



Achievement, Confidence & Pride

NEWSLETTER No. 39 - Thursday, December 10th, 2020

Hello to our Avondale families,

The countdown continues as we have just one week of school left for 2020. As of yesterday, Victoria has had 40 consecutive days of no new COVID-19 cases, which is very exciting with the holiday period just around the corner.

GRADE 6 GRADUATION

The Avondale Grade 6 Graduation and Celebration Day is next Wednesday, December 16. This is a very memorable day for our students, our teachers and our families. Our Grade 6 students will engage in the Avondale Amazing Race, Avondale’s Got Talent and a Picnic Lunch to celebrate the end of their primary school journey. The grand finale is our on-line Graduation ceremony at 7pm, which incorporates a pre-recorded Graduation Certificate presentation for our students and a range of speeches and awards.



STUDENT SEMESTER REPORTS

At Avondale Primary School it is vital to involve students and their parents/carers in learning. This includes providing a written report to parents/carers on student progress and achievement twice a year.

The Department of Education and Training has adjusted the expectations around student reporting for Semester 2 in recognition of the continued disruption caused by COVID-19. Throughout Semester 2, Avondale Primary has continued to deliver a teaching and learning program and monitor the learning of each student. We have adjusted our usual program to reflect the recent periods of remote and flexible delivery.

Avondale Primary are therefore providing simplified written reports for the parent/carer of each student enrolled at the school for Semester 2, 2020 focusing on what progress has been made and what has been achieved by each child. Reports will include:

- a description of the areas of the Victorian Curriculum Foundation to Level 10, including Towards Foundation Levels A to D, taught;
- a comment on student participation and engagement in the learning program offered;
- for English and Mathematics:
 - student achievement information;
 - progress shown from the last time these curriculum areas were reported on;
 - a five-point scale.
- for all other curriculum areas taught:
 - a short comment on progress and achievement across the Semester
 - a general comment if your child did not engage in or submit work during flexible and remote learning.

Thank you for your support during remote and flexible learning and the transition between

remote and flexible learning and onsite learning. Semester Two Reports will be emailed out to families tomorrow, December 11.

STAFFING UPDATE

I would like to extend A BIG thank you to Mrs Lorraine Siebert for her 34 years of service with the Department of Education of which 27 years have been with Avondale Primary School. We wish Lorraine all the best for her long service leave in 2021, before retiring from teaching with the Department of Education.

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM MR BOFFA

I would like to thank the entire Avondale Primary School community for making me feel so welcome over the past four years. I have greatly enjoyed teaching our students and working alongside my colleagues. I am very grateful to all the parents and families who have assisted me during my tenure. In particular, I would like to thank the students for allowing me to join them on their learning journeys. They have all taught me a great deal and I wish them all the best.

STUDENT PLACEMENT

Avondale Primary is committed to meeting the educational needs of all students. Much thought, planning and time goes into ensuring we have balanced grades across the school to create the best possible learning environments. This structure is based on the professional judgement of staff, where every student's academic, social and emotional needs are considered.

REMINDERS

Please continue to label all hats, jackets, jumpers, drink bottles and lunch boxes and remind students to bring all belongings home with them at the end of each day. This is particularly important in the week to come, so all belongings can go home in preparation for the summer holidays.

CANTEEN NEWS

Monday, December 14 is the LAST DAY for snack and lunch orders for 2021.

SAFETY CONTINUES AS OUR # ONE PRIORITY!

To ensure the safety of all students and families at Avondale Primary and respecting our neighbours, PLEASE DO NOT PARK in or

across DRIVEWAYS. **Police continue to monitor local school's student drop off and pick up times** so please be aware fines may be issued if you park illegally in the streets around Avondale Primary. **PLEASE PARK LEGALLY**, so all our families are safe, even if it means parking a little further away from the Main gates and walking, enjoying the sunshine together.

CLASS PARTIES

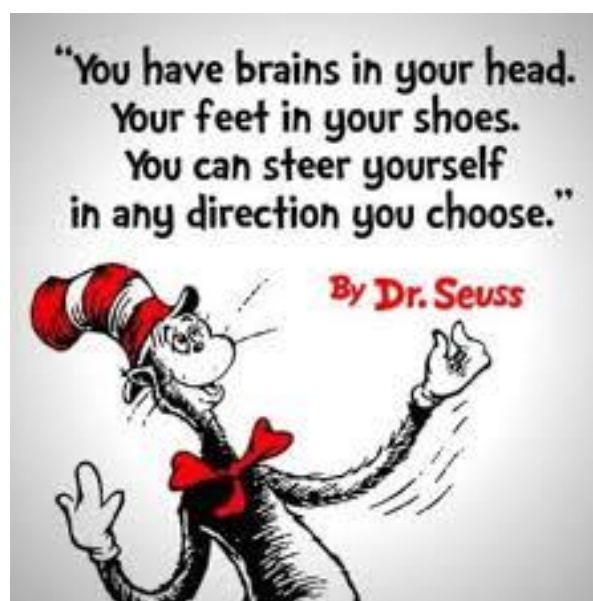
In conjunction with our Anaphylaxis Policy and promoting a consistent approach to students not sharing food, particularly during COVID-19, our class parties this year are based on celebrating the end of the year with fun games and activities that will be organised with each grade. There will BE NO FOOD SHARING. This includes students not bringing food to share, parents not sending in food to share, and teachers not purchasing food to share.

