FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I trust everyone enjoyed a blessed Spring break and our students have returned ready for the home run to the end of the year.

During a recent casual stroll around my local neighbourhood I was quite shocked to find one house already adorned with Christmas decorations. No doubt shops are already stocking lights, cards and decorations for the Christmas tree. Whilst all seems a little crazy it serves as a reminder of just how quickly the next couple of months will pass. As we look to the end of the School year there are a few dates I would encourage families to place aside.

The first is for our annual Wycliffe Celebration Concert on the evening of Tuesday, 8th December. Mrs Maddock and her music team have been working with the choirs already for months in preparation for the event. It will serve not only as a showcase for the many God given talents of students, but also a wonderful celebration of the community we share and enjoy at Wycliffe.

Later that same week we will be celebrating the achievements of all students of the School with annual Presentation Assemblies:

• Thurs 10th Dec – Years 9 & 10
• Fri 11th Dec – K-6, Years 7 & 8

The Assemblies have traditionally been daytime events. Exact times will be published in the near future providing parents with due notice to make arrangements with their work.

Many schools have one single whole school presentation evening. Many use this as an opportunity to 'sell' their school and only achievements of students who are viewed 'elite' are acknowledged.

As a school we affirm that all people are created in God's image (Gen 1:27), with God given interests, talents and gifts, to be used for His purposes, to bring Him glory.

The New Testament makes it clear that God shows no partiality (Acts 10:34). Christ died for all (2 Corinthians 5:14-16). Jesus welcomed the poor and outcast, elevating the downtrodden of society (Mark 2:13-17). Even God's chosen people were not more worthy or significant than others who turned to Christ, all are one (Galatians 3:28).

The school deliberately chooses to run a number of presentation events relevant to separate stages of schooling. This provides time for the achievements of all students to be acknowledged and celebrated. This affirms the value of each individual as image bearers of God, with his/her own talents, abilities and interests, to be used to bring glory to their God who has great plans for their future.

Christ's impartiality is highlighted in the following passage from the book of Acts, where the Lord God brings together the Apostle Peter, a Jew (God's chosen people) with Cornelius, a Gentile (someone outside the exclusive Jewish community).

“Cornelius answered: “Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me and said, ‘Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.’ So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.”

(Acts 10:30-35)

As we move toward the Christmas season may our community turn our focus to Jesus, God Himself, who came to redeem and restore His creation, in particular His children.

Peter Jamieson
Principal
The information revolution that has accompanied the development of digital technology has led to a democratisation of learning. Access to knowledge is no longer available only to those in the developed world or those who have reached a particular level of education. Knowledge in abundance is available at the click of a mouse or a tap of a tablet screen. While there remains a divide, it is a digital divide based on access to technology, not access to information.

This democratisation is not one way. Students are considered information creators as well as information consumers. Learning success is no longer measured simply by what you know but by what you can do with what you know. This applies to a diversity of ways of knowing, now commonly referred to as multiple intelligences, and creative ways of expressing knowledge, many of which now facilitated by digital processors, in virtual and physical form, with devices such as 3-D printers.

Public and school libraries continue to be fundamental expressions of open and democratic access to information, as well as providing the resources for creating and sharing information. Makerspaces is one form of this creative approach, provided in a rudimentary way at the Wycliffe library, with the provision of craft and art materials and Lego. More advanced library Makerspaces include access to sophisticated technology such as 3-D printers.

The Wycliffe library seeks to create a synergy between student, space and resources to provide opportunities that encourage children to question and evaluate, to explore and investigate, to collaborate and to take responsibility, to explain and to listen, to discuss and to debate, to take risks and to cope with disappointment, to recognise that both success and failure are steps on the road to learning.

The space includes the different physical spaces of the library, the classroom, the home and the virtual learning spaces available online. The resources include print sources, digital storage, media tools, as well as authoritative websites and databases. The resources also include staff members who are trained to facilitate that synergy and support students as they access, use and create information in ways that reflect their own interests and imagination.

Australia School Volleyball Cup: As the school begins its final term, the Wycliffe Senior Volleyball team commence its final training and preparation for its entry into the Australian Schools Volleyball Cup in Melbourne (5th-12th December). This event is the largest schools based sporting event in the Southern Hemisphere and will see around 5000 students in over 400 team from more than 150 schools from around the country compete during the 5 day tournament. For the past 9 months, the Wycliffe volleyball squad have undertaken a structured training program, competed in a 4 volleyball gala days and ran the Wycliffe social volleyball competition in term 2. At this stage 9 year 10 boys are training at least twice a week, putting together their final moves and honing their skills in preparation of major event which has been their focus all year.

I would invite the Wycliffe community to pray for the final preparation for the squads tour to Melbourne and for the parents who are organising and accompanying the squad on the journey. At this stage, there is still opportunity for members of the school community to join the Away Team who will be accompanying the squad to Melbourne for the week. Please contact Volleyball Head Coach Dan Catchpoole (0408297594) for further information.

The Wycliffe Volleyball squad welcomes and wishes to thank Lower Mountain Landscape Supplies (http://www.lmls.com.au/) for again sponsoring the squads trip to Melbourne.
Sydney Olympian to Guest Volleyball Coach: On **Monday 19th October** (6:30pm) in the school hall, the Wycliffe Volleyball squad will be joined by Christie Mokotupu, the youngest Australian athlete at the Sydney 2000 Olympics who competed for the women’s indoor volleyball team at the age of 17 years. As an elite athlete Christie has had many great experiences on the volleyball court that she wishes to share. Her story has some twists and turns however and it was not until she gained a faith in Christ did she find true direction in her life. Christie will be spending some time sharing her testimony before sharing her knowledge and love for the game of volleyball.

The Wycliffe Volleyball squad would like to invite any Wycliffe student (Year 6 upwards) who want to find out about volleyball and to hear Christie’s story to join us on Monday 19th October (6:30-7:30pm) in the school hall. The senior boys will run some basic drills for new students to the sport and share why they love playing the game - so come prepared to run around a bit.

We look forward to seeing you there.

*Dan Catchpoole*
*Wycliffe Volleyball Coach*

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**MILO AFTER SCHOOL IN2CRICKET SKILLS PROGRAM**

**CRICKET NSW**

Cricket NSW is offering an opportunity, for students in *Kindergarten to Year 6*, to participate in the ‘MILO After School in2Cricket Skills Program’ in Term 4 2015. The program is delivered by qualified, accredited Cricket NSW Staff. Content includes development of the fundamental skills associated with cricket, while also covering gross motor and movement skills. The program will go for five weeks, starting on **Monday October 19th from 3-4pm**. **Equipment is provided** and cost is $40pp. For more information, contact **Jonathan Lees** on 0418 749 185 or e-mail jonathan.lees@cricketnsw.com.au

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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