Over the past two editions of School Talk, focus has been given to symbols within our school that connect us with our core ideology. In week one of term we featured John Wycliffe, and the emphasis on the authority of the Bible, with the school bearing his name. Last week consideration was given to our foundation on partnering with parents. This week we explore the relevance of the school motto, ‘Remember Your Creator’.

The opening verse in the Bible reads:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1)

The Scriptural expression ‘heaven and earth’ means all that exists, or put simply God created everything. So what are the implications that flow from a worldview that acknowledges that God created everything?

Firstly if God created all that exists, he has a right to rule over all, including all human life. God’s creational intent was pure and ‘good’ (7 times ‘good’ appears in Genesis 1), indeed at the end of his creative efforts God states that his creation is ‘very good’.

In the Hebrew context, the language of the Old Testament, ‘good’ (Hebrew tôv) indicates that there was no sin or death or pain. It was creation as God meant it to be, a total sense of wellbeing, of harmony and fulfilment through perfect relationship with God, others, the world and even oneself.

Unfortunately through humankind’s disobedience (sin) everything became tainted and distorted through the Fall. Therefore the world is no longer exactly how it was meant to be. However Jesus is at work, redeeming and restoring creation to His original good intent. We are called to partner with Him in this work.

So when we encourage our students to remember their creator, we firstly acknowledge Jesus right to rule, and that we are to live lives that bring glory to Him, partnering with Him in redeeming a broken and lost world. Our students need to understand that this goal is fulfilled through the everydayness of life.

FAREWELL TO OUR SISTER SCHOOLS

Our school community formally farewelled our guests from China Holiness Church Living Spirit College and China Holiness College at a special assembly on Friday.

This year was extra special as the Principals of both schools, Mr Brian Fung and Ms Rona Law, accompanied their students. Central to the visit was the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding, committing our schools to ongoing relationship into the future.

Ms Inglis is presently looking for expressions of interest from present Yr 10 students for our next cultural exchange trip to Hong Kong, in April next year. Students interested in such a worthwhile experience please see Ms Inglis as soon as possible.
COMMUNITY NEWS

The school Working Bee held last Saturday once again proved to be a tremendous community event. Around 25 parents, with many children in tow, enjoyed each other's company while completing jobs around the grounds such as; painting the wall on the refurbished basketball courts, spring cleaning of B Block, water blasting clean of pathways and cleaning leaves and soil out of storm water pits.

Parents came together over morning tea where fine company and coffee (thanks to barista, Ms Inglis) were enjoyed.

Working Bees are scheduled for the third Saturday of each term from 8-12pm. Hours completed contribute to the Parent Involvement Program (PIP), and are credited against fee accounts once the 8 hours per family have been completed.

PARTNERING WITH OUR LOCAL CHURCHES

As a Christian school we are fully committed to partnering with local Christian churches in God’s wider Kingdom work in the mid to lower Blue Mountains.

C3 Church Blue Mountains have moved premises and now meet in our School hall on Sundays from 10am. Their first service on site at the school was last Sunday, and the pastors and their congregation were very grateful to be able to meet at Wycliffe. Further it was encouraging to see so many Wycliffe students, present and past, actively involved in the life of the church, especially in their worship band. Another church, Springwood Community Church, have for some time also been meeting on site at the school from 3pm on Sunday's.

C3 Church enjoying their first service at Wycliffe

If you are interested in finding a local church to call home, our school webpage has a link to the bottom right of the page, which provides a listing of local Christian churches and further links to their homepages.

It is a privilege to support and partner with all local churches, in Jesus' Kingdom ministry across the local region.

BEGINNING AND END OF DAY

There appears to be an increase in the number of students arriving to school late of a morning. I personally understand that the colder weather of late makes it more challenging to get out of a warm bed in the morning, however arriving late results in your child missing vital learning. Can I please encourage all parents to ensure that their children arrive prior to the start of the school day (Yrs 7-12 8:20am; K-6 8:30am). This will enable your children to maximise their learning opportunities.

