

SCHOOL

TALK

WEEK 4 TERM 1



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Staff members have been thinking, praying and talking about our place, as a Christian school, in the biblical story. In 2017, we live in the overlap of the ages; in the 'now and not yet' as some scholars describe it – the time between Christ's death and rising from the dead and his return one day to renew his creation, to make everything new (Revelation 21:5).

So what is our present task as a Christian school community? It is to seek to live God's future in the present! As one writer has put it:

*"Christian hope frees us to live expectantly and confidently, though realistically, in ways that seek to transform the places we inhabit in the here and now **IN LINE WITH WHAT WILL BE** – not as an act of self-assertion, but as a response to God's gracious promise."*

What if our school were like that? What would it look and feel like for Wycliffe to be a taste, a preview of God's future, of the new world coming, of the Lord's 'shalom'?

One colleague, for example, has offered these questions to stir our thinking:

Have we as staff contemplated what it means to serve the parents of the school with our friendliness and hospitality, with a welcoming ear and positive suggestions at, say, 'interview times'?

Have parents contemplated what it means to serve the staff with regular encouragement and constructive ideas that might enrich their experience or teaching programs?

The biblical greeting 'Shalom' conveys the thoughts – 'May you experience the wholeness that God intends for you'. May you live in anticipation of the day when God makes all things whole again'.

May we, as a Christian school community, do the same.

Shalom!

George Glanville
Principal

P.S. I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Brett Duncan as the Head of Department – Mathematics to take effect from Monday, 20th March. Staff are delighted with the announcement of Mr Duncan's return to serve the Lord at Wycliffe. No doubt parents who know him will join us in warmly welcoming him back.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

It has been such a blessing to be able to welcome all students and their families to the 2017 academic school year. Now that we are a few weeks in, the newness of the year and the excitement of catching up with friends after a summer holiday away from the classroom has been replaced with the realisation that there is work to do!

A new year brings with it new challenges. We can often be anxious and worry about what lies ahead, but we can take comfort in that God has it all under control! Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us that even when we cannot see the future, God knows the plans He has for us and that these are plans for good and not ill, and are to give us a future and hope. Does this mean we can sit on the couch and wait for things to happen around us? Not at all. We are also instructed to work at something with all our heart as if working for the Him (Colossians 3:23). It is my prayer for all the students this year that they strive not for mediocrity, but with earnest desire to do the best they can do in all they turn their hands to.

PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

The staff have been working and preparing for the year ahead to give your children the best learning experiences with a biblically-based lens so as to seed the future God has planned in good soil. There are amazing academic and pastoral programs planned throughout the year across both the whole school. To facilitate communication between home and school, staff will be available to meet with you at **K-10 Parent Teacher Interviews** after school and early evening on **Thursday 23rd February and**

Monday 27th February. K-6 interviews are to be held in the regular classrooms and 7-10 interviews are to be held in the Library. Interview bookings are made online; a letter regarding this process has already been sent to your nominated email address.

A reminder that Parent Teacher interviews for Years 11 and 12 occur early in Term 2.

ASSESSMENT 7-12

Assessment timetables for Years 7-11 have now been distributed to all students. Those in Years 10 and 11 have had additional sessions relating to increased accountability around assessment submission and completion. If you have children in these years, please ask them about this and also ask for them to show you where the documents are stored electronically for easy access 'in the cloud' (Google Classroom). No hard copies will be provided. Students in Year 12 were provided with these at the beginning of their HSC course in Term 4 2016.

Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations happen in the last two weeks of Term 1. Please pray for these students as they summarise their work to date, that they may be able to accurately reflect their skills, knowledge and understanding when the examinations take place.

EXTENSION OPPORTUNITIES

In 2017, Wycliffe Christian School will again be a venue in which your child can participate in the International Competitions and Assessment for Schools (ICAS). These are independent skills-based assessments with a competition element. Commonly referred to as the UNSW tests, ICAS is unique, being the most comprehensive generally available suite of academic assessments and school tests for primary and secondary school students. The assessments comprise Digital Literacy, English, Maths, Science, Spelling and Writing tests. Over one million student entries are accepted from over 6,300 schools in Australia and New Zealand annually. In addition, students from over 20 countries including Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and the USA participate in ICAS each year.

If you would like your child to participate in one or more of these tests, please complete the [relevant forms attached to this edition of School Talk](#) and return it to Reception by Monday 20th March. Please be prompt regarding this date as no extension can be granted.

