



# Achievement, Confidence & Pride

**NEWSLETTER #01 – Friday, January 29, 2021**

A very warm welcome back to Avondale Primary for 2021 and for those new families who have joined our school community, I extend a big hello! I am excited about getting to know you all and look forward to an exciting year filled with promise and adventure. We also have some new staff joining the Avondale community:

- Ms Amy Bennett – Grade 2
- Mr Chris Steward – Grade 3/4
- Ms Lidiana D’Amico – LOTE
- Ms Mel Carroll – Tutor Teacher
- Ms Billie-Jean Fitcher – Tutor Teacher

This year our priorities are:

- Learning, catch-up and extension
- Happy, active and healthy kids
- Connected schools

We will also continue to focus on providing differentiated learning experiences in Reading and create a whole school approach to empower students to contribute consistently to their own learning.

On Wednesday January 27, Avondale Primary staff engaged in a day of professional learning. This included:

- exploring learning tools and strategies to promote Avondale Primary shared values, goal setting, a positive mindset, feedback, independence, team work and problem solving which is embedded in the Personal and Social capability of the Victorian Curriculum
- engaging in and then planning learning experiences to focus on building strong relationships and a dynamic community of learners with an emphasis on finding out more

about the many ways individual learners learn, different ways of thinking and solving problems

- learning about the Tutor Learning Initiative
- participating in Duty of Care, Child Safety and Anaphylaxis training
- exploring the Instructional Model at Avondale PS

## **Tutor Learning Initiative: Information for Parents, carers and families**

The 2020 school year proved an extraordinary and challenging one for every school community. Many Victorian students spent much of Terms 2 and 3 learning remotely and Victorian schools and their communities made an exceptional effort to provide continuity of teaching and learning to their students during this time.

For many of our students, regular high-quality teaching in 2021 will be enough to help them progress to the expected level of learning. Some students will benefit from additional intensive learning support in 2021. In response, the Victorian Government is investing \$250 million in the Tutor Learning Initiative to enable schools across Victoria to engage around 4,100 teachers as tutors in 2021 to support students who need extra assistance with their learning. Schools will ensure that students will get this support in a way that minimises disruptions to other learning or school activities.

By engaging additional teachers to support children with intensive learning, classroom teachers will have greater capacity to ensure that all other students' achievement, engagement and wellbeing needs are met, so that all students receive the support they need in 2021.

Further information about the Tutor Learning Initiative, and how it will be implemented for students who need individual learning support in our school, will be shared in the coming weeks.

### **FOUNDATION 2021**

Our Foundation students began their Avondale journey yesterday. Students arrived with their families, dressed in brand new uniforms, very cool hair styles and shiny shoes, with lots of big smiles and happy faces, ready to start their journey at Avondale Primary yesterday. We had some fabulous tour guides in our Grade 5/6 students who showed our new families to their classrooms.

Foundation students very quickly said goodbye to their families and engaged in many learning experiences throughout the day. The playground was a popular place during recess and lunch time. We are sure there will be many students sleeping in over the weekend, getting recharged for next week.

Just a reminder that Foundation students do not attend school on a Wednesday for the next five weeks. They will only attend school on a Wednesday when they have a School Entry Assessment (SEA) appointment with their classroom teacher. These letters were sent out to families at the end of 2020. If you are unsure of your child's time and date, please contact your classroom teacher.

### **STUDENT SAFETY**

Attendance at school every day is essential for each student to access all learning experiences, however, **IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL, PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME.** This ensures the health and wellbeing of our entire school community.

### **Student Drop off & Pick Up**

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY as from next week the arrangements for drop off and picking up of students will change slightly. Our aim is to make those times flow as easily as possible for everyone concerned and still ensure that it can be done safely and effectively.

From Monday the following will apply:

#### **1. Morning drop off**

Parents will be able to enter the school grounds from any gate with their children but will not be able to enter school buildings. If it is a wet day, students can enter their classrooms from 8.40am.

#### **2. Student Pick up Arrangements**

Parents will be able to enter the school grounds to collect their child/ren from their child's line up area/s. If you have more than one child at school, the older children will go to be collected at their younger sibling's line up area.

**We ask that parents stand back from the line up areas to make it easier for teachers and children to see you.**

Please note that yard duty teachers will be on duty from 8.40am in the morning and until 3.30pm in the afternoons. Parents need to be on time when collecting their children.

