ENCLOSURES:

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On the weekend I took the opportunity to begin reading “The Cause of Christian Education”, written by one of the foremost thinkers in Christian Education, Dr Richard Edlin.

The first chapter exposes the myth of neutrality in education. Government education is championed as being secular and neutral, under the guise of not promoting one form of religion over another. Subsequently religion and discussion about God is excluded from the general curriculum and compartmentalised to designated Religious Education classes.

Edlin argues secularism does not equal neutrality, and that imposing a “secular regime upon government schools” is a “clear, intolerant, and outrageous breach of religious freedom.” Further he reasons that secularism itself can be viewed as a ‘religious’ perspective, founded on its own distinctive worldview.

I realise that we are moving into a reasonably heavy and potentially controversial topic. My goal in sharing these thoughts is not to criticise the public education system, rather reinforce why the choice of Christian schooling is important for our families, and society as a whole.

A Christian worldview of education places God at the centre of the process. A secular worldview of education looks to human wisdom alone as the key to success and fulfilment. The two positions cannot coexist in the same classroom. Though they may share commonalities in techniques, they are diametrically opposed to each other due to the worldview upon which each is founded.

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (1948) declares that;

“Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.” [Article 26(3)]

I agree that parents have the right to choose for their children the type of education that best supports their own belief system, be that Christian, secular, or other. I do stress however parents’ right to choose Christian Worldview Education for their children. Further to encourage Christian parents, that in fulfilling their God given responsibility, to ensure the education received by their children glorifies God acknowledging Him as the source of all wisdom and understanding, and produces young men and women who live their lives in worship of Him.

I acknowledge what I have written to be quite philosophical, and by no means seeks to provide all the answers, but rather I desire to prompt thought and discussion. The school intends to conduct some open forum nights where our community can further consider the cause and value of Christian education. If you are interested in further consideration of the topic, Dr Edlin’s book is available for loan through the school library, or if you desire a personal copy email admin@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au to place an order.

“For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, Guarding the paths of justice, And He preserves the way of His godly ones. Then you will discern righteousness and justice And equity and every good course. For wisdom will enter your heart And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;”

(Proverbs 2:6-10)
**Welcome Amariah Mercy Osborne**

We praise God for the safe arrival of Amariah Mercy Osborne, born 14th June. Amariah and mum (not to mention dad) are both doing well.

Our whole school community prays for Christ’s blessings to be upon Amariah, Adam and Catherine, as well as Ivory (Yr1), Melody (Preschool) and young Xavier as they as a family celebrate God’s gift of life.

“Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him.” (Psalm 127:3)

**Canteen**

From the beginning of term 3 the School will commence a one-month trial of increased access to canteen facilities for students of the primary school. Lunch- orders will be able to be placed five days a week, and K-6 students will be able to purchase snacks/drinks over the counter during recess and lunch. Products available will comply with the ‘Healthy Canteen Guidelines’.

For the expanded service to function successfully parent volunteers will be necessary to support the increased demand. Two meetings related to the proposal were held over recent times, and a number of parents have committed themselves to a regular roster. More support however, is required and if you could spare a couple of hours per fortnight please contact the School’s Business Manager, Mr James Chik (jchik@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au). Due to the community focus of the canteen, service hours will count towards PIP.

**Community Member of the Week**

This week we feature Sophie Shanahan of Yr 12. Sophie’s Biology teacher, Dr Persis, was sharing with me how pleased she was with her class’ recent field study assignments. She particularly highlighted Sophie’s effort, which I must say was quite impressive.

A little investigation revealed that Sophie is indeed taking her senior schooling very seriously, and making the most of her God given talents and interests.

Further she willingly serves others, particularly through her role on the student leadership team.

**Prayer Points**

Please pray for:

- those in our community who are not well at the moment, particularly those suffering the cold and flu season.
- students that they will know they are precious in the eyes of God, make the most of their God given gifts and talents, and grow in life to love and serve Him.
- Our school community that the School’s partnership with parents will continue to build and grow.

Peter Jamieson
Principal

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**From the Deputy Principal and Head of Junior**

**In the Classroom - Kindy**

One of the wonderful advantages of being in a P-12 school is the opportunity for students to experience learning in a broad range of learning environments and from a range of teachers.

