

SCHOOL TALK



Welcome to your Term 2 Newsletter

Dear Wycliffe Community, this edition of School Talk is all about telling our stories and celebrating God in our midst. As you look through this expanded edition my hope is that you will get a clear sense of the wonderful learning activities that are occurring across Wycliffe and are part of daily life for our students.

I recently decided to create a summary for our Board members of all the extra-curricular as well as curriculum enrichment events that had occurred since our last meeting. Contained in the summary were sporting events like the Winmalee Cup and Volleyball Cup through to different Youth Leadership days hosted by Western Sydney University and Crusaders on to school events of "Make a Stand" and Medieval Day. Also captured were offsite HSC enrichment days for English and History. As I reflected on the whole list it was wonderful to see the commitment to real and deep learning that is strongly valued and which permeates our culture.

As we reach the middle of the year one of the stories to celebrate is the number of volunteers who are so consistently giving of their time to enhance the learning experiences of our students. I have loved seeing parents, grandparents and others connected to the school helping out as officials at our sporting events and carnivals, transporting students, providing learning support in exams and helping in the classroom. To each of you, please know that your time is greatly appreciated and is providing a great blessing to our students and staff.

Another dynamic that I am very thankful for is the commitment to ongoing learning that I

see in staff across the school. As I mentioned in an earlier update, we have been utilising data from NAPLAN and other diagnostic reports to drill into the impact that current teaching practices are having for our students. This is allowing us to see areas of learning that we can strengthen alongside areas that are already strengths at both an individual and whole cohort level. We have also been looking at John Hattie's research material on teacher efficacy and visible learning and asking how it may inform our pedagogy. It is a privilege to work with colleagues who by their personal actions communicate how much they value lifelong learning.

In the following pages you will find more snapshots of stories that capture the heartbeat of Wycliffe. Each of them reflect different aspects of realising our vision statement "Encouraging learning founded on God's word – nurturing faith, unwrapping truth, encouraging discernment and enabling thoughtful action." As you take time to read through them during the school break I hope that you are encouraged by the reality of our Creator, in the midst of the diverse learning that is occurring across our school.

God Bless,
Dave Johnston – Principal

Inside this issue



<i>From the Deputy's desk</i>	2
<i>For your diary</i>	2
<i>Preschool</i>	3
<i>K-6 A Snapshot</i>	4
<i>Property Report</i>	7
<i>Community Garden</i>	7
<i>Sports Wrap-up</i>	8
<i>Stage 4 Report</i>	10
<i>Stage 5 Pastoral Care Program</i>	12
<i>From the Library</i>	14
<i>From the Board</i>	15
<i>Creative Arts</i>	16
<i>United through Sport</i>	18
<i>STEM</i>	19
<i>Community Notice</i>	20

From the Acting Deputy's Desk

Vicki Williams

One of the roles I have enjoyed as Acting Deputy at Wycliffe is being able to connect with teaching staff, students, parents and administration staff right across the school. It has been a privilege to see how our whole school community works for the benefit and building up of each other.

What a joy on the first day of Kindergarten to welcome so many past students bringing their little ones back to continue being part of the Wycliffe family.

What a full and busy two terms it has been. Come with me on a walk around the school and catch a glimpse of the passionate learning culture that is so much a part of our school. Let's start at Reception where we are greeted warmly as we sign in. In the offices on the top floor we can hear the murmur of meetings, the hum of administration, the hearty laugh of the Principal.

Going down the stairs we can look across to the oval where we see students involved in a variety of sports; involved in creative writing activities; or enjoying

group learning activities in the sunshine. We can get a quick cup of coffee at the Café or sit a while and talk and pray with friends and then head through C block where we hear traces of Shakespeare being performed or Spanish conversation taking place.

We need to drop into the D block classrooms and be amazed at the creativity of our younger students – walls bursting with colourful art; bread going mouldy for a Science experiment; History posters or artefacts lining the shelves. There will be teachers' aides from our Ed Support Department giving encouragement as they engage students in a variety of learning activities to meet their needs.

If we listen closely as we pass the Hall we can hear an assembly or perhaps a game of netball and in the distance too we might catch a drama game or rehearsal taking place in the Drama room.

A Block will engage all our senses as we smell scones cooking, see a variety of materials being used and hear a cacophony of musical instruments blending with tools from the TAS department. B Block will engage us in a world of numbers and experiments as students do real life calculations and learn about the chaos and the order God's creation.

A last peek into the Art room and we'll be tempted to pick up a brush or mould some clay or head further downstairs to explore some photography, then our tour is at an end.

