ONE STEP CLOSER TO CHRISTMAS

In this our second last edition of School Talk for the year, we continue our focus on Jesus.

In the very last chapter of the Bible, just eight verses from the end of the biblical account, Jesus states, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (Revelation 22:13). Jesus is the common thread that unifies the whole biblical story, and he is present throughout the entirety of the Scriptures.

In the very opening of his Gospel John emphasises that Jesus and the creator God are one; “In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” (John 1:1-3).

Paul also reinforces this in his epistle to the Colossians;

“He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, ...all things have been created through Him and for Him.” (Colossians 1:15-16).

So why was this baby Jesus born some 200 years ago? Why did God himself invade human history? Frankly this baby Jesus was born to die! This is a very confronting thought as we move toward the festive season.

Jesus was not a backup plan to which God was forced to resort. The death and resurrection of Jesus has been the intended goal of all history. Through the historical framework of the biblical story, God reveals His one way to salvation, through the one Saviour, that is Jesus Christ.

May our community truly know Christ’s blessings this Christmas.

CONGRATULATIONS MICAH

It goes without saying that we have a lot of talented students at the school, and nothing brings me greater
joy than seeing students appreciate and make the most of their God given talents.

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge Micah Bowden as such a student. Micah has a great interest and gifting in the area of Visual Arts, and has applied himself throughout the year in completing a magnificent major work.

His work, *Alby was ‘only a stretcher bearer’*, has been selected for display in the acclaimed ARTEXPRESS exhibition that showcases the very best of HSC major works from across the state.

Micah’s great grandfather who served as a stretcher-bearer during World War One was the inspiration of the work. The medium is ‘printmaking’ (lino) with six stretchers forming the canvas. Micah wanted to acknowledge the often unrecognised contribution of his Great grandfather and fellow stretcher-bearers in serving the injured, many in their last hours of life.

We congratulate Micah on his achievement and give thanks to God for his giftedness and focus that are an inspiration to all.

During the new year Micah’s work will be on display in two locations, The Armory, Sydney Olympic Park & Blue Mountains Cultural Centre. We will inform our community of further detail when it comes to hand.

**FAREWELL AND CHRIST’S RICHEST BLESSINGS**

This stage of the year regularly presents as a time of change in schools as some teachers finish their service to take up new opportunities in life.

Last week I mentioned that our beloved Mrs Edwards would be departing to take up a new leadership role at Dale Christian School in the Newcastle region. We have a number of other staff who have decided to take up new opportunities that God has presented to them.

Long serving staff members Rob Moor (TAS) and Alison Saunders (K-6 Music) will be leaving us at the end of the year. After 26 years at Wycliffe Mr Moor has accepted the position of Head of TAS at Penrith Christian School. Mrs Saunders has made a wonderful contribution to Wycliffe’s music programs over the past 15 years. This has been exemplified through the recognition our students have received at the local eisteddfods. Coming from the Hawkesbury region Mrs Saunders has been spending a lot of time travelling and has expressed the desire to focus her efforts closer to home.

Further Mrs Carolyn Letcher (Innes) will also be leaving us at the end of this year. Mrs Letcher has contributed so much to the school through her leadership of the Education Support Department. We have missed her around the School over the past months. She was on Long Service Leave initially, and has been unwell throughout fourth term. Mrs Letcher will be spending much of the year ahead in the Northern Territory, supporting her husband Keith in his ministry in indigenous communities. May God bless her as she pursues her new leading in her life.

Mr Ray Wilkinson joined Wycliffe four years ago. He came with a trade background prior to entering teaching, and has particularly contributed to the growth of our trade offerings teaching Construction to our senior students. Mr Wilkinson has secured a job in a trade specialist school commencing at the beginning of 2016.

Mrs Anlezark has been covering some of the library role since the departure of Mrs Clarke. We thank Mrs Anlezark for her service to the school. We hope this not be farewell though, and we very well may see her around the school again as need arises.

May these departing staff enjoy Christ’s richest blessings as they pursue renewed callings of God on their lives.

**OTHER STAFFING NEWS FOR 2016**

Mr Cooney has enjoyed a growing role in the area of library services at the school. Librarianship has been a particular interest of Mr Cooney’s, and he has even completed postgraduate studies achieving Masters qualifications in the area.

In 2016 Mr Cooney will assume the role of librarian at the school. He will retain his Yr 11 & 12 Music classes with the rest of his focus on the Library. He has shared with me some exciting ideas, and I look forward to his unfolding vision for the library as the information hub of the school.

**OVAL**

Tenders have been submitted and last Friday afternoon I met with the company managing the project to prioritise the interested companies.

The good news is that the oval development will begin mid January, and be completed ready for use in the second half of 2016. Our amended plans will focus on producing a robust playing surface, and drainage and irrigation have been incorporated. The present disused hard-courts will be refurbished as well.

It will be wonderful to see this project finalised, after such a long process.

**COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE WEEK**

This week we feature Senior School English and HSIE teacher, Mrs Commerford. Mrs Commerford has contributed much to the Wycliffe environment over recent years. Her enthusiasm and love of History is contagious, as is evident particularly among the senior students she teaches.

She carries a huge smile (as well as her bucket of chocolates) wherever she goes. She is an encouragement to all.

*Peter Jamieson Principal*
FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

KINDY SCOOTER DAY

What better way to end a Transport unit, than practising obeying stop / go signs and just having fun whilst ‘driving a scooter’?

There was also time for a play in the park and a chance to get messy!

K-6 ASSEMBLY

Mr Jones has been unfolding the story of Jesus this term. Last week he presented the birth of Christ, with the help of some ‘seasoned’ actors.