Further, we have had a number of our younger students waiting unattended at the top of the drive (or playing on Warrimoo Oval) well past the end of the school day. While we understand that parents can get delayed on occasion, it is important for the School to ensure the safety of all students. Therefore students from K-6 must be picked up within the School grounds from either the D Block courtyard area or the other designated area adjacent to the bus bay. If an older sibling is taking responsibility then they too must attend this area for pickup. Any student that remains can then be led to School Reception to contact parents.

COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE WEEK

This week we feature Sarah Baker of Year 11. At the recent CSSA Zone Athletics Carnival Sarah provided an inspiring role model for all students. Pushing herself to near exhaustion she competed in many events on the day.

Sarah also encouraged younger students providing a model of servant leadership. We wish Sarah all the best as she progresses on to the CSSA State Athletics Carnival, where she will compete in long jump and javelin.

Peter Jamieson
Principal

LIBRARY NEWS

BOOK WEEK 2016

Each year, across Australia, the Children's Book Council of Australia brings children and books together celebrating Children's Book Week. As part of the celebration the CBCA nominates notable books by Australian authors and illustrators. From these a book of the year is chosen in each of the following categories: Early Childhood, Younger Readers, Older Readers, Picture Book and Information Book of the Year.

The theme for Book Week 2016 is Australia: Story Country. Story is a significant part of identity and community for all the cultural groups who have made their home in Australia. Indigenous story telling in
Australia is amongst the oldest in the world and is central to the knowledge and care of this ancient land. Story is also important to the understanding of our Creator God, who chooses to reveal himself through his Word. In the 2014 book, *Transformational Education*, the late Harry Burggraaf wrote of the importance of establishing a connection between a student's story, their community's story and God's story.

You can see a display featuring the short-listed books that are in our library collection as well as a complete list of all the nominated books. Over the next few weeks, School Talk will introduce some of these books that our children are reading and exploring in class and library lessons.

Wycliffe will be celebrating Book Week from August 29th to September 2nd. Among the activities planned for the week, is a Book Fair, which will be set up in the library. Students will be able to browse the books during the week but purchases will be restricted to Thursday and Friday for parents and students. There will, however, also be a special opportunity for Grandparents to purchase books on Wednesday afternoon August 31st.

Mr Turner and I would be glad to hear from any parents who would be able to assist with sales at the Book Fair before or after school on the Thursday or Friday. Please contact us in the school library if you are able to help.

**BOOK WEEK ACTIVITIES**

This year, Wycliffe Christian School will be celebrating Book Week from Monday August 29th. The main activities for the week will take place on Thursday September 1st. There will be a special K-6 assembly in period 4. This will include a Book Character Parade, for which the students are invited to come dressed as their favourite book character. There is no requirement that the character be from an Australian book or story.

After lunch, there will be a special drama performance entitled, Fair Dinkum, presented by the Perform! Education theatre group. Parents are welcome to attend one or both of these events.

There will be a Book Fair set up in the library during the week. Students will have the opportunity to browse the books. Purchases may be made by parents and grandparents on Wednesday August 31st, as part of Grandparent’s Day. The Fair will be open at lunchtime and after school on Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd for students, parents and carers to purchase books.

**SPORT NEWS**

**ATHLETICS CARNIVALS**

Over the past week our Secondary and Primary School Athletics teams competed at the Nepean Zone carnivals. Both were great days for the school as our students gave their best and showed wonderful School spirit.

The attitude of our students at both carnivals was a highlight as numerous students extended themselves and entered in events they normally wouldn’t have competed in to score additional points for the school.

The atmosphere around the Secondary Athletics team was electrifying as the team bonded together competing as a united unit. How wonderful it was to watch as some of our field event athletes filled some vacancies to race in the sprints and some of our sprinters filled in to compete in the field events. This commitment along with some fine individual performances resulted in Wycliffe winning the Schools Championship quite comfortably. Special mention to our Year 11 students who competed on the day, as they were outstanding role models for the team. Isaac Vujevic, Rohen Gash, Hugh Catchpoole, Eleanore Mercer, Sarah Baker, Aisha Hume and Mirren Inglis.

