I am happy to report that the school year is off to a great start, evidenced in the smiles I observe on the faces of students and parents around the school. Wycliffe enjoys a wonderful sense of community, founded upon positive shared relationships. This not only blesses our school community, but I am sure brings a smile to the face of our Lord and God.

With the start of the new school year we welcome the following students to our community:

- **Preschool:** Leah Annabel, Henry Baines, Joel Lamplough, Toby Pereira, Adah Roberts, Lily Sargent, Isaiah Tidd, Bentley Barnett, Bodhi Carlson, Rupert Dickens, Indiana Goldsmith, Lisa Johnson, Cassandra Wade, Matea Bruce
- **Kindergarten (including our preschool graduates):** Jude Allderton, Evander Barnett, Hannah Bennett, Faith Blacker, Eloise Bland, Declan Cremona, Noah Ferrara, Carter Fynn, Ruby Gee, Matilda Green, Olivia Hurley, Leila Jacob, Harry Kennedy, Emily Krimmer, Sophia Logue, Isaac Martyn, Melody Osborne, Hamish Pereira, Leah Penrose, Lilly Rossiter, Nicholas Steele, Amelie Stefferson, Amelia Tuck, Mia Whiting, Noah Winfield, Zachary Wright
- **Year 1:** Imogen Bland
- **Year 2:** Nathan Allen, Emily Pilt
- **Year 3:** Julia Bland, Sam Penrose
- **Year 4:** Benjamin Allen, Paris Burke, Ethan Pilt, Besu Ward
- **Year 5:** Grace Penrose, Cameron Winfield
- **Year 6:** Megan Allen
- **Year 7:** Solomon Bamber, Samuel Bass, Tyrah-Belle Burke, Matthew Gilchrist, Harrison Gillard, Charlie Goonan, Amber Hurley, Thomas Miller, Amy Morrow, Harris Penrose, James Teagle, Mia Williams
- **Year 8:** Iszac Pilt, Sally O'Brien, Matthew Samuelson
- **Year 10:** Emma Morgans, Joshua Pilt, William Stout
- **Year 11:** Alexandra Lever

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

The following events are planned over the next couple of weeks and I encourage all members of our community to come along.

**PRAYER BREAKFAST**

The school Association will be hosting a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 27th February, from 7:30 – 9:00 am. We acknowledge that Wycliffe is God’s school and he has greater purposes for our students, your children, than we can ever imagine. It is significant for our community to come together in prayer in dedicating the upcoming school year, praising Him for his goodness and requesting His blessing and guidance as we look to the year ahead.

**WORKING BEE**

Our first Working Bee for the year is scheduled for Saturday 20th February from 8am - 12:00pm. Working Bees provide a great opportunity to build our sense of community while at the same time knocking over some tasks around the school. Hours completed will be credited against the 8 hours PIP service required of families.

**SKOOLBAG APP**

In 2015 we had a successful trial of Skoolbag with parents of Preschool to Year 6 students and are expanding the trial to families with students in Years 7-12.

Skoolbag is a tool that parents can use on their iPhone, iPad, or Android device, to receive immediate notification of any important updates at Wycliffe.

Parents can also use Skoolbag to access important resources/documents, and complete various forms in the app, including submitting a student absence. Parents without a smartphone can still access Skoolbag content from the Community Portal on the School website, but
won't be able to receive alerts/notifications.

Instructions for installing the app are in an attached PDF. You can also visit http://www2.wycliffe.nsw.edu.au, click "I am a parent", then click on the Skoolbag icon.

I encourage all parents to make use of the app. It is easy to use and will be of benefit in keeping you informed of important events and other notifications.

COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE WEEK

This week we feature Gillian Gilchrist, mother of Jacob (Yr 1), Emily (Yr 4) and Matthew (Yr 7).

Gillian has been a keen contributor to the school since joining our community at the beginning of 2015. Late last year she volunteered her time to assist the school in fostering social networks among parents. Gillian will continue her efforts this year especially focussing on networking parents within specific year groups.

We thank Gillian for her enthusiasm and willingness to serve the Wycliffe community.

Peter Jamieson, Principal

SCHOOL NOTICES

ICAS 2016

In 2016, Wycliffe Christian School will again be a venue in which your child can participate in the International Competitions and Assessment for Schools (ICAS). These are independent skills-based assessments with a competition element. Commonly referred to as the UNSW tests, ICAS is unique, being the most comprehensive generally available suite of academic assessments and school tests for Primary and Secondary school students. The assessments comprise Digital Technologies, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing. Over one million student entries are accepted from over 6,300 schools in Australia and New Zealand annually. In addition, students from over 20 countries including Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and the USA participate in ICAS each year.

These tests are open to students from Years 2 through to upper secondary school, but this year we would like to encourage our students in the Junior School with particular gifts and/or interest in any of the test areas to apply. Please complete the attached permission slip, with payment, and return to Main Reception by Friday 18th March.

