

SCHOOL

TALK

WEEK 2 TERM 1



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I am very grateful for the generous welcome I received at the Assembly to begin the school year last Tuesday. It was also a pleasure to welcome new students and staff to the school community.

It is a very special privilege to be serving as Interim Principal this year and to be able to greet parents and students, many of whom I already know. Speaking to parents and staff, I am sensing a vitality and air of positive anticipation which is heart-warming, and commend to you the staff who are an exceptional team.

Mums and dads, guardians and grandparents are, as I see it, the most significant educators in a child's life. They have an incalculable impact on the formation of a child's faith, character, values and not least, emotional resilience. As a Christian school principal, I would often say to students: *"This is a school for parents; they just happen to send you here!"*

During the past half a century, small groups of very hard-working, Christian parents all over the country decided to fulfil this God-given task of raising their children. They needed partners – Christian teachers in Christian schools. Over forty years ago, Wycliffe Christian School came into being. And so, ever since, teachers who love the Lord have worked here, in partnership with parents and guardians, in that part of education we call 'school'. With you, they assist children, young and not so young, to learn well and to see things the way God sees things.

Wycliffe is a school for parents and guardians. Teachers serve the Lord by serving you and your children. If you have a concern, make it known through the appropriate channels. Don't wait for the formal parent/teacher interviews. If you have a suggestion, compliment or 'thank you', send a note, let it be known. It's a partnership.

On Monday last week, many members of our school

community attended the Thanksgiving service in remembrance of Mr Robert Dove, husband of Jane, our Head of Science Department.

Sadly, on the same day, I was informed of the sudden death of Mrs Debbie Fallon, wife of Michael and mother of Daniel in Year 12.

Your prayers for these dear people would be much appreciated.

"We grieve, but not like those who have no hope."

Shalom.

George Glanville
Principal

LIBRARY NEWS

PRINT AND EBOOKS



Paediatrician and researcher, Dimitri Christakis, says that for each hour of cognitive stimulation – a parent reading or singing to them – a child's synaptic development and ability to concentrate later in the school context improves significantly. However, the benefit is also dependent on the media used for reading. Despite the growing popularity of screens and ebooks, research would suggest that traditional books are the better option for young children.

Dr Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, who has devoted her career to investigating how children learn through play, says that reading from a screen with children is far less effective than reading a printed book. A significant factor is that the majority of the interaction when using a screen is about control of the device, while the parent and child will spend the majority of their time interacting about the story and characters when reading a traditional book.

Interactive, electronic console books are found in 90% of American homes and in more than 100,000 classrooms. Yet when parents and their three year old reads an electronic console book together, parents spend much of their time trying to control their child's manipulation of the book rather than talking about the story.

With electronic books, 41% of the parent's talk is about managing the child's book behaviour. And only 59% is about the story itself. With traditional books, 92% of the parent's talk is about the story. Not surprisingly, children understand significantly more about the story when they hear it from a traditional book than when they hear the electronic version.

You can read more of Dr Hirsh-Pasek's research at her website: <http://kathyhirshpasek.com/>

Mr Cooney

IMPORTANT DATES

- 8 February** Secondary Swimming Carnival
- 13 February** Coffee & Dessert Evening
Opportunity to meet the new Principal and current Board members.
- 15 February** School Photo Day
- 17 February** Years 3-6 Primary Swimming Carnival
- 18 February** Working Bee
- 23 February** Primary Zone Swimming Carnival
K-10 Parent Teacher Interviews
Year 7 2017 - Information Night
- 25 February** Prayer Breakfast
- 27 February** K-10 Parent Teacher Interviews

SCHOOL NOTICES

USE OF STUDENT PHOTOS FOR MARKETING AND SOCIAL MEDIA

A reminder to parents that student photos may be used for advertising, Facebook, Twitter and the School website. No student will be identified by name unless prior permission is obtained from their parents. This will only be requested in the case of a personal achievement by an individual student.

If any parents have significant reasons why they do not wish their child's image to be used, please put this request in writing addressed to Avril Marshall, P.A. to the

Principal or by email to amarshall@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au as soon as possible. Such requests will be kept for staff reference.

URGENT REMINDER RE STUDENT AND FAMILY INFORMATION VERIFICATION FORMS

If you have not already done so, please return completed forms to the mailbox at Reception as a matter of urgency. It is vital that the School has updated details in regard to any changes to parent telephone numbers and email addresses, student medical information and emergency contact information. Please return forms even if there are no alterations to be made.

SKOOLBAG APP

Those parents who have had their first child enter the Senior School this year (Year 7) are reminded that they should update their app to receive 'Secondary' notifications on the Skoolbag App.

For parents who have not yet downloaded the App to their phone, instructions are available via the Parent Portal on the School website.

Mrs Marshall

OUTSTANDING TEXT BOOKS

As students have been issued with new text books this year, they have been reminded of outstanding text books recorded against their name. It would be appreciated if parents could discuss any such books with their children in the secondary years, and encourage them to locate and return them to the library as soon as possible. Many are required by students beginning new courses or new years of study. Letters and invoices for books not returned will be issued by Week 4 of this term.

BOOK CLUB



Students at Wycliffe Christian School are invited to purchase quality books and related items at discounted prices through the Scholastic Book Club. The first of this year's Book Club Catalogues will be handed out to Pre-school and Primary children via class teachers. Secondary students may collect a catalogue from the Library circulation Desk. Order forms and money should be returned to the red Book Club mailbox in the Library by February 14th. Alternatively, payments can be made online but the order form is still sent through the school.