We are left with the feeling that Wycliffe is a passionate learning community, enabling students and staff to enjoy God's creation, explore the world He has made and together, as a community glorify Him.



Dates for your diary

A quick snapshot of some of the events and activities coming in Term 3 – be sure to check out the calendar in the Skoolbag App or in the parent portal on the school website for more events and details.

Monday 23rd July – Preschool Term 3 commences

Week 1

Monday 30th July – Term 3 commences

Wednesday 1st August – K-10 Parent Teacher Interviews

Thursday 2nd August – Primary Zone Athletics

Week 2

Monday 6th August – Café and Play

Wednesday 8th August – Secondary Zone Athletics

Thursday 9th August – CSSA Soccer and Netball Gala Day (Primary)

Week 3

Monday 13th August – Community Health Audit

Presentation by Endeavour

Tuesday 14th August – Year 5 & 6 Information Evening

Friday 17th August – Primary State Athletics

Saturday 18th August – Community Garden Working Bee

Week 4

Wednesday 22nd August – Book Week Celebrations

Friday 24th August – Secondary State Athletics

Saturday 25th August – Preschool Open Day

Week 5

Wednesday 29th August – Year 7 Orientation Day

Week 6

Monday 3rd September – Café and Play

Thursday 6th September – Year 7 Information Evening

Friday 7th September – K-6 Fundraising Day

Saturday 8th September – Community Working Bee

Week 7

Tuesday 11th September – Kindergarten Information Evening

Tuesday 11th September – Open Day – School Tours

Week 9

Wednesday 26th September – K-6 Assembly

Thursday 27th September – Year 12 Graduation Assembly & Evening

Term 2 at Wycliffe Preschool

In an early childhood setting the curriculum refers to everything that occurs (activities, routines, events, interactions and experiences) whether they are planned or unplanned.

Our curriculum provides the children with rich learning opportunities that will foster their love of learning and develop all aspects of the whole child (physical, social, emotional, spiritual and cognitive areas). At all times through the program

we offer at Wycliffe preschool we endeavour to be responsive to children's strengths, abilities and interests. This term there have been some fun and rich learning experiences happening at our preschool. The following are just a few of the experiences.

Julie Taylor – Preschool Teacher/Director

Woodwork has been offered this term, with many children eager to have a turn.



Woodworking at Preschool



Munch and Move

Munch and Move is a NSW Health Program for early childhood and it presents six key messages that we focus on at preschool in a variety of ways. Each term we include a week where we focus on "Eating more fruits and vegetables", which is one of the key messages. We plan a specific food experience for morning tea during this week.

Last term the children made fruit and vegetable creations on rice or corn cakes. This term we have had "Slinky Apple Week". The children loved eating their slinky apples! Somehow apples taste even better this way. They also made orange jelly by squeezing a lot of oranges to extract one litre of orange juice. They learnt about substances "dissolving" in a liquid as they added sugar and then gelatine and stirred. We learnt a rhyme:

*"Jelly in a bowl, jelly in a bowl.
Wibble, wobble, wibble, wobble,
Jelly in a bowl"*

and we wibbled and wobbled our bodies just like jelly.



Get active each day

Another key message of Munch and Move is to "Get active each day" and so we intentionally teach Fundamental Movement Skills and incorporate many action songs and rhymes and games.

So far this term we have focused on running, jumping, hopping and galloping. During our "running" weeks the children became very interested in the traditional story of the gingerbread man and so we extended their interest through a cooking experience, making our very own gingerbread men. We played two running games on the small oval at school ("Mouse Tag" and "The Gingerbread Man Chasing Game") and these have become favourites and are often requested by the children.

At the K-2 Sports Morning during the novelty events the preschool children played these two running games. As they ran they practiced keeping heads up, keeping knees up and swinging arms.



National Simultaneous Storytime

The Wednesday preschool children had an opportunity to join some of the primary children in the library and watch a screening of the reading of the book "Hickory Dickory Dash" by T Wilson. This took place at exactly 11 o'clock when all around Australia children were participating in this simultaneous story time.

As part of this literacy experience the preschool children sponge printed mouse ears to make hats and they went home as little mice. They also sung a long version of Hickory Dickory Dock using felt board pictures and musical instruments (to add sound effects). The children practised telling the time when it is "something" o'clock, looking at the number the little hand is pointing to. The children enjoyed this special story and related activities and the connection they experienced between the preschool and the broader school community. This is one of many experiences throughout the year that help the preschool children to experience a smooth transition to school when the time comes.



Year 5 and 6 at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra

K-6 Snapshot

'So much to do, so little time' is an apt saying that describes life in the K-6 section of Wycliffe Christian School. A busy and exciting term, full of new experiences, challenges and learning, has helped to grow our understanding of ourselves, and our place in God's world.

