



# AVONDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Thursday 5th March 2009

Dear Parents,

### Reading Matters...

We are promoting reading as a most beneficial way for children to learn more and gain deeper satisfaction and enjoyment in their lives. With this in mind, we are launching the *Reading Matters* project. The project aim is to have every student reading for at least 30 minutes at home, every day.

This will be matched by an equivalent amount of reading at school for every student daily. The reason for this is that there is a direct correlation between the amount a child reads and their educational success. *We wish to equip every child with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to complete their secondary and tertiary education.*

Next week students will create a poster around this theme in their Art class. I hope parents place their child's poster in a position that reminds children to read for, at least, 30 minutes each day. The best poster from each year level will be displayed at the school and the artist will be given a book.

### Mrs Metelmann's favourite book...

I asked Mrs Metelmann which was her favourite book when she was in primary school. Following is her reply:

*My Favourite book when I was young was an anthology of poems that my father read to me. 'I Had a Dove' by John Keats was my favourite poem.*

*I had a dove and the sweet dove died;  
And I have thought it died of grieving:  
O, what could it grieve for? Its feet were tied,  
With a silken thread of my own hand's weaving;  
Sweet little red feet! why should you die -  
Why should you leave me, sweet bird! why?  
You liv'd alone in the forest-tree,  
Why, pretty thing! would you not live with me?  
I kiss'd you oft and gave you white peas;  
Why not live sweetly, as in the green trees?*



### Can you help???

There are a few things we are looking for to assist with various programs. If you are able to assist we would be very grateful:

1. Wood turning: We plan to make several sets of wooden pegs to play the game *Molkky*. This is a Finnish throwing game and can motivate students to sharpen their mental arithmetical skills during an enjoyable and competitive game. You can read more about this game at: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M%C3%B6lkky> . **We need someone who is prepared to turn wood into 50mm diameter pegs.** (Wood will be supplied).
2. Books and magazines for class. If you have some older books and magazines that you don't need and feel are appropriate for class, please offer these to your child's teacher. I ask that you see the teacher before bringing these to school to ensure that appropriate types and number of material is brought.

### School Auskick Clinic...

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, Greg Kowalczewski the local *Auskick* organiser, will bring a team of volunteer footy coaches to Avondale primary for the day to conduct a series of footy clinics. Prep students will be first and other grades will participate in order throughout the day. Parents are most welcome to come along on the day. As more details become available I will publish these in the newsletter.

### School Council News

There were no nominations received for Council. We seek interested parents to fill these vacancies – if you are interested please contact the Office on 9318 1755.

Have a great week

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

(subject to change check regularly)

### **March**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Monday 2-13    | Senior Swimming Program (Maribyrnong MAC)                                       |
| Friday 6th     | Fundraising Committee 9.15am; Facilities Committee 5.30pm                       |
| Monday 9th     | <i>Labour Day Holiday</i>   |
| Wednesday 11th | Guitar lessons swapped from Monday 9th.<br>Grade 3/4 students Starlab Incursion |
| Thursday 12th  | Education Subcommittee - 8am  |
| Friday 13th    | Finance Subcommittee 7.30am   |
| Monday 16th    | School Council AGM and monthly meeting  |
| Monday 23rd    | School Photos—students are asked to wear clean uni-form today                   |
| Tuesday 24th   | Auskick Footy Clinic  |



### **Advertisements**

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

### ***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?

### **Palm Sunday Concert for Peace and Harmony**

St Martin de Porres church is hosting a concert for peace and harmony sponsored by the Avondale Heights and East Keilor Residents Association and Moonee Valley Council. It will involve multicultural music groups and bands.

Details:

When: Sunday 5th April, 1.45pm

Where St Martin de Porres church, 158 Military Road

Cost: Family: \$20, Adult: \$10

Tickets Available from parish office 9337 6016

More information from Fr Tony Kerin (parish priest)

## **UPDATING YOUR DETAILS**

Please ensure that you have all contact numbers for yourself and emergency contacts up to date. There are times when we may need to contact you urgently - ie: if your child is unwell at school.

Should you have a new home address or work-place please notify us on these details too.

If you are unsure if the numbers are all correct please call at the office and ask me to check these details.

Thank-you

Admin Staff

## **Stockdale & Leggo**

**FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS**

**26 Centreway, East Keilor, Vic. 3033**

**Phone: 9331 6244 Fax: 9331 6277**

**Email: sam@stockdale.com.au**

### **Tips on becoming a better reader**

In the modern age of information, reading truly is a fundamental survival skill. Here are some tips that anyone can use to improve their reading skills:

#### **1. You don't have to be a great reader to get the point.**

Some people read fast and remember everything. Others read slowly and take a couple of times to get all the information. It doesn't matter, really, so long as when you read, you get the information you're seeking.

#### **2. Know WHY you're reading.**

Are you reading for entertainment or to learn something? Decide why you're reading before you start and you'll greatly improve your comprehension and your enjoyment.

#### **3. You don't need to read everything.**

Not every magazine, letter, and email you receive contains information you need. In fact, most of it is simply junk. Throw it away, hit the delete key! Just doing this will double the amount of time you have available to read.

#### **4. You don't need to read all of what you DO read.**

Do you read every article of every magazine, every chapter of every book? If so, you're probably spending a lot of time reading stuff you don't need.

#### **5. Scan before you read.**

Look at the table of contents, index, topic headers, photo captions, etc. These will help you determine if, a) you have a real interest in this reading, and b) what information you're likely to get from it.

#### **6. Prioritize your reading.**

You can't read everything all at once (and wouldn't want to). If it's important, read it now. If it's not, let it wait.

#### **7. Optimize your reading environment.**

**8. Once you start, don't stop!** Read each item straight through.

#### **9. Focus.**

Remember, you're reading with a purpose, so focus on that purpose and the material. If you lose interest or keep losing your place, take a break or read something else. You can keep track of where you are by following along with your hand. This simple technique helps you focus and increase your concentration.

#### **10. Practice!**

The more you read, the better reader you'll become (and smarter, too)! So, feed your mind: read!

Article from: <http://www.selfgrowth.com/articles/Allen9.html>