UNIFORM

The correct wearing of the school uniform not only provides students with a sense of belonging, that 'we are all in this together', but if one wears their uniform also with pride, then it also reflects a journey towards being respectful of the place in which you are in (whether it be school or the workplace). As we begin the school year, it is a good time to revisit the uniform guidelines, particularly aspects which get 'stretched' by the students. The Essentials Guide (on the Parent Portal) contains information about items such as jewellery, nail polish, length of skirts, socks and shoes. Please make yourselves familiar with these

and make amendments to your child's uniform where necessary.

Importantly, the uniform guidelines has been revised to include an updated approach to hat-wearing in Years 7-12. There are multiple reasons for this change, but largely we want students to be safe in the sun whilst at school and to have the rules consistent across the school. The Slip Slop Slap motto of the Cancer Council was updated in 2007 to include Seek (seek shade) and Slide (slide on sun glasses) to prevent sun damage. The most significant change relates to students 7-12 who will now be required to wear hats in Terms 1 and 4 during breaks and outdoor classes when not under the shade of a building. All students are required to have a school hat (styles dictated in the Essentials Guide) in their bag each day. This change will apply from Week 5 of Term.

SENIOR SCHOOL PASTORAL 7-12

The Pastoral Care Program at Wycliffe for students in 7-12 is centred around the Growth Group structure. We have a stage-based approach:

- Stage 4 Coordinator (Years 7 & 8): Mr Paul Karlik
- Stage 5 Coordinator (Years 9 & 10): Mr Rob Marks
- Stage 6 Coordinator (Years 11 & 12): Mrs Natalie Maddock

Each of these staff oversee a dedicated team of Growth Group Teachers who each have responsibility for the small group of students in their care. The Growth Group Teachers are the first point of call for parents for pastoral issues.

The Stage Coordinators have worked diligently to create a carefully-devised series of programs across 7-12 to develop the students emotionally and spiritually. A short summary of each program for Term 1 is listed below, culminating in the wonderful camp experience in the final days of term.

STAGE 4

This term, the Year 7 and 8 Growth Groups are exploring foundational aspects of the Christian Faith. Such topics as the Bible, God, the creator and Jesus' rescue for us have been covered in the opening weeks of the year. It's wonderful to observe the exciting dynamics in the 5 groups as students, under the guidance of Mrs Tupper, Mrs Williams and Miss Seto, Mr Stewart, Mr Zanardo and Mr Wright engage with the devotional material, build each other up and enjoy each other's company.

A Year 7 Information Evening will be held in B1 (the classroom underneath the 'bridge' connecting the bus turning circle to the Main Administration Building) at 7pm on Thursday 23rd February. An invitation has been sent out to existing families with children in Year 7.

STAGE 5

Year 9 Encounter is designed to allow students to discover more about the person God has made them to be and to help students grapple with their identity. The Encounter program started 2017 with students

A WORLD DIVIDED



undertaking a hike to Lockley's Pylon, Leura. The purpose of the day was to break down the barriers in communication between students and to allow students to form new friendships and relationships

with staff and students, whilst strengthening ongoing relationships and the outcome of the day was extremely positive! In Growth Groups, students have been covering the key aspects of God's Story with their teachers and undertaking activities designed to foster relationships between students. Later this term the Encounter program students will have their first City Experience Encounter. The program will guide students to develop the necessary skills to undertake this activity with a focus on developing student communication, navigation, responsibility and safety as we prepare for our second Encounter experience. This term's work culminates in the Year 9 camp at Lutanda, Toukley in week 10.



The Year 10 Aspire program started the year with a workshop making matchboxes, inspired by a World Vision conference. This activity was designed to set the direction of the term with students being