Years 4, 5 and 6 enjoyed some time away at their respective camps. Year 4 looked for gold at Hill End whilst Years 5/6 observed gold being made into Commonwealth Games medals at the Royal Australian Mint as part of their trip to Canberra. Both groups represented themselves, their families and their school well.



Year 4 Camp to Hill End

D3 is an exciting place to 'bee' during lunch times.

What's the buzz all about? On any day students can be involved in making, cooking, creating, playing, thinking and other activities that extend the mind and enrich the learning experience.

According to Blaise Pascal, 'chess is the gymnasium of the mind' and on Mondays, Mr Brown provides a good 'workout' for those who are brave enough to challenge him to a game.

Students, who aren't as familiar with chess, are provided with instruction from Mr Brown and supported as they learn the finer skills of the game.



Slime – if you haven't played with it, you should!

Playing with slime is a sensory play activity that combines cool chemistry with a wonderful tactile experience. Some Year 7 students recently shared their expertise and made slime for students in K-6.

A long line of eager slime recipients patiently waited for their tub of fun!



Repurposing recyclable goods is another activity that captures the imagination of many of those who attend at lunchtime. Tissue boxes, cardboard cylinders, cream bottles and other assorted items are recreated into beautiful objects of art.

D courtyard was buzzing with excitement as Year 5 and 6 held their Market for Mission. \$795 was raised for Voice of the Martyrs.



“Market for Mission” Day

Years 5 and 6 ended the term with a Market Day raising money for Voice of the Martyrs. Our budding entrepreneurs employed their advertising and manufacturing skills to produce items to sell. After determining the cost price, they were challenged to market their product and make a reasonable profit.



K-2 Sports Carnival

It was an exciting morning at the K-2 sports carnival. Our wonderful Preschool friends joined in the fun as did our Year 5 and 6 buddies, our Principal Mr Johnston and many keen parents and teachers eager to be a part of the day. We witnessed beautiful friendships, great sportsmanship and our very special community which we are extremely blessed to have here at Wycliffe. Thankyou to everyone who made the day so memorable.



Throughout the term we have reflected on the teaching of the beatitudes in Matthew 5.

It's become obvious that having a 'beaut-attitude' is what Jesus calls us to do. Each week we've been challenged to live in a way that is quite counter-cultural – being 'poor' means we're 'rich,' 'mourning' leads to 'comfort' and 'meekness' requires great 'strength.'

It has been a blessing to share the term together and we eagerly look forward to the adventures ahead in Term 3!

Nita Kruik – Head of Junior School

Property Report

Terry McCullough – Property Manager

This term we have continued to make great progress around the grounds of the school. It has been a great pleasure to work with so many in our community who are keen to be involved in improving the look and feel of our school environment.

Our Term 2 Working Bee was held on a cold and blustery winter's day but that didn't stop those who came along from enjoying their time together and getting lots of work done. Significant work was done on improving the front entrance and driveway into the school as well as re-painting the games lines in D block and B block courtyards. Students have enjoyed their freshly painted courts and have expressed their thanks. Both of these tasks will continue at our Term 3 Working Bee which will be held on the

8th of September. We would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to all those families and individuals who have come to the Working Bees so far. They are a great opportunity for the school community to get together, have some fun, do some work and very importantly, eat the food that is provided.

Every bit we do makes a difference to the appearance of the school. I would love to chat to anyone who would like to be involved in improving the grounds to see what they can do to help.



Community Garden

Have you heard about our Community Garden? For the past 9 months Ms Short, Mrs Hare, Mr Zanardo and a group of dedicated helpers from our school community have been working on our Community Garden.

Since October 2018, garden beds have been built, filled and planted and regular Working Bees have been held to continue work in the area. We received an Eco Schools Grant from the NSW Environment Trust which is going towards materials to help protect the gardens from hungry possums and wallabies, and for a storage shed near the garden.

The garden has been a valuable learning opportunity with our K-6 students having the chance to work in and learn about it during the Wonderful Wednesday

program. Many families have enjoyed produce brought home by students after they've spent time in the garden. The most recent Working Bee saw berry gardens created, post holes dug (for future fencing), seating created for an outdoor classroom space and a start made on construction of the storage shed.

The next Community Garden Working Bee will be on Saturday 18th of August from 8.00am – we'd love you to come along.

Sports Wrap-up

Term 2 was full of opportunities for students to be active and participate, from carnivals to team events.

Carnival Preparations

During Term 2, some of our sports lessons were focused on developing skills for the Athletics Carnivals. Shot put was one of the skills that we focused on. Year 9 learnt the Shot put glide whilst Kindergarten were introduced to the basic technique using a softball.



