ENCLOSURES:

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

GOD’S CREATION IS ‘VERY GOOD’

Marking the arrival of Spring we have enjoyed some glorious days over the past week. It certainly makes me appreciate being back in the Mountains. The complexity and beauty of God’s creation is something to really marvel at.

I have been doing some reading lately about the goodness of God’s creation. Nothing in the universe is here by accident. From the smallest microbe to the greatest mountain peak, to the Orion Nebula in outer space, to humans created in God's image, when God looked upon the entirety of his creative efforts He declared it was "very good" (Genesis 1:31).

In Genesis we read: "The Lord God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it." (Genesis 2:15)

As good stewards we are called by God to be caretakers of His world, to use its resources as needed but wisely, to look after it. It has challenged me to think how as a school we can be better stewards of God’ creation.

Below are some good reasons why we should care for the environment:

- God reveals His glory, beauty, and creativity to human beings through creation (Romans 1:20, Psalm 19:1-6).
- God’s meticulous care for his creation. (Psalm 104)
- God made provision for the survival of animals during Noah’s flood and even enters into covenant with them (Genesis 6:8-17).
- Human life is dependent upon a healthy environment.
- God is working to recreate and restore not just individual people, but the entire fallen creation. (Revelation 21:5)

Below is one practical way as a school we can improve our stewardship of God’s gift of creation.

Presently School Talk, our weekly newsletter, is receiving a much needed facelift. The majority of school families receive School Talk electronically through the emailed link or via the webpage. We still however print and distribute 100 hard copies each week, many of which do not even make their way into students’ bags. Each copy has around ten A4 printed pages, which equates to 1,000 individual printed pages a week, 40,000 annually. This not only proves quite costly but also consumes many trees to supply the paper used.

In being better stewards of the resources God has given us, in caring for our environment it has been decided to drastically reduce the amount of printing each week. As at the beginning of Term 4, the general expectation will be that all families will access their newsletters online. Limited hard copies will still be available; however these will not be automatically distributed in class for students to take home. Hard copies will be available from reception. Parents will be welcome to pick up a copy at any time during the school day, or alternately their child/ren may collect one for the family. It is estimated this should reduce
the printing of newsletters by around 80%, 32,000 A4 copied pages per year, or 64 reams of paper.

"He (God) sends forth springs in the valleys; They flow between the mountains; They give drink to every beast of the field; The wild donkeys quench their thirst. Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell; They lift up their voices among the branches. He waters the mountains from His upper chambers; The earth is satisfied with the fruit of His works. He causes the grass to grow for the [m]cattle, And vegetation for the labor of man, So that he may bring forth food from the earth" (Psalm 104:10-14)

**MIDWEEK WORKING BEE**

If you would like to get fit and knock over some Working Bee [PIP] hours at the same time I invite you to join me on Thursday 10th September to distribute school flyers across the local area.

Last year’s promotional drive resulted in a significant flow of enrolments across term 4. Our desire is to see many more families enjoy Christ's blessings through an education at Wycliffe. Increased enrolment also lessens the upward pressure on fees and broadens subject offerings in the Senior School.

So if you have a couple of hours to spare on Thursday 10th September, we will be meeting in reception at the School at 11:45am. It is envisaged the session will be completed by 2pm, in time for picking up children at the end of the school day.

**COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE WEEK**

This week we feature Eva Gee. Eva is a bright and friendly student who can be relied upon to complete any task that is set upon her. She contributes to the community in a variety of ways and gives her best efforts at the things she is assigned to.

She played a pivotal role in last week’s Book Week drama as the Cat in the Hat character; Thing 2. In sport, she has represented the school in Newcombe ball, cricket teams and has also represented the school at a state level in Junior Girls High Jump. Eva has also been part of the Primary School Choir, Kidsing.

Eva is humble in her achievements and is willing to take advice whenever necessary. She is an asset to herself and the school.

Christ Blessings
Peter Jamieson

**FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL AND HEAD OF JUNIOR**

Here are a few reminders of important events coming up soon:

**JUMP ROPE FOR HEART**

K-6 will be performing their class presentations of their skipping skills on Friday 11th September, commencing at 8:30am. Parents are welcome to come along and enjoy the display. Jump Rope for Heart is an annual event that strives to encourage children to participate in healthy, physical activity whilst at the same time raising money for the Heart Foundation to assist in their research.

Please remember that as per the parent letter sent earlier this year,

“Sponsorship is easy – simply go online to www.heartfoundation.org.au/jumprope, click on the green ‘Kids Join Now’ button, and register your child today!

**K- 2 SPORT MORNING**

This Tuesday, 8th September, on the oval starting at 9:00am.

Come along and cheer our little ones as they have fun ‘competing’ in the exciting events planned. Bring a picnic rug or chair, some morning tea & lunch and if you’re up for it, your joggers fro the parents race. We have some very competent and competitive parents who are always keen to have a run for their money!

We look forward to seeing you there.
**Ready, Set, Go!**

An informal information evening for parents of students starting Kindy next year. Come along and find out how you can assist your child to get ready for school, what they will be learning, and some strategies to overcome the start-up wobbles and have your questions answered. NB this is not a substitute for the Kindy Orientation morning in Term 4 which addresses more specific school organisation.

