While there is an air of excitement as we approach Christmas and the new year ahead, this time of the year often brings mixed news as well. It is with great sadness that I announce to our school community that our Deputy Principal, Mrs Coral Edwards, will be leaving Wycliffe at the end of the year to take up a teaching and leadership position in Dale Christian School, Newcastle.

Dale Christian Young Parents’ School has a mission to teenage mothers, presenting a flexible learning environment to ensure that these young women have access to ongoing education. The School not only delivers an accredited school program, but supports students as they grow as young women and mothers.

Our whole school community recognises Mrs Edward's huge pastoral heart. She believes God has opened this position to her, and thus has embraced the opportunity.

Mrs Edwards has faithfully served God and our school community for 16 years in roles varying from classroom teacher, Primary Coordinator and Deputy Principal/Head of Campus. We thank her for her commitment and contribution to the school, especially the love and care she has shown for staff, students and their families. While she will be sorely missed our prayers go with her as she obediently follows God into this next stage of life.

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.”

(John 10:1-4)

STAGE 4 (YEARS 7 & 8) 2016

For next year there will be a few changes in relation to Stage 4 (Years 7 & 8) of learning.

It is important to recognise that in God’s eyes we are all equal, and He gifts each with varying interests and talents. In reinforcing this principle while there will still be a 7/8 class for students who struggle in their learning, and another for the more able students in the year groups, the labels ‘Adventurers’ and ‘Explorers’ will be dropped. This decision has been made to reduce the stigma that may be associated with being labelled an Adventurer, and to address any false sense of pride for those who happen to be in the Explorers class. Placement in these classes will be aligned with subject areas according to the specific strengths and weaknesses of each student.

Further the elective lines that were part of the Stage 4 program will be incorporated into the core subjects. It was felt that each of the specialities offered presented wonderful learning opportunities for all students, and therefore all would benefit from each unit (eg. Robotics will be delivered to all through the Technical and Applied Studies [TAS] program). This will ensure students have exposure to a breadth of practical experiences before they specialise in their later years of schooling.

These changes will further strengthen the educational programs in the early years of high school, and set firm foundations for future learning.

COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE WEEK

This week we feature Grace Lewis of 3/4SW. Grace possesses a gentle and caring nature that is appreciated by her friends and peers.
In class she sets a positive example for other students, working hard and displaying a willingness to try new challenges. She has wonderful manners and is always respectful and thoughtful towards her teachers. Her wonderful smile brightens the day for all she comes in contact with.

Peter Jamieson
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

OPAL CARDS

As mentioned in Week 5, in 2016 Opal Cards will replace bus passes. Most students will automatically receive a card, however the exceptions are:

- Students moving from Year 2 into Year 3
- Students moving from Year 6 into Year 7
- Students who are changing schools
- Students whose personal details (address) have changed

Application forms are available online at: www.transportnsw.info/school-students
Once on this site, click on the link for Application for School Subsidised Travel (not Bus Pass).

Parents of the above students need to download the form and complete it. The form should then be returned to the school (or the new school if applicable) and we will then send the forms on. All new cards will be sent directly to your address.

Should the card be lost, new cards can be ordered directly from the website above. Please return completed application forms to school by Wednesday 9th December.

K-2 BIG SPLASH

What a great way to cool off on a hot day! Students from K-2, teachers and parents ventured to Glenbrook pool for an afternoon of fun on Thursday. Some were so excited to be in the water, they didn't bother changing or even taking their shoes off (including Mr Powell!!)

The teachers had organised a range of activities suitable for all children in each of the 3 pools.

In the paddle pool they gathered balls and made whirlpools

In the middle pool they rescued ducks, dived for rings and played with the beach balls

And in the Olympic pool, they had kickboard and noodle races – even tandem!

We all had a great day!

SOME PHOTOS FROM KINDY’S TRANSPORT EXCURSION.

Water seems to be a common theme...

...and also with Preschool!
**WYCLIFFE SINGERS**

The “Wycliffe Singers” are a choir made up of ex Wycliffe students and current staff. They were recently accepted to perform in the coming Belvoir St Theatre Sydney Festival production, The Events. This play was first performed in the 2013 Edinburgh Festival and centres on the story of healing after a shocking terrorist event takes place during a community choir rehearsal, affecting the entire community and in particular, the local Minister and Choir Director. The “Wycliffe Singers” will be performing in the production on Sunday 17th January at 2pm at Granville Town Hall. See the website below for more details:


*Corali Edwards  
Deputy Principal*

**SCHOOL FEES PAYMENT FOR 2016**

If you haven’t already done so, please ensure you return the [direct debit form](http://goo.gl/3II2V2) (sent recently with the fees schedule for next year) **before Wednesday 9th December** to enable us to set up payments in January. Just let us know how frequently you want the direct debit to occur and we will calculate the figures for you.

*Direct Debit Form: [http://goo.gl/3II2V2](http://goo.gl/3II2V2)*

*James Chik  
Business Manager*

**WYCLIFFE VOLLEYBALL SQUAD TO COMPETE IN NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 5TH-12TH DECEMBER, 2015.**

On the 5th December the Wycliffe Senior Volleyball squad and members of the Wycliffe Community will be travelling to Melbourne to compete in this years Australian Volleyball School Cup - the largest school based event in the Southern Hemisphere. Wycliffe, along with 450 other teams from over 150 schools from around the country, will be competing in a week long tournament at 3 separate venues across Melbourne city. If you want to find out more about this competition and track how the boys are doing in their games go to the following links:


The Volleyball Squad would like to thank their major sponsor, Lower Mountains Landscape Supplies.

**PIANO EXAM NEWS**

Congratulations to Phoebe Duncan, Olivia Greenaway, Alexa Hafner-Keelan, Miriam Nassif, Harriet Wilkinson and Hamish Wright on their recent achievements in the Australian Music Examination Board exams. This examination system is now run by the Board of Studies and is an internationally recognised award. We were proud of how hard our students worked and they were all specially commended by the examiner for their excellent preparation at the end of the day. (Examiners don't usually come out and talk afterwards!)

*Miriam and Vanessa Padgett*

**CAR WASH - 7TH, 8TH DECEMBER**

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**THE LIBRARY AND ICT PROFICIENCY**

A few weeks ago I wrote about the significant continuing role of the school library in supporting learning and literacy in the digital age. The results of the latest ACARA ICT tests confirm the importance of teaching students how to organize and use information effectively. Speaking about the findings on ABC Radio last week, chairman of ACARA Emeritus Professor Steven Schwartz said that while students can do a Google search they “don’t know what to do with the information once they have it”.

**Year 10 Service Project**

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**SCHOOL TALK**
As well as a range of formatting and device management skills, students are required to be creators of digital products. This is not necessarily a reference to coding, which has also been a subject of media discussion lately, but to having the skills to present information and commentary for a live or online audience. These are skills that require intentional teaching, according to Professor Schwartz. "It appears that we cannot expect students to become proficient on important employability and life skills, just by using computing devices for games and social interaction. They also need to be taught the relevant knowledge, understanding and skills."

Despite a lack of direction from the Australian curriculum, parents will be aware of the attention being given by teachers at Wycliffe to skills such as creating slideshows, animations and websites in both primary and secondary classes. The introduction of GAFE applications such as Slides and Sites will further enhance the opportunity that Wycliffe students have for learning and applying such skills.

The school library is not just a repository of knowledge, ideas and stories. It is a learning commons, where students acquire skills in how to use and create information. The aim is not just to gain information. The Bible calls us to gain understanding. “We must turn information into knowledge and knowledge into wisdom.” Through collaboration between the library staff and classroom teachers, our students are able to develop an advanced level of skills in locating, evaluating and using information and related resources wisely and effectively. They learn to question, explore, process, evaluate and critique. Digital technology is a powerful tool but students require training from experienced educators if they are to develop the proficiency to make a positive difference through technology.

Read More:
http://goo.gl/eiGZWM

Mr Cooney

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming school events are available from:
www2.wycliffe.nsw.edu.au/calendars

COMMUNITY NOTICES

BLUE MOUNTAINS YOUTH CHOIR


- Wednesdays 3.45 – 5pm (Katoomba)
- Thursdays 3.45 – 5pm (Springwood)

Cost is $100 per 10 week term. Apply from 1st December. To apply, or for more information:
- Or E-Mail: bmyc@academysingers.com.au

SCHOOL HOLIDAY TENNIS COACHING CLINIC

For children ages 5 – 16 (beginners to advanced). Full supervision. Racquets are also available for hire. Lunch provided on the day, along with prizes!

Springwood World of Tennis, Spring Street, Springwood

Option 1: Mon 21st to Wed 23rd Dec 2015 (9AM to 3PM)
Option 2: Mon 11th to Fri 15th Jan 2016 (9AM to 3PM)
Option 3: Mon 18th to Fri 22nd Jan 2016 (9AM to 3PM)

For more information, or to book, please ring 4751 5383 OR 0416 083 472

Student Name: ____________________________
Class: ____________________________
Number of card packs: ____________________________
Amount enclosed: $________
Pack of 6 cards $5, or 5 packs (30 cards) $20

Proceeds will be donated to ‘Destiny Rescue’, the school’s signature charity that works across Asia, rescuing children from the sex trade.
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