Michaela Inglis, Acting Deputy Principal

THE WCS PUBLIC CALENDAR

Accessible via the school website. Click on ‘PORTAL’ and then ‘I am a parent’. There are a number of items which are useful throughout the year, but the Calendar is one which you may like to check regularly.

RECEPTION ARTWORK

If you go to reception today
You're sure of a big surprise.
If you go to reception today
You'd better open your eyes!
For every week of school that there was
Will show an artwork that is because,
this year is the year
to all be very creative.

Arty work is on display
To brighten up your day
from students all around school.
Watch and see what's there today
A change is on it's way,
And no one will know what's coming next

See some drawing, painting, too.
maybe photographs,
there's always something new to see;
some are big and some are small,
go and see it all

And they will change the view
When each work goes the student's and parents
will take them home for them because
-this year's the year
to all enjoy the artwork.

Appropriated from
Teddy Bears Picnic by Songwriters
Bratton, John W / Kennedy, Jimmy

Jennifer Gardiner, Visual Arts

RETURN OF TEXT BOOKS

There is a significant number of students who have not returned text books from 2015. Letters were sent home at the end of last year with information about the outstanding text books and the replacement costs for books not returned. Many of these books are required to be issued now. Year 11 texts, which students should have finished using during Term 4 last year, are particularly urgently needed.

Most students have been given a verbal reminder of outstanding texts in their name whilst collecting their books for this term. It would be appreciated if these could be returned before invoices need to be issued. Please note that this may involve the imposition of an administration fee as per the information on Page 43 of the Essentials Guide.

Mr Cooney, Library
Once again we have the privilege of hosting a **Japanese Student Group** of about 15 students between the ages of 16 and 17 during March this year. You would need to be able to provide a comfy bed, three meals a day and daily transport to and from Wycliffe Christian School. The Japanese students do speak some English and it is a great opportunity for them to attend school on weekdays and to enjoy family life with their host families on a weekend. **Families are paid $50 per night per student for hosting.** If you are interested in hosting any students in your home during this time, please contact Mrs Tracey Brady (tbrady@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au). Further information is available by contacting the organiser Takashi (ushinohama@vsoceania.com) or by visiting their website (www.vsoceania.com).

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**BEAN BAGS WANTED**

Wanted: any bean bags which are no longer used and in good clean condition to be donated or loaned for use by a student in class when required.

Please email Reception if you can assist reception@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au

Thank you.

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**LIBRARY NEWS**

**NATIONAL AWARDS HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF BOOKS, LITERACY AND LIBRARIES**

On the 5th December the Wycliffe Senior Volleyball squad and members of the Wycliffe Community travelled to Melbourne to compete in this years Australian Volleyball School Cup (avsc.org.au) - the largest school based event in the Southern Hemisphere. Wycliffe, along with 490 other teams from over 150 schools from around the country, competed in a week long tournament at 3 separate venues across Melbourne city.

After a year of weekly trainings, 4 preparation tournaments and a term long social competition, this dedicated group of boys competed in the U17 Boys Division 2, up a division from last years successful effort. This Division was a tightly fought affair with all 10 teams playing highly competitive volleyball. Wycliffe was one of three leading teams who, in 2014, advanced up from Division 3, in which we placed fourth. In 2015 however, the Wycliffe boys game had improved markedly, competing well against all the teams we faced. The games were so close that it literally came down to 3 points in one rather fraught game during the pool matches that left us playing in the ‘best of the rest' - bottom four placing rounds. Winning the remaining matches (5 wins from 9 games) the Wycliffe team placed 7th overall, ahead of the other 2014 teams who advanced into this division. Regardless of our final placing, at this level of competition, Wycliffe's achievements to leap
frog last years teams and to push every other team in matches where every single point could be the deciding factor for a win or a loss is something the squad should be most proud.

This was an amazing week for the Wycliffe squad. Not only did each member of the team excel on the volleyball court, but we relaxed together enjoying the beautiful Dandenong Ranges, shared verses from Scripture, prayed together and had a great time building friendships.

We would like thank all those who made the trip possible and in particular, we acknowledge our Sponsor - Lower Mountains Landscape Supplier (lmls.com.au).

Dan Catchpoole
Coach

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: BECOME A FOSTER CARER TODAY

Foster carers make a difference to the future of vulnerable children by providing safe, consistent and loving homes. There is a current need for more foster carers in the Blue Mountains area.

Wesley Dalmar has a long history of supporting carers who provide care to foster children of all ages. We are a service of Wesley Mission who recruit and support diverse people to become foster carers.

We invite you to work with us and welcome your expression of interest to chat further about what you can do to make a difference.

Contact us today for an information package:
P: 4587 4200
E: dalmaroohcenquiries@wesleymission.org.au
W: www.wesleymission.org.au/dalmaroohc
Dear Parent/Caregiver,

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is an independent, quality skills-based assessment program which rewards and recognises achievement. ICAS gives you broad insights into your child’s performance across English, Mathematics, Science, Digital Technologies, Spelling and Writing. ICAS (sometimes referred to as the UNSW assessments) has been developed by Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) since 1981.