If students are bringing small gifts to share with their classmates, they need to be in a sealed bag (this may include lollies, donuts, cards with candy canes, pencils, even bon-bons) that classroom teachers will put in student bags at the end of the day. The decision is then up to families if your child eats/uses these at home.

I appreciate that this is a different way of celebrating to previous years, however, safety and student engagement has been our ongoing theme for this term and thank you in advance for your support.

Mrs Jill Benham

Principal



Saving (Y)our World instalment 32: Xiuhtezcatl Martinez

By: Morigan Raven

Welcome to my fifth influential figures discussion. In this instalment, we will look at the young activist and hip-hop artist Xiuhtezcatl Martinez, Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the organisation Earth Guardians. Let's learn more about him and what he is doing!

Xiuhtezcatl is an American activist that lives in the state of Colorado and was raised in the Aztec tradition. He makes music with his sister and brother that highlights environmental issues that affect his state and country. Through his latest album, which is aimed at today's young people, he hopes to spread a message of environmental awareness to his own generation. Martinez sees the mistreatment of the environment as "the tearing apart of a fragile and revered system" and when he was 15 years old he spoke about this to the General Assembly of the United Nations (a place where the governments of all countries come together to talk about global issues)!

In 2015, Xiuhtezcatl and 21 other young people filed a lawsuit against the US Federal government. They argued that by denying climate change, the government was denying them their rights and their future. This lawsuit is still going on, although some others that were brought against state governments were simply ignored. This type of action shows how the existing system can sometimes be used to help protest an issue. The legal system often allows environmental destruction to take place but it might also be able to force a government to change.

Earth Guardians is an organization that encourages young people to stand up for environmental, climate and social justice. They are active in six continents and have undertaken numerous campaigns and lawsuits that aim to protect the environment. They particularly work to train young people to become environmental leaders, with youth teachers training young people to work within their communities to make a difference. You can see what they do by visiting their website: <https://www.earthguardians.org/>



Next week will be our last installment of Saving (Y)our World and I look forward to introducing you to someone that you know very well. This young person is particularly inspirational and will make a huge difference to our future world.

"The biggest challenge is shifting human consciousness. The planet does not need saving, we do."
Xiuhtezcatl Martinez

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

The Avondale Primary School community is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making. Avondale Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

The Avondale Primary School community is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard in relation to decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Indigenous children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved in the Avondale Primary School community has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

Further information is available on the Avondale Primary website.

PARENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS – 2021

Avondale Primary School aims to ensure that parent payment practices are consistent, transparent and ensure that all children have access to the standard curriculum.

As per DET guidelines and agreed upon by School Council, payment requests at Avondale Primary School are divided into the following three categories:

- . **Essential Student Learning Items – (\$140.00 per student)**
- . **Optional Items – (To Be Advised)**
- . **Voluntary Financial Contributions – (\$120.00 per student)**

A breakdown of each year level's Fee Schedule will be sent home to families via Compass and is also available on our school website:

<https://www.avondaleps.vic.edu.au/page/66/Parent-Payment-information>

For 2021, the school is continuing to use Compass for parents to pay for Essential Student learning items and Voluntary Financial Contributions following the success of this process in 2020. All families will receive a notification on Compass, as to when it will be possible to make your payment.

Payment Methods

Payment is preferred via Compass Pay – access via the Compass Parent Portal, Compass offers secure online payment option when making payments to the school. payments can be made at any time of day or night, including during the school vacation period. Bpay is available to parents, however, you will need your family Biller Code and Reference details, which can be obtained from the school office. EFTpos, Cheque or Cash will be accepted at the school office from Friday, 22 January, 2021.

Financial Support for Families

Avondale Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- . Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)
- . State Schools Relief
- . Second hand uniforms sales
- . Referral advice to local support agencies.

Families who are experiencing financial difficulty are invited to make an appointment with the Principal and Business Manager to discuss an alternate payment plan.

Please refer to the Department of Education Payment Policy, found on our school website:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/parent-payment/policy>

Getting Ready in the Morning

I wake up in the morning as sleepy as can be,
Walking to the kitchen like a zombie.

I walk to the toaster to make some toast,
And that is what I have the most.

