

SCHOOL

TALK

WEEK 10 TERM 1



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

While Year 12 sat their half yearly exams last week, Year 7 – 11 have been on camp and some Year 11s in Hong Kong. Camps and cultural exchanges are often the stuff school memories are made of. They have the potential to be life-changing. Your prayers have been appreciated.

Easter Assembly on Tuesday was marvellous. On stage and in the wings, young people shared their faith and their talents as together, we celebrated the dying and rising again from the dead of the Lord Jesus, and the confidence that he gives to his people in life and in death.

*'The other gods were strong, but Thou wast weak;
They rode, but Thou didst stumble to a throne;
But to our wounds only God's wounds can speak,
And not a god has wounds, but Thou alone.
(Jesus of the Scars' – Edward Shillito)*

Shalom!

George Glanville
Principal

P.S. Some encouraging feedback and a reminder to all parents and carers to keep abreast of children's digital exposure.

'Just a note to thank Avril, Rhys and Chris for the Digital Parenting evening earlier this week. It's great to have the school supporting us as parents in our God-ordained role as we navigate parenting in this digital age.

Please pass on my thanks and my commendation to the Principal and Board for encouraging and providing these events.'

- Ian Bennett

Tuesday 4th April was Mrs Joan Odell's last day as a staff member at Wycliffe. Joan has, in recent years, served in

Education Support on a part-time basis. After 40 years or so of involvement, retirement has beckoned. Joan has been such a blessing and we are grateful. She says: *'The many years of association with the school life as a teacher, support teacher and parent are highly valued and I pray God's continued blessing on each of you as you humbly serve Him and the school.'*

MINIMUM LITERACY & NUMERACY STANDARDS

The NSW Government intends to ensure that students have acquired appropriate literacy and numeracy skills by the time they reach the HSC so that they are ready for further education and training, employment and life after school.

Consequently, in **2020**, a student will need a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to qualify for the HSC.

A student will be able to prequalify for the standard by achieving Band 8 or above in their Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests in May this year. Of course not all Year 9 students across NSW are expected to achieve Band 8 in their Year 9 NAPLAN tests this year. However, as their skills continue to develop, students will have up to two opportunities to sit online tests in each of Year 10, 11 and 12 prior to the HSC.

The School, of course, will partner with parents and carers to prepare our students for these new requirements.

For more information visit the NESA website:
<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Recently I attended a professional development workshop on the distinctives of Christian schooling, which involved completing the Certificate of

Christian Education and learning about the structural frameworks that unify each of the unique Christian Education National schools (like Wycliffe). It was both an excellent refresher and reminder as to the purpose of teaching and learning at a Christian school. Some of the points I learned:

1. Christian teachers have the amazing opportunity to show God's love, hope and care for their students and to plant in them an enduring vision of God's redemptive purpose for their lives.
2. Little by little, this opportunity can be realised through consciously situating classroom units of study and lessons within the framework of the biblical "grand narrative" of God's plan for humanity over history (Creation-Fall-Redemption) through Jesus.
3. It is easy to lose sight of God's grand narrative for humanity – or to put it on the back-burner while we deal with day-to-day tasks and challenges. But we must never let the little moment eclipse the "big picture".

Naomi Seto
English teacher

Having attended an Anglican school, I thought I had a somewhat sound knowledge about Christian education when I became a teacher and started working at Wycliffe. However, by attending the Teachers New to Christian Education Workshop, I realised I had much more to learn. It was a valuable experience in educating me and other teachers about the history of Christian Education National, their values, principles and aims of Christian schooling in today's society.

We grappled with the idea that Christian schools, including Wycliffe, should be striving to achieve a school that is biblically grounded, culturally engaging and academically rigorous. Not only are schools seeking to apply this at a school level but teachers are encouraged to do this at a classroom level. As a PDHPE teacher, I was encouraged and motivated as to how I could apply a Christian perspective to various topics that we look at in PDH as well as in practical PE lessons where we can celebrate diversity and utilise the various gifts God has given us in a variety of activities.

