Avondale Primary School Philosophy

The philosophy of Avondale Primary School is based upon the premise that every student can attain high levels of academic achievement and be a responsible community member. We aspire for students:
- To have an enthusiasm for learning
- To develop a broad and strong base of knowledge and skills
- To think and act with competence, objectivity and creativity
- Through their experience in living in a learning community, show respect and sensitivity to others
- Show a capacity to lead, to share and cooperate with others
- To accept responsibility and discipline
- To find reward in participating and doing one’s best

Dear Parents,

Welcome 2015 Preparatory students

I warmly welcome our 62 preparatory grade students to their foundation year of school based education. Inside this newsletter is a photo of each grade and a combined Prep cohort photograph. You can access colour version of these photos on the school’s web site: www.avondaleps.vic.edu.au

Staff for 2015

Welcome to the 2015 school year. I congratulate our students and staff on a very smooth start over the first week. This year there are 15 grades accommodating 348 students, giving an average class size of 23. I welcome four new staff to the school: Ms Farrell, Ms Handley, Ms Lo Grasso and Ms McLaren and hope their time here is professionally rewarding.

The grades and class teachers are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep A</th>
<th>Ms Laura Farrell</th>
<th>34A</th>
<th>Mrs Lisa Needham</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>Ms Frances Ferraro</td>
<td>34B</td>
<td>Mrs Leisha Watson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep C</td>
<td>Mrs Joanne Aranyi</td>
<td>34C</td>
<td>Ms Danielle McLaren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12A</td>
<td>Ms Annette Cotroneo</td>
<td>34D</td>
<td>Ms Kim Guthrie/Ms Salomone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12B</td>
<td>Mrs Maria Roach</td>
<td>56A</td>
<td>Ms Bettina Handley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12C</td>
<td>Mrs Lorraine Siebert</td>
<td>56B</td>
<td>Mr Dean Barkell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12D</td>
<td>Ms Natalie Lo Grasso</td>
<td>56C</td>
<td>Ms Jenna Heywood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12E</td>
<td>Ms Michelle Portelli</td>
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Specialist teachers are: Mrs Carol Broadhurst – Art; Mr John Cleary – P.E. and Ms Amanda Salomone – Italian (LOTE). Ms Kerry Gribbin is coordinating Student Welfare and Mr Joseph Scarfo is the assistant principal.

Education Support staff:

Business Manager – Mrs Maria Zerowsky, Administration: Mrs Rosalind Blake, PWO: Mrs Sue Kitanovski, Library technician: Mrs Liz Oruba, Maintenance and Safety: Mr Peter Gagliardi; Canteen Manager: Mrs Dianne Cunningham.

Integration support is provided by: Mrs Rachel Annetta, Mrs Adriana Cusato, Mrs Jenny Cutri, Mrs Sharon Di Pastena, Mrs Ozlem Luthas, Mrs Margaret Robottom and Mrs Narelle Sharman. I wish all our staff a fulfilling and productive 2015 school year.

Parent participation in school life

There are a number of enjoyable and rewarding ways you can assist at school:

- **Fundraising:** You can join the group of active parents in planning and organising fundraising activities. The first meeting is after assembly on Monday 9th Feb. in the staff room. We urgently need more books for junior grades to read in class and take home. With eight junior grades, our current resources are spread thinly.

- **Changing readers in the junior grades:** This task relieves teachers to concentrate on their teaching role and use their time as effectively as possible. If you are interested is assisting for one or more days a week, please see your child’s teacher.

- **Canteen:** Dianne is looking for volunteers to fill the monthly roster. You and your school age children receive a free lunch when you help out for the day.

- **Council subcommittees:** Education, Finance and Facilities committees meet monthly; they are relatively informal in structure but they do address issues and assist set priorities for the school. Parents are welcome to come along to these meetings.

Parent Teacher Information sessions

Parent conferences are being organised for the week beginning Monday 16 February which will run from 7pm to 8pm. The conferences for grade levels are: Preps – Monday, 1/2s – Tuesday, 3/4s – Wednesday and 5/6s – Thursday. The conferences are a great opportunity to get to know your child’s teacher.

I hope you have a great week.
My name is Laura Farrell and I’m excited to be teaching Prep A this year. The children are settling in beautifully and adapting to ‘school life’. Our theme this term is Me and My Family / School Rules. I look forward to meeting you all and discussing our program in more detail at the upcoming Parent Information Evening Monday 16th Feb at 7pm.
Prep B

Hello All! My name is Frances Ferraro and I am the teacher of the beautiful Prep B! This semester we are talking about ourselves, our families and the school rules at Avondale. We are also counting how many days we have been at school. We are also excited for our 100th day!!!

Prep C

Hi, I am Joanne Aranyi and this is my grade, Prep C. It has been a wonderful start to the year for the 21 students. They have settled in really well and are excited about all the learning and fun they have to look forward to. This term we are focusing on the theme “Me and my family”. It’s a great beginning theme to get to know each other.
DATES TO REMEMBER
(Subject to change please check regularly)

February
Monday 9th  Canteen opens for Lunch Orders  Fundraising Meeting after assembly - everyone welcome
Tuesday 10th  2nd Hand Uniforms available 8:50am - 9:10 am
Monday 16th  Prep Information Evening for Parents 7-8pm
Tuesday 17th  Grade 1/2 Information Evening for Parents 7-8pm
Wednesday 18th  Grade 3/4 Information Evening for Parents 7-8pm
Thursday 19th  Grade 5/6 Information Evening for Parents 7-8pm
Monday 23rd  School Council Meeting 7:30pm

March
Wednesday 4th  Let’s Stamp Out Bullying Performance
Monday 9th  Labour Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 17th  School Photos
Wednesday 18th  First Wednesday for Preps today
Friday 20th  Grade 5/6 Excursion to Art Gallery and Shrine

Please Note:
Due to circumstances beyond our control Guitar will not be available this year. Music lessons will be Piano, Keyboard and Recorder only. Sorry for any inconvenience this has caused.

A colour version of this newsletter can also be found on our website at www.avondaleps.vic.edu.au

Parent Information Evenings

Parent information evenings provide an opportunity for parents to meet the teachers and learn about their programs and expectations for 2015. The sessions will begin in the BER from 7.00pm and will include a 30 minute general information session followed by another thirty minutes in your child’s classroom with their teacher. Child minding will be made available in the library.

Regards
Joe Scarfo

School Updates to your smart phone.

Konnective is an App that can be downloaded free from the App store. You will receive messages, newsletters and class updates. Once down loaded - follow the prompts to set up your account. Contact Ros in the office for more information.

Canteen Days
The Canteen is open on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please make sure that your child brings a order for the Canteen on these days only. If your child should happen to bring a lunch order on a Tuesday or Wednesday you will be contacted to bring them some lunch.

School Office Hours
8:45am to 9:30am
2:30pm to 3:15pm
Please limit visits to office to these times

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

Book Reviews – Treasured and Tried
If, by David J-Smith
Illustrated by Steve Adams

‘If’ is about scaling down or shrinking huge events, spaces, time into something we can understand. Enabling us to grasp theoretical concepts and giving us quite surprising results.
The books squeezes all history into one calendar year.

‘If ’ the last 3000 years of Earth’s history was a month long.
‘If ’ all the water on Earth was represented by 100 glasses.
‘If ’ we compared life expectancy to footprints and …
‘If’ your life was a pizza and divided into slices
Sounds off-beat? Yes but it is a really great read!

Best suited for Grades 2 – 6. Recommended by Liz Oruba