Such was the case for Kindy this week as they enjoyed (with a capital E) a Science lesson in a High School Science Lab. Mr Little delighted and enthused them as he gave them an elementary Physics lesson, exploring the properties of solid objects when they freeze. They saw how liquid nitrogen can instantly alter the state of objects such as flowers, balloons, tennis balls etc. They observed how fragile these things became as they were easily shattered. The final highlight was the instant transformation of cream into ice-cream – which of course had to be tasted!
The children were fascinated and totally absorbed in their learning and their enthusiasm bubbled over into many great conversations. They had lots of fun – as did Mr Little.

**NEW PRESCHOOL STAFF**

It is with pleasure that we welcome Mrs Rebecca Howes on to our permanent Preschool staff team. Bec has been working casually this semester, and has recently been appointed, commencing Term 3 to take up the position left vacant when Julie Taylor became Preschool Coordinator. Bec has proven a commitment to early childhood education, to working as a strong team member and to Wycliffe Christian School, and has demonstrated strong competencies working in the Preschool. She and her husband Mathew have 5 children, soon all to be enrolled in the school, as the youngest commences Preschool. We pray that God will bless her as she takes up this appointment.

**HONG KONG HOMESTAY FAMILIES**

A reminder that we are looking for families willing to host visiting students from Living Spirit and China Holiness Colleges in Hong Kong. Their visit is from Wed 5th August, arriving at the end of the school day, departing early in the morning of 14th August.

Although the students are Secondary, they are also very happy to stay with families with younger children, and this has been very successful in prior visits. There is a small daily rebate which assists with costs. There is no expectation that you act as a tour guide, just that the students share in your everyday activities so as to learn about our way of life.

If you are interested in being a host family, or would like more information, please email me cedwards@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au

**STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

As part of our commitment to ensuring staff have opportunity to keep abreast of current trends in education as well as compliance, during the final week of the student holidays, teachers will be involved in Staff Development. We have engaged an external agency to provide teachers with additional IT skills for use in the classroom.

We have also arranged for the Child Protection Advisor from AIS (Association of Independent Schools) to update all staff on the latest protocols in respect of Child Protection.

Coral Edwards
Deputy Principal & Head of Junior School

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**SCHOOL NOTICES**

![TIME PIECE](image)

**Year 11 Drama Production** - Wycliffe’s Year 11 Drama class will again be competing in the Western Area Theatre Festival known as Flannofest, held at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre on 26 June. Tickets for the 12pm matinee or the 7pm evening performance are $18 and are available at the JSPAC Box Office. Alternatively, you can book or buy tickets online at:


The 2015 Flannofest production, Time Piece, will be a compilation production where each participating school will present a scene about the role of TIME in our lives. We look forward to your support and hope you will enjoy the show.

Natalie Maddock
Head of Faculty CAPA
SEMESTER 1 REPORTS: KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 10
With the culmination of a very busy and fruitful semester, teachers have been busy compiling a summary of each child's academic achievements into Semester 1 Reports. These reports provide a valuable record containing information relating to the topics and educational outcomes covered in class and the progress and development that have been made in terms of application, attitude and engagement in class. These reports will be sent home in a sealed envelope with each child on the last day of Term, Friday 26th June. Students who are absent from school on the final day of term will have their reports mailed if there is no other sibling present to take the report home on that day. Please go through these reports with your children and look to support any advice that has been given.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS: KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 10
Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on the following dates at the times indicated:

Thursday 16th July (in the last week of the School Holidays) 1:00pm - 6pm

Wednesday 22nd July (Term 3 Week 1) 3:15pm - 8:30pm

These interviews are for parents and/or caregivers for students from Kindergarten to Year 10 and students from Year 3 to Year 10 are strongly encouraged to attend. Although you are welcome and invited to meet with your child's teachers at any time, the upcoming interview sessions provide an opportunity to explore further any issues raised via the Semester 1 Reports, or for you to bring important matters to the teacher's attention.

Interview bookings are made online and a letter containing the information that is required to make the online bookings will be emailed or mailed to parents we do not have an email address for, prior to the end of this term.

All bookings for interviews will close on Tuesday 14th July.

Michaela Inglis (Director of Administration)

HOT DOG DAY
The Cafe/Canteen is happy to announce we are bringing back Hot Dog Day. Next Wednesday 24th June 2015, bring your money along for a quick and easy lunch. Cost: $2.50 each. Tomato, BBQ and Mustard sauces available at no extra cost.

The process of ordering will be slightly different to what you are used to. Hot Dogs must be pre-ordered to ensure we cook enough for everyone. Pre-orders can be placed any time before 11am on Wednesday 24th.

