

SCHOOL

TALK

WEEK 10 TERM 4



Wycliffe Christian School
Celebration Concert
2017



Faithfulness springs forth from the earth
and righteousness looks down from heaven

The LORD will indeed give what is good

Psalms 85:11-12

Tuesday 12th December, 2017
7pm - 9pm (Doors open 6:45pm)
Wycliffe School Hall

Featuring Student Displays from K-12
Students are reminded to please sit with their parents



BBQ dinner & drinks available at Cafe 133
from 5:45pm - 6:45pm!

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

IMPORTANT DATES 2018

- Monday 29th Jan** Term 1 commences for Preschool
- Monday 5th Feb** Term 1 commences for all students (Kindergarten to Year 12)

The School year will commence with a Whole School Assembly at 8.45am on Monday 5th February. Parents are warmly invited to join us as we welcome the new Principal, David Johnston.

What a time of year it is as we celebrate the child who came to bring us new life. There is a beautiful word for this that is not often spoken in contemporary life - Immanuel. It means "God with us".

What an amazing thought - that the God of all Creation is with us. This makes all the difference in the world to our understanding of our relationship with God. He is not some remote old man in the sky - but a God who steps out of time so we could understand. Immanuel - God with us.

Michael Card wrote some beautiful lyrics that speak to this so well. I thought I would share some of them with you.

*"Immanuel our God is with us
And if God is with us who could stand against us
Our God is with us
Immanuel.*

*For all those who live in the shadow of death
A glorious light has dawned
For all those who stumble in the darkness
Behold your light has come.*

*So what will be your answer? Will you hear the call?
Of Him who did not spare His Son but gave Him for us all.
On earth there is no power there is no depth or height
That could ever separate us from the love of God in Christ.*

*Immanuel our God is with us
And if God is with us who could stand against us
Our God is with us
Immanuel."*

Whatever your circumstances this Christmas, may you be blessed by the one true God who was, and is, and is to come.

STAFF CHANGES FOR 2018

FAREWELLING STAFF

There are a number of staff we are farewelling at the end of 2017. It is always hard to say goodbye from our community to our much-loved staff members!

However, as in any organisation, people move into new and different roles and we pray God's blessing over all who are moving from Wycliffe at the end of 2017.

- Tracey Brady (Administration)
- Robyn Collins (PT Primary teacher)
- David Gray (PT Secondary Music)
- Michaela Inglis (Deputy Principal/Maths)
- Paul Karlik (Christian Studies/Stage 4 Coordinator)
- Ian Post (Property Assistant)
- Sue Talbot (PT Primary teacher)

We have deeply valued the amazing service each of these people have brought to our school community and will miss them dreadfully. Yet we also know God walks with them into new and exciting opportunities and He also walks and guides us here at Wycliffe into the future.

WELCOMING NEW STAFF

As we say farewell to some staff, we are also delighted to welcome new staff to our school community for 2018.

We are delighted to welcome Mr David Johnston who will be starting his role of Principal officially on 15th January.

Mrs Rose Nolan will be returning to Wycliffe as the Secondary Education Support Teacher. She and Vivian Walker (Primary Education Support Teacher) will share the role of Education Support Coordinator, each focusing on their section of the school.

Wycliffe welcomes Mr Dale Killeen who is taking up the position of Part-time Groundsperson starting in 2018. Dale comes with much school experience and we welcome him and his family to our community.

We are currently in the process of appointing a part-time Secondary Music teacher and look forward to sharing the details of this appointment with you in the next few days.

STAFF ROLE CHANGES

There are also a number of current staff who will have some changes to roles in 2018.

Mrs Vicki Williams has been appointed to the temporary role of Acting Deputy Principal for Term 1, 2018.

Mr Neil Marshall will be the temporary Secondary Pastoral Coordinator for 2018. In this role, Neil will support Stage Coordinators and oversee the pastoral care/discipline and welfare of our Secondary section. Neil will also manage some of the school logistics during Term 1.

Mrs Julie Pickworth will be the Stage 4 Coordinator in 2018, supporting Years 7 & 8 students and programs.

Dr Sylvia Persis will be managing the staff daily absences and replacement teachers.

I say a personal thank you to the Board and the entire Wycliffe community for the opportunity to serve you over the last few months. I have been in a privileged position to see more and more amazing opportunities both within curriculum and also co-curricular activities that provide a meaningful education at Wycliffe based on God's word. An education that speaks to the "head, heart and hands" of life and where students are encouraged to see that who they are and how they use their God-given talents can make a difference to the world. We have a staff of experienced teachers who work tirelessly to ensure that in all things God is glorified and students are given opportunities to thrive. Do we always get this right? Unfortunately no. And we lament when things happen that aren't how we would want them to be. But we seek to learn together as a school community and to support you, our families, as you join together in supporting Wycliffe in providing an education that is for all of life and for all students.

