FROM THE PRINCIPAL

HONG KONG EXCHANGE VISIT

Over the April vacation break I was fortunate enough to accompany our touring Year 11 students on their overseas trip to Hong Kong/China. Over the three weeks students enjoyed a wonderful cultural and service experience through:

- Cross Roads Foundation: Social justice mission situated in Hong Kong.
- A brief venture across the border into China.
- Visits to our sister schools; China Holiness College and Living Spirit College.

There were many new and interesting experiences for students. Massive cities and crowded public transport, experiencing remnants of Chinese culture dating back millennia, not to mention new and exotic cuisine (eg. chicken served beak and all).

The real highlight of the venture was the opportunity to share relationship with people from another culture, especially during our four-day visit to Living Spirit College, and our day visit to China Holiness College (both located in Hong Kong).

Our schools have shared a growing partnership over the past decade. Living Spirit College’s principal, Mr Brian Fung, and China Holiness College acting principal, Ms Rona Law, proved wonderful and devoted hosts making our students and staff feel very welcome and cared for.

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

I would particularly encourage families of students who have benefited from participating previously in the Hong Kong trip, to seriously consider returning the hospitality they received.

STATE OF ORIGIN

Our school community will be gathering in the staff common room to enjoy watching the NSW Blues crush the cane toads of Queensland in the second match of this year’s NRL state of Origin season.

I have picked up some grumblings among some sections of our community that I may be ‘out of touch’ and even ‘sexist’ in advertising this as a ‘father & son’ night and maybe my mention that mums and daughters allowed ‘under protest’ has been misinterpreted (it was really tongue in cheek). The focus on fathers & sons was to encourage a greater involvement of fathers in their son’s lives, something research highlights as lacking and in much need as boys grow into adolescence.

None the less I have heard the concern and renamed the occasion a community event, all welcome (although students must be accompanied by a parent/adult).

As mentioned in an earlier edition the date has been shifted to game two of the series, Wednesday June 22nd. Dinner will be available through the School Café 133 from 6:30pm, with the game commencing on the big screen at 7:30pm.
COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE WEEK

This week we feature school mum and parent of Liam (Yr 10), Angela Murphy.

God has gifted Angela with vision, drive and huge energy reserves. These combined with her industry experience has seen Angela volunteer her time in overseeing the rejuvenation of the school café/canteen. The refurbishment has improved practical aspects of service, and the increased range has enhanced daily sales (the bacon and egg breakfast roll has proved a huge hit with our senior students).

For a number of years the café/canteen had operated with huge annual financial losses, to the point where the ongoing viability of the service had come into question. The new service is already indicating much improved financial performance, and the future of the Café 133 is looking far brighter.

We thank Angela for her service to God and the families He has called to our school.

CLASS OF ’76

Digging through the archives I came across these photographs of the first students of the then, John Wycliffe Christian School. My research also corrected the common held view that the school opened in 1977, when actually these students were enrolled in 1976. Thus, this year is actually our 40th!

If anyone knows the whereabouts of any from the inaugural cohort please let me know, as I would love to have them share some of their stories of the school’s early days in a subsequent edition of school talk.

LIBRARY NEWS

I GOT THIS HAT

On Wednesday May 25th, students from Years P to 3 joined with others from around Australia to enjoy a reading of I Got This Hat by Jol and Kate Temple. The Pre-school were treated to a live reading by Molly Gee and Keira Lee, while the other students enjoyed viewing the book on the large screen in the library.

The students made their own hats in preparation for the event. Following the story, Mr Cooney talked about some special hats in addition to those already on display in the library and the students completed some special activities, including drawing their own imaginative hats.

Mr Cooney

SCHOOL NEWS

Making a Stand for Freedom

(make a stand for freedom)
WYCLIFFE STUDENTS MADE A BIG STAND

Friday 20th May was Make a Stand Day here at Wycliffe. More than 60 students from year 5-12 registered on the Destiny Rescue page to stand on the day. On the day students from K-12 dressed in bright yellow and orange, adding to the happy mood of the day. During the lunch break, volunteers from the Destiny Rescue House sold Destiny Rescue jewellery and cupcakes.

Unbelievably more than $6000 has been raised so far! This money will help support the rescue, care and prevention of young children trapped in modern day slavery. A big thank you to all the students and teachers that spent time planning and running the event. Well done!!

SPORT

PRIMARY ATHLETICS CARNIVAL 14TH JUNE

Mr Brown is still looking for parent help for the Primary Athletics Carnival. Parents can help out for half of the day (morning or afternoon) or a full day. If you assist for a full day and inform Mr Brown beforehand, you are able to claim PIP. Please contact Mr Brown at the school by the school phone number or via email: jbrown@wycliffe.nsw.edu.au

MOUNTAIN BIKING GOES PLACES!

Mountain Biking this term has allowed the students to discover new tracks in the Blue Mountains. Every Friday before school, Mr Zanardo has been planning the perfect ride around Fire Trails and single tracks in preparation for the following Tuesday.

On the day, students load their bikes onto the school’s trailer and set off on the mini-bus at the beginning of lunch. So far, the students have travelled to Faulconbridge Point, Shaws Ridge (Winmalee), Hazelbrook’s Single Trail and Spurwood Loop (Blaxland).

In coming weeks, it is hoped that the students will be able to enjoy Knapsack Track and the single tracks of the Oaks (Glenbrook) before re-discovering some of the local favourites: Sun Valley Loop, Long Angle Trail and Five Ways to Blaxland.

A big thank you goes out to Mr Charles Hardimon who has been assisting as supervisor and mobile-mechanic each week.

Well done to mr Zarnardo for his commitment and professionalism in making this a fun and safe activity for those that have an interest in this sport.