I walk to the couch to watch some television,
But I can't see it well because of my vision.

I finish my toast and put the plate on the sink,
Turn on the tap and have a drink.

I run to the bathroom in a rush,
Put on the toothpaste on my toothbrush.

I shake it in my mouth and spit out,
Down the drain into the waterspout.

I grab the brush and brush it in my hair,
If it's messy I really don't care.

Out of the bathroom into my room,
I'm still as naked as a baboon.

I grab the handle and open the draw,
And that's when I saw.

Some yellow and blue clothes just for me,
Now I am as shiny as can be.

Grab my lunch box and some snacks,
And by this routine I won't relax.

Hold up my bottle and fill it with water,
About one half and a quarter.

Grab them both and put them in my backpack,
Bottle lunch and my snack.

Put on my socks and my shoe,
Before I get my bag, I go to the loo.

Pick up my bag and open the door,
Outside I go with my feet on the floor.

Past the garden into the car,
My dad's going to drive me far, far, far.

Arriving to school to have some fun,
Now my morning routine is completely done.



By Cooper 3/4A

TERM 4 – SCHOOL CALENDAR

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Friday 11 December

Student Reports EMAILED to families

Wednesday 16 December

Grade 6 Graduation Day

- *Amazing Race, Avondale's Got Talent & Picnic lunch with Grade 5's*
- *Pre-recorded online ceremony 7.00pm*

Thursday, 17 December

Student's last day of school - students dismissed at 1.15pm

Friday, 18 December

Curriculum Day for staff

Avondale Primary School

Student positions of responsibility information

The following pamphlet aims to provide more information to parents regarding the processes followed when selected students for grade 6 positions of responsibility.

What leadership positions are available?

- 2 School Captains & Vice Captains
- 8 House Captains
- 8 House Vice Captains
- 2 Flag Monitors

What are some of the duties that are required to be performed?

- Attending student leadership meetings
- Hosting Friday assemblies
- Collecting and collating House points
- Organising lunchtime clubs
- Coordinating House Sport teams for Sports Day

When will the selection process take place?

Students began writing speeches mid way through November and will present their speeches in the 2nd week in December. All students must attend on this day to be eligible for selection.

Avondale Primary School values



- Respect
- Self-confidence
- Persistence
- Integrity
- Getting Along

The philosophy of Avondale Primary School is that every student can attain levels of achievement and be a responsible community member.

Student positions of responsibility

How are student leaders selected?

Step One:

Students are required to draft a speech which outlines the reasons why they should be selected for a position of responsibility. This may include examples where they have demonstrated their leadership capabilities both inside and outside of school, things that they would like to see implemented at the school and an overview of their personality/ leadership characteristics. These speeches are written without teacher/ parent assistance or editing.

Speeches delivered to their peers (grade 5 students) on a nominated day. Students mark each speech confidentially and according to a rubric that they have developed. Marks are based on the quality of the speech and presentation and not on friendship groups.

Step Two:

Grade 5s use a separate student developed rubric to nominate peers who demonstrate the school philosophy and values in the classroom and outside in the yard.

Step Three:

The highest 5 boys and 5 girls are selected to be interviewed by Principal and Assistant Principal.

The Principal and Assistant Principal select School Captains based on interview question responses.

Step Four:

The remaining 8 students become House Captains. Vice Captains and Flag Monitors are selected from the group of students who received the next highest number of votes.

When will successful students be informed?

We plan to be able to announce Grade 6 Positions of responsibility at the first assembly in 2021.

What if my child does not receive a position of responsibility?

All students are expected to abide by the Student Code of Conduct regardless of receiving a position of responsibility. There are many other leadership opportunities that arise throughout the year for any students who are not selected. These may include Junior School Council representative, Clubs, Canteen counter sales, Classroom monitor, Gate monitor, Sports Equipment monitor, Student Action team representative.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



Week 10 - 04/12/2020

Prep A	Inaya A
Prep B	Layla N
Prep C	Frederick T
Prep D	Sevin R

1A	-
1B	Sri V
1C	Sam B

2A	Stella N
2B	Will W
2C	Felix N
2D	Sienna P

34A	Ollie S
34B	Arsalan A
34C	Kaelan K
34D	Ezra T

45A	Tyler P
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56A	Alex H
56B	Justin N
56C	Julie N
56D	Kevin J

ART JNR	Arya S
ART SNR	Jemma F
LOTE	Arren P 2D
PE	Luca S

This is a COVIDSafe school

This school has a COVIDSafe Plan to maintain the safety of all staff and students during Term 4.

The four pillars of the COVIDSafe Plan are:



The available evidence suggests that the risk to staff and students remains low when recommended health and safety strategies are followed and that schools do not pose a greater risk of infection than other locations.

For detailed information visit:
www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

