. Please ensure that you have the orders in by the requested date to allow food to be purchased.
Throughout the term we will continue to focus on our Sheena Cameron reading strategies. Last week we learnt about ‘Self Monitoring’ and this week we are revising the ‘Inferring’ strategy. Hopefully the senior class can tell you what these strategies mean and how they can assist with reading!

The P&C have shown a real interest in bringing the Avondale community together by holding an ‘Avondale Shindig’ on Saturday 29th November. We will be having a spit roast dinner followed by a dance. At this stage we are not too sure on the explicit details but we will certainly keep you informed. To kick off the night, we will be having our annual school presentations and Christmas concert, so keep the date free!!!!

Please support our raffle night at the tavern by volunteering a few Friday nights to come along and help to sell raffle tickets. It only takes an hour or two to assist the P&C. The Tavern are very valuable supporters of our school and we really appreciate the assistance they give us in our fundraising endeavours. Please give me a call so that I can put your name on the roster.

Congratulations to our students of the week for last week.
Corban Shearer – being responsible and making great choices
Zach Maythers – excellent work in writing activities
Jakob Shearer – great classroom effort

Home Reading Awards - Congratulations also to Maddison and Matilda for their great effort.

Next Tuesday, we will be taking the whole school to Gin Gin for the annual small schools sports day. This will give the students the opportunity to mix with other schools and to compete against other children. We will leave as soon as the school bus arrives, as it will be taking us all to Gin Gin Primary School. As soon as I have a program I will send it home for you. Tuck shop will be operating on the day, but I am unsure of the details. As of yesterday, they had not decided on who was going to be running the tuckshop. I don’t think that we will need to pre-order at this stage. Permission forms will be sent home today, so please ensure that they are returned by Friday. There will be no cost for the bus.
FROM OUR OWN GARDEN

Bok Choy…

You can study it…

You can cook it with pasta…

You can eat it…

Some love it…

NOTES FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Hi everyone! Welcome back to term 3. I hope everyone is feeling refreshed and ready to go for another term.

I would like to thank you all for your support of the chaplaincy service here at Avondale School. The High Court handed down its judgement just before the school holidays (much earlier than we expected). There has been a lot of hype and incorrect information in the media. Below is the press release from the CEO of Scripture Union, who are the employing body for chaplains in Queensland.

The Judgement: In line with the Court’s views in the first Williams case, the Court has ruled against the current funding model, meaning another change must be made in order for funding to continue.

No doubt this judgement sounds very familiar, as it echoes the first Williams case in 2012. Personally, while I am of course disappointed, I am not surprised about this outcome, and I want to stress to you, this is not an anti-chaplaincy ruling, but rather a ruling about where the balance lies between State and Federal government spending powers.

In fact, the High Court’s Chief Justice and four other members of the court have made very positive comments about chaplaincy and how it benefits students:

“...it may be assumed that provision of chaplaincy services at a school will help some students. Provision of those services will be of benefit to them. It will be of “benefit” to them in the sense of providing them with an advantage or a good.”

[School chaplain’s support] “...includes “strengthening values, providing pastoral care and enhancing engagement with the broader community”. These are desirable ends.”

“For the purposes of argument, it may be accepted that some students would derive advantage from using the services and, in that sense, should do so. But no student and no member of the school community must do so.”

Ironically, the fact that school chaplains are available to all students and benefit the whole school community means that chaplaincy falls outside of the narrow scope of the Commonwealth power. The court held that Commonwealth power extends only to identified group's of students, rather than whole school communities - and therefore a new funding model will be needed.

So where does this leave us?

Our current chaplaincy funding continues until the end of 2014. The benefit of such a quick decision is that the government can make the corrections to ensure continued funding for our chaplains. I will be working hard with the Commonwealth, and other relevant bodies, to put in place a new funding model in time for 2015. I'll be sure to let you know when a solution has been reached.
What has struck me over this time is the incredible community backing for school chaplaincy, shown through signed statements of support, personal emails, and the countless conversations that I’ve had with friends like you. It has emphasised in me the importance of continuing the work that we do. Thank you for your ongoing support as we work towards a new funding solution. In the meantime, our Chaplains will keep on caring for children and young people across the state.

Have a beautiful day
Chappy Kelli