The following students won the distinction of being Zone Age Champions:

- Mia Williams 13 years Girls
- Eleanor mercer 16 years Girls
- Hugh Catchpoole 17 years Boys

_Mr Cooney_
With these students being Runners Up:

- James Clain 12 years Boys
- Isabella Casey 15 years girls
- Aisha Hume 17 years girls

From the Carnival, the following students will be representing our school and Nepean Zone at the Secondary CSSA State Athletics Carnival on 25th August at Homebush:


For our Primary students the day started with a team talk and a prayer and just like the Secondary it was a wonderful atmosphere as the students competed.

Mrs Sheerman did a wonderful job as Co-Team Manager and had the following to say:

"What a privilege it was to spend last Monday in the beautiful sunshine with an awesome group of students, teachers and parents at the Nepean Zone Athletics Carnival. It was so encouraging to see the way that the whole team worked together to make the day a wonderful success. It was evident that each child felt privileged to represent our school and was keen to use his or her God-given talents to benefit the team. There were many outstanding individual achievements on the day but what stood out to me was the humility of our athletes and the way in which the children rallied together and supported one another during the highs and lows of the day. Thank you Mr Stewart, Mr Brown, Mrs Brady, Mr Post, senior student helpers and parents for your contributions on the day. I was so proud to be a part of 'Team Wycliffe'."

To date the school has not received the full Zone results so I cannot announce any age champions or which school won the carnival.

These students qualified to represent the Nepean Zone at the CSSA State Carnival:


Special mention to the year 10 helpers who did a wonderful job with running shot put and turbo javelin. The help they gave was very much appreciated. Monique Gonzalez, Liam Gardiner, Tyler Whitehouse and Ethan Wallace.

Andrew Stewart
K-12 Sports Coordinator

SPORTS SPECIALIST PROGRAMS FOR SPEED

Just a reminder that Monday lunch times on Warrimoo Oval and Wednesday mornings starting at 7am (meeting at school gym), the school offers Specialist Fitness training to improve our athletes speed.

The Monday High intensity interval training is held by Mr and Mrs Morgans (Parents at the school). Mr Stewart runs the Wednesday morning Plyometric session. Please contact Mr Stewart on 0405 502 955 if you would like more information about these programs.

Please note that the Wednesday morning is primarily for Years 6 - 12, however, we do have some younger siblings also training with the group.

SCHOOL NOTICES

NAPLAN REPORTS 2016

Family copies of NAPLAN Reports arrived at school last week and were sent out via the students in Years 3, 5 and 7. As Year 9 were participating in Encounter Week activities, theirs will go home early this week. Students in these years sat tests in reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

The results this year were largely pleasing, with average student performance in line with expectations in the vast majority of tests. Years 3 and 5 were above state average in the two top band performances, with Years 7 and 9 improving significantly in this area in the majority of tests sat. Wycliffe has an open and non-selective enrolment policy. As such, it has been particularly pleasing that when looking at the performance of individual students, in almost all tests more than half the students (and in some cases significantly more), achieved greater than expected growth measured against where they were when they last sat NAPLAN.

The NAPLAN tests provide a snapshot of the student’s achievement against national benchmarks. Last week Ms Inglis met with the relevant department heads to discuss the results and begin the process of using the valuable information provided by the NAPLAN results to inform and build upon the ongoing work within teaching and learning programs.

It is important to remember that these tests are point-in-time and are best used in conjunction with other more in-depth assessment-for-learning activities carried out in the classroom. Should you have any questions arising from the NAPLAN Report, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher. They will be able to discuss your child’s progress in detail across their whole education which occurs here at school.

Although the school forwards on the letter containing the NAPLAN Report, any families requiring an additional copy should contact the school.
YEAR 12 TRIAL HSC EXAMINATIONS

Last week our Year 12 students completed their Trial Examinations. This is a significant event for these students as in many cases it marks their final school-based assessment prior to the Higher School Certificate Examinations in Term 4. The students are to be congratulated for their maturity and application during the Trials and are encouraged to really focus their efforts on fine-tuning their skills, knowledge, understanding and examination technique in these final weeks of their formal schooling. The remainder of this term provide the last few weeks for students to receive feedback from their teachers and work on minimising areas of weakness. Additionally, many of our students have either handed in Major Works in English Extension 2, Music 1, Industrial Technology Timber, Visual Arts and/or Drama or are preparing for external examiners to visit the school to assess this aspect of their course work. Our prayers are with them as they navigate what can be a difficult time to keep the energy up so that they can display their God-given talents to the best of their ability.

YEAR 11 YEARLY EXAMINATIONS

Year 11 now also begin their final push towards Yearly Examinations in their Preliminary HSC Courses. The Examination timetable will be out this week, and will begin on Thursday 8th September and conclude Friday 16th September. Students are encouraged to plan their study and preparation time around this, particularly for examinations which are close together. Along with the examination notification, students will receive study guidelines from their teachers outlining in more detail how they can prepare. These students will have a meeting with Ms Inglis to talk through expectations and requirements whilst they are on Study Leave during the examination period, as well as within the actual examinations. Preliminary HSC Yearly Examinations are an important avenue for students to demonstrate their understanding of course work and receive feedback and act on the advice given.

Students in VET classes should note that VET classes continue as per normal during the examination block and attendance is necessary to complete the competencies accounted with these courses.

PREPARATION FOR YEAR 11 2017

The current Year 10 students have been thinking about their subjects for 2017, and this week will receive the final course selection form. The information provided from the initial survey has resulted in a good alignment of subjects into lines. The Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards states that no school is able to provide every subject for every student, but Wycliffe strives to find the best fit for each cohort, therefore embarking on a survey of student’s wishes in the first instance. It is not unusual for some clashes to exist as a result of this process, however, this year there appear to have been fewer than in previous years. Subjects which received little or no interest in the survey will not appear on the final selection form. At the Information Evening earlier this term, students were advised to think broadly about their choices. In looking at the subject selection form when it is published, continue to consider all options and read the instructions and guidelines for completing the form. Should you wish to discuss in further detail how to build a suite of courses to suit your child and their particular needs, there are a number of staff who can assist in this process. Mrs Julie Pickworth is available to discuss aspects of courses leading to particular careers as well as VET and School-based Apprenticeships. Ms Michaela Inglis can speak more broadly about different subjects and how to resolve clashes or other factors. Additionally, the various staff and relevant Heads of Department would be happy to take queries relating to their subject areas at any time before the due date of the form.

STAGE 5 ELECTIVES 2017

The Stage 5 Elective Form will also be given to students this week, with clear guidelines for completion and submission of choices. Each student in Years 8 and 9 this year will have received a personalised Handbook outlining all the information for each course. It is important that students currently in Year 9 are aware that there are avenues within the program for them to follow a pathway for their current elective if they choose to continue in it. Students in this situation will be given preference entry into these particular electives and should discuss with their current elective teacher which courses to take in this instance.

UNIVERSITIES EARLY ENTRY PROGRAMMES – YEAR 12

Many Universities offer Early Entry Programmes for current Year 12 students and many are part of the Schools Recommendation Scheme as found on the UAC website [www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au) which afford students the ability to apply for university entrance based on a range of factors, not simply academic performance. Our students have been encouraged to investigate these programmes and if interested apply. Two Early Entry Programmes are listed below.

**ACU Early Achievers’ Program** - Applications open 8th August and close October, 2016. ACU recognises that students have more to offer than your academic results. Our Early Achievers’ Program considers the contribution you have made to your community through your school or workplace, local community organisation, cultural and/or religious group. Applications open 8th August and close October, 2016. For more information please visit [www.acu.edu.au/early-achievers](http://www.acu.edu.au/early-achievers)

**UOW Early Admission** - UOW Early Admission Applications open on August 1. Students can apply for Early Admission at [http://goo.gl/TrGFpC](http://goo.gl/TrGFpC). Applicants for Early Admission must be in Year 12 in 2016, and completing the HSC or interstate equivalent, or the IB on-shore at an Australian High School, be under 21 years of age, and eligible for to receive an ATAR or IB Diploma. Early Admission applications are also being taken for the UOW South Western Sydney campus - opening in 2017.