

SCHOOL

TALK

WEEK 7 TERM 3



FROM THE INTERIM PRINCIPAL

I am deeply saddened by the reason that I have stepped into the role of interim Principal at Wycliffe until the end of 2017. George and June Glanville and their family have had a deep heart-connection with Wycliffe for many years and it has been a blessing for the Wycliffe community to have George serve as interim Principal in 2017. His experience, wisdom, expertise and faithfulness have contributed deeply to the ongoing expression of vibrant Christian education at Wycliffe and the furthering of God's work through the quality education of children and young people from a distinctively Christian perspective.

We will celebrate George's contribution to our school at an appropriate time for him and his family.

It is also with a sense of deep honour and responsibility that I find myself stepping into this interim Principal role until the end of 2017 as your Board continues the recruitment process for your new Principal. The Board is doing a brilliant job of actively recruiting the best person for our school community and would no doubt value your prayers throughout this process. I do not presume to fill George's shoes as interim Principal nor do I presume to lead you as your new Principal will. I am here to stand with you, to offer what I can to support and encourage you, and to attend to the things that are important until your new Principal joins us.

For those of you who I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, I thought it might be helpful to introduce myself.

I have been engaged in school-based education for more than 35 years, with teaching experience across almost every grade from Kindergarten to Year 12. I originally studied to be a TAS teacher, and have subsequently completed a Master of Education with the National Institute of Christian Education, exploring the impact of cross-cultural engagement on adolescents

as well as multiple Professional learning opportunities including Gallup and GROWTH Coaching training, Governance Institute of Australia Certificate, Regent College summer school courses, Harvard Visible Thinking workshops etc

I first became connected with Wycliffe as a teacher in 1981 and have spent the majority of my career learning and growing in a variety of roles here at Wycliffe, the last being Deputy Principal for approximately 10 years.

My children have been, and now grandchildren are, students at Wycliffe. I am grateful to God for those early pioneers who established our school and set the vision deeply in place for future generations. Over the years, having Wycliffe as a school community where parents are genuinely encouraged and supported to have the key responsibility for the upbringing and education of their children, has been a gift to many.

In 2007 I left education to work as the Associate Director for a church-based international mission organisation and had opportunities to grow and expand my skills as well as learn deeply of the life of faith expressed in very different cultural contexts.

For the past 4 years I have been NSW/ACT State Executive Officer for Christian Education National of which Wycliffe is a member. My role has involved school support including things such as support and facilitation of the Principals network, Board support and governance training, advocacy, representation with government and other regulatory bodies etc.

In a Christian school like Wycliffe, we want to see our students flourish as God's people - thriving academically, socially, emotionally, physically, spiritually because God loves them and created them to live well in His grace. Therefore, nothing we do can be independent of a Christian worldview approach that says all of life belongs to God. We seek to be places where all students can learn well, be challenged to respond to this and to live out lives as faithful disciples.

This must never be contrived - it is a response to

authentic, well considered, developmentally appropriate Christian worldview frameworks and school life.

I firmly believe that our schools should be places where God is honoured, students are deeply engaged in rich, all-of-life learning, teachers are encouraged to be innovative and are excited about Christian education possibilities, and parents and families are supported in their God-given roles of raising their children in the love of God. Imagine the outcomes for our world when this happens well!

We have many, many stories of graduates from Wycliffe taking their place as effective Christian leaders across all walks of life. Ex-students with PhD's serving in academia and areas of vital research, business people with entrepreneurial talents being used for the benefit of many, tradespeople who bring their practical skills and talents to assist others, theologians and pastors contributing to rich Christian church life, people working in many countries around the world with a heart to serve and grow, mums and dads who see the most important thing they do is raise godly young men and women equipped to change the world, bus drivers, computer analysts, software company entrepreneurs. These are all graduates of Wycliffe. It is a deep privilege to be even a small part of this for future generations.

I am passionate to see organisations and people grow and flourish as they respond to where God is leading. Always exploring ways to inspire and equip our teams is an outworking of this. I believe that we cannot do this on our own. That we need one another as we work collaboratively in effective teams, our school communities thrive.