I feel very blessed to have been given the opportunity to attend the two-day workshop and I look forward to putting this knowledge into my own teaching practice as well as sharing it with the rest of the PDHPE department and the school community and to hopefully have a profound impact on the lives of each of our students at Wycliffe Christian School.

Heather Bray
PDHPE teacher

IMPORTANT DATES

ANZAC DAY

ANZAC Day is a special day on the Australian calendar which speaks greatly to our sense of who we are as a

country and what we value. In recent years our school has participated strongly, all dressed in full school uniform. This display of support for those who fought (and in many cases died) and continue to fight for the freedoms which we hold so dear, strengthens our bonds with our wider community. It would be great that in 2017, the day before Term 2 officially begins, we have a similar roll up at the ANZAC March in Springwood. Please mark the morning of Tuesday April 25 in your diaries, and encourage your child/ren to be involved. Uniform will be full school winter uniform (navy stockings for girls if possible).

Students are to assemble at 10:15am outside the Fire Station in Macquarie Road, Springwood, with the parade commencing at 10:30am. and proceeding to the cenotaph at Buckland Park on Macquarie Road where the Service will be held. The Service will conclude with the wreath laying at 10:55am.

The School will be holding its ANZAC Day Commemoration Service at school in the Main Hall at 10:20am on Wednesday 26th April. Members of the Wycliffe Christian School community are welcome to attend.

SPRINGWOOD FOUNDATION DAY

Wycliffe will be participating in Foundation Day on Saturday 29th April as a stall holder. This is a wonderful opportunity to engage with our local community. If you are attending, please stop by and say hello.

YEAR 7, 2018 INFORMATION EVENING

Our Information Evening will be held on Tuesday 16th May in the School Library at 7.30pm. Current Year 6 students and their parents, together with families considering enrolment at Wycliffe, are invited to attend.

TERM DATES 2018

Term	Dates	Weeks	Public Holidays
1	Monday 5 February – Friday 13 April <i>Years 7, 8, 9 & 11 Camps (Wed 11 April – Fri 13 April)</i> <i>Year 10 Camp (Tues 10 April Fri 13 April)</i>	10	Good Friday (Friday 30 March) Easter Monday (Monday 2 April)
2	Monday 30 April – Friday 6 July	10	Monday 11 June (Queen's Birthday)
3	Monday 30 July – Friday 28 September	9	
4	Monday 15 October - Thursday 13 December	9	

PRIMARY NEWS

What a term it's been in the Primary section of Wycliffe. There has been so much to do and the time has raced by.

*'All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.'*



It looked more like 'Wycliffe Wildlife Sanctuary' than Wycliffe Christian School on Thursday 9 March when furry friends in all shapes and sizes joined us and strutted their stuff around the 'cat walk' in D Courtyard for Pet Day. Courageous cats, daring dogs, rowdy rabbits and friendly fish were amongst the favourites. After the parade, pets and pupils joined in a range of 'animal' themed activities including pet rock painting, pin the bone on the dog, pom-pom pets and mask-making. It was delightful to enjoy the wonder of God's creativity in such an entertaining way.



For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Matthew 6:21)

Year 4 focused on treasure and gold as they travelled to Hill End from 28 - 30 March for their camp. What an adventure they shared as they panned for gold, navigated a mine and explored a world of days long gone. Although nobody found a nugget of any great value, they shared priceless memories worth much more than gold.



We look forward to the exciting things planned for the Primary school in Term two.

Nita Kruik
Head of Primary

Mr Cooney

LIBRARY NEWS

READING LEVELS



Testing a child's reading level has been used, for many years, as a guide to their literary fluency and understanding. The reading levels of books are also measured using a variety of different formulas to evaluate the difficulty of the vocabulary and sentence structure. Teachers and parents can use these measurements to help them match book

and reader to promote success in reading.

However, Professors Paula J. Schwanenflugel and Nancy Flanagan Knapp, from the University of Georgia, who research reading and education, have written an article in which they warn against over-reliance on these systems of measurement. In the article, they point out that there are many different measurement tools, which can produce a variety of different results and all of which appear to have some considerable margin of error.

