

# SCHOOL

# TALK

## WEEK 2 TERM 2



### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Parents will have been very grateful to see the superb manner in which our students participated and conducted themselves in both the Anzac Day March and Ceremony in Springwood, and the Anzac Day Commemoration Assembly at school the following day. Those who had speaking responsibilities and led proceedings served the Lord wonderfully well and blessed us all. Thank you everyone and may I say how much we appreciated the thought and effort that Mr. Marshall put into preparing the Commemoration Assembly – it was a deeply meaningful and moving occasion.

I hope you had the opportunity to visit the Wycliffe stall on Saturday at the Springwood Foundation Day Festival. Thank you so much to the generous and hard-working parents, students and staff members who organised the day and were so winsome in encouraging passers-by to consider our school as a very attractive option for their children. As our flyers said – *You're invited to come and have a chat about a unique opportunity for your child at Wycliffe Christian School.* A pivotal part of that uniqueness is, as our Vision Statement says – 'Encouraging learning founded on God's word'.

A familiar face from yesteryear has been serving our school as a volunteer during the second half of last term. He is somewhat of an icon at Wycliffe. Welcome back Mr. Richard Boyle! Mr. Boyle will continue on a casual basis one day a week, assisting with the very important work of maintenance in our TAS Department.

It is an enormous privilege to be serving the Lord in this dynamic, Christian school community. There is much to be thankful for. Welcome back to Term 2.

Shalom!

**George Glanville**  
Principal

### LIBRARY NEWS

#### READING FICTION



What makes a good piece of fiction? Writer and psychologist Charles Fernyhough, says "I know I'm in the presence of a great author if she or he makes me notice things I wouldn't otherwise have noticed, because the voice and sensibility on the page is sharpening my attention and bringing details into the light, and because I'm starting to think like them."

According to DJ Docx, fiction's ability to let readers participate in lives other than their own is the thing that sets it apart from other art forms. "It gives you the interiority of characters' minds," he explained. "The greatest film can't do that, and neither can a computer game. Only the novel can give you an intimate portrait of the complex cross-currents of human psychology, to the extent where you know another person's soul. And that's the most intimate thing in the world."

Such an ability to connect and even influence readers is both powerful but also challenging. It means that, as with our choice of friends, our choice of video, music and multimedia, we need to be discerning in our selection of fiction. It also means that well-crafted and wise characters have the potential to provide us with experiences that can help us to understand those around us and to observe the detailed diversity of God's world.

*"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about these things." (Philippians 4:8)*

*Fictional characters make 'experiential crossings' into real life - study findings by Richard Lea: [goo.gl/6bwCel](http://goo.gl/6bwCel)*

## SCHOOL NEWS

### YEAR 7/8 CAMP GALSTON GORGE

*Written By: Eleanor Maddock, Molly Gee, Esther McGregor, Annabelle Hawkins and Harry Bernays*

It all started in Growth Groups, Years 7 & 8 packed into Mrs Williams and Mr Zanardo's classrooms.

*"Is this about NAPLAN?"*

*"Is it about assignments?"*

*"Oh no, Is it about injections?!"*

However, the rumours making their way around the classes were disproved, as the teachers handed out the group lists. Finally, after weeks of tests and assignments, we were all ready to head off to camp at Galston Gorge!

The bus bay was packed with people, trying to convey their luggage to the bus. A tangible sense of excitement hung in the air as students said their farewells and clambered aboard the bus. With a jolt, the coach started to move. Away from school, away from parents. Some students tried to smuggle lollies around without attracting the attention of the long-haired bus driver, while others amused themselves with small talk. We were on our way!

The bus pulled into Crossroads Reserve and we got out and moved luggage. We then assembled in front of some Crusaders staff, as they gave us a pep talk about the upcoming 'not too long' and 'enjoyable' walk. We set off, hiking up a seemingly endless hill, chatting to our friends and putting one foot in front of the other. The scenery was beautiful, but three hours and many leeches later we arrived at a rest spot and found we still had more to go. After a few minutes we pushed ourselves to our feet and, with no lack of groaning and grumbling, embarked on the last (and hardest) part of our trip. After what seemed like forever, we trudged tiredly, but with the renewed vigour that came with almost being done, up the final hill.

After a long bus trip and 'walk', the last thing Years 7&8 wanted was to face the wrath of grumpy leaders! Fortunately, our leaders from Crusaders were the best, most interesting people we could ever hope for!

Zane, all powerful leader of the Yabba Tribe, always made sure we were being adventurous, but safe, even when staring down a cliff face in abseiling. Pete and Simon, with the most convincing tricks at camp were the best of friends. Meredith, fun and chatty, never a boring conversation with her. Hannah, the not so typical

red head, always had a knack for impressing people with her knowledge of kookaburras, as her amazing accent lulled everyone into a trance. Annie is her name, all sports are her game! Actually, her name is Annabelle, but that doesn't take away from her bubbly and sporty personality!