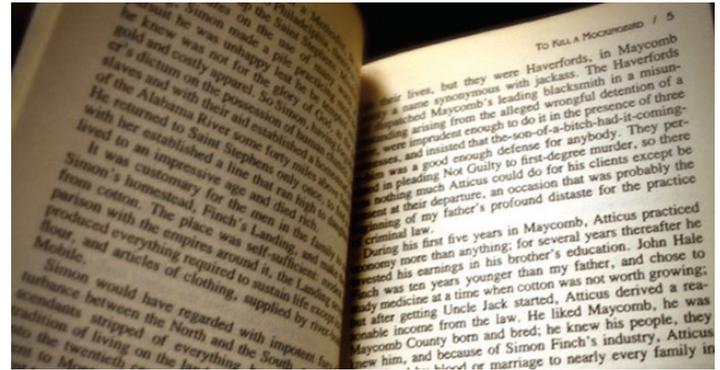
challenged to see the nature of the world around them and the realities that many children their age and younger face daily. Through understanding comes compassion with the key goal of asking students to reflect on their God given strengths and talents and how they can use these for the benefit of others. Students will continue to be provided with several challenges and experiences for students to understand how blessed they are and the abundant choices they have for their lives. It is envisaged that students will take a greater responsibility for planning their future academic and working careers. This term's work culminates in the Year 10 camp at Jindabyne in Week 10.

STAGE 6

Stage 6 Growth Groups are starting the year with skills sessions on the best use of diaries for personal organisation and setting up good study habits for the senior years. This then moves into a series of studies that will lead us towards Easter, focussing on what the Bible says about Jesus as he was heading towards his death and what the meaning of the cross is for us today.

May God bless you all richly throughout the year.

Michaela Inglis
Deputy Principal



The current political climate in the United States of America has drawn a variety of responses from around the world. It has also been cited as a factor in a request by a parent, in Accomack County, Virginia, for both Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to be removed from schools in December last year.

The temporary ban was lifted soon afterwards by the County School Board but the sensitivity behind the request is a sign of the concern that parents and others have about the books that our children read. This concern is especially relevant to Wycliffe, given that *To Kill a Mockingbird* is studied by all of our Year 10 students.

The Virginia parent is quoted as saying, "There's so much racial slurs and defensive wording in [these books] that you can't get past that." She also cited the current political climate in the United States as a factor, saying: "Right now, we are a nation divided as it is."

There is not space here to present a detailed defence of these books but it is important that parents of Wycliffe Christian School are aware that our partnership in nurturing your children extends to the appraisal and selection of classroom texts and library books. *To Kill a Mockingbird*, for example, explores familiar biblical themes of injustice, redemption, empathy and grace, while *Huckleberry Finn*'s ability to discern or "read" the world around him, to distinguish good, bad, right, wrong, menace, friend enables him to deal with the moral confusion of society.

It is important that throughout their schooling our children learn to see and evaluate the world as it is, and as it has been historically: a broken, imperfect and dimmed version of the glorious, integrated, perfect and good creation into which God placed humanity as his image bearers and stewards. This includes reading stories that reveal the human condition and information books that explore the wonder of creation and the decaying effect of sin.

In age-appropriate ways, our students are challenged by the purposes of God, revealed through the Bible and the Lord Jesus, to reflect and to act in ways that offer hope and healing through the transformative power of

the gospel. We live in a world divided by sin. We have the privilege of helping children and young people to see past the sometimes-distorted images of the past and present to the vision of all creation united in praise under the Lordship of Christ.

'Huckleberry Finn', 'To Kill a Mockingbird' return to Virginia classrooms after vote in The Washington Times retrieved from: goo.gl/Xemq2V

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/dec/7/huckleberry-finn-to-kill-a-mockingbird-return-to-v/>

Mr Cooney

IMPORTANT DATES

- 23rd February** K - 10 Parent/Teacher interviews
Primary Zone Swimming Carnival
- 27th February** K - 10 Parent Teacher interviews
- 4th March** Cinema under the Stars
- 6th March** CSSA Primary State Swimming Carnival
- 8th March** Secondary Zone Swimming Carnival
- 9th March** K - 6 Pet Day

SCHOOL NOTICES

PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES: MUSIC ENSEMBLES AT WYCLIFFE

The music ensembles at Wycliffe have now all recommenced for the year. The range of ensembles presents a wonderful opportunity for students from all primary and secondary years to enjoy performing music together. These are the practice days and the teacher-in-charge.

- Monday:** Senior Choir (Mrs Mills)
Guitar Ensemble (Mr Gray)
Band Beginners (Mr Cooney)
- Wednesday:** String Orchestra (Mr Cooney)
Kidsing (Mrs Mills)
- Thursday:** Concert Band (Mr Gray)
- Friday:** Jazz Band (Mr Cooney)

Note that the Flute Choir will recommence in Term 2.

Mr Cooney

YEARS 3 - 6 UKELELE GROUP

The Ukelele Group group meets every Wednesday morning at 8.00 am in D7 with Mr Jones.