Primary students K-6 must place their order for Hot Dogs as normal through the Canteen lunch orders, which means writing on a paper bag with Name, Class, and what you want, with the money inside.

Yr 7 - 8 must place their orders via the normal lunch order process at the Canteen.

Yr 9 - 12, teachers and visitors can order through the Cafe any time before 11am on Wednesday 24th.

If you have any questions about Hot Dog Day please ask our friendly staff ion the Cafe/Canteen, we would be happy to help you out.

Joel Boorman
Café Manager

LIBRARY NEWS

WHY ARE CHILDREN READING BOOKS?

In a March edition of School talk, I wrote about research into the differences in children's reading and understanding when using print and digital books. A recent opinion piece by David Sable, Global CEO of Young & Rubicam Inc., one of the world's leading global marketing communications companies, includes more information about the benefits of print books. Sable includes this quote from Anne Mangen, a lead researcher from Norway's Stavanger University, who said that:
...The [sensory] and tactile feedback of a Kindle does not provide the same support for mental reconstruction of a story as a print pocket book does...When you read on paper you can sense with your fingers a pile of pages on the left growing, and shrinking on the right...You have the tactile sense of progress, in addition to the visual ... [The differences for Kindle readers] might have something to do with the fact that the fixity of a text on paper, and this very gradual unfolding of paper as you progress through a story, is some kind of sensory offload, supporting the visual sense of progress when you're reading.

Perhaps this somehow aids the reader, providing more fixity and solidity to the reader’s sense of unfolding and progress of the text, and hence the story.

But the main point of Sable’s article is to refute the notion that the rise of digital publishing has led to the demise of interest in printed books amongst young people and that while digital is everything, not everything is digital. He cites industry figures that show that there has been an increase in the publishing and sale of books for children, particularly picture books. It’s true that digital technology has contributed to the quality of style and production of these books but their print format remains attractive to younger readers. As Sable observes, “the fabulous quality of books today is due to the application of digital technology, but they themselves do not have to be digital in output”. Certainly, the number of quality children’s books from which we make regular selections for our readers at Wycliffe is evidence to the health of print publishing and the delight of our young readers attests to the continuing appreciation of this format.

Rather than pitting one format against another, Sable wants his readers to understand that “e-books are not better, nor do printed books make you old fashioned”. Unlike some, who seem quick to assume a digital generation gap, it seems that the so-called digital natives are happy to immerse themselves in both formats. Rather than adopt an exclusively digital view of life, they can “not only jump from screen to screen and device to device seamlessly... they can move from analogue to digital and back just as fluidly and without the self-consciousness that sometimes inhibits us older folks”.

Why Are Children Reading Books? Don't They Know It's Digital First? By David Sable


Mr Cooney

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JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

The simplest way
...eat more vegies, every day.

Junior School News

SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

There will be no Mathematics Study Centre in Week 1 - Term 3, due to Parent Teachers interviews.

Michaela Inglis
SPORT NEWS

The Secondary Athletics Carnival will now be held on the 22nd July 2015. Parent helpers will be needed to assist with a number of duties on the day. If you are able to assist on the day or even for a number of hours please email Andrew Stewart with your availability astewart@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au

Andrew Stewart
K-12 Sports Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS

For the most up-to-date calendar information, refer to the School Website Calendar at www.wycliffe.nsw.edu.au.

Yr 7, 11/12 Rd 2 Immunization       Jun 23
Yr 5/6 Basketball Championships     Jun 25
Yr 10/11 Drama Excursion             Jun 26
Year 3-6 Winmalee Cup               Jun 26
Preschool commences for Term 3       Jul 13
Yr K-10 Parent Teacher Interviews   Jul 16
School Community Prayer Meeting [aftr hrs]   Jul 20
Yr K-10 Parent Teacher Interviews   Jul 22
Year 7-12 Secondary Athletics Carnival   Jul 22
Primary Interschool Chess Tournament    Jul 22
Yr 10 DR Excursion                   Jul 29
Working Bee                          Aug 1

COMMUNITY NEWS

Can you help replace much needed books? The following Book Drive needs your support. Bring any book donations for the Vanuatu Book Drive to the

Public Reception desk at Wycliffe before the end of Term 2. Thanks

Sunday July 12th
From 12pm
Buttenshaw Park, Springwood

Jumping Castle, BBQ, Races for All Ages, Prizes
Fairy Floss, Kids Activities

www.billycartbash.com.au

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