YEAR 6 – END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

What a fantastic night we enjoyed as year 6 presented their reflections on the year and treated us to some wonderful talent! Molly Gee gave a beautiful performance singing ‘Cornerstone’, Micah Webster took us back with an accomplished guitar piece ‘Blackbird’, the talented Trent Wallace and Ben Cannon played ‘Mission Impossible’ on piano and saxophone respectively and Emilee Schatzman was accompanied by her music teacher, Mrs Murray as she gave a polished performance on flute, playing ‘Allegro’. The other students who participated, from the Tech team to those who spoke did so with confidence and poise. The whole year group conducted themselves with maturity and respect and are a credit to their parents and their teachers.

There was also a guest appearance of Darth Vader (aka Mr Jamieson) who had some very wise words encouraging students to shine the light of Christ in their lives.

PRESCOOL - END OF YEAR CONCERT

On Tuesday and Thursday last week, parents, grandparents and other family members enjoyed a presentation from the Preschoolers of some of the songs and rhymes the children have learnt throughout the year. The children and their guests then enjoyed afternoon tea. Our thanks and admiration go to Mrs Julie Taylor, Mrs Rebecca Howes and Mrs Gemma Goodhart who have lovingly nurtured and educated these little ones, demonstrating Jesus’ love and patience in all they do.

Buckland House – have kindly donated two books for our school Library that tell the Anzac story. One is suitable for our Primary students – “The Beach they Called Gallipoli” The other is a beautiful volume – “Anzac treasury – The Gallipoli Collection of the Australian War Museum”. We are very appreciative of their donation, which will be a great asset for our students studying this aspect of our county’s history.

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL

It is with considerable sadness that I finish this – my last Wycliffe School Talk article, and continue the series of ‘lasts’ as we approach the end of the year. Over the last 16 years I have enjoyed getting to know many families in the school, watching a number of children going from Kindy through to Year 12, teaching many of them, sharing some wonderfully happy times as well as some heartbreakingly sad occasions and everything in between. God has truly blessed me over this time as I have been part of a community where God is central, working alongside incredibly gifted teachers who give selflessly in order to enable the students in their care to reach the full potential that God has gifted them with and at the same time, encouraging and lifting each other up.

I am excited about the next stage in my teaching journey and am looking forward to what God has in store. I trust that I will be able to make a difference in the lives of the young parents I will be teaching.

I would like to thank all the staff at Wycliffe (past and present), for their love and support; the parents who each year give us the privilege of being part of the learning journey of your children; the School Board for the many hours they volunteer to ensure the smooth running of the school – and the students whose daily activities have on the most part been a source of joy (and quite possibly some interesting anecdotes for a book).
I pray that God will continue to direct this school and each of you, in His ways. God bless!

Coral Edwards
Deputy Principal

SCHOOL NEWS

CAR WASH - 7TH, 8TH DECEMBER

A short time ago the principal, Mr Jamieson, raised with me the question of how the school library might better serve the reading interests of parents in our school community. Presently, parents are able to register to borrow books from the school library. Some parents use this facility to add to their children’s weekly borrowing. Some borrow books for their own leisure reading. For others, there is the opportunity to borrow books to extend their knowledge and understanding of the research and philosophy of Christian education and topics of interest such as parenting. Others are able to preview and critique a book that their child would like to read.

I would welcome you being part of the conversation about how the school library might be of further service to parents. Please email me at school with your suggestions. My email is: pcooney@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au

This has been a year of farewells and none is more heartfelt than saying goodbye to Mrs Jenny Anlezark. Mrs Anlezark has been an integral member of the library staff for the past six years. A qualified librarian, Mrs Anlezark has enhanced our library team with the benefit of her many years of experience in different libraries.

For many secondary students, Mrs Anlezark is the textbook person and it is true that her management of the textbooks has been invaluable, especially as we have updated our texts to meet the needs of the National Curriculum. However, Mrs Anlezark has been involved in every aspect of life in the library: selecting and processing books; attending to student and staff enquiries; planning and setting up the library displays; and re-organising different sections of the collection to assist users to find the books they want and to discover new books to add to their favourites list.

We are grateful that we will be able to maintain contact with Mrs Anlezark, who is also a parent in the school community. We thank God for her loving service, ministry of encouragement and faithful witness to the Lord Jesus to our staff and students.

Mr Cooney

SCHOOL NEWS

LIBRARY NEWS

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

The story of the MESSIAH!

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Mr Cooney

SCHOOL NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming school events are available from: www2.wycliffe.nsw.edu.au/calendars
**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

Have fun and make friends these school holidays!

Enrol in YMCA Vacation Care Now
oshc.ymcansw.org.au

Pay as little as $4.50 per day!*

Starting 17th December 2015!

*Price including applicable benefits and rebates. See centre for details.

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**CHRISTMAS CARD GIFT PACK**

**Merry Christmas**

CHRISTMAS CARD GIFT PACK
with artwork by
WYCLIFFE STUDENTS

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**SCHOOL TALK**

Student Name: _______________________

Class: _______________________

Number of card packs: _______________________

Amount enclosed: $_______________

Pack of 6 cards $5, or 5 packs (30 cards) $20

Proceeds will be donated to ‘Destiny Rescue’, the school’s signature charity that works across Asia, rescuing children from the sex trade.
Wycliffe Christian School
Celebration Concert
2015

THE STORY OF THE
MESSIAH

Tuesday 8th December, 2015
7pm - 9pm (Doors open 6:45pm)
Wycliffe School Hall

Featuring Student Displays from K-12
Students are reminded to please sit with their parents