Dear Parents,

Reports brought home tomorrow…
Students will take the midyear reports home tomorrow. The reports will provide comments on your child’s achievements and areas for improvement as well as the VELS levels achieved in English, Maths, Civics, Art Sport and ICT. I ask parents to read their child’s report and discuss any details of significance with the class teacher during Parent-Teacher interviews on Wednesday.

Reading is for meaning…
I can still vividly remember my best friend in grade four, reading a page of text to the whole of our class and being complimented by the teacher for a great job. I remember it clearly because after he sat down, he quietly whispered he was so frightened that he didn’t actually understand anything. I was astonished! How could you read something out loud and not actually ‘take it in’?
I am a little less puzzled now, reading out loud is a demanding task in itself, understanding is another task altogether. When you listen to your child read at home, it is their understanding of the text that is the most important aspect, accuracy and fluency are less important.

This has several important implications:
1. Meaning is more important than accuracy. If your child substitutes a suitable word when reading, don’t worry about correcting this minor error
2. Meaning is more important than fluency. Encouraging your child to read a text to a second person allows them to understand first then practice their inflection and intonation later.

Reading strategies you can use at home
You may have heard your child referring to various strategies and skills when they talk about their reading: “visualising”, “text to text relationship” or “thinking aloud”.
They are some of the strategies and skills being taught by the teacher to assist students understand the processes involved in learning to read. Following is a short list of strategies and their meaning:
1. Predicting/Using prior knowledge This encourages the child to draw upon their experiences to make evidence based guesses about content
2. Questioning This strategy encourages a student to develop questions about what might happen next and develops engagement in the task
3. Summarising This important skill develops in a student the ability to encapsulate the message conveyed by text
4. Using text structures and features As a students becomes more familiar with grammatical conventions they are able to use semantic and syntactic clues to develop meaning
5. Visualising ‘Picture in your head’ is a powerful tool for assisting students immerse themselves into the story to develop inferences and deepen understanding
Thinking aloud is a strategy whereby a student can share their feelings, thoughts and questions with others. Book clubs all over Australia use this strategy to share thoughts and opinions and so deepen their collective understanding and appreciation of text.

Have a great week

Canteen Menu
Please note that there will be a reduced menu for the canteen next week. Some items may not be available as we need to reduce stock to prepare for the move of the canteen. More details will be sent home next week.
DATES TO REMEMBER
(subject to change check regularly)

**June**
- Friday 18th: Student Reports to go home
- Facilities Committee Meeting 5pm
- Wednesday 23rd: Australian School Competition—Writing Test
- Parent Teacher Interviews from 1:30-7:30pm
- Friday 25th: Last Day Term 2—Students finish at 2:15pm
- Interschool Sport—St Augustines-9:30-Home

**July**
- Monday 12th: Term 3 starts-8:50am

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

**Rebel Sport Fundraiser**

When you purchase goods at Rebel Sport Highpoint and mention Avondale Primary School in the MVP program, the school receives 5% of the purchase price and you receive a 5% discount. Why not mention this next time you’re there?

**Fundraising Event for the Lort Smith Animal Hospital**


There will be plenty of dogs from Lort Smith’s PALS Program (Pets are Loving Support) to interact with the kids, and some Vets and Dog Trainers to give a talk on Animal Welfare and responsible Pet Ownership, and promote the Hospital’s Developing Gardens at Schools’ program soon to be released.

**After School Care News**

This year in OSHC has been a big year, with lots of new crafts and new cooking experiences. With higher attendance the children have been able to compete in sports out in the yard. Playing football and the number one favorite game of ball tag.

We are still seeking resources and will be most grateful for anything you may see as being useful. Including unwanted furniture (shelves/couches/bean bags/ pillows/cushions etc.) or any recyclable products such as empty bottles boxes lid caps and empty washed out tins.

Over the next couple to weeks we will be looking at aboriginal crafts. Making things with natural materials including bark and other items we can find as well as making our own didgeridoos and dot paintings.

Thanks
Sharee
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**It's Not Okay To Be Away**

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS**

- Ensure your child attends school on ALL school days and is on time every day
- Provide the school with an explanation if your child is away
- Contact the school if your child does not want to go to school
- Arrange doctor, dentist and all other appointments out of school hours
- Arrange personal shopping trips with your son/daughter or birthday celebrations out of school hours
- Do not allow your child to stay at home for minor reasons

**SOME ABSENces ARE IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID**