FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I would like to take the opportunity to encourage all families of the school to set aside the evening of Tuesday 8th December, where as a community we will enjoy our annual Celebration concert. As we draw towards Christmas, appropriately this year’s theme is “The Story of the Messiah”.

The word Messiah is Jewish in origin and means “Anointed One”, the name given to the promised Deliverer who would some day come to the people of Israel as their great Saviour and Redeemer, anointed by God as Prophet, Priest and King.

Jewish believers who founded the Christian church recognised Jesus of Nazareth as this promised Messiah. “Christ” is not Jesus surname, but actually is the Greek equivalent of Messiah. The good news for all humanity was that Jesus came not only as the Messiah of the Jewish people, but the Christ, Lord and Saviour for all people.

The first Christians did not just base their belief on Jesus’ personal claims. The whole of the Old Testament foreshadowed His coming and the redemption that flowed from his death and resurrection. Indeed there were hundreds of specific prophecies that Jesus fulfilled to the letter, centuries after they were penned.

Such examples include Jesus’ virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14); His birth in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2); His crucifixion (Psalm 22:14-18); His bodily resurrection (Psalm 16:10). There are many other examples. The probability that hundreds of such specific predictions, each quite independent of the others, could all be fulfilled concurrently in one individual, is unlikely in the highest degree. No rational conclusion seems possible except that Jesus is all He claims - Messiah, Savior, Lord and God.

I reiterate my invitation and encouragement for all families to join students, staff and parents of the Wycliffe community, in the School Hall from 7pm – 9pm, when as a community we will publically acknowledge through the giftings of our students that Jesus is indeed the Lord and Saviour of all.

John Chapter 4 recounts a conversation between Jesus and a Samaritan woman at a well.

“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”
“Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

(John 4:19-26)

**Wycliffe in the News**

Wycliffe students featured in the Blue Mountains Gazette this week. Open the link below and turn to Page 23 to view a newspaper article regarding Remembrance Day at Wycliffe.


**Christmas Cards**

The Christmas card packs, designed by our students, have finally arrived at school and distribution to families has already begun. There are 6 different designs per pack (including Eleanor’s and Aiden’s). The cards are professionally printed with high quality finish. A pack of 6 cards sells for $5, or 5 packs (30 cards) for $20. All profits will be donated to Destiny Rescue, the school’s signature charity that works to free children from slavery across Asia.

They are available at reception or over the counter at the café. Alternatively the form (on page 1) can be filled out, detached and returned with money in a sealed envelope to the specially marked box in reception. Such orders will be distributed directly to students.

We have 1500 packs to sell so I request families to see if they can encourage family, friends or neighbours to also purchase.

**Community Member of the Week**

This week we feature Rhain Jackson (Yr 8). Rhain joined our school community in March this year. He quickly adjusted to the new school setting and faces each day with enthusiasm and joy. He has a friendly disposition and is always willing to lend a helping hand. He is certainly enjoying his time at Wycliffe, and is developing into a fine young man.

*Peter Jamieson Principal*

**From the Deputy Principal**

**Kindy Transport Excursion**

Despite the heat, Kindy students accompanied by many parents, braved the public transport system and ventured into the city. We caught trains, light rail and a ferry. Very exciting, especially for those kids who had never travelled by any of these.

However the highlight had to be the water play at the water park in Darling Harbour. The children were literally dripping wet – lovely and cool, at least for a little while. Parent helpers were wonderful and Catherine Short had organised the trip thoroughly. It is certainly one we would happily repeat!

**Christmas Hamper Appeal**

Please remember to bring in those pantry items. God blesses us all abundantly – this is a great opportunity for us to bless others.

**Date Claimer - K-6 Achievement Assemblies – December 11th**

Due to the larger number of year groups (K-6 this year, instead of K-4 last year) we are making some changes to the timing.

- **8:45 am to 10:00 am** - Kindergarten to Year 2 (with guest appearances of Yr 6 Buddies)
- **10:15 am to 11:45 am** - Years 3 to 6
- **12:00 pm to 1:30 pm** - Year 7 and Year 8

All will be held in the Hall, and we would love as many parents, grandparents and friends to come along and join with us in recognising the achievements the children have made this year.

*Coral Edwards Deputy Principal*
William Shakespeare is arguably the greatest playwright in Western culture. His dramatic portrayal of the motives, drives and aspirations that make up the human condition are unmatched. As a poet, his use and invention of language have had a lasting effect on the English language. Yet it is the language of the plays that often prove a large hurdle, particularly for school-age students.

There are many strategies employed to overcome the language obstacle for younger audience members. One has been to focus on the engaging stories and characters, which continue to provide a template for popular story telling. This has been the approach of author Andrew Matthews in his re-telling of the famous bard.

Matthews says that he fell in love with Shakespeare when he was 11 years-old, so it is not surprising that he would take up the challenge of introducing Shakespeare to young readers. Although initially reluctant to “muck about with the work of England's greatest writer”, Matthews realised that it was the stories that would appeal to his audience. The resulting twenty books are appropriately pared down and plot-heavy. However, the stories and language are made suitable for its audience, rather than dumbed down. Shylock's famous speech, for example, becomes: “Remember that Jews are just as human as you. If you cut us, we bleed, if you poison us, we die - and if you insult us, we will have our revenge”.

Not that reducing a play such as Hamlet, which runs for over three hours, into the prescribed 2500, was an easy task. Matthews says, “With each play, I faced the problem of deciding what to keep in, and what to leave out. I was lucky enough to work with two brilliant illustrators, Angela Barrett and Tony Ross.” The illustrations keep the energy up and have a great pen and ink style that draws the reader in. There's also a brief explanation of the play at the end, and some information about how it was performed at the Globe Theatre in Shakespeare's day. You can find Andrew Matthews' retelling of Shakespeare's Stories in the Wycliffe library. Each is titled after the name of the original, with Matthews as the author in the catalogue.

Vanessa and Miriam

Upcoming school events are available from: www2.wycliffe.nsw.edu.au/calendars
Wycliffe Christian School Celebration Concert 2015

The Story of the Messiah

Tuesday 8th December, 2015
7pm - 9pm (Doors open 6:45pm)
Wycliffe School Hall

Featuring Student Displays from K-12
Students are reminded to please sit with their parents