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS)

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is an independent, quality skills-based assessment program which rewards and recognises

achievement. ICAS gives you broad insights into your child's performance across English, Mathematics, Science, Digital Technologies, Spelling and Writing. ICAS (sometimes referred to as the UNSW assessments) has been developed by Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) and have been in use since 1981. Once again, Wycliffe is providing an opportunity for parents to choose for their child to take part in this competition on a voluntary basis. When your child takes part in ICAS assessments, we can track their learning as they progress from year to year. It also helps us identify potentially gifted students and those who may need more focused and purposeful teaching to achieve their best.

If you are interested in your child taking part, please [complete the permission slip attached to this edition of School Talk](#) and return to school by Monday 20th March 2017.

CINEMA UNDER THE STARS

WYCLIFFE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
INVITES YOU TO A PRESCHOOL - YR 12
FAMILY EVENT

Cinema under the Stars

FROM 6PM: FOOD & GAMES
7:30PM: DESPICABLE ME MOVIE (PG)

SAT
4TH
MARCH

PLEASE RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE OFFICE BY TUES 21ST FEB

VOLLEYBALL



Wycliffe Christian School VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball Fun Facts: Did you know that

- Volleyball is played by approximately 900 Million amateur athletes around the world.
- Volleyball is the second most played sport in the world.
- Volleyball is the most gender equal sport in the world.
- Volleyball has the largest international federation with over 200 nations represented. The Australian men's and women's volleyball team world ranking is 15th and 43rd respectively.
- Volleyball is the epitome of all team sports.
- Volleyball has been played seriously at Wycliffe since 2008.
- Wycliffe are twice NSW CSSA Volleyball state champions – 2012-13. Runners up in 2016.
- **10** Wycliffe students have been selected to play in NSW representative volleyball squads.... All of them are 'home grown' volleyballers' here at Wycliffe.

INVITATION

The Wycliffe Volleyball Program will be running a series modified training sessions called 'Spikezone', designed by NSW State Volleyball to introduce children to the basic skills and rules for playing volleyball through fun drills and games.



We would like to invite any Wycliffe student (boys and girls) in **years 5 to 8** interested to learn more about volleyball and the opportunities to play for the school to join us at **Spikezone** during Term1. **Parents welcome to join in** and should be present for the first information session.

When: Commencing **Monday 20th February** from 6:30-7:30pm. The Spikezone program will continue every Monday evening for the rest of Term 1 (7 sessions total). Further information about Wycliffe volleyball will be presented at our first session including further opportunities to play volleyball at Wycliffe during the rest of the year.

Where: Wycliffe Christian School Sports Hall.

Cost and Details: It's free. Please wear sports shoes and clothes suitable for active play. Bring your own labelled water bottle.

Coach: Dan Catchpoole is a parent of the school and has been coaching the schools volleyball teams since 2008. He has lead Wycliffe volleyball teams at competitions around Sydney and as far away as Melbourne. He has earned his level 3 coaching qualifications from Australian Volleyball and has 8+ years' experience guiding young volleyball athletes at all levels including being head coach of the NSW U17 Boys state team.

Contacts: Dan Catchpoole 0408297594 dcatchpoole@bigpond.com
Andrew Stewart 0405502955

COMMUNITY NOTICES

BLAXLAND



Blaxland Rovers Hockey Club **2017 Registration**

Registrations will be open online
from 25th February, 2017.

For new & returning players – all ages welcome
Juniors (U8's, U11's, U13's & U15's), Women & Men.
(No experience necessary).

For any further enquiries please contact
Blaxland Rovers Hockey Club via email or

Juniors

Mark Walker (Email)

Women

Louise Regent – 0407 473922

Men

John Turner – 0405 220 751

Website: www.blaxlandrovershockey.com

Email: blaxlandrovers@gmail.com



EVERY PARENT WANTS TO SEE THEIR CHILD REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

ICAS gives you, your child and your school deep insight into your child's true capabilities — assessing the higher order thinking and problem-solving skills needed for success in English, Mathematics, Science, Writing, Spelling and Digital Technologies. ICAS participation can improve school performance.

FROM DATA TO DIRECTION

ICAS reports enable you to:

- Pinpoint your child's strengths — skills at which they excel
- Identify skill areas to be worked on, either for remediation or skill development
- See the answer your child gave to each question as well as the correct answer
- Track educational performance as your child progresses through school
- Obtain an independent external view of how your child is performing
- See your child's comparative performance nationally.

