Welcome to Week 3, Term 1 2015! So far, this year is picking up pace and we have hit the ground running. The students and staff have settled in extremely well and we have already immersed ourselves in teaching and learning.

**STAFFING**

Our enrolments have not been as high as expected or hoped and so there will be some changes in our staffing allocations for this year. We are in the midst of planning and altering our timetabling to utilise our resources in the best possible way.

I acknowledge the wonderful efforts and hard work all of the staff have already put in to ensure that we have had a great start to our school year! Thank you!

**STUDENT LEADERS**

I have decided that as we have small cohorts in our year levels, ALL of our Year 6 students will be recognised as school leaders. I encourage them to take this responsibility seriously and to understand that there are high expectations of them around their behaviour, attitude and work ethic and effort. After having spoken to these students, I am confident that they will begin to display the attributes of leadership in a primary school setting. I would ask that parents and the community support these students by encouraging them and discussing with them the expectations and ideals involved in this position in our school. This is a great opportunity for them to learn and practise new skills and to be positive role models for the other students at Avondale.

Our school leaders will be attending a Leadership Conference next week to help them to realise and understand more about their new role and the actions they can take to be great leaders in our school. Student leaders will also receive a badge and a senior shirt to denote them as leaders of our school.

**MATHLETICS and READING EGGS**

We have organised a whole school subscription for two online programs – Mathletics and Reading Eggs. Inside the Kit book, you will find an information letter and login details for each of these programs. They are very beneficial in supporting your child’s learning with literacy and mathematics. Students are able to access these online programs at any time at either home or school. Please have a look with your child to see how it all works. We will also be utilising these resource as part of our learning program at school. These programs support the Australian Curriculum and are used to consolidate learning in the classroom.

Keen gardeners plant first crop for year

**SPECIALIST TEACHERS**

We are fortunate again to have some great specialist teachers visiting our school on a weekly or fortnightly basis. Our regular teachers are: Chris Arnold (Music), Susan Alexander (LOTE), Andrew Martin (HPE). Unfortunately, Andrew was in a cycling accident on the weekend and has sustained a badly broken leg. We are currently waiting to hear about a replacement for him. We wish him a full and speedy recovery! Finally, of course, we have Jenny Neubecker as our resident science and art specialist. These teachers are an important part of our teaching team here at Avondale!
**K.I.T. BOOKS**

This week each family will receive a K.I.T. (Keeping In Touch) Book/Dairy. These books are for the purpose of enhancing home/school communication. The KIT Book will need to travel between home and school **EVERY DAY.** Official notes and teacher notes will be written or placed into the book so parents will need to check and/or initial each entry. Conversely, if there is something your child’s teacher needs to know (reason for absence or a specific problem, issue or question), please write it in the KIT book and it will be checked and initialled. Continuing communication between home and school is a very important aspect of your child’s education and it will help your child to be more successful and all of their supporters to be better informed. Thank you for your cooperation with this!

**SCHOOL BANKING**

Forms for school banking are with this newsletter. Banking day is every second Wednesday (after the Newsletter).

**PLAYGROUP**

Every Wednesday from 9am-11am commencing this week. Open for all children aged 0-5 and their carers

**OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE**

Before and after school care will be starting shortly - enrolment forms will be sent home next week.

**CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION**

As part of the Bundaberg Regional Council Chinese New Year celebrations, the Bundaberg Regional Library and the Bundaberg Regional Galleries are joining together to bring you a special celebration for children aged 5 – 12. On Saturday, 21 February 2015, 10am to 11am, at Bundaberg Regional Library, there will be a wonderful Chinese/English storytelling of ‘The Runaway Wok’ by Julie Price and Enya Wu, followed by a Chinese Calligraphy workshop. Cost is free, but bookings are essential, so contact Bundaberg Regional Library on 41304140 to book your spot.

**P&C FUNDRAISING MEETING**

This Friday, 13 February, at Avondale Tavern at 5pm. All are invited to attend and discuss the coming year. Your ideas are very important to our success.

**TO CONTACT SCHOOL**

If you ever have any questions or issues, please contact the school to make an appointment. Alternatively, my email address is kdeig1@eq.edu.au.

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**INVITE YOU TO A NIGHT OF CELEBRATION**

**SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY, 2014**

**MONTGRIEFF THEATRE AT 6.30PM**

Please come along and join with us as churches right across our city join in celebration of the 2015 school year. This year our speaker will be the inspirational Phil Smith – former RAAF officer, ABC radio broadcaster, community pastor at Bells Reach (near Caloundra), and campus minister (chaplain) at Unity College Caloundra. During the service, there will be times of prayer for the chaplains and for the school communities. The offering on the night will go to the Local Chaplaincy Committee in support of our local SUQ school chaplains.