Finally, together with the whole Wycliffe community, I am absolutely delighted to see David Johnston step into the role of Principal. He is an amazing leader who God has chosen for this time and place at Wycliffe.

May God continue to pour His blessing out upon this precious community.

Yours in Christ,

Kathy Pereira
Interim Principal

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018 (WITH EXCITEMENT!)

As we look ahead to the new year, there are some very exciting adventures in learning in store across the school. We have highlighted two substantial programs that will be significant for students in 2018 – our Junior School Literacy program and the STEM Initiative. Please read these as they are genuinely exciting new or further developed programs for our school community that will enhance student engagement in learning and learning outcomes. We can't wait to see these in action!

JUNIOR SCHOOL LITERACY PROGRAM

The Junior School will be implementing a Literacy program to target students' ability spell accurately, decode and comprehend in reading and write effectively. To achieve this, there will be explicit teaching of "systematic synthetic phonics" – that is the blending of sounds (phonemes) to make a word, enabling children to read. It is about building up childrens' knowledge that each sound in a word, in every position is important.

From there we will focus on fluency/speed of sounds, whilst at the same time, building their vocabulary that will lead to their ability to comprehend.

With the older students (3-6), not only will we ensure that their foundational understanding of sounds is in place, but develop their knowledge of grapheme individual or group of letters which represent single sounds (graphemes). They will also develop knowledge that focuses on the meaning of words in its smallest

form (morphemic knowledge) - meaning of words and their roots.

All the classes across the primary school will be targeting this for the first part of each morning, followed by reading activities, leading into writing.

We are excited to be changing our approach to Literacy to support all students' and their learning and understanding of English. With this approach, early intervention strategies will be put in place to quickly capture and assist students that require support.

It will be very important for students to be at school on time so that they do not miss any of the direct instruction that will begin at 8:30.

CHANGE OF JUNIOR SCHOOL BELL TIMES

In 2018, the Junior school will be operating on different hours to enable the morning session until recess to focus on the implementation of English. The Junior school will now begin at 8:20am with the secondary students, to allow for 10 minutes of 'Morning Moves' before the morning session begins. Research has indicated that exercise in the morning is very beneficial to students. Below are listed some of the overwhelming arguments for having children participate in regular exercise before beginning lessons.

- A review of 14 studies has demonstrated that the more physically active schoolchildren are, the better they do academically.
- One US test program at Naperville Central High School powerfully illustrated this point two years ago. Students who participated in a dynamic morning exercise program nearly doubled their reading scores while math scores increased 20-fold.
- Exercise encourages your brain to work at optimum capacity by causing nerve cells to multiply, strengthening their interconnections and protecting them from damage. This is true for all age groups.
- To get your kids moving, limit the amount of time your child spends watching TV or playing computer and video games, and to replace these sedentary activities with active ones. Overweight and obese children need at least 30 minutes of exercise each day, and may benefit from closer to 60 minutes.
- High-intensity interval training is the ideal form of exercise for children. Intermittent bouts of activity with pauses in between is entirely natural for the human body, and kids will spontaneously resort to this type of activity when left to their own devices.

Link: <https://goo.gl/UFiyEj>

At 8:30, students will move into their regular class for English. To optimise the morning period, when the brain has a greater ability to focus and concentrate, English will conclude at 10:24 (recess used to be from 10:04-10:24), when students will then have recess until 10:39.

To compensate for the extended morning period, teachers will ensure there is 'crunch and sip' (around 10am), at which point students will have the opportunity

to nibble either a piece of fruit or vegetables.

Immediately after recess, classes will move into their Numeracy lessons.

STEM 2018 AND BEYOND

STEM education is a term used to refer collectively to the teaching of the disciplines within its umbrella - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics - and also to a cross-disciplinary approach to teaching that increases student interest in STEM - related fields and improves students' problem solving and critical analysis skills.

At Wycliffe Christian School we focus all aspects of education on a Christian Worldview. As such, we comprehensively apply this worldview approach to establish solid foundational skills in STEM learning areas.

Wycliffe Christian School also recognises the importance of a focus on STEM in the early years and maintaining this focus throughout the schooling experience.

We have identified that we want our students to acquire core subject knowledge as well as the skills of; collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and problem solving - and STEM education can play a pivotal role in achieving this.

Wycliffe Christian School acknowledges that all young people must establish a fundamental level of STEM literacy which enables them to engage with, and succeed in, the world beyond the school environment. Building foundational STEM knowledge needs to start from early childhood and continue throughout primary and secondary schooling.