UNSW Global ICAS certificates also recognise student achievement.

SKILLS ASSESSED



ENGLISH

- Text comprehension
- Writer's craft
- Syntax
- Vocabulary



MATHEMATICS

- Algebra and patterns
- Chance and data
- Measures and units
- Number and arithmetic
- Space and geometry



SCIENCE

- Observing and measuring
- Interpreting data
- Applying data
- Investigating
- Reasoning and problem-solving



SPELLING

- Dictation
- Proofreading
- Error correction
- Applying rules and conventions



WRITING

- Language choices that enhance the writing
- Punctuation
- Spelling
- Syntax and grammar
- Text purpose and structure



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

- Common operating systems and hardware
- Graphics and multimedia
- Internet and email
- Programming and scripting
- Spreadsheets and databases
- Word processing

LEARN MORE

Visit www.eaa.unsw.edu.au
or contact your child's school.

2017 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS)

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In our rapidly changing world, it is becoming more and more important for our young people to develop strong skills as they progress through their education. While our curriculum-based assessments test a student's ability to recall what they have learned in a variety of subject areas, we think it's important to set students up in the secondary years for the bigger challenges of tertiary study and their future careers.

Therefore, Wycliffe Christian School will be implementing ICAS, a comprehensive skills-based assessment program that assesses the higher order thinking and problem-solving skills of students. We believe ICAS will give us deep insight into our students' true capabilities and help us plan more effectively for their futures.

HOW ICAS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER ASSESSMENTS YOUR CHILD WILL TAKE:

1. ICAS can tell us whether students really understand what they are being taught, or whether they have just been rote-learning curriculum content.
2. ICAS can help us discover student talents and student weaknesses that don't always get picked up by the curriculum testing framework.
3. ICAS will not add extra workload to any student's study or homework regime because ICAS is an assessment they can't study for. It evaluates thinking and problem-solving ability, not memory.
4. ICAS's diagnostic reports will give all of us (teachers and parents) far more insight into your child's strengths and weaknesses. At school, we can act on that by tailoring our teaching and learning programs; at home, you will know where to direct more encouragement.
5. ICAS will also give us an external benchmark we can rely on to ensure our school is keeping pace with national and international standards—ICAS is the most comprehensive international assessment program, with schools in over 20 countries participating in ICAS every year.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Please return the permission slip and entry fee to Main Reception by Monday 20th March 2017.

Your child can now prepare for ICAS and other skills-based tests with EAA's new Practice Online series. Practice Online is a series of ten interactive online tests designed for school children in Years 3-12 developed by our team of subject experts. Each child that participates receives a comprehensive individual report detailing their overall results and their performance in each area assessed. Practice Online is now available for Mathematics and will soon be available for Science and other subjects.

For more information please visit the Educational Assessment Australia website at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au or contact Customer Service on (02) 8344 1010 or by email at info@eaa.unsw.edu.au

For School-based enquires, please direct correspondence to Ms Michaela Inglis, Deputy Principal.



2017 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS) PERMISSION SLIP

Please return this permission slip and entry fee to Main Reception by Monday 20th March 2017.

Separate entries must be submitted for each child.

I give permission for my child _____ of _____
Child's name *Class*

to participate in the following 2016 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS):

The entry fee per student is as follows:

- Digital Technologies (Years 3-10) – 23 May 2017 (\$8.80 GST inclusive)
- Science (Years 2-12) – 30 May 2017 (\$8.80 GST inclusive)
- Writing (Years 3-12) – 12 to 16 June 2017 *sometime during this week TBC* (\$18.70 GST inclusive)
- Spelling (Years 2-10) – 14 June 2017 (\$12.10 GST inclusive)
- English (Years 2-12) – 1 August 2017 (\$8.80 GST inclusive)
- Mathematics (Years 2-12) – 15 August 2017 (\$8.80 GST inclusive)

Choose one of the following options:

OPTION 1: Please find enclosed _____ entry fee.
Amount

OPTION 2: Please charge _____ to my credit card.
Amount

Card Type: Mastercard Visa

Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiry Date: ____ / ____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

As this is an external competition payable in advance by the school, please note that entry fees paid for this competition are non-refundable should your child not be able to sit the test.

Name of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian