REFLECTING UPON OUR ROOTS

John Wycliffe Christian School commenced in 1976, however the impetus to start a Christian School in the Lower Blue Mountains began a few years earlier.

In 1972 John Baxter, the minister of Glenbrook Church of England (now Anglican Church) held discussions with several parishioners post a morning service on the possibilities of commencing a school aligned with the Christian Parent Controlled School (CPCS) movement.

Christian education was new to Australia with the first parent controlled Christian school, Calvin CPCS in Hobart, opened in 1962. Tyndale CPCS, Blacktown, opened in 1966 and provided great support in the establishment of our school.

What was the intention of the emphasis of ‘Parent Controlled’ in relationship to schooling? It was not envisaged for parents to control or direct the day to day running of the school. This is the role of the Executive who are suitably qualified and employed for this purpose.

What does Christian Parent Controlled School mean?

• The school was founded by Christian parents.
• The role of parents is honoured.
• Parents are expected to be involved in their children's education.
• Parents are to partner with the school rather than see education as purely the job of teachers.
• Christian parents are encouraged to be members of the School Association. The Association as a community effectively "owns" and maintains the school.

• This group elects a Board. The Board, as representatives of the Association, is concerned with policy, budgetary matters and ensuring the school continues to reflect the vision of the Association.

To more clearly reflect the purposes of the movement, and remove ambiguity, CPCS became Christian Education National (CEN) in 2008. Today CEN has 65 member schools with 21,000 students enrolled across the nation.

YEAR 7 (2016) PARENT EVENING

Reinforcing the partnership we share with parents, next Wednesday 29th June from 7pm in the Library, the school will host an evening for current Year 7 students and their parents.

Having allowed time for students to settle into life in the Senior School, the night will provide an overview of expectations as students progress through their senior school years. Further, parents will gain an insight into programs and academic emphases of the upcoming years. Very importantly our ICT administrator, Mr Rhys Andrews, will provide an update on the Chromebook program, with tips for parents in managing usage at home. There will be an opportunity for general questions from parents incorporated into the evening.

A light supper will be provided offering the ideal opportunity to further nurture the wonderful community we enjoy at Wycliffe. I encourage all families to take the opportunity to attend the evening.

PARTNERING WITH LOCAL CHURCHES

The parents who 40 years ago rallied together to see Wycliffe become a reality, came from varying Christian Protestant churches across the Mountains. From this
base the school has enjoyed a rich history in serving families from all Christian churches in the local area.

In strengthening our partnership in God’s wider Kingdom work I have been meeting with local ministers/pastors over recent times. I am greatly excited to hear what God is doing through their local parishes, and they likewise to hear of the Jesus focus in our approach to education.

In nurturing our partnership with local churches a link has been added to our website, providing a pathway to information on individual local churches. This may assist parents of our school who may wish to further explore Jesus’ love and desire to enjoy relationship with us, and find a church where they may grow in this relationship. Below is a screenshot of the link found on our homepage.

NRL STATE OF ORIGIN

This will be the last advertisement for our Wycliffe State of Origin evening to be held this **Wednesday June 22nd**, in the staff common room. The NSW Blues must crush the Queensland Cane Toads to keep the series alive.

Join us at 6:30 for dinner (Sausage sandwiches and drinks available for purchase from school Café.)

Students bring your dad, mum or both, and join with me as we cheer the Blues to victory.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

Wow! Mr Zanardo used to have hair!

What’s that shiny thing in Mr Crompton’s left ear?

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Unfortunately I missed the Junior School Athletics carnival last Tuesday as I celebrated the wedding of my eldest son on the Monday, and was not able to travel back to school in time.
Mr Brown assures me it was a fun day with a great competitive spirit balanced by excellent sportsmanship. Voice of the Martyrs (green House) were victorious on the day. A more detailed account comes later in this edition of School Talk.

COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE WEEK

This week we feature Joseph Jacob of Year 2. Joseph is one of our Year 2 students. He has been learning Spanish since Kindergarten here at Wycliffe. He is now in Mrs Dillen and Sheerman’s Year 2/3 class.

Spanish is one of the subjects in which he does very well. He regularly participates in Spanish activities, games and role-plays. He is eager to answer questions when learning new topics. When asked what he liked most about Spanish, he said: “I like doing activities that involve numbers, colours and shapes. I also like singing songs in Spanish.”

Mr Zanardo was happy to nominate Joseph since he is not only an outstanding Spanish student, but also a great student in so many of his other subjects. “I hope Joseph will continue to enjoy learning languages throughout his school life, and maybe choose Spanish for his HSC one day,” said Mr Zanardo.

LIBRARY NEWS

NOTICE

A copy of “A Fly Went By” has been returned to the school library by accident. It is not our copy. If you are missing your family copy of the book, please contact Mr Turner or Mr Cooney in the library.

INSTILLING THE LOVE OF READING

I wonder if you have seen the ABC series, Revolution School? Episode 2 addressed the basic learning areas of literacy and numeracy. It featured literacy expert, Diane Snowball. She worked with the staff of Victorian school, Kambriya College – the subject of the documentary series – to improve the reading habits and literacy levels of their students.

The first question that Snowball asked was whether the school had a good library, establishing the connection between achievements in literacy and adequate resourcing of the school library. This connection was reinforced, when she asked students in the school whether they read books and whether they borrowed books from the library.

Reading, Snowball says, helps students learn more about the world and expand their vocabulary. Acquiring knowledge through reading helps students to learn more. In the program, Snowball cites research that shows that high achieving students read three times as much as low-achieving students.

The program that Snowball recommends to improve reading and literacy is called Independent Reading. It is similar to the Wycliffe Wide Reading Program, which operates in the secondary school, and the DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) times in the primary school. In these programs ten to fifteen minutes is set aside for silent, individual reading.

Choice and availability of books is an important element in the Independent Reading program. While comprehension, or reading for meaning, is a key measure of reading success, this must begin with the students having texts that they can read with a high level of accuracy. The library is an important resource in providing students with access to quality books from a variety of genres and written for a range of ability levels.

SPORT

SECONDARY CSSA NETBALL GALA DAY

On the 6th June Wycliffe Christian School played in the CSSA Secondary Netball Gala Day at Jamison. There had been uncertainty as to whether the event would go ahead after the very wet weekend but much to our relief the rain stopped allowing the day to go ahead.

The U15s team played well, in both attack and defence. Each game saw the girl’s teamwork and game performance improve. Playing against some strong, competitive teams the girls displayed good athletic skill and tenacity on court, with many changing positions as the need arose. Centre court

Peter Jamieson
Principal

Mr Cooney

Mr Zanardo
Principal
players; Georgie Gregory, Sally O’Brien, Molly Gee and Chloe Welsman, enthusiastically and tirelessly drove the ball towards the goal post as well as often intercepting the opposition’s ball. Our powerhouse shooters; Mia Williams and Jasmyn Hughes, accurately and consistently kept our goal count rising against strong defense. While our defensive players, Madeline Barrett, Rebecca Tabor and Andrea Van Rensburg, were tight in defense making it hard work for the opposition to score against them.

Many thanks to the parents, Melanie Hughes, Sonya Tabor and Meredith Williams, who supported and encouraged the team for the day.

While the Open Girls team found themselves in a difficult draw against some stronger teams they played with commitment and enthusiasm. Their teamwork and general demeanour on court was a credit to them.

Siobhann and Sophie were enthusiastic in their vocal support of the team and played beautifully in the centre third positions. Gabi and Abby played with intensity throughout the games, Abby taking a nasty tumble in the first match, but bravely continued for the rest of the day. Alex played brilliantly at centre considering she hadn’t played netball for two years, a real pocket rocket! Vienna and Moriah were our stalwart defenders, giving their all, while Emma and Rachel racked up the goals at pleasing rate. The windy conditions not making goal shooting any easier. The girls were encouraging of each other and very gracious to me as their fearless leader on the day.

Well done girls, you all competed extremely well and displayed great sportsmanship on and off the court.

Mia Williams has been selected to join the CSSA Training Squad to compete at the CIS (Combined Independent Schools) Netball Gala Day. Congratulations Mia.

House who took out the day in a convincing fashion.

Congratulations also goes to the following age champions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Girl</th>
<th>Boy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Ivory Osborne</td>
<td>Robert-Joseph Slockee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Isabella Wilkinson</td>
<td>Harry Greenaway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Dakota Smith</td>
<td>Ronnie Morgans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Olivia Greenaway</td>
<td>Josiah Grierson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Megan Allen</td>
<td>Connor Edwards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Commendations go out to Josiah Grierson who broke the 11 yrs boys 800m record by two seconds. Additionally, Olivia Greenaway broke the 11 yrs girls high jump record as well as the long jump record. Wycliffe will be well represented at the up-and-coming Zone Athletics in August with some excellent athletes.

Athletics Carnivals don’t just happen without the hard work of a number of staff – including the Café staff, who put on an amazing spread of food – and the Year 10 PASS class that completed their set jobs dutifully. Finally, a **BIG THANK YOU** goes out to all of the parents who also gave up their time to help out with the day. A lot of parents stepped up and helped run a number of field events. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

**SCHOOL NOTICES**

**CAPA/ TAS CREATIVE DISPLAY EVENING**

CAPA and TAS student displays from Years 7-12, Featuring the Major Works of Year 12 IT, VA, PVDI, Music and Drama students.

**When: Tuesday 26 July, 7-9pm**

**Where:** Wycliffe Multipurpose Hall

**HOST FAMILIES NEEDED**

Wycliffe will be hosting a return visit by Living Spirit and China Holiness Colleges from 4th – 15th August. We are hoping our school can prove equally good hosts, especially through billeting our visitors with school families. Billets are required for boys and girls from Hong Kong ranging in ages from 14 to 17 years.
For expressions of interest in hosting a student visitor please email Mrs Tracey Brady at: tbrady@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au

Families of students, who have benefited from participating previously in the Hong Kong trip, are particularly encouraged to seriously consider returning the hospitality they received.

FLANNOFEST 2016
Friday 24th June 7PM. Joan Sutherland performing arts centre. Tickets $18 from box office. Call 4723 7600.

FLANNOFEST 2016

COMMUNITY NOTICES

BMMS - BE IN A LOCAL MUSICAL!

Blue Mountains Musical Society is bringing Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat to the Blue Mountains Theatre in Oct/Nov 2016!

Information Night (Springwood Sports Club) Wednesday 29th June 2016 at 7.30pm

All auditionees must be 8 years of age by the first rehearsal, 14th July 2016. There will be two children's chorus groups (8-12 years) and many roles for ages 12-18 years.

Mrs Maddock will be involved and is happy to answer questions or to help students who wish to audition.

EMOTIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS IN ADOLESCENTS

At the Centre for Emotional Health, Macquarie University, we are currently investigating the link between emotions and relationships in adolescents, and we are asking for your help! As part of a broader study helping teenagers with severe anxiety and depression, we are looking for a sample from a broad high school community to get a sense of the association between emotions and relationships in adolescents in general.

Your participation would involve completing an online questionnaire, and would be a very important and useful aspect of our research. To thank you for your time, participants who complete the survey will go into a draw to win one of two $50 gift vouchers.

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact:
  • Dr Carolyn Schniering (ph: (02) 9850 6741; email: carolyn.schniering@mq.edu.au)
  • Dr Danielle Einstein (ph: 0401 936 310; email: danielle.einstein@gmail.com)
  • Professor Ron Rapee (ph: (02) 9850 8032, email: ron.rapee@mq.edu.au)
  • Gabriella Asciak (honours student) gabriella.asciak@students.mq.edu.au

You can access the survey via: http://goo.gl/tPjhjw

Thank you for your help!