They are particularly concerned when these levels are used to restrict the reading material available to a child – however well intentioned that restriction may be. "There is nothing wrong with letting a child try to read a text, and then abandon it if it is too hard, or too simplistic, or simply boring – after all, adults do this all the time."

The researchers identify "passion, curiosity and prior knowledge" as being at least as important as language levels in helping children find good things to read. These attributes help the reader to fill in and comprehend aspects of a text that might otherwise have been assessed as too difficult. Conversely, reading books that are below the child's assessed level is useful for consolidating reading skills, reinforcing the child's exposure to vocabulary and contributing to the enjoyment of reading.

The library supports reading through its range of books. Some books in the Primary library are graded, in order to facilitate selection by children and parents. When selecting books to support the secondary wide-reading program, a range of ability levels and writing styles are included to allow students choice in their reading. Care is taken to introduce books into the collection that cover a wide range of interests. Within the collection are books that are related to other media with which our readers are familiar.

Finally, children should not be expected to independently read and learn from texts that are considerably above their reading levels. This is where a knowledge of a child's reading level can be a signal for teachers to provide support for reading such as vocabulary-and knowledge-building tools, partner reading, group discussions, as well as audio and video versions of the texts.

The article has links to further research:

<https://goo.gl/cqzq3r>

SCHOOL NEWS

HIGH MUSICAL PRAISE FOR WYCLIFFE TRUMPET PLAYER

In December 2016, one of Wycliffe Christian School's students, Samuel Johnson, passed the required elements to attain Grade 5 trumpet with the Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB). This is a demanding exam incorporating a multitude of scales, arpeggios and

other technical elements. This is in addition to playing pieces of music, sight reading, transposition, general musical knowledge and aural tests. Well done Samuel!



Samuel Johnson (Year 7 2016)

Grade 5 Trumpet - PASS

Excerpts from Examiners comments

Technical Work: "Some good work here...good tonguing"

Purcell Trumpet Tune: "Confident playing. High notes secure."

Old Fashion Calypso: This moved well Samuel. You captured the feel of this piece well."

Rain Dance: "Good rhythmic pulse"

Aural Tests: "very good"

Sight Reading: This began well.... 80%"

Transposition into D: "Good effort"

"Samuel, you play the trumpet with a good sound and range. Your ear is fantastic-great aural, sight reading and transposition"

**Neil Potter
Brass Tutor Wycliffe Christian School**

COMMUNITY NOTICES

NCNS
Nepean Community & Neighbourhood Services

Parenting Courses and Workshops - Term 2, 2017
Having one of those days? Tired of yelling at the kids? Or just want to know more?
FREE Practical tips for everyday parenting.

What's available this term?

- Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) - 2 to 12 years
- Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) - 10 to 16 years
- Stepping Stones Triple P - additional strategies
- Triple P - Hassle free grocery shopping - 2 to 12 years
- Triple P - Dealing with teen emotions - 10 to 16 years
- Triple P - Avoiding Parent Traps
- Special Playtime workshop
- Anxiety seminar
- AD/HD seminar

Bookings are essential for all courses, seminars, or workshops.
Facilitator: Narelle Smith
All courses, seminars, and workshops are free.
Phone: 47218520
Email: Parenting@nepeancommunity.org.au

Nepean Community & Neighbourhood Services
NCNS
8877 LESLIE STREET
www.nepeancommunity.org.au

For dates, times, and venues, please see the reverse of this page.

**Uniting
Getting through the
STORMS**

**A free GROUP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12-15 YEARS
whose parents are separated.**

Where: The ANCHOR PROGRAM
Uniform Counselling and Mediation
83 Henry Street, Penrith (ground floor)

When: every Wednesday starting 17th May - 21st June 2017
(6 week group)

Time: 3:30pm - 5:00pm

This therapeutic group helps young people adjust to the changes and increased complexity in their family after a separation occurs. It focuses on education and skills to help manage their emotional needs.

The group also offers young people an opportunity to meet with others of similar ages and circumstances.