Some of us started to set up tents, while others were fortunate enough to sleep in cabins. The people in tents got ready to have a cookout, complete with Trangias and a bonfire afterward. We were taught the 'Trangia Song' (which would help us remember all the pieces of kit) by Zane, who after admitting he didn't have a very good voice, bravely launched into song:

*Big bowl, little bowl,  
Big hole, little hole,  
Spondonicle!  
Burner, lid, no spoon,  
We're under the moon,  
We're gonna have a cookout tonight!*

Sitting on the grass, eating by the light of our small cooking fires, we were content to chat and wonder what the rest of camp would bring. Well, most of us. One group tried to play cards with a torch that wouldn't illuminate the whole area, making it almost impossible! With full tummies, we flopped down around the bonfire pit and sat waiting.

We heard Pete's testimony of how knowing God has turned his life around, before learning about the 'Yaba' tribe. The Yaba tribe is a very special and exclusive group of people from Crusader camps and sometimes when the 'time is right', people get a chance to try and become members. The way you got in was by doing a special dance with the Yaba tribe stick. We finished off by toasting marshmallows in the dying embers.

The other half of the group had dinner in the food hall, and then moved to the gymnasium for a 'Big Night of Fun'. It was a high energy, enjoyable night that started off with tame games such as 'Pac-Man' (also known as the line game), and quickly escalated with the 'Shoe Throw' game, where you well, throw shoes! The aim of the game was to knock over an object, in our case Pete's red drink bottle, and score points for your team. There were twists, like when you had to throw the shoe under your legs, which meant you got double points. The last game was 'Cat and Mouse', where we had two teams, and the aim was for the mice to try to not get tipped for as long as possible, while the cats had to try to tip them as fast as possible. After the game, the winning team were proud, but tried to act as if they weren't as it was 'just a game' and the losing team consoled themselves with thinking the same thing. Everyone went back to their cabins hyped up but tired after a big day.

Everyone woke up bright and early ready to start the day and face the challenges ahead of them. Once breakfast was over the Year 8s separated and went off for abseiling. They walked down the rocky path to the cliff edge and a swarm of butterflies filled their stomachs as their name was called for them to go. One by one they slowly and steadily made their way down the 12m rock



until they finally made it to the bottom and then got a mini bushwalk up to the top where they had started. Once it was all over no one regretted going. It was a wonderful experience. After the excitement of abseiling the chatty group went to their next adventure, which was Jacob's ladder, a daunting, massive tower of ropes and poles standing

proud in the middle of the oval. We were sorted into triplets and had to try to make our way to the top, using strategy, teamwork and skill. Some managed to make it to the top, even though it was a struggle and enjoyed an amazing view out, over the tall trees and into the valley below.

The next fun activity to come, were the 'Survivor Challenges' which were a set of challenges, each designed to test our teamwork, puzzle solving skills and strength.



Year 7 also had activities too. They were rafting, challenge course and rock climbing. Rafting was a fun, team building activity with a twist of sharknado. In this activity you had to build a raft to get to the other side of the pool and back then pack up your equipment to win. Challenge Course was tricky with blue team coming to win. Rock climbing was indoors. It was

great fun and we also had a discussion about the pain that Jesus went through on the cross.

After lunch on Friday all the excitement was over, the exhausted students packed their bags onto the bus and pretty soon later they were on their way home. As the bus pulled into school joy filled their hearts. Then it was time to go home and rest, to wait till next year for the next school camp.

## SCHOOL NOTICES

### IMPORTANT - STUDENT AND FAMILY INFORMATION VERIFICATION FORMS

At the end of Term 4 2016 each family was mailed Verification Forms for their children's medical details and family contact details (addresses, emergency contacts, telephone numbers, email addresses etc.) with the request these be returned to the school Week 1, Term 1. At this stage many families have not returned these forms.

If you have overlooked receipt of this important paperwork in the holiday break, would you please, as a

matter of urgency, complete the forms and return to the school office. **Please return the forms even if there are no changes to be made.**

This information is vital to us in caring for students when illness or another emergency arises and to be able to contact parents when necessary. It will also ensure that you receive email communications from the School.

Thank you for your help.

## 2017 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY TRIALS

**Date:** Friday, 5 May (During periods 1 to 4).

**Venue:** Warrimoo Oval

**Time:** 8.30am to 12.23pm

### ORDER OF EVENTS

#### Primary Carnival

- **8.30am** Roll Call in D Quad for years 3-6 and the Cross Country Assembly
- **8.50am** 12/13 Years Boys and Girls 3 km
- **9.05am** 11 Years Boys and Girls 3 km
- **9.20am** 10 Years Boys and Girls 2 km
- **9.35am** 8/9 Years Boys and Girls 2 km
- **10.00am** End of Primary Carnival. Students go to normal recess break.