### **Parking**

Parking is available to parents in a number of locations around the school, particularly if you are prepared to walk a short distance:

- Sydney St
- Wood St
- the library car park and
- Coles car park are all available.

We want the students to arrive and be collected safely and we do not want to see parents fined for double parking or parking in No Standing areas. The extra time spent walking with your child/ren in the morning has a huge number of benefits, including mindfulness, exercise, fresh air and family time to chat. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **GRADE 6 POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

**We are excited to be announcing our 2021 Grade 6 student leaders at our Assembly next Monday morning.**

The selection process for these positions was conducted at the end of 2020 and involved the following:

- presentation of self-written speech to peers
- scoring of speeches using criteria developed by the students
- student nomination of peers who demonstrate the school philosophy and values in the classroom and outside in the yard.
- interviews conducted by Principal and Assistant Principal

There will be many other leadership opportunities that arise throughout the year, including Junior School Council representative, Clubs coordinators, classroom monitor, gate monitor, sports equipment monitor, sports tournament coordinators, and Student Action team representative.

## **COMMUNITY OSHC (OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE) SERVICE**

The Community OSHC team that operate out of Avondale Primary provide a fabulous before and after school care program. For more information, please log on to the new website and online enrolment portal, copying <https://www.communityoshcservices.com> into your web browser. Click on the enrolment tab, then the link for Avondale Primary and then click on ENROL NOW. This will direct you to the Kidsoft enrolment link.

## **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) applications**

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families.

Payment amounts this year are \$125 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on 93181755 and ask for an application form.

You can also download the form, and find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education and Training's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible.

## **CANTEEN OPENING DAYS**

The Canteen will begin operation from Monday February 1 with the Canteen being open on Monday, Thursday and Friday. We will start Term 1 with lunch orders being available for:

**Monday – Prep – 2 students**  
**Thursday – Grade 3/4 students**  
**Friday – Grade 5/6 students**

ALL students are able to order recess snacks on each day that the Canteen is open. Any changes to these conditions will be shared with our families in a timely way.

Information and expression of interest for Canteen volunteers can be found on Compass. Volunteers will require a Working with Children (WWC) check.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

Each year, members of the school community are elected on to School Council. The term of office is for two years. We have a total of eight Parent Representatives and each year four School Council vacancies are declared. The next Council meeting will be held on 16th February and this is the last meeting for the current Council. More information about the election process will be posted in the school newsletter in the coming weeks. The newly elected members will join the new Council which usually meets on the third Tuesday of the month from 7pm. Any parents who would like more information about being on School Council can talk to myself or the Assistant Principal Joe Scarfo.



**Mrs Jill Benham**  
**Mr Joseph Scarfo**

**Principal**  
**Assistant Principal**

Please take the time to read the message below from the Victorian Chief Health Officer to Victorian Schools and their communities.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back the Victorian school community in 2021.

Following an incredible effort by students, staff, teachers, parents and carers last year, Victorian schools are well placed to safely commence the new school year. Schools will return to a largely normal program of activities, including welcoming parents and other vital members of the school community back into their grounds.

Throughout the pandemic, Victorian schools have rapidly adapted and successfully implemented measures to reduce the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission in school environments. By embedding COVIDSafe principles in all its operations and reinforcing good behaviours throughout 2020, schools have created safe spaces, and are in a strong position to quickly respond to any coronavirus (COVID-19) risks that may emerge.

Given the current very low risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission in the community, continued high rates of testing, wastewater monitoring, and continued observance of health and safety measures in schools; those with medical vulnerabilities or their carers can feel reassured that they can safely return to working and learning on site.

While we have seen outbreaks emerge over the summer break, we have also witnessed our capacity to respond quickly to limit the impact of these outbreaks. Should community cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) increase again, I am confident that with COVIDSafe plans in place, alongside our ability to quickly identify and respond to cases – schools remain safe places for all staff and students. I also continue to be reassured by evidence that children are less impacted by the virus and are less likely to develop severe illness.

It is crucial, however, for everyone to remain vigilant – to stay home when unwell, get tested, perform regular hand hygiene, wear a mask when required and maintain physical distancing from others when practical. Schools should consider how they can continue to pursue strategies that contribute to reduced transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

Schools and parents continue to have an important role to promote and ensure testing when a child or staff member has any symptoms, no matter how mild, and then stay home. Getting tested and staying home until results are known, remains critical to limiting community transmission.

Adj Clin Prof Brett Sutton  
Victorian Chief Health Officer