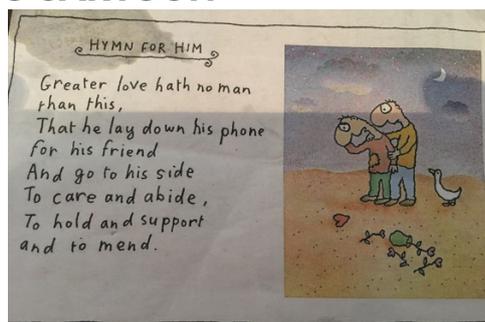
I love Wycliffe's long-term vision:

*Encouraging Learning founded on God's Word -
Nurturing Faith
Unwrapping Truth
Encouraging Discernment
Enabling Thoughtful Action*

This is a big vision and one that excites me as a school leader and I invite you to participate in this with the Board and myself over the next few months. Feel free to come and have a chat about how you see this vision unfolding and what you can do to be part of this.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve your school community. I would value your prayers, ideas and support over the weeks ahead.

LEUNIG CARTOON



I came across this Leunig cartoon recently and thought it was worth sharing with you. As parents and teachers, we find ourselves in the midst of a time of deep cultural change. The technological revolution has made huge advances for our society and, as with any significant social change, also brings challenges.

It has happened so fast! 10 years ago when I began life as a daily Mountains-city commuter, I spent my time on the train reading the newspaper and catching up with world events, talking with people around me, perhaps doing some of that vital reading that helps to broaden my perspectives. Within a few years tablet computers and smart phone changed this and suddenly my office day was extended by 4 hours as I could access emails and do other work on the train. I realised my time for conversations and reading had been usurped by more busy work time. This could be both good and bad at the same time.

My experience speaks a little into what Leunig is saying here in this cartoon. I am ashamed to say there are times when my attention may have been diminished from the person I am with while I checked those oh-too-accessible facebook posts or email messages. There is nothing wrong with Facebook or Instagram or emails and texts. But sometimes there can be issues with my self-discipline and prioritizing!

Thanks Leunig for your simple insights and clear reminders of what matters!

I believe as parents and adult-mentors of our young people we need to model the value of spending deep, engaged time with them. And I wonder if between us, we might have some great ideas as to ways of doing this as part of our everyday lives.

I would love to hear your thoughts on what Leunig is raising here. Please feel free to email me and share your ideas.

E-Mail: kpereira@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au

Kathy Pereira
Interim Principal

PRIMARY NEWS

Every lunchtime for the last few weeks D3 has been buzzing with activity students in K-6 continue preparing props and decorations for our first ever Primary CAPA night. Students are creating some beautiful collaborative art works and are keen to display their work as part of the gala evening. If you haven't already booked the date, please note the following:

Primary CAPA Night
Thursday 21st September
6:30 pm
Wycliffe School Hall

The theme for the night is 'Jesus is the Light of the World.' You will be treated to music, drama and artwork as you travel through different countries on a quest to find the

light. There is a lot of excitement and anticipation as classes prepare for what will no doubt be a wonderful opportunity for even the shyest of students to share their gifts and talents with others.



On Tuesday 29th August, K-2 students ran, jumped and threw themselves into the K-2 Athletics Carnival. After displaying 'Bolt-like' running skills, students joined in with a vast range of novelty events including sack races, turbo jav and discus, potato race and egg and spoon races and an obstacle course. Super strength was on display as one group of students even defeated the adults in a tug-of-war challenge. Year 6 relished the opportunity to join while their Kindy buddies, some Parents, teachers and staff enjoyed soaking up the sun whilst enjoying a picnic lunch together on the oval.

Thank you to Mr Stewart and the students in the Year 11 and 12 Sport Life and Recreation class who generously organised some of the events for the day.



