FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Those who were with us last year would remember the card designed by Alanna Ross of Year 7 (featured below) that I sent to all families of the school at Christmas.

In keeping pace with current educational practice next year all students in these year groups will be required to provide and bring their own technology to school daily.

Our IT administrator, Mr Rhys Andrews, will be sending further information home but can I remind parents that:

- There are minimum requirements regarding the device. The chosen device is the Chromebook.
- There is to be no fee increase for those year groups next year, to offset the cost of purchase for families.
- We have a preferred supplier that is working with the school. The Chromebook can be purchased online, will be delivered to the school over the Christmas vacation period, and will be formatted by staff ready for use day one next year.

Parents with their child/ren in these year groups please note that classroom learning experiences will incorporate usage of these devices, and as such all students must be equipped from the outset of the new academic year.

PRIVATE TRANSPORT TO EXCURSIONS OR SPORTING EVENTS

There are occasions throughout the year when small groups of students are transported to school events by private vehicle. We appreciate the support parents provide in this regard.

Recent changes to registration procedures for private vehicles no longer requires a ‘rego sticker’ to be attached to the windscreen. Previously it was very easy to double check a car’s currency of registration by glancing at the ‘rego sticker’. The expiry date now can be easily overlooked as a result of the changed system. This has led to a substantial rise in the number of drivers that have been fined for driving unregistered vehicles.

Due to the above we are asking all parents who on occasion assist with transporting students to or from school activities to keep their current registration papers, or copy, in the glove compartment of their vehicle. Prior to departure staff will ask to view the papers as proof of registration. We ask parents to appreciate the motivation behind the change, ensuring students are covered by the vehicles’ compulsory third party insurance.

BYOT (BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY) YEARS 7,8 AND 11 (2016)

Recently the school conducted an information evening for parents with students entering Years 7, 8 or 11 in 2016.
COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF THE FORTNIGHT

This week we acknowledge our recently appointed school captains, Kathryn Chik and Chris Gray.

Kathryn and Chris enjoy the respect of staff and students of the school, as was demonstrated in their election to the role. Their positive attitude and servant heart will continue as an example to all in our community.

Our School Captains and Vice Captains will be inducted into their roles at the upcoming Year 11 Presentation Assembly Friday 23rd October commencing at 1:10pm.

Peter Jamieson
Principal

WHOOPING COUGH INFORMATION

We have been advised by NSW Health that there is an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in NSW, mainly affecting school-aged children.

Coughing spreads the infection to others nearby. Whooping cough can spread to anyone at home, including younger brothers and sisters. Whooping cough can be especially dangerous for babies.

Whooping cough starts like a cold and progresses to bouts of coughing that can last for many weeks. The infection can occur even in fully-vaccinated children. Older children may just have a cough that is persistent and may be worse at night.

- Children with these symptoms should see a doctor.
- If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough in your school-aged child, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken 5 days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.
- Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades with time. Check that all your children are up to date with their vaccines, due at 6 weeks, 4 months, 6 months, 4 years and 12 years of age (offered to all Year 7 students through the NSW school-based vaccination program). A booster is also recommended at 18 months of age.

A booster dose of vaccine is also recommended for adults that are in contact with young children, such as school staff and parents. Pregnant women are recommended to have a booster dose during each pregnancy, which is funded by NSW Health. Those who are new parents or carers of babies should consult their general practitioner about appropriate immunisation.

Your local public health unit can provide advice about whooping cough on 1300 066 055 or visit the NSW Health website: http://bit.ly/1NvG18r

Coral Edwards
Deputy Principal

LIBRARY NEWS

WORLD SPACE WEEK

October 4th – 10th was World Space Week and the Wycliffe Library joined in the celebrations with another wonderful display, prepared by Mrs Anlezark, and the return of the “Reading Rocket” from Book Week. There are many different ways of looking at the cosmos, many of which existed well before the invention of the telescope or spacecraft.