#### Secondary Carnival

- **10.24am** Growth Group
- **10.39am** Cross Country Assembly B Quad
- **10.55am** 17 and 18 Years Boys and Girls 4 km  
(Distance for boys only at CSSA is 6km)
- **11.05am** 16 Years Boys and Girls 4 km  
(Distance for boys only at CSSA is 6km)
- **11.15am** 15 Years Boys and Girls 4 km
- **11.30am** 14 years Boys and Girls 4 km
- **11.45am** 12 and 13 Boys and Girls 3 km
- **12.23pm** End of Secondary Carnival

**Note: Starting times are only an approximation.**

- Students are to run in the age group in which they are turning or have turned in 2017.
- The first four place getters for both the boys and the girls in each age division, will qualify to represent our school at the State Cross Country which will be held on Friday, 2 June.
- The first 10 placings in each age group will receive House points (1st will be given 10 points working down to 10th receiving 1 point).
- The winner of each age division will also receive an "Age Champion Banner" and ribbons will be given for positions 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>
- All students in Years 3-12 are to participate. Students in Years 3-6 who are unable to run are to give a note to their classroom teacher. Any student in Years 7-12 who is unable to participate is to have a note signed by a parent/guardian and this is to be given to Mr Stewart during recess time on the

day of the Cross Country. As the Cross Country results will help with the allocation of grades in the 7-10 PDHPE Cross Country Unit, I would encourage all students to run. Please note that this grade is not just based on physical ability, attitude is also of major importance.

- Students unable to run will help as track marshals and must see Mr Stewart at recess time at his Staffroom if they have not already been allocated a duty.
- Students competing from Years 7-12 are to get changed at recess time.
- Students are encouraged to have breakfast before coming to school to compete.
- Students are also encouraged to drink plenty of fluids before competing and self-administer sunscreen.
- Parents are most welcome to come along and support their children.

**Asthmatics:** If you are a known asthmatic you are to take your puffer with you as you run.

### **Parent Helpers Needed**

To enable a smooth running of the carnival it would be appreciated if I could have some parents to help on the day as track marshals. If available to help please phone or email me ASAP.

**Andrew Stewart**  
**K-12 Sports Coordinator**  
[stewy@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au](mailto:stewy@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au)  
**0405502955**

currently circulating in Australia. More information about meningococcal disease is available here: [goo.gl/qjRYbb](http://goo.gl/qjRYbb)

### **NSW Health immunisation nurses will be attending Wycliffe Christian School on Thursday, 15 June 2017.**

Parent Information Kits that include an information sheet, consent form and privacy statement will be sent home to parents/guardians at the beginning of Term 2. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to:

- read all the information provided
- complete the consent form, including signing their name next to the vaccine/s they would like their child to receive
- return the completed consent form to their child's school
- ensure that their child eats breakfast on the day of the school vaccination clinic.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal or phoning the school. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at:

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation)

***A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at each clinic. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.***



## **MENINGOCOCCAL ACWY VACCINATION PROGRAM**

Earlier this year, the Minister for Health announced the inclusion of the meningococcal ACWY vaccine in the NSW School Vaccination Program. In 2017, this vaccine will be offered to all Year 11 and 12 students.

Meningococcal disease is a rare but serious illness that can present as meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) or septicaemia (blood poisoning) and may be caused by one of several serogroups (or types), including A, B, C, W and Y. Use of meningococcal C vaccine on the National Immunisation Program has almost eradicated meningococcal C disease in Australia.

Meningococcal W has emerged as a significant cause of invasive meningococcal disease with the number of cases almost tripling in NSW in 2016 compared to 2015. Evidence from Australia and overseas suggest that meningococcal disease caused by serotype W is significantly more severe than the other serotypes

## National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2017

### LETTER TO PARENTS

In May 2017 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Student background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 9-11 May 2017.

TUESDAY 9 MAY	WEDNESDAY 10 MAY	THURSDAY 11 MAY
<b>Language Conventions</b> (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)  <b>Writing test</b>	<b>Reading test</b>	<b>Numeracy test</b>

In the numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be one numeracy test with two parts: Part A calculator is allowed and Part B where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

**Friday 12 May** – A 'catch-up' day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day. Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if they:

- are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, **or**
- have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student's normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are available to meet the needs of individual students.

Access to disability adjustments or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents in consultation with the school principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Please make an appointment with the principal of the school your child attends if you would like to discuss your child's participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at <http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/parent-carer-support>