There has also been some time for serious school work! This week I came across a great limerick written by Micah Roberts in 3/4T:

*There was an old man chewing gum,
Who tripped and fell on his tum,
He felt really bad,
Became very sad
He cried and sucked on his thumb!*

What a privilege it is to serve in this inspirational community.

Nita Kruik

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

YEAR 12 EXAMINATIONS, MAJOR WORKS AND FINAL WEEKS

Our Year 12 students have now finished their last set of school-based formal examinations: The Trial Higher School Certificate. These examinations are structured to mirror the actual HSC examinations held in October, and the students will receive feedback from their teachers that they can use to hone their skills as they enter into the final weeks of their formal education. I encourage them to remain focused on their studies and to support one another in their efforts. The staff continue to pray unceasingly for the students and their families during what can be a challenging time.



Over the last two weeks, the students with practical components as part of their chosen courses have been presenting these pieces to the wider school community in the form of Display Nights. For some students, they have already had their Major Works formally marked for the HSC, whereas others will have these marking sessions approaching over the next little while.

God gives each of us gifts and talents so that we can fully live for Him, and it was such a delight to witness the outworking of these gifts in the students last week during the TAS/CAPA HSC Major Works Display Night. There were amazing vocalists, instrumentalists, dramatic pieces and dance items. The Industrial Major works were still on display and were accompanied by beautiful artworks of amazing breadth and depth, as well as a section showcasing portfolios by the Photography students.

To see the end products of the long-term nurturing and shepherding of our TAS and CAPA staff was such a privilege, and the comments by the parents and families in attendance showed the pride that they had in their child's work and gratitude for the efforts of staff. It is noteworthy, and probably not surprising, that three of our TAS/CAPA staff are also current HSC Markers: Mrs Natalie Maddock, Mr Neil Marshall and Mrs Jennifer Gardiner.

A few weeks ago the Technological and Applied Studies

Department held a secondary school showcase which provided a rich overview of the breadth of experiences that the students have had, and some of the projects they have been working on. Some of these initiatives have been published on the school Facebook page.

Jeremiah 29:11 is one of my favourite scriptures: *"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"*. It is a wonderful thing to know that our God knows us and loves us. How blessed we are to know that our worth to Him is not found in a mark or grade. We of course all have different things which we are good at. For some students this may be at school in a subject, and for others their time may come later or be seen in completely different arenas. Our prayers for the students are that they just do their best with what is in front of them, and in doing that that their effort may be pleasing to Him.

Year 11 are also approaching their Yearly Examinations which will begin on Thursday Week 7 and continue throughout Week 8 of this term. Please also join with the staff in praying for them as they navigate their first set of major senior examinations, and move quietly around the Hall during these weeks.

BUSHFIRE SEASON

September 1st marked the start of the bush fire danger season one month early due to prevailing dry conditions, along with several hazard reduction efforts across the Mountains. As we discovered with the Winmalee fires of several years ago, given suitable conditions the situation can escalate very quickly into emergency status. The Rural Fire Service advises all families in fire prone areas to have a clear fire safety plan to ensure safety should a threat arise. The School also has a fire safety plan as part of its emergency procedures, and this plan was tested and proved effective in the 2013 crisis. Relevant details of the School's Bushfire Emergency Procedures can be found in the Wycliffe Essentials Guide. These are also included in this week's newsletter. Please take the time to read through the procedures to prepare your family should a situation arise during school hours.

EXCERPT FROM THE ESSENTIALS GUIDE (PP. 15-16)

Bush fires are something we all tend to fear, especially when our families are located at different venues. The natural tendency is to rush to the school to pick up the children. This can be most unwise as roads become choked and people get caught away from their homes – the place where they can be of most assistance to those combating the fires.

The school has a detailed fire drill procedure that has been developed in consultation with RFS and checked as part of the Safety Compliance procedures by the NSW Educational Standards Authority. Children will be carefully and thoughtfully supervised during any emergency. Parents will be advised by SMS messages, the school website and/or the official school Facebook site.

