



AVONDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Clarendon Street
PO BOX 8, Avondale Heights 3034
Principal: Paul Mulroyan
Tel: 9318 1755 Fax: 9318 3127
Email: avondale.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Thursday July 23, 2009

Dear Parents,

Active Learners in classes...

It really is wonderful to visit classrooms and see our students so actively engaged with their learning. Yesterday I visited one of the senior grades and found the following activities occurring. One group of six students were sitting with their teacher on the floor as he went through a *guided reading* activity; their focus was on developing the skill of *prediction*. Other students participated in other literacy related activities: three were involved with making their stop-motion movie referring back to their storyboard regularly; six were engaged in a *visualization* activity where they drew a scene from a passage in the book: *Storm Boy*. Another group of six students were sitting on their own reading an old newspaper article about a person who emerged from the Himalayas after being lost. Their task was to identify and record *questions* about the article for further investigation (on-line and in the library).

This range of great literacy learning activities is common in all our classes. I wish to acknowledge and compliment our teachers on their outstanding work. They are reading current research regularly, discussing implications and replacing good teaching strategies with even more effective ones.

You can find out more about the *guided reading* literacy teaching strategy at: <http://wwwfp.education.tas.gov.au/english/guidedread.htm> .

Call for barbecue volunteers 2-5, Sun 2 Aug. ...

We are in the fortunate position to raise money for our students that does not ask parents to 'put their hand in their pocket'. On Sunday 2nd August we have the use of the Bunnings barbecue. *We seek parents who can assist between 2pm and 5pm.* Other volunteers will be on hand to assist with the cleaning and packing-up to ensure we get away promptly.

If you have not attended a working bee recently, please consider helping out this time.

New Linoleum for Art Room & Building B entrance...

On Monday night School Council approved the replacement of 'lino' in the Art Room and the main entrance to Building B. In both instances the floor coverings have deteriorated and a new covering will make the areas safer and brighter.

Building B will have new lino from the cover-way entrance to the main hallway and then 2 metres of the hallway East and West of the entrance. Work on the Art room is scheduled for Thursday 6th and Friday 7th August and Building B will be completed on Saturday 8th August.

RACV Energy Challenge not running this year...

I am sad to report that Avondale Primary School will not participate in the RACV Energy Challenge this year. We have had crews of senior grade students over the last several years ably supported by the generous donation of time by staff and parents. I hope we will be in a position to participate in the 2010 Energy Challenge.

Work on school gardens continues ...

I would like to acknowledge the fantastic work by Beau Butcher, a parent, for the outstanding improvements made to the school gardens over the term break. There have been many small indigenous plants placed strategically along the front of the school building and used to revegetate the front gardens.

The recent rains are very welcome and should assist these hardy plants establish themselves before the warmer weather.

New Beef Burger well received...

Being on Yard Duty when a new and instantly popular addition to the canteen's menu is first tried by students gives a very clear indication of just how much they liked this low-fat lunch treat. "Yummy" was the general consensus. Dianne reported that there were over 70 burgers sold on the first day with the most popular being the cheese-burger. Thanks Dianne for this great idea.

Have a great week.

DATES TO REMEMBER

July

Tuesday 28th Grade 1/2 Excursion to Science works
Tuesday 28th Scholastic Book club orders must be returned no later than today
Friday 31st Preps—Fire Brigade visit;
Grade 3/4s Tree Planting Day

August

Sunday 2nd Fundraiser: Bunnings Maribyrnong barbeque (3 volunteers needed)
Tuesday 4th Australian Schools Competition—English Test
Wednesday 5th Parent Feedback Evening
Friday 7th Fundraising Committee Meeting 9:15 am
Friday 7th Facilities Committee Meeting 5:30pm
Mon 10th—Fri 21st Junior Swimming Program
Monday 17th Premiers Reading Challenge Closes
Wednesday 19th Australian Schools Competition—Maths test
Tuesday 25th Preps: Fire Education
Wednesday 26h Footy Day
Friday 28th Book Parade
Monday 31st Father's Day Stall



September

Wed 2nd-Fri 4th 5/6 Phillip Island Camp
Friday 4th Fathers Day Breakfast—Prep Ones

Newsletters can be found every Friday on our website - www.avondaleps.vic.edu.au.

You can also check this site for the term Calendar.

Rebel Sport Fundraiser

When you purchase goods at *Rebel Sport Highpoint* and mention Avondale Primary School in the MVP program, the school receives 5% of the purchase price and you receive a 5% discount. Why not mention this next time you're there?

READ FOR 30 DAYS CELEBRATE 30 YEARS

There's still time for students to join the celebrations of the 30th year of the MS Readathon. Due to popular demand the reading period for the 30th **MS Readathon** has been extended! Students can now read for any 30 day period during the months of June, July or August. Here how you get involved:

Click online for free registration and receive a **FREE** Ms Readathon wristband
Flick through books during the months of June, July or August (you can count books from other reading programs too)

Collect sponsorship donations from family and friends and collect some terrific rewards

Visit WWW.ms.readathon.org.au or call 1300 677 323 for more details.

EMA Changes

Parents who did NOT apply for EMA at the beginning of the year OR if you have just obtained a Health Care Card or Concession Card, please present your Card at the Office by Wednesday 29th July to receive the second EMA instalment.

Advertisements

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

AVONDALE HEIGHTS TENNIS CLUB TRIVIA NIGHT

Guest Comedic Host: Des Dowling
Sat 1st August, 7pm Sharp

Nancy Kirchner Neighbourhood Centre Doyle St Avondale Heights
\$20.00 per adult or \$50 per family (PG May contain some course language or sexual references)
Byo Nibbles

To secure a seat or table of 8 please contact Shirley: 9317 7263 Lynne: 0408 378160
or Phyllis: 0402 061186

All Welcome

Legends & Heros will be conducting a silent Auction on the night of all your favourite memorabilia items. Credit Card facilities will be available.