From the Principal’s Desk

BICYCLE QLD

On Monday 8th September, some riders from Bicycle Qld are participating in a bike ride from Rosedale to Bargara. Some of the participants will be visiting our school to discuss bike safety and exercise. This is a great opportunity for our students to appreciate the good work that is being achieved in our community.

CELEBRATING SPEECH PATHOLOGY WEEK

As you can see from the information below, communication disorders in Australia are very concerning. We are very fortunate to have a wonderful speech pathologist who is currently providing support to 3 students in our school. Due to funding restrictions, we only get 1 visit per term, but the visit is certainly worthwhile. Happy Speech Pathologist Week to our ‘Speechie’ Aimee Moller.

Communication disorders in Australia:
12% of children in Australian primary schools have a communication disorder – that's at least three children in an average class.
Children with a language impairment are six times more likely to have a reading problem than children without.
14% of 15 year olds have only basic literacy skills – that’s almost four students in each Year 10 classroom who can't access their education.
46% of young Australian offenders may have a language impairment.
Three in every 1,000 newborns have hearing loss, which without intervention can affect their speech, language and literacy.
Indigenous children have three times more hearing problems than non-Indigenous children.

TEACHER AIDE DAY

I know that you will all agree with me when I say that we have 2 wonderful, supportive and loyal teacher aides at Avondale. On Friday, we celebrate Teacher Aide Day and I would just like to publicly acknowledge the wonderful work of Linda Havers and Sue Whitney. During a conversation; maybe over lunch, I may mention that there is something that I need to do and before I know it, it is done for me. Thankyou Sue and Linda, from us all.

SWIMMING

Just another reminder that our first swimming day is also the first day back in term 4, as the Monday is the Labour Day holiday. Swimming notes and permission forms will be sent home in the near future.

LONG SERVICE LEAVE

I will be on LSL for the last 2 weeks of term. Mrs Rodgers will be the Acting Principal and Mr Stephen Sedran will be replacing me in my class. I look forward to seeing you all in Term 4.
I have attached a calendar with some important dates for your convenience. I’m sure it will change and be added to over the course of the last term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th September</td>
<td>Teacher Aide Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th September</td>
<td>Mrs White on long service leave</td>
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<tr>
<td>22nd September</td>
<td>School holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th October</td>
<td>Labour Day holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th October</td>
<td>school resumes - SWIMMING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th October</td>
<td>visit from bicycle QLD to talk about bike safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th October</td>
<td>swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th October</td>
<td>Pupil free day</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st October</td>
<td>swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th October</td>
<td>swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th November</td>
<td>swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th November</td>
<td>Mrs White on long service leave (1 week)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th - 19th November</td>
<td>proposed camp years 3-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th November</td>
<td>NO SWIMMING</td>
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**P&C NEWS**

**TAVERN ROSTER**

We are STILL requiring helpers for the Tavern roster. Please consider assisting the P&C in this very worthwhile fundraising activity. Avondale State School is very fortunate to have such a supportive P&C who work very hard to provide ALL students with the opportunities to attend camps, swimming and many other school activities: usually at no cost to the families. This is a very rare occurrence in all of the schools that I have worked in.

**MEETING**

The next P&C meeting will be held at 6pm on the 15th September, we hope you can attend.

**RAFFLE**

Raffle tickets have been sent home for the Father’s Day Raffle. Please assist us by returning your sold tickets as soon as possible.

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**Free Under 5's 'Rainbow Day'**

**WHERE:** PCYC Maryborough St Bundaberg

**WHEN:** Friday 12 September 2014

**TIME:** 9.30am – 11.30am

- Jumping castle
- Summertime
- Face painting & MUCH, MUCH MORE

In conjunction with Child Protection Week 6th – 12th September 2014

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**Driven to distraction**

Distracted drivers are dangerous. Every year distracted drivers cause hundreds of crashes on Queensland roads. Anything that takes your attention or focus away from driving and the road is a distraction and can lead to a crash. Don’t become complacent behind the wheel – it only takes a split second to lose your concentration.

**Common distractions**

Seemingly harmless activities can have disastrous outcomes while driving. Here are a few common distractions to avoid while driving:
- changing music – radio, CD, MP3
- programming navigation systems or reading a street directory
- responding to children or other passengers requiring you to divert your eyes and attention off the road
- putting on makeup.

**Mobile phones**

Driving with a mobile phone in your hand is illegal and will attract a fine and demerit points, even when you are stopped in traffic (for example, at traffic lights). This includes texting. If you want to use a mobile phone while the phone is in your hand, you must pull over to a safe place off the road and park. If it is too difficult or dangerous to pull over, let your message bank handle it.

**Tips to avoid distraction**

- Plan ahead and make calls before you start driving or during rest breaks. Turn off your phone before you get in the car – that way you won’t be tempted.
- If you need to take a call, safely pull over first, use your hands-free or let your message bank handle it.
- If you have an MP3 player or GPS navigator in your vehicle set your play list or travel route before you start driving and pull over if you need to reprogram.
- Never take your eyes from the road to turn to talk to passengers in the rear seat.
- Keep children occupied by having soft toys, healthy snacks and drinks on hand, playing family games such as “I Spy”, taking regular stops and playing their favourite music.

Crashes are caused by deliberate actions of road users. It’s all about choices!