To assist parents, the following information should be noted:

1. If it is certain to be a day in which the school is going to be in the path of a major bushfire, please keep children home. It is likely that Bush Fire Authorities will communicate this via the News, including the RFS website.
2. If a "Catastrophic" fire weather warning has been issued for the Blue Mountains for the subsequent school day, the school will be closed to all students, parents, staff and visitors. In the event of such a declaration, students should not commence their journey to school or be transported to the school site.
3. Based on more recent advice from Emergency Authorities, it may be necessary to order a school closure for Wycliffe Christian School, for weather conditions that do not reach the "Catastrophic" declaration. This decision may come from the RFS or it may be made independently by the school on its assessment of risk. If in doubt please check both RFS and school sources of information.
4. During a fire emergency, parents should be aware that students at school are still under the school's duty of care. This means that any student movements MUST be made known to the correct staff members.
5. Under certain fire weather conditions, the School Principal may direct a "shelter in place" to the multipurpose hall or other on-site venue. In this case, parents are not necessarily going to be contacted by the school as a first priority, although we will attempt to notify parents by SMS message. Any parent who comes to school to collect their child during a "shelter in place" event will be required to stay at school until advised it is safe to leave. Once directed that they are safe to leave they must report to the assembly warden prior to leaving. (The school will always comply with the directions of the Bush Fire Authorities or other emergency service personnel.)
6. Under an extreme (worst case) fire emergency, the school may have been directed by emergency authorities to evacuate. In this extreme case it is imperative that parents cooperate with directions from Emergency authorities.

EVACUATION

Should the RFS declare a significant fire risk and order an evacuation, the most likely procedure will be transport by bus to a declared evacuation area, dependent upon fire weather conditions. Such decisions are not made by the school and all logistics for such an evacuation are organised by the relevant combat agency [i.e. Police]. Parents would then collect students from the relevant evacuation venue (after informing staff or emergency personnel allocated to that task). Written authorisation is required for anyone other than parents to collect children. Information, including any variation to the above, would be given through SMS messages, on the latest news page of the school website, on the official school Facebook site and /or local radio station announcements. Parents are encouraged to listen to media advice as this is often the earliest notification

they will receive. In extreme circumstances procedures to protect lives are vital; therefore it is not possible to prescribe the specific action to be taken in every circumstance.

In 2017, Wycliffe Christian School will continue to cooperate with other regional agencies in modelling planning for a variety of fire weather situations.

HONG KONG SISTER SCHOOLS VISIT



The month of August once again saw our sister schools from Hong Kong come to visit. Almost 20 staff and students from these Christian schools joined us at Wycliffe for a reciprocal visit following our exchange to Hong Kong in April earlier this year. This was a wonderful time, not only for the guests from Hong Kong, but also for our own students as we came together in a celebration of the diversity of our cultures and backgrounds. The activities which took place included senior sport class experiences, Zumba with upper primary, reading and the Bush Classroom with Kindergarten, making kangaroo meat pies with the Stage 5 Let's Celebrate elective, and boomerang decoration and use. Additionally, the group visited the city and took in the sights of Calmsley Hill City Farm.

It is always a privilege to be in the audience when our visitors make their cultural presentations. When our students visit Hong Kong, they present to the students in English, their first language. When the Hong Kong students visit us, they present to our students in their second or third language. The presentations this year were impressive and were honouring to their school and families.

Beyond all the activity planned at school and around the community, special thanks goes to all the families who generously hosted our visitors through the week: the Bemrose, Murray, Padgett, Chik, Irvine, Mitchell, Gardiner and McGregor families. From past experience, this is a special time for both hosts and visitors and it is quite probably the most important element in the exchange. We pray that God richly blesses our brothers and sisters in Christ as they continue to educate in His name.

Michaela Inglis
Deputy Principal



ESCAPE TO EVERYWHERE

I wonder what you think about when you hear the word escape. Perhaps you think of a famous magician who can escape from a locked cabinet while handcuffed; perhaps a prisoner escaping from gaol; perhaps a refugee escaping from war or a natural disaster.

