Last Wednesday marked the end of HSC examinations for our Year 12 students. We have a lot of relieved students now that their 13 years of formal schooling is at an end. In just five weeks time they will be receiving their final results and will be looking towards University, TAFE or the workforce.

When I have the opportunity to pray with a student in the lead up to exams my prayer is always that God will give them a clear mind, calm nerves and that they may receive the results they deserve. Some may think the last phrase a bit harsh but I believe that we have a responsibility to apply ourselves and make the most of the interests, gifts and abilities God has given us.

Too often we come to God and expect him to work a ‘miracle’ to compensate for our lack of dedication and/or focus in life. In the case of exams it might be, “God, just give me the question about ‘x’ because that is all I have studied,” or it may be, “help me to remember everything the teacher said in class that I didn't take the time to reinforce with homework and study.”

This approach does not develop discipline in our lives, and does not give our Lord and God the respect and glory He deserves.

Jesus was not one to take shortcuts. He lived his life knowing the destination he was heading towards. Even the night before He was crucified Jesus prayed to his Father;

“Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”

Luke 22:42

Accepting the will of His father the next day he was spat upon, beaten and nailed to a cross, to bring salvation and restoration to the whole of creation, not the least of which humankind. His resurrection announced to the world redemption has been delivered, and we live in the interlude that leads up to his return when he will complete all he has begun.

Living our lives under Jesus’ Lordship means living life, every aspect, to his glory. This includes making the most of the opportunities and privileges he presents. So to all our Year 12 students I say well done, may you enjoy a much deserved break, and may you boldly and deliberately enter the path that God has prepared for you.
IT REMINDER FOR STUDENTS PRESENTLY IN YR 6, 7 & 10

Next year all students entering Years 7, 8 & 11 are required to purchase a Chromebook for use at school.

Students in those year groups will use Chromebook technology on a daily basis. No fee increase was applied to the relevant year groups to help offset the cost of the device.

Usage will stretch beyond mere gathering information from the worldwide Web and word processing, but learning will incorporate the use of educational and collaborative apps to enhance the learning experience.

The pilot program with select classes in Years 7-10 proved highly successful, and the information evening we hosted was well attended by parents of relevant year groups.

The school has brokered an arrangement with Precision Industries for supply of Chromebook devices to families, although at this present time it would appear that many families are yet to individually purchase.

Families are reminded that it is not optional but is expected that all students will come equipped with a device come day one of 2016.

Orders through the online store must be placed by 20th November. The Chromebooks will be delivered to the school over the vacation period to be configured and then distributed to students at the commencement of Term 1. For all information relating to our BYOT program, including links to the online store, visit http://www2.wycliffe.nsw.edu.au/byot.

COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE WEEK

This week we feature our school Groundsman, Mr Ian Post. We were really concerned that with Mr Boyle's retirement earlier this year we would struggle to find someone to match his heart for service to the school.

Ian began in the role mid year and has proved a wonderful find for the school. His trade background has proved more than useful in the maintenance of the school.

Ian takes great pride in the grounds of the school and parents have been commenting to me how neat and tidy the school property is looking. The large flock of crows that used to frequent the school has not appreciated his efforts as his post lunch clean-up has meant their regular food source has dried up. We appreciate Ian's servant heart.

CHRISTMAS CARD FUNDRAISER FOR DESTINY RESCUE

A reminder to all families that Christmas card packs are available for purchase with all funds raised being donated to Destiny Rescue, the school's signature charity that works to free children from slavery across Asia.

The Christmas cards, with artwork by Wycliffe students, have been professionally printed with high quality finish. A pack of 6 cards sells for $5, or 5 packs (30 cards) for $20. We have 1500 packs to sell so I encourage families to see if they can encourage family, friends or neighbours to purchase.

Please fill out the order form (on page 1) and return to reception (Christmas post-box) in a sealed envelope with the relevant sum of money.

Sample card designs with artwork by:

Georgia Findley (Yr 10) Chloe Stanley (KS)

Peter Jamieson
Principal

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

A NOTE ON EXAMINATIONS

Our Year 12 students completed their Higher School Certificate examinations this week, with the final examination being Visual Arts on Wednesday afternoon. This milestone sees these students end one season and begin another. Our prayers are with them as they now wait for their results, which will be released on December 16. They are a group with many gifts and talents and we look forward to hearing of their achievements in the coming years.

Week 6 sees our Stage 5 (years 9 and 10) students sit their formal Yearly Examinations. The staff commend those who have used this preparatory time well, and encourage those yet to begin that it is never too late to start revision and study. The staff have worked hard to ensure that the students are prepared, providing them with Study Guides and revision material. These examinations will be a great opportunity for the students to showcase the skills, knowledge and understanding that they have gained over the past academic year. For the majority of you, all this effort is part of the journey towards the HSC and all your good habits practised now will contribute towards the final outcome. These forthcoming examinations are just part of the larger puzzle and students should use it as an opportunity to learn about how they function in examinations and to improve upon these experiences for next time.
Year 9 and 10 students should please read all the information that has been provided: *The Examination Timetable, Study Guides and Guidelines for Examinations*. This will ensure that they are well prepared for next week. It is important that they bring the right equipment with them and have sufficient work to sustain them through the Study blocks each day between examinations. **Should a student not be able to make an examination**, could the parent or caregiver please call the school that morning to advise of the absence. For Year 10, absences should be followed up by completing Illness and Misadventure documentation, available from Mr Little.