Please contact **Flavia** or **Michelle** on 4732 3836 if you have any questions. Alternatively, ask one of the parents to contact us and we will happily assist them with any enquiries.

Every storm in your life is followed by a rainbow.

Gateway Family Services
(An activity of Blessed Living Church/Uniting care)

Effective Parenting

1-2-3 MAGIC
Emotion Coaching Parenting Group

Are you struggling with your child's behaviour? 123 Magic might be the group you have been looking for. Learn how to:

- Manage unwanted behaviour - helping your children to stop doing what you don't want them to do
- Encourage good behaviour - helping your children to start doing what you want them to do
- Emotion coaching - helping children to identify and manage emotions that drive behaviour
- Strengthen your relationship - reinforcing the bond between you and your child - having fun!

Come along to our 3 Week Parent Group!
For parents and caregivers with children aged from 0-12 years old

LOCATION: Bungarabie Centre, Hazelbrook
48-50 Oaklands Road, Hazelbrook

WHEN: Monday 2nd, 8th, 15th May, 2017
TIME: 7:00pm - 9:00pm
COST: Gold Coin Donation
Register at Gateway: 1300 316 746

NO CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

Gateway encourages, supports & respects diversity in families & communities. Our Groups are open to everyone.

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For parents and caregivers with children aged from 0-12 years old

LOCATION: Emu Plains Public School
13-17 Emerald St, Emu Plains
(ask for directions at Office)

WHEN: Monday 15th, 22nd, 29th May, 2017
TIME: 9:15am - 11:15am
COST: Gold Coin Donation
Register at Gateway: 1300 316 746

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

Gateway encourages, supports & respects diversity in families & communities. Our Groups are open to everyone.

Gateway Family Services
(An activity of Blessed Living Church/Uniting care)

Circle of Security Parenting Group

Relationships make the world go around

Come along to our 7 week Parent Group
For parents and caregivers with children aged from 0-12 years old

The relationship between children and their parents/caregivers plays a key role in promoting growth and development across all stages of their lives.

Circle of Security assists parents to look beyond their child's behaviour & focuses on relationships that support children to feel secure in the world. Children who are secure have:

- Increased Empathy
- Increased Self Esteem
- Better Relationships
- Enhanced School Readiness

LOCATION: North Church of Christ (Cottage) 518 Seaford St, Penrith

WHEN: Thursday 4th May - 15th June, 2017
TIME: 7:00pm - 9:00pm
COST: Gold Coin Donation
Register at Gateway: 1300 316 746

NO CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

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LOCATION: Pinecroft Out of School Hours Care, Winmalee Public School

WHEN: Thursday 4th May - 15th June, 2017
TIME: 10:00am - 12:00pm
COST: Gold Coin Contribution
REGISTRATION: Gateway Family Services 1300 316 746 (free call)
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE - MUST BE BOOKED

Gateway encourages, supports & respects diversity in families & communities. Our Groups are open to everyone.

Resilience is key for helping kids to thrive in life.

From Floundering to Flourishing

Helping our kids shift from stuck to strengths

Who is this workshop for?
All adults who have some connection to kids, young people, extended family, open-minded, flexible, resilient etc.

How can this workshop help?
It will be a great opportunity to learn about the latest research on what helps kids come through adversity.

If you're ready to enhance kids' resilience, helping them bounce back from challenges in fun ways. It is particularly helpful in facing tough times.

It will help parents identify how to maximize their kids' resilience and to grow through their challenges.

This Workshop will give you tools to enhance and improve kids' resilience. You will come away with some practical steps to take applied as you help your child grow their resilience and resilience.

These workshops will introduce you to the resilience diagram model developed by Liza Warkley.

LOCATION: Lawson Public School
(open until you receive an invite for directions at office)

WHEN: Wednesday 10th May, 2017
TIME: 9:15am - 11:15am
COST: FREE
REGISTER AT GATEWAY: 1300 316 746

ENQUIRIES: Stephen - Ph: 4762 1771
Email: stephen@blessedliving.org.au