Some people refer to holidays as an escape, when they can leave their normal life of work or school behind. Whatever the reason, escape is about going somewhere different and experiencing something new and possibly better.

These types of escape can require a lot of effort and sometimes a lot of money. Through books we can travel to different places or experience things in new ways, through the eyes of another person, with little effort and little expense.

Information books can take us to other countries and other communities. Story books can take us to real places, such as Canteen Creek, in *Go Home Cheeky Animals* or the Snowy Mountains in *Snow Wombat* or they can take us to imaginary or fantasy worlds such as Oz, or Narnia. Through books we can escape to anywhere real or made up.

God's book, the Bible, includes stories of escape. The Israelites escaped from Egypt and the Pharaoh's army. Peter was helped to escape from prison by an angel. The biggest story of escape in the Bible is how we can escape the punishment for sin because Jesus died for us and how we can escape death because Jesus rose again from the dead. That is the most amazing escape story of all. We can escape from the chains of sin and death and start a new life in God's kingdom, where everything is made new.

BOOK CLUB ORGANISER

The Scholastic Book Club provides quality books for our students at competitive prices. For many years, the collection and distribution of orders has been undertaken by generous parents. The Library is looking for a parent who may be interested in taking over this role from the start of Term 4. Training will be available. Contact Mr Cooney or Mr Turner in the library if you may be able to help.

Mr Cooney

SCHOOL NEWS

WYCLIFFE COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT



It is with great excitement that we announce the development of a Community Garden at school. Located between the courts and our beautiful bushland, the garden will provide engaging learning opportunities for our students, a place for our community to meet and spend time together and a vehicle for growing understanding and skills in caring for our God's amazing creation. This exciting endeavour aims to strengthen our school community and to raise awareness of everyday sustainable life choices. It hopes to build capacity and resilience in our students as they grow up in a rapidly changing world. The project invites students, parents and the broader school community to join together in building a sustainable garden, learning organic waste management through composting, worm farming, and through garden activities that are embedded within the curriculum, with the aim of shaping life-long sustainable habits.

The project has four stages:

1. Garden, compost bays and fencing
2. Garden extension, a shed and potting table
3. An outdoor classroom space with seating for lesson activities as well as community gatherings
4. Orchard, pathway, creative outdoor play spaces and art installations

In keeping with the school's environmental goals for this project, many of the materials needed for this project will be recycled, repurposing old objects for new uses.

Is this an area you have an interest or skills? There are many ways you can be involved and we'd love to welcome

you into the project. Here are some ways you can be part of this exciting new venture:

- Praying for this project, its community growing potential and the learning outcomes for our students
- Donating materials for building gardens: left over colorbond or corrugated iron, lengths of hardwood, wooden pallets in good condition
- Offering skills or advice in a planning capacity
- Attending a working bee to build gardens, fencing, compost bays
- Helping in the garden to plan seasonal activities and/or maintain fruit and vegetable gardens on an occasional or regular basis during school or after hours
- Assisting classes involved in garden lessons
- Watering, mulching, pruning
- Visiting the garden, once established, with you child or grandchild
- Transporting larger materials needed for building to the site (trailer or ute)
- Helping to source needed materials (have some good IT or phone skills and a little time?)

Thought of another way you could join us? We'd love to hear your questions, comments or suggestions.

Contact:

Catherine Short: cshort@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au

Daniel Zanardo: dzanardo@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au

A family working bee will be held on Saturday 14th October 8.00am-12 noon. We'd love to have you join us on that Saturday to build the first stage and possibly start Stage 2 also. Children will be most welcome on the day. Bring a picnic lunch. Morning tea will be provided.

Thanks for your part in helping to create this for our community.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS COACHING CLINIC

For children ages 5 – 16 (beginners to advanced). Fully supervised. Racquets are also available for hire. Lunch provided on the day, along with prizes!

Springwood World of Tennis, Spring Street, Springwood

When: Mon 25th to Fri 29th September 2017 (9am - 3pm)

For more information, or to book, please ring **4751 5383**
OR **0416 083 472**