When your child takes part in ICAS assessments, we can track their learning as they progress from year to year. It also helps us identify potentially gifted students and those who may need more focused and purposeful teaching to achieve their best.

Each student receives:
- an engaging and challenging full-colour test booklet
- an individual diagnostic report highlighting strengths and weaknesses and year to year progression
- login details to access their online results which can be analysed and downloaded
- a High Distinction, Distinction, Credit, Merit or Participation Certificate acknowledging their level of achievement
- the chance to receive an individually-engraved UNSW medal for the highest scoring student in each year level for each subject.

**Help your young ‘spelling bee’ succeed**
The early years set the stage for lifelong learning. From 2016, Year 2 students will be able to sit an ICAS Introductory Spelling paper. This paper will help your little ‘spelling bee’ succeed by measuring their spelling ability and, importantly, identifying very early in their schooling where your child may need some extra help.

This paper is the only Spelling paper available in advance of Year 3 NAPLAN testing. The decision to introduce a Year 2 Spelling paper is based on 30 years’ experience in school assessments, which have allowed EAA to identify some common difficulties that children face in Year 3. This paper will help every child get the best start.

You can learn more about common spelling problems faced by Year 3 students and the new ICAS Year 2 Spelling Paper at: [www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/spelling-introductory-paper](http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/spelling-introductory-paper)

To learn more about ICAS go to [www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/about](http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/about) Remember, EAA has some very helpful tools to help your child prepare. You can access practice assessments at [www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/preparation](http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/preparation)

**To enrol your child in ICAS, please complete the registration form overleaf and return it, with your entry fees, to the school no later than (insert date). PLEASE NOTE NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

**Please return the permission slip and entry fee to Main Reception by Friday 18th March 2016.**

Your child can now prepare for ICAS and other skills-based tests with EAA’s new Practice Online series. Practice Online is a series of ten interactive online tests designed for school children in Years 3-12 developed by our team of subject experts. Each child that participates receives a comprehensive individual report detailing their overall results and their performance in each area assessed. Practice Online is now available for Mathematics and will soon be available for Science and other subjects.

For more information please visit the Educational Assessment Australia website at [www.eaa.unsw.edu.au](http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au) or contact Customer Service on (02) 8344 1010 or by email at info@eaa.unsw.edu.au

For School-based enquiries, please direct correspondence to Ms Michaela Inglis, Acting Deputy Principal.
2016 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS) PERMISSION SLIP

Please return this permission slip and entry fee to the relevant box at Student Services by Friday 18th March 2016.

Separate entries must be submitted for each child.

I give permission for my child _______________________________ of ________________

Child’s name Class

to participate in the following 2016 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS):

The entry fee per student is as follows:

☐ Digital Technologies (Years 3-10) – 17 May 2016 ($8.80 GST inclusive)
☐ Science (Years 2-12) – 31 May 2016 ($8.80 GST inclusive)
☐ Writing (Years 3-12) – 13 to 17 June 2016 sometime during this week TBC ($18.70 GST inclusive)
☐ Spelling (Years 2-10) – 15 June 2016 ($12.10 GST inclusive)
☐ English (Years 2-12) – 2 August 2016 ($8.80 GST inclusive)
☐ Mathematics (Years 2-12) – 16 August 2016 ($8.80 GST inclusive)

Choose one of the following options:

OPTION 1: Please find enclosed _______________ entry fee.

Amount

OPTION 2: Please charge _______________ to my credit card.

Amount

Card Type: ☐Mastercard ☐Visa
Card Number:_____________-_____________-_____________-_____________
Expiry Date: _____/_____
Cardholder’s Name: ________________________________
Cardholder’s Signature: ________________________________

As this is an external competition payable in advance by the school, please note that entry fees paid for this competition are non-refundable should your child not be able to sit the test.

_________________________________  _______________________
Name of Parent/Guardian                     Date

_________________________________
Signature of Parent/Guardian
How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

For iPhone and iPad users:
1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

For Android users:
You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.
1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: Some brands of Android phones need the setting in "Notification Manager" changed to "Allow" instead of "Notify" in order for the push notifications to work. The phone must also be running at least version 4 system software to run the app.

For Windows 8.1 Phone and Windows 8.1 or 10 device users:
1. Go to the Windows Store on your 8.1 Windows Phone or Windows 8.1/10 Device
2. Search for "Skoolbag" in the keyword app search
3. Install the Skoolbag app
4. Find your school either by using the keyword search or location service.
5. Click the "Pin" icon to pin the school tile to your Windows Phone home screen.
6. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup"
7. Toggle the Push Categories that are applicable to you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: The Skoolbag Windows App is for 8.1 version Windows Phones, or Windows 8.1 and 10 devices.

Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au  Don’t forget to like us on Facebook! 👍