Currently, students in the Secondary School have access to an extension program on two lunches each week. It was these student's who developed and presented their work at the DigiSTEM Conference. Additionally, an extension program in Virtual Reality (VR) is being undertaken each Friday lunch time.

The STEM Coordinator and ICT Manager are currently investigating the potential implementation of Drone Technology within the STEM Program in 2018.

2018 STAGE 5

- Position the school towards the Introduction of the iSTEM course as an elective for Years 9 and 10. (The iSTEM course is a NESA endorsed course developed by Regional Development Australia – Hunter, currently taught in 135 schools in NSW).
- The iSTEM course utilises a practical integrated approach with engineering and technology being used to drive engagement in science and mathematics, through the development of technical skills and mechanical engineering knowledge. Its purpose is to increase the numbers of students studying STEM based subjects in the senior years and ultimately the number of student matriculating to tertiary study at both university and trade levels in STEM or STEM based employment.

2018 STAGE 4

- The current Year 8 STEM course program within the curriculum shall continue.
- Cross-disciplinary projects designed by teachers from Science, TAS and Mathematics that would investigate a real-world issue or problem and address learning outcomes from Science, Technology and Mathematics. Possible trial of one or two collaborative projects in Semester 2.

2018 STEM STAGES 2 AND 3

- Staff from Senior School work with Junior School Staff to begin the transition to an inquiry-based/project-based approach to teaching Science/Technology and Mathematics. (Five Junior School staff are currently enrolled in an online course about inquiry-based learning - "Making Learning Visible" - Harvard U.)
- The current extension periods for Year 6 would be used for STEM-based or MakerSpace activities, in conjunction with a lunchtime program.
- Exploration of robotics in Years 3-8.

2017 ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL (AIS) DIGISTEM CONFERENCE

On the 23rd and 24th of October this year, a number of our Year 8 STEM Students represented our school at the DigiSTEM Conference held each year at the University of Technology, Sydney.

Every student thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Photos of the day were uploaded into the school's Facebook page. Our STEM project aptly named the 'Enviro Greenhouse Project' can be seen including the archived documentation by uploading the following AIS link: <https://artefacts.aisnsw.edu.au/round3-wycliffe/>

LIBRARY NEWS

CHRISTMAS: THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

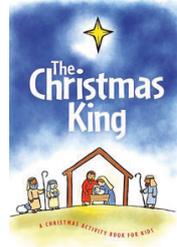
An often-overlooked part of the first Christmas events is the response of the shepherds to the news of Jesus' birth. Having witnessed a sky spectacular of cosmic proportions, their first response is to go to Bethlehem and see for themselves, "this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." Just like the later disciples, they left their jobs and responsibilities in response to an encounter with the King of kings.

Having found Mary and Joseph and the baby, "they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. The shepherds returned to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told." (Luke Chapter 2)

It was the ancient equivalent of sending texts, tweets and Snapchat images. The response was immediate and full of joy and praise. But it was not the angelic spectacle or the wonder of a newborn baby that amazed those who heard the shepherd's words, it was the message

that God's Messiah, the promised Saviour had come. The shepherds were affected by ALL that they had seen and heard but the precious gift that they passed on to all they met that night, and to all who have heard the account since, is the message that the Creator has come in human form to bring peace and salvation to a broken and rebellious world.

The best gift that we can give this Christmas is to share the word concerning this child, Jesus. For as little as \$4 or \$5, you can give a book that tells this word to a child that you know, or one that you don't through the gift programs of various charities.



Mr Cooney

SCHOOL NOTICES

SCHOOL STUDENT TRANSPORT

Transport NSW has made improvements to its School Student Transport Scheme this year and students progressing into Years 3 and 7 no longer need to apply for new passes if they are continuing at the same school and are residing at the same address. If you don't meet the new eligibility, you would have been sent an expiry notification.

If students need to update any information or reapply, you should go online to:

<https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updateDetails>

GUITAR LESSONS 2018

Mr Phil Davidson has vacancies for guitar lessons at school commencing in Term 1, 2018. If you are interested in this opportunity please contact:

Mr Davidson [0419 633 958](tel:0419633958),
olddogmusic@bigpond.com

CODE CAMP



These school holidays we are hosting a very special program called Code Camp where your child can learn to code and build their very own iPhone or Android app!

Follow this booking link for all the dates and details about what's on offer for the Summer Holidays at Wycliffe Christian School: codecamp.com.au/wycliffe

For more information, visit codecamp.com.au/faq or contact us at hello@codecamp.com.au