For Christians, the cosmos is a dazzling declaration of God’s glory (Psalm 19:1), and a humbling reminder of humanity’s insignificance, apart from the grace of God (Psalm 8: 3-8). For some, it holds the key to humanity’s past and future, whether by unlocking the origins of life on earth, or by offering the hope of rescue by an encounter with an advanced civilisation. For some, the universe is a life force in itself, able to influence or determine the fortunes of human beings. While for others, space is a place of adventure: the Final Frontier.

The subject of Space occupies a significant place in the library collection. These can be in the form of fact books, which reveal human knowledge of our solar system, our galaxy and the universe beyond, or they can be science fiction stories, in which human problems are explored in an inter-terrestrial context. Whatever the classification, books have the power to transport readers of all ages to other worlds faster than Doctor Who’s Tardis.

Like their authors, these books represent a range of worldviews about the cosmos. Christians work alongside those of other beliefs in space-related fields and Christian writers, like other authors, have used the genre of science fiction to explore major themes, such as identity, conflict and redemption. We have nothing to fear from the exploration of creation when we recognise Jesus as the Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer of the whole of creation.

As story readers, we need to bring the same recognition of the centrality and work of Christ to our understanding of the characters, themes and symbols used in any form of fiction, including science fiction. In this way, we are able to appreciate the fictional tales of the cosmic battle between good and evil, the search for redemption and the desire for hope, which characterise these stories, as
an expression of fallen humanity’s desire for meaningful relationship and ultimate salvation; needs that can only truly met in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

If you would like to explore this discussion further, you may like to read the following articles.


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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

*Upcoming school events are available from: [www2.wycliffe.nsw.edu.au/calendars](http://www2.wycliffe.nsw.edu.au/calendars)*

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**FIRE PREPARATION WORKSHOP**

Jacquie Millynn (MCRN preparedness worker), in collaboration with emergency services, will be running a free, interactive, practical workshop to explore available options and plans available in the case of a fire. Please choose from one of the dates below:

- **Friday, 23rd October** (10am – 12.30pm) at Wentworth Falls School of Arts (small hall)
- **Sunday, 25th October** (2pm – 4.30pm) at Lawson Mid-Mountains Community Centre
- **Tuesday, 27th October** (7pm – 9pm) at Hazelbrook Bungarrabee Centre (no child care available)

Refreshments will be provided. To book, or for more information, call 4758 6811.

**DYSLEXIA EMPOWERMENT WEEK**

Free community screening: “Understanding and Identifying Dyslexia”. Please choose from one of the dates below:

- **Tuesday, 20th October** (6.45pm) at Emu Plains Community Centre
- **Wednesday, 21st October** (6.45pm) at Katoomba – The Hatter’s Café

**CLIMATE CHANGE SEMINAR**

Byron Smith will be speaking about the issue of Climate Change from a Christian perspective, including questions like “Why does it matter?” and “How do we respond?”.

This event will be held on **Saturday, 14th November** (7.30pm – 9pm) at Springwood Anglican Church (The Factory). Fairtrade tea, coffee and supper will be provided. Creche will also be available. For more information, contact Jozica on 0448 391 896.

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**SALONS AGAINST SLAVERY**

Are you due for a haircut, a recolour, a perm or a beauty treatment? Why not support a worthwhile cause at the same time! Destiny Rescue rescues and restores children who have been trapped in the sex trade in cities throughout Asia. By visiting one of the following salons/studios during **Anti-Slavery Week (18th - 25th October)**, you will be supporting the rescue and restoration of even more children.

- Roc Hair Salon (East Blaxland Shops)
- Face of an Angel (East Blaxland)
- Sassy’s Hair Salon (Blaxland)
- The Men’s Grooming Centre (Blaxland)
- Do Hair (Glenbrook Shops)
- Mel on Hedz (Brooklands Shops, Blaxland)
- Nirvana Hair Studio (Springwood)
- Shades Hairdressing Studio (Faulconbridge)

For more information, please visit: [http://www.destinyrescue.org/aus/](http://www.destinyrescue.org/aus/)