Dear Parents,

Support for Fire victims…
We will run a donation drive for fire victims over the next two weeks. The appeal will support the Red Cross efforts who are providing coordinated support for victims. We will place a jar in every class for 5c and 10c donations; Friday 20th February will be a uniform free day for students who donate $2

Canteen supports Fire victims. On Friday 20th February the profits made from canteen trading on this day will be sent to the Red Cross. Please consider ordering a lunch for your child on this day.

Senior Swimming Program…
Students in the Senior grades (Yrs 3-6) have the opportunity to participate in a nine day program at the Maribyrnong Swimming Centre (MAC). The program runs from Monday 2nd March to Friday 13th March, interrupted by the Labour Day public holiday on Monday 9th March. At the moment we have 11 places available to be filled for the swimming program. Those students who are still interested in participating please send money and forms to the school office as soon as possible.

Canteen volunteers for Wednesdays needed…
Parents who enjoy a flexiday periodically might consider assisting in the canteen on a Wednesday or Thursday. Fortunately we have sufficient volunteers for Fridays at the moment, but Wednesday is looking quite lean and we seek helpers on this day.

No electrical power on Friday…
The school will have an upgrade of power from 80 amps to 300 amp supply on Friday 13 February. I expect the power to be interrupted and this has several important consequences:
- There will not be any cooling
- There will not be any canteen
- The commander telephone system will not work which means we may not be able to receive any in coming calls – parents will have to visit in person.

Classes will be conducted as usual and a hand bell will be used to signal recess and dismissal times. Please contact me if you questions about this situation.

Photos of our new Preps inside…
Every second week we publish a large edition of the newsletter with the centre pages full of photos of a grade, excursion or special days. It is our way of trying to give parents a feel for the daily activities and programs experienced by students. This week we publish photos taken on Tuesday of Preps in class. I wish to acknowledge the great job that Jess and Tara have done in making the first few days of our new students school-life as enjoyable as possible.

Parents asked to wait in school yard…
I ask parents not to wait for students in hallways before dismissal time nor follow students into the building at the beginning of the day. We now have over 290 students who need to manage their bags and hats in very crowded hallways and by having others in the hallway as well just adds to the congestion. Please farewell your children and/or wait for them in the yard – not the hallways. Teachers will bring junior students out in grades for parents to collect their child in turn. Again I seek your cooperation in this matter.

Student Welfare Information…
Mrs Broadhurst will contribute articles about student welfare regularly. This week there are two articles on the back page; one about the school nurse and the other outlines the welfare services provided by the school.

Attached to this newsletter are the following forms which need to be completed and returned to your classroom teacher as soon as possible. “LOCAL EXCURSION FORM” & “CONSENT FORM—HEADLICE INSPECTIONS”

Have a great week!!!!
Welcome Pre-

These pictures were taken in our classroom. We are making lots of new friends.
Hi mum and dad, here I am at school. I listen to books being read in the library.
**Lost Property**

Please check that your child’s jumpers and jackets are their own. We have students who are missing a few garments that are labelled with their names but are not in lost property. Lost Property Boxes are located in both buildings.

**Library Reminder:** Last Day for Scholastic Book Club orders: *Monday 16th Feb*

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

*(subject to change - check regularly)*

**February**
- Thursday 12th: Classrooms collects 5c and 10c coins for Red Cross Fire Appeal
- Friday 13th: Power Supply Upgrade—*No power supply throughout the school—NO CANTEEN ON THIS DAY*
- Friday 13th: Finance Sub-Committee meeting—7.30am
- Monday 16th: School Council monthly meeting
- Wednesday 18th: Prep Testing Day
- Thursday 19th: Meeting for parents of students with anaphylaxis
- Friday 20th: Gold coin donation Uniform Free Day—Money to Fire appeal
  All canteen profits to Fire Appeal
- Wednesday 25th: Parent-Teacher Interviews (Years 1-6) and Prep Testing Day

**March**
- Monday 2-13: Senior Swimming Program (Maribyrnong MAC)
- Monday 9th: Labour Day Holiday
- Monday 16th: School Council AGM and monthly meeting

Newsletters can be found every Friday on our website - [www.avondaleps.vic.edu.au](http://www.avondaleps.vic.edu.au). You can also check this site for the term Calendar.

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**Free Medical Check for students**

**SCHOOL NURSE VISIT**

The school nurse from the Primary Nursing Program, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will be visiting our school on **Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th February to:**

- Conduct health assessments of Prep students
- Follow-up students with previously identified health problems
- Assess students referred and those recently arrived from overseas
- Provide health information and advice.
- Meet parents and discuss any concerns they may have about their child’s health or development.

If you have any concerns about your child’s vision, hearing or general health please speak to the class teacher or Mrs. Broadhurst about getting a referral.

Carol Broadhurst,
Student Wellbeing Coordinator,
Avondale Primary School.

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**Canteen News**

**Volunteers…**

We seek volunteers to assist in the canteen on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please arrange to assist at least once per month.

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**Student Wellbeing Support**

To support the students educational, social and emotional wellbeing DEECD provides support staff to schools. The following services are provided:

**School Psychologist:** Lucy Goode is available by appointment on Friday’s to provide educational assessment for children at risk or counselling to children or parents experiencing difficulties.

**Speech Pathologist:** Colin Thorn: Visits the school each Tuesday week to provide speech therapy lessons with students referred to the program.

**Visiting Teacher Services:** For children diagnosed with a hearing, sight or physical impairment provision can be made for a specialist teacher to visit the school to assist with educational or social needs.

**Moonee Valley Family Services:** Family support workers can be accessed to assist with personal problems that may be affecting the welfare of families in the community.

To access these services or discuss any concerns you have about your child’s wellbeing please contact:

Carol Broadhurst, Student Welfare Coordinator,
Avondale Primary School.

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**Advertisements**

The advertisements in this newsletter are for community interest only. The school has no connection with, nor endorses, any particular business activity.

**Stockdale & Leggo**

*FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS*

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