The Bible encourages us in our efforts. Colossians 3:23 says "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men", and in this, we are also reminded that we "can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13). Remember that staff are praying for the students throughout this period.

Michaela Inglis
Director of Administration

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FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

YEAR 11 ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

On Friday we celebrated with the 2015 Year 11 cohort (now officially Year 12) their achievements. They were encouraged, by Mr Jamieson and Senior teachers, to go into this next stage of school striving to do their best in Christ, understanding that we all have been given gifts and abilities and that God will strengthen them as they call on him.

As a school we are blessed with students who are committed to serving, subsequently recognising and inducting the new Leadership Team. They were also reminded of their calling in a Christian setting – to be a servant leader.

- **School Captains**: Katherine Chik and Chris Gray
- **Vice Captains**: Rebecca Bouchet and Matthew Webster.
- **Year 12**: Sophie Shanahan, Ally Kenny, Vienna Rathbone.
- **Year 11**: Eleanor Walker, Georgina Wynn-Hatton, Siobhan Toft, Jared Lloydell, Cameron Svenson.

We extend our congratulations to them all.

SCHOOL STUDENT TRANSPORT SCHEME

From Term 1 2016 students will receive an Opal Card instead of a Bus Pass. Students who already have a student travel pass, will automatically receive an Opal card in 2016. The **exceptions** are – students commencing school for the first time, who have come to the school from another school or are going from Primary to Secondary, or who have changed personal details (such as name or address).

We will be distributing flyers with relevant details to students in the next week.

YEARS 3 & 4 MOUNTAIN EXCURSION

Years 3 & 4 took to the mountains for the excursion that linked with their LIGW unit – "You’re Standing In It" – learning about significant landmarks in our environment. We pushed on through rain, fog and a cold ‘spring day’ – 14 degrees! Sadly we couldn’t see the 3 sisters – which should have been visible from this point on the track.

The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves as they paddled through puddles, climbed carefully down slippery steps and explored caves.

The rain and mist, which could have made for a miserable day, actually meant the children slowed down, observed the rock formations and enjoyed a different perspective of God’s wonderful creation. The highlight was the trip up the Scenic Railway – they certainly knew we were coming! Thanks go to the teachers who organised the trip and to our intrepid parents – Gillian Gilchrist and David Nicholls.

SKOOLBAG APP - PRESCHOOL TO YR 6 TRIAL

All parents of children P-6 received information about the trial of this App. It has been encouraging to see many parents already using the Absentee Note function. We have also received some very helpful feedback already.

If you haven’t had a chance to do so, please download the free App as per the information already sent home, and join the trial.

Coral Edwards
Deputy Principal
The latest findings from the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC), reported on the Institute of Family Studies website, shed light on a range of factors in a child’s home environment that affect both reading ability and numeracy levels as measured in grade 3. The study identified four broad dimensions of children’s home learning environments:

1. Home activities, including teaching the child a song, playing games, and doing arts and crafts activities;
2. The number of days per week the primary carer or an adult in the family read to the child;
3. The number of children’s books in the child’s home; and
4. Out-of-home activities, including visiting a library or zoo, going on picnics, and attending sporting events.

Children whose parents read to them more frequently when they were 2–3 years of age had higher NAPLAN reading and numeracy scores in Year 3 (equivalent to 20 weeks ahead in reading and 12 weeks ahead in numeracy). Having more than 30 children’s books at home at the age of 2–3 years was related to higher NAPLAN scores in reading and numeracy in Year 3 (equivalent to four months of schooling ahead in reading and 14 weeks ahead in numeracy).

We live in a community in which books hold a treasured place in the family home. The sharing of favourite stories forms part of the bond between parent and child. The association of sound and words that a child experiences when being read to assists with phonemic awareness, letter recognition and the understanding of meaning.

One interesting aspect of the study is the effect that the number of books readily available to the child has on the development of literacy and numeracy. Having access to a large range of books provides the child with the experience of a wider vocabulary of both images and words. It allows the child to develop and apply skills in navigating text, prediction and comprehension. Most importantly, it allows a child a window into wider realms – both real and imagined.

Borrowing picture and reading books from the school library is a simple way to continue expanding the number of books a child reads. It contributes to the development of the skills that support a child’s learning and their achievement in reading and numeracy. These can be books by a familiar author or from a book series that children are already enjoying at home. They can also be books on subjects of personal interest or ones that attract the child’s interest through their cover art or subject matter. It is clear that reading matters and in the Wycliffe library we want to share and promote a love of reading with all our children.

Mr Cooney

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

COMMUNITY NOTICES

CLIMATE CHANGE SEMINAR

Byron Smith will be speaking about the issue of Climate Change from a Christian perspective, including questions like “Why does it matter?” and “How do we respond?”.

This event will be held on Saturday, 14th November (7.30pm – 9pm) at Springwood Anglican Church (The Factory). Fairtrade tea, coffee and supper will be provided. Creche will also be available. For more information, contact Jozica on 0448 391 896.
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