Mr Cooney

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for an evening of Wycliffe family fun at *Cinema Under the Stars*.

Preschool - Year 12
Saturday 4th March from 6pm
More details coming soon

WYCLIFFE PRAYER GROUP

Our Prayer Group meets together weekly to pray for our School community.

All parents, guardians and grandparents are warmly invited to join us to pray each Thursday morning 8:45am on the silver seats next to the Primary play equipment. In cold or wet weather we will pray together in the School Cafe 133. Younger siblings are very welcome to come and play while we pray.

Please contact the School Office if you would like any more information.

COFFEE AND DESSERT EVENING

Coffee and Dessert Evening

Monday 13 February
School Library

Parents are warmly invited to meet the new Principal, Mr George Glanville and current Board members.

Please join us in the Library at 7.30 p.m.

Mr Glanville will give a short address following which coffee and dessert will be available.

RSVP by 8/2/17 to
Avril Marshall
amarshall@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au

COMMUNITY NOTICES

SMBC COURSES

Visit smbc.edu.au/events/hot-topics17 for more details or to register.

2017 HOT TOPICS

Wednesday evening talks, Semester 1, 2017
7.00pm (sharp) to 9.00pm at 43 Badminion Road, Croydon 2132. Ideal for those who want their hearts and minds challenged - all welcome!

What does it mean to trust God?

Vanessa Hall
8 FEBRUARY

Trust is a missing or damaged element in many human relationships, for Christians and unbelievers alike. Most seriously, our difficulty trusting God, or fully understanding what trust is, impacts our confidence and reliance on him, and his provision for us. Vanessa Hall heads Entente, an international movement teaching the importance and the practice of trust, grounded in the Bible.

Has Christianity done more harm than good?

Dr John Dickson
15 FEBRUARY

There is a fast-growing belief that the world would be better off without religion – especially Christianity. The church is increasingly regarded as a burden, a spoiler, and even a poisonous influence on society. John will analyse the 'mixed bag' of Christian history and practice, realistically evaluating both its dark side and its contribution to civilisation.

One truth, many voices: Which is the best Bible for me to use?

Dr Malcolm Gill
22 FEBRUARY

In English alone, there's a bewildering variety of Bible versions; and they keep coming. Why do we have so many? Should we all use the same one? Malcolm, who teaches preaching, New Testament and Greek at SMBC, will help us understand the diversity, and suggest which might be the most helpful translations for us to use.

Speaking the truth in love

Kim Hawtreay
1 MARCH

What is 'free speech'? Is it endangered? Ordinary Christians are increasingly paying a price (whether mockery, persecution at work or accusations of arrogant bigotry) for simply articulating Christian views. Kim, an author and speaker based in Sydney, will weigh up our call to faithfully proclaim the word, and the sensitivity required as we relate to outsiders in a world desiring to gag the gospel.

Our three-in-one God: How the Trinity impacts our lives

Rob Smith
15 MARCH

From what God has spoken in Scripture, we understand the truth he has revealed: that he is three persons in one. But what practical difference does that make to the way we think about God, how we relate to him, how we pray and how we live as his people under his lordship? Rob teaches theology and ethics at SMBC.

Confronting persecution

Elizabeth Kendall
22 MARCH

Across the globe, persecution of Christians and churches abounds, and is growing rapidly. It shouldn't surprise us: Jesus warned his disciples to expect it. Elizabeth is an international religious liberty analyst and advocate, author, and research fellow at the Melbourne School of Theology's Centre for the Study of Islam. She will suggest biblical foundations for understanding and responding faithfully to this scourge.

Same sex marriage? Marriage equality?

Michael Stead
29 MARCH

Many people sincerely believe that marriage is ripe for redefinition. Is this a question of rights and equality, or something else? Does God's word speak clearly about marriage? Can it legitimately make sense of the current debate and suggest how to respond wisely? Michael is the Anglican Bishop of South Sydney, and has spoken and written thoughtfully on this contentious issue.

Is 'mindfulness' Christian?

Ivette Moutzouris
26 APRIL

Ivette, a Christian clinical psychologist and counsellor, will consider the popular therapeutic technique of mindfulness, and assess whether it is biblically responsible and useful. Is it compatible with a Christian world view, or is it a dangerous practice? She will also briefly evaluate hypnosis and recovered-memory therapy techniques from a Christian perspective.

Do we need a right to die?

Dr Megan Best
3 MAY

Megan is a bioethicist and a palliative care doctor, often taking part in public discussion on beginning and end of life questions. With recent events in Europe, Australia and elsewhere, opinion on legalising euthanasia is shifting rapidly. Megan brings the Bible and evangelical theology to bear in helping Christians understand this urgent and practical area.

What's so good about the Reformation?

Stuart Coulton
17 MAY

The day before All Saints Day 1517, Martin Luther posted a document on a German church's wall. That's a long time ago: 500 years, in fact. Surely it's time to give the Reformation a break and get on with more modern Christian concerns. How can what took place so long ago better help us understand the authority of the Bible and the centrality of grace? Stuart is Principal at SMBC.

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [v](#) /SMBCCOLLEGE

SMBC.EDU.AU

PARENTING COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

NEPEAN COMMUNITY & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES



Having one of those days? Tired of yelling at the kids? Or just want to know more? FREE Practical tips for everyday parenting. Visit <https://goo.gl/AFbwpE> for course list and more details.