Dear Parents,

Assistant Principal appointed...

I would like to congratulate Joe Scarfo on his appointment as Assistant Principal at Avondale Primary. Joe was selected from a strong field of applicants; I look forward to the contribution Joe will make to the school in this position.

Christmas Effort

The winning ticket will be drawn at Monday’s assembly. Many thanks to families who have supported this final fundraiser through a present donation and purchasing tickets. One lucky family will be wheeling away a brand new $150 wheelbarrow full of presents – what a great start to Christmas!

End of Year Music Concerts...

Congratulations to students who played so magnificently in the final music concert last week. The standard of playing is quite remarkable. Students, parents and teachers Maxine Shell and Michelle Di Maria are to be congratulated on achieving such impressive performances. Well done all.

Summer Reading...

This week I am publishing an article by Helen Butler. Thanks to Sally Slattery, Sue Costelloe, Faye Bolton, Diane Snowball, and Andy Patch for adapting it to our local area.

Research has found that children’s reading loses ground over the summer holidays because of their limited access to reading materials. Renowned literacy researcher Richard Allington of the University of Tennessee, says that the loss of daily reading over summer for some students, may account for more than two years’ worth of achievement by the time they are in the middle years of school.

Below, are some daily practical & fun suggestions on how we can avoid this and keep our child/children reading over summer!

- Head to the local library to read, borrow books or enjoy their summer reading programmes
- Set up a Summer reading spot at home and set aside a time each day for everyone to red
- If going on a driving holiday pack some audio books to listen to on the way
- Purchase some books from local second hand stores to build a library at home
- Set a reading goal with your child/children to read at least 4 or 5 books over summer
- Take the time to read to, with your child/children
- Have your child/children involved in writing letters or post cards to friends and family
- Find materials that relate to your child/children’s interests eg. soccer, animals, science
- Reading does not always have to be books: daily routines provide opportunities- cooking, using phone books, newspaper, reading instructions for a new toy or gadget, shopping brochures, read recipes
- Keep it fun

Books for young readers:
Where is Green Sheep? By Mem Fox
Possum Magic By Mem Fox
Brown Bear, Brown Bear By Bill Martin Jr
The Very Hungry Caterpillar By Eric Carle
Anything by Joy Cowley

Books for middle school readers
Picture story Books by Colin Thompson and Shaun Tan
The Tales of Despereaux By Kate Di Camillo
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane By Kate Di Camillo

Secondary Readers:
A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck
Freak the Mighty by Philbrick, R & Philbrick, W
History of Cricket by Catherine Chambers
I Lost My Mobile at the Mall by Wendy Harmer

*These are only a few titles to get you started. Please try your local library for more books to read over summer

Local Libraries in our area:
Avondale Heights Library, 69-79 Military Road, 8325 1940
Niddrie Library, 483 Keilor Road, 8325 1925
Ascot Vale Library , 165 Union Road, 8325 1990
Sam Merrifield Library, 762 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds, 8325 1950
Flemington Library, 313 Racecourse Road, 8325 1975

Children’s Websites:
http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/series/building-a-childrens-library

References:
Freedman-Devito, Barbara (2004) ‘Why Reading is So Important for Children’
http://www.familyresource.com

State Library Association Victoria ‘Stopping Summer Slide’ article
www.textproject.org ReadWriteThink.org.
DATES TO REMEMBER
(subject to change check regularly)

December
Monday 13th    Grade Six Graduation-Students to arrive at 6:30. The ceremony will commence 7pm-at Maribyrnong Community Centre, Randall St., Maribyrnong
Thursday 16th   Christmas Carols - families to arrive at 6pm
Friday 17th     Last day for Lunch Orders from the Canteen
Sunday 19th    Fundraising BBQ at Bunnings Highpoint

January 2011
Friday 28th     Book Pack day

February
Friday 1st      Students first day of school for 2011

Newsletters can be found every Friday on our website - www.avondaleps.vic.edu.au.
You can also check this site for the term Calendar.

Christmas Carols Picnic Evening 2010

Our Christmas Carols and Picnic evening will be Thursday December 16 starting at 6pm. It will be held at the back of the school.
You can bring your food, drink, chairs etc (i.e. everything), students are to bring a cushion to sit on. At 6:15 we will invite students to sing carols in their grade levels. If students arrive late and their class has performed they will miss their item, we are unable to wait for late arrivals.
As this is a family event, we ask parents to accompany their child/ren to this event and remain for the whole performance. We expect the Carols will last for one hour.

STUDENT TERM DATES 2011
Term 1 -Friday Feb 4th—Friday April 8th
Term 2 -Wednesday April 27th— Friday July 1st
Term 3 - Monday July 18th—Friday Sept 23rd
Term 4-Monday Oct 10th—Thursday Dec 22nd

Women’s Programs @ VU

Look ahead to 2011! Here's your chance to learn new skills. Increase your confidence for future study or employment through improved literacy, numeracy and computing skills.

We offer the following full time and part time courses:

Certificate in General Education for Adults
English, Maths, Computing and Career Planning
Footscray Nicholson & Sunshine campuses

Certificates in Spoken and Written English (ESL)
English, Maths and Computing
Footscray Nicholson campus

Certificate 1 in Information Technology
Self paced classes suitable for beginner to intermediate
2 hrs per week
Footscray Nicholson, Sunshine, Werribee & Melton campuses

Contact    Women’s Programs
            9919 8889

Volunteers Needed

The Fundraising Committee are having one final effort this year. This will be a BBQ at Bunnings Highpoint on Sunday December 19th. If you are able to spare an hour or two to help out on this day please leave your name and phone number at the office. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.
Many thanks
Fundraising Committee

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