



Achievement, Confidence & Pride

NEWSLETTER No. 31 - Thursday, October 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

It has been a fantastic week, having our Grades Prep to Six students and staff return to on-site learning this week.

There were many happy faces entering through the gates each day, ready to continue to build friendships and social and personal skills as well as continuing their learning journey. There were also many parents feeling excited and a little sad at the same time with their children returning to school. This was reflected in a recent article in the Age that one of our parents contributed to:

"Ajay Bhargava was also adjusting back to working solo from home now that his two children are back at Avondale Primary School.

"I miss them a bit, to be honest," he said. "Initially, I felt glad to have the house to myself and maybe 30 minutes to an hour after that it was just dead silence."

For Mr Bhargava, having the kids at home has been good for his productivity. "Social interaction helps me focus at work," he said. "When you finish a task at work and you just come out and then you've got someone to talk to, it helps you focus a bit."

Our students are so very proud of being back on-site at Avondale PS and were very excited to articulate their thinking with me:

"I loved seeing my friends in person and playing with them and learning new and fun things." (George – Grade Prep)

"I like being back at school because I like doing lots of maths activities." (Chanel – Grade 1)

"My favourite part of being back at school is seeing all of my friends and learning lots of new things. I can actually ask my teacher for help if I need it!" (Poppy – Grade 2)

"I love that I can see my friends again now that I am back at school. I also like learning new things such as reading new books and doing challenging maths activities." (Sina – Grade 3)

"Being back at school is very exciting and entertaining. We can learn more in the classroom and our teacher is there to help us if we need it." (Arman – Grade 4)

"I love being able to spend more times with my friends now that I am going back to school and doing face to face learning. It is easier to understand new learning with our teacher being able to move around the classroom and help us" (Aysel – Grade 5)

"On-line learning wasn't great, but I learnt many things. Being back at school, I can see all my friends and play games outdoors. Learning at school is easier because of the supportive environment." (Alex – Grade 6)

Due to COVID-19 restrictions we have had to adapt our Term 4 Calendar. This is out of our control, however, it is our responsibility to follow the DET guidelines and the advice of the Chief Medical Officer. Following the current restrictions, School Photos are not a permitted COVIDSAFE activity so will not go ahead as planned this term. If and when School Banking

resumes this term, we will notify our community.

The updated COVID-19 Return to School Policy can be accessed through the school website at <https://www.avondaleps.vic.edu.au/>

SAFE ICT PRACTICES

With an increase in confidence in using ICT throughout this year, many students have connected with their friends and classmates during the pandemic, through a range of social media platforms.

It is timely for us all to revisit the appropriate use of all devices and ensuring our children are accessing appropriate content at home.

The eSafety Guide provides great research and resources for us to learn about the latest games, apps and social media, including how to protect your information and report inappropriate content. Please access this link <https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/esafety-guide> to explore this further to ensure the safety of all children.

2021 ENROLMENTS

Avondale Primary School is currently taking enrolments for 2021. It is essential that parents who intend to send their child to Avondale Primary School enrol their children as soon as possible to assist with our planning for next year.

If you know of any families who have young children that they are intending to send to Avondale Primary School, please remind them to call the school as soon as possible, on 9318 1755 and our Admin team will support them through the enrolment process.

WE WANT OUR PARENTS TO TELL US WHAT THEY THINK!

The Parent Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst all

parents. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, student engagement and experiences of remote and flexible learning. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

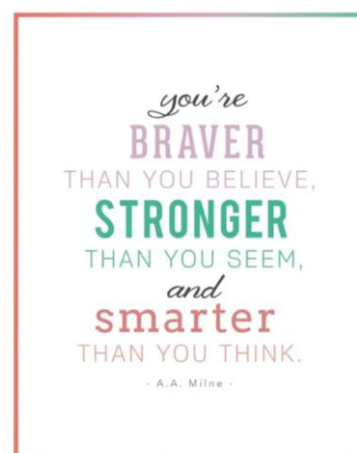
All parents will be invited to participate in this year's survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year, the Parent Opinion Survey is being conducted from **Monday 12th October to Friday 13th November**.

The survey will be conducted **online**, only takes **20 minutes** to complete and can be accessed at any convenient time within this period on desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. The online survey will be available in a range of languages other than English. These include: Arabic, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Chin (Hakha), Hindi, Japanese, Somali, Turkish, Punjabi and Greek.

You will receive an email in the coming days with instructions to access and complete the survey.

Mrs Jill Benham

Principal



A BUZZ IN THE SCHOOL GROUND



There was a buzz at Avondale Primary School on Monday and not just because our students had returned to school. A swarm of bees had gathered in a tree and on the ground in the corner of the oval. To keep students safe the area was isolated. Expert advice suggested that bees swarm for various reasons and that the swarm would probably move on after a few hours. The next morning, the bees were still there. Fortunately, Mr VanHarmelen, a school dad and an experienced bee-keeper, kindly came to our assistance.

Dressed in a protective suit and wearing thick gloves, Mr VanHarmelen opened his bee-carrying box and laid a wax frame next to the bee swarm and then a remarkable thing happened. The bees marched happily onto the frame and into the box. Waiting patiently, Mr VanHarmelen then placed the frame, now covered with bees into the box and then laid out another to collect the remaining bees.

Lets hope the queen bee was among the bees collected so a new hive can be established.



Mr Joseph Scarfo
Assistant Principal

Book Reviews – Tried and Treasured

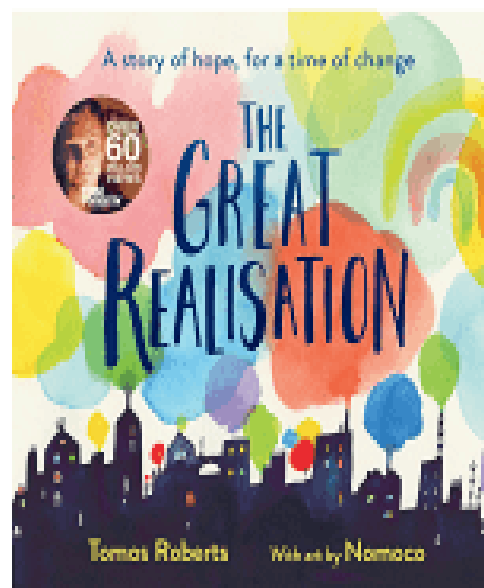
The Great Realisation

Written by Tomos Roberts

Illustrated by Nomoco

The Great Realisation is a poem about the terrible pandemic that hit our world in 2020. I say ‘that’ as it addresses our lives before COVID-19, during and after. It is a story of hope and realisation, giving us thought time to change our lives in meaningful ways. Suddenly we can stop and see what is really important. The accompanying art work is simply breathtaking. This book can also be viewed on ‘YouTube’, being read or more so told by Tomos Roberts the author. Recommended for all ages.

Reviewed by Liz Oruba



SUN PROTECTION and the UV INDEX										
Low		Moderate			High		Very High		Extreme	
UV INDEX 1	UV INDEX 2	UV INDEX 3	UV INDEX 4	UV INDEX 5	UV INDEX 6	UV INDEX 7	UV INDEX 8	UV INDEX 9	UV INDEX 10	UV INDEX 11+
SUN PROTECTION NOT REQUIRED		SUN PROTECTION REQUIRED								
Unless outdoors for extended periods, or near reflective surfaces such as snow or water.		Wear sun-protective clothing, a broad-brimmed hat and sunglasses. Apply SPF30+ sunscreen to any unprotected skin. Seek shade.								

TERM 4 SUN SMART REMINDER

Continue to bring your hat to school every day this term. Term 4 is no hat no play, so please name your school hat and put it in your school bag ready to wear each day.

TERM 4 – SCHOOL CALENDAR

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Friday, 23 October	Public Holiday – Grand Final
Tuesday, 3 November	Public Holiday – Melbourne Cup
Thursday, 17 December	Student’s last day of school - Students will be dismissed at 1.15pm

Saving (Y)our World instalment 24: Ocean Organisations

By: Morrigan Raven

Last week, we learned about three animal organisations. This week, we will move from land into the ocean and learn about a local, national and international organisation that are trying to change our behaviour. Are you ready to find out about the protectors of the ocean?

Our local organisation is Sea Shephard. You might've heard of them. Actually, they are an international organisation, but their ships dock in Melbourne so they are well recognised here. Sea Shepherd is a committed organisation dedicated to protecting sea creatures from such things as whaling, commercial fishing and pollution. Sea Shepherd does this by sending out ships that monitor and record when other ships are violating the law. They also try to intervene in activities like whale and seal hunts by doing things that will interfere with the hunts. These include things like shining lasers in the eyes of the whalers. Some people, even those who work in other conservation organisations, dislike the tactics that Sea Shepherd use and they have been taken to court by some governments. So, when you are investigating organisations that you would like to support you need to think about whether you agree with what they are doing. Not long ago, Sea Shepherd helped clear four tonnes of marine debris from a remote turtle nesting site and I like the work that they do. They work really hard and have had many victories but there is still a long way to go when it comes to protecting our oceans. Find out more about Sea Shepherd here: <https://www.seashepherd.org.au/>

Today's national organisation is the Australian Marine Conservation Society. They are an organisation that advocates for (or supports) the protection of marine life. There are many campaigns that they organise, like the Fight for our Reef campaign where you got to send an email to the government to ask them to change the laws around global warming to protect coral from bleaching. Although that campaign has now ended, there are many more you could take part in to help make a difference. The Australian Marine Conservation Society is currently working to protect the Great Barrier Reef and keep our oceans plastic free. Visit their website here: <https://www.marineconservation.org.au/>



The international organisation we will look at is Ocean Conservancy. Their projects include protecting the Arctic, confronting climate change and restoring the Gulf of Mexico. They also work towards trash-free seas. Similar to the Australian Marine Conservation Society, Ocean Conservancy is an advocacy group that works to change attitudes toward our oceans and devise good solutions to protect them. They have many campaigns currently running, each with the option for someone to take action and help out. They want to protect all oceans and all unique wonders of the seas. They also have good news stories on their site to remind us that it's not all bad news. Visit their site here: <https://oceanconservancy.org>

So, in this instalment we've learned about three organisations that strive to protect the ocean from pollution and believe in the wellbeing of sea creatures but do this differently. I hope you've learned something from all of this and that you will help them make a difference. Join me next week to learn about three land/nature protection organisations. See you next week!

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN PLACE

If you are unwell, please stay at home.

The greatest risk of transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) is between adults. Please follow these physical distancing measures:



No gathering in a group.
Keep 1.5m distance between yourself and other adults.



Minimise time around the school grounds during drop off and pick up.



Always wear a face mask.