Dear Parents,

School Council Election…
An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of Avondale Primary School. There are two parent category vacancies and one DEECD employee vacancy. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00pm on Monday 2nd March. Should the number of nominees exceed vacancies, a ballot will be conducted which would close at 4.00 pm on Monday 9th March. I invite interested parents to nominate for Council.

Ex-student makes school captain …
I am invariably delighted to inform you about the progress of ex-Avondale students. Most students perform very well at secondary school and frequently are invited to fill positions of responsibility. Congratulations Tom Russell on becoming School Captain of the Year 7-10 East Keilor campus, Essendon Keilor College. We wish Tom all the best for this important year.

Bush fire appeal...
Many thanks to all our families who collectively raised $2,010.50. The money has been sent to the Red Cross and will be used to support bush fire victims. Several fundraisers were held over the last fortnight that contributed to this total: $350 from the staff morning tea; class based 5 & 10 cent coins: $847.40; Out of Uniform day: $558.10 and profits from the canteen: $255.00. This has been a great effort and we can be proud of our contribution.

Reading makes all the difference...
30 minutes of reading per day separates successful students from those who struggle. This important fact was highlighted recently at a presentation organised by Western Region. Children who read for 60 minutes per day are usually in the top tenth percentile when tested in English and Maths.

Cleaning up the school yard...
A significant percentage of parents are also former students of Avondale Primary and they frequently recall their days here with affection and pride. We try to instil pride in our current students through high academic achievement and keeping the school yard clean. Mrs Wilkinson who organises the grades weekly clean up schedule said “As well as instilling pride in our school, it also encourages students to become actively involved in keeping the school environment clean.”

Cyber-bullying – talk to your children regularly…
So far the school has been quite fortunate, but this may not always be the case and being prepared is a responsibility that we consider to be very important. Bullying is most effective when the victim is isolated. You can ensure your child is not a victim by talking with them. If you find out that cyber-bullying is occurring with your own or another person’s child, please discuss this with your child’s teacher. The school has effective response strategies to intervene when this occurs.

Parent Teacher Interviews very successful…
I wish to thank both parents and teachers for a very successful suite of interviews. Teachers stated that they value the opportunity meet new parents and re-familiarise parents with their expectations for classroom behaviour and homework.

RACV Energy Challenge – call for parent participation…
The RACV Energy Challenge will be held in Maryborough from 19th to the 22nd November. This challenge is open to students in Years 5 and 6. Over the three days they make presentations, participate in a 14 hour, recumbent tricycle relay and organise their camp and pit areas. You can go to: http://www.racvenergybreakthrough.net/ for more information. We need five parent volunteers to participate this year, please consider volunteering to support this program.

Have a great week!!!!

[Signature]

Paul Mulroyan
Principal
Every student will take the teddy bear home for a weekend visit with their family. Students will take home a writing kit with their class bear and write a diary entry about their bear experiences.
Beary Happy

This year Junior School classrooms have a class teddy bear that is being included in their classroom programs.

Students have really enjoyed taking their teddy bear to specialist classes and taking him outside during playtimes.

Dianne, Lynne and many parents helpers worked very hard last Friday to raise money for the bush fire victims.
**DATES TO REMEMBER**  
*(subject to change check regularly)*

**February**
- Friday 27th: Interschool Sport (Home) against Milleara PS

**March**
- Monday 2nd: Closing of Nominations for School Council, & distribution of ballot papers if required
- Friday 6th: 9.15am, Fundraising Committee; 5.30pm Facilities Meeting
- Tuesday 10th: Close of ballot
- Thursday 12th: 8am, Education Committee; Declaration of poll
- Friday 13th: 7.30am Finance Committee
- Monday 2nd -13th: Senior Swimming Program (Maribyrnong MAC)
- Monday 9th: Labour Day Holiday
- Monday 16th: School Council AGM and monthly meeting
- Wednesday 18th: Gr 5/6 EKC Science session;
- Monday 23rd: **School Photos**

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**Canteen News**

Many thanks to all who helped last Friday—it was our biggest day ever. We traded $750 on the day and have donated all the profits and a bit extra ($250) to the Bush Fire appeal.  
Thanks everyone for your fantastic support.

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**Student Wellbeing Support**

**YOU CAN DO IT!**

At Avondale we aim for academic excellence but we equally value social and emotional learning to develop young people who are confident, competent, successful and resilient individuals.

The "You Can Do It" program taught at Avondale identifies five essential foundations to develop positive habits of the mind. They are:

1. Confidence  
2. Persistence  
3. Organisation  
4. Getting Along  
5. Emotional Resilience

Through this program our school hopes to achieve:

- Improved morale, less stress and positive attitudes towards challenging behaviours.  
- Improvement in student effort and quality of work.  
- Improvement in student achievement.  
- Reductions in bullying.  
- Happier teachers, students and parents.

We hope you will work in partnership with the school to further enhance the development of these foundations.

Please watch this space for some "You Can Do It" parenting tips on how to help your child develop healthy social and emotional well-being.

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**Library Reminder:** Please remember to change your library books weekly.

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**After Care News**

Firstly I would like to introduce myself to the school community as the new After care coordinator. My name is Sharee and I am currently at University studying to become a teacher. Please feel free to come over and introduce yourself; I am in the Triple Room every day from 2.45pm.

In the coming weeks our aim is to build positive relationships with each other. Including participating in team sports and teaching each other new skills.

It will be a lot of fun for the children. Every afternoon they get something to eat, have games to play and things to do such as Art and Craft activities.

I look forward to meeting interested parents.

Sharee Smith
After Care coordinator

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**Judiz House of Hair**

Ph 9318 7137  
11 Langham Street Avondale Heights

For the Months of February and March  
Receive a **FREE** Haircut and Blow wave  
With all colour services

10% of this service will be donated to the school’s Bush Fire appeal  
By appointment only

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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.*