Tuesday 9th Sept, in the Kindy classroom.

**Wycliffe Preschool – enrol now for 2016**

Do you have a little one who will turn 4 by July 2016. Wycliffe Preschool provides a Christ-based curriculum presented in a caring relaxed environment by well qualified teachers who love God and will love and care for your child. The robust ‘Transition to School’ program ensures school readiness. Don't miss out! Speak to the registrar Mrs Rebecca Moses and arrange a visit.

**K-2 Tennis Pro’s in the Making**

Mr Grant Casey has been coaching the K-2 students in tennis this term. The students have improved in their hand-eye coordination and their ability to control the ball. We really appreciate Mr Casey giving up his time and sharing his expertise with us.

God bless,

Coral Edwards

**Library**

The recent visit of the Prime Minister, Mr Abbott, to Indigenous communities and schools in Northern Australia has focused attention on different approaches to teaching and learning, especially in the area of literacy. Speaking in the media, Mr Abbott referred to two models. The first is Explicit Teaching, which is commonly simplified into a classroom approach known as "I do, we do, you do". The second, Direct Instruction, is a model based on breaking down concepts to their smallest components. Both are teacher-centred models, in which lessons follow a clear structure of explanation, demonstration, practice and assessment. Direct Instruction is a specific version of explicit instruction. Explicit teaching is a key component of the Australian Curriculum.

Allan Luke, Emeritus Professor, Queensland University of Technology, has studied the success of these approaches in Indigenous communities. He identifies clear planning and detailed assessment as two strengths of both models and other educational programs that emphasise explicit instruction on basic and advanced skills.
However, Professor Luke also says that the curriculum is about more than acquiring generic skills and behaviours. “Australians would agree that the ideas, values, beliefs, histories and cultures that are taught matter.” For Indigenous communities the success of these models comes from their inclusion within a broader approach that emphasises collaboration with parents and communities and the promotion of cultural identity to boost confidence, self-esteem and ambition. This focus is central to the work of both Dr Chris Sarra's Stronger Smarter Institute and Noel Pearson’s Direct Instruction program.

As a Christian learning community, Wycliffe believes that the ideas, values, beliefs, histories and cultures that are taught need to be evaluated within a Biblical worldview. This Christian worldview context is a reminder that curriculum content and teaching methods need to align with our fundamental beliefs and values.

Professor Luke’s research also suggests that Explicit Teaching has limitations. Students who achieve basic literacy through such approaches still require further strategies to promote engagement with comprehension as well as reading and writing in both specialised and wider reading fields. This deeper engagement with literacy requires a whole-school approach, including the role of the school library in supporting wide reading and promoting the enjoyment of reading through student interest.


Mr Cooney

**CIS ATHLETICS**

Congratulations to Molly Gee, Raynesha Anning-Cadell and Phillip Morgans who have qualified through to the CIS (Combined Independent Schools) level for Athletics.

Molly is in year 6 and will be representing CSSA for the High Jump, Raynesha who is in year 9 will be representing CSSA for the Discus, and Phillip Morgans in year 7 will be representing CSSA in the 1500m.

We wish all three students the best.

Well done to all our athletes who competed at the CSSA Athletics Championships. The feedback I have had from the team managers is that our students gave their best and where wonderful ambassadors for the school. A number of students also just missed out on making it to the next level.

Andrew Stewart
K-12 Sports Coordinator

**UP COMING EVENTS**

For the most up-to-date calendar information, refer to the School Website Calendar at [www.wycliffe.nsw.edu.au](http://www.wycliffe.nsw.edu.au).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Community Prayer Meeting</td>
<td>Sep 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11 Exams</td>
<td>Sep 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-2 Sports Morning</td>
<td>Sep 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS Primary Athletics</td>
<td>Sep 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jump Rope for Heart</td>
<td>Sep 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT Information Evening</td>
<td>Sep 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality Service Day</td>
<td>Sep 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS Secondary Athletics</td>
<td>Sep 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12 Final Assembly And Graduation</td>
<td>Sep 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term 3 Concludes</td>
<td>Sep 18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPORT NEWS**

**ZONE ATHLETICS AGE CHAMPIONS**

Well done to the following students who received the honour of being age champions at the Zone Athletics Carnivals

- 14 Yr Girls - Abby Smith
- 12 yrs Girls - Molly Gee
- 10 yrs Gilrs - Olivia Greenaway
Term 4 commences

School Community Prayer Meeting

Year 12 HSC Exams Commence

Kindergarten Orientation

Primary Softball Gala Day

Yr 9 Drama Excursion

Yr 9 VA Excursion

Year 3-6 Summer Games

Working Bee

Year 1 & 2 Warragamba Dam Excursion

New Family Orientation Day & Year 7 Orientation Day

Celebration Concert

Year 9 & 10 Achievement Assembly

Year 7 & 8 Achievement Assembly

K-6 Achievement Assembly

COMMUNITY NEWS

You are invited to a delicious High Tea

entertainment by acclaimed harpist Jannita Seawell and soprano Amanda (Villa) Wong, previous winner of the Lulian Piovani International Voice Competition.
on Sunday, 13th September at 2:30 to 4:30pm
Cost $35 (concession $25)
An event for both men and women in the beautiful Lower Blue Mountains. Limited numbers in place per table to rese...