Specialised training Sessions

Throughout each week, our students have a number of opportunities to take part in specialised sports training sessions. Each Monday Mr and Mrs Morgans take a running training group on Warrimoo Oval. The group trains for upcoming events and also spends time focussing on developing running technique and improving cardiovascular strength while maintaining speed.



Every Wednesday morning from 7am you will find a dedicated group of students led by Mr Stewart taking part in Speed training on the small oval. Students from Year 5 onwards prepare themselves to run faster, jump higher and longer and improve their performance in their chosen sport.



Secondary Representative Netball

Our U14 and U15 rep netball teams had a winning start to the Term 2 Secondary Zone competition. The girls were so excited and thankful to be wearing the brand new rep uniforms kindly sponsored by Fusion Movement Studio.



Mountain Bike Success

Wycliffe Christian School was well represented at this year's NSW All Schools JetBlack MTB event held in June at Yellomundi Park.

Our Mixed Senior team, Ben Ruigendyk, Ella Greenaway and Jackson Webster were competing against some quality teams and won their event! Our Junior team of Braden Gray, Cameron Winfield and Josiah Grierson entered for the first time, working well as a team over the 4 hour event.

Ella Greenaway rode the fastest female lap of the day and received a special award for this impressive achievement.

A big thank you to Fusion Movement Studio for their generous sponsorship of our new netball uniforms.





NSW Volleyball Schools Cup

Our School Volleyball teams had a great day at the NSW Volleyball Schools Cup at Homebush competing against 75 teams from schools all around the state. This year we had 2 teams compete in this tournament.

The senior boys fought hard in the U17 Boys pools coming in 7th overall. We learned a lot about our game, being

competitive and how we need to improve. All the boys demonstrated great improvement in their skills and the match practice did us well in our preparation to attend the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup in Melbourne in December.

The new Wycliffe U15s Girls team had a great day. Many of the girls are new to volleyball and are just starting to learn the skills of the game. They competed well and surprised themselves with some wins in

the pool matches. Moving into the finals, the Wycliffe girls competed against some teams from strong volleyball schools, and ended up U15s CHAMPIONS!!!! We received gold medals.... as well as chocolate from Assistant Coach Ben Jordan which made it all the more a sweet victory!! To win this, their first championship as a team, where all the best teams in the state were competing, tells me that Wycliffe Volleyball is alive and well and has a good future.

Dan Catchpoole
Wycliffe Volleyball Coach



Cross Country Carnivals

We were blessed with a beautiful day for our school Cross Country Carnival. It was wonderful to see our students having fun and giving their best effort to their performance on the day. The top placing athletes in each age group went on to compete at the State Cross Country Carnival at Horsely Park a few weeks later. The State Carnival was held on a chilly first day of winter and our representatives again gave it their best and learnt new skills to work on in the future. A number of students also progressed to the next level, the CIS Cross Country Carnival.



Winmalee Cup

Our Winmalee Cup Netball and Soccer teams had a great day this term attending the Gala Day at Jamison Park. All of the teams had put in lots of hard work in training for the day, often spending their lunchtimes on extra practice sessions. The senior teams also took on a mentoring role to help the juniors develop their skills. During the games our students showed great sportsmanship and encouragement of each other and the opposition teams with everyone putting in their best effort for their team.

The Junior and Senior Netball teams won their respective competitions on the day and when the points from both netball and soccer were added up, the Wycliffe Teams were awarded the overall Winmalee Plate competition trophy.

Stage 4 Report

by Liv Young Yr 8, Brayden Gray and Jasmine Clark Yr 7

Stage 4 camp was a great way to end Term One and Term Two has been packed with a variety of sporting and academic curriculum based activities.

Students in Stage Four have been studying Medieval History this term. A great way to have fun and learn is to experience the time period and this is just what we did on Medieval day. We all dressed up in costumes representing a cross section of the society of the time. Knights wielding all manner of weapons, Kings, Queens, Ladies in Waiting, members of the church, peasant folk all joined in activities.



Medieval Day fun



Medieval Games were played including the egg and spoon race, jousting using pool noodles, quoits using horse shoes and skittles. The favourite was our version of apple bobbing, eating donuts on a string!



What better way to pass the time in Medieval days, but to feast. On the menu, chicken, apple juice, fruit and apple pies.



Our own Lord of the Manor, Thomas Cole accompanied by his attendant, Levi Shuttleworth



James Adams, an expert in Medieval History came on the day and gave a fantastic presentation. Students were able to try on his replica models. "How did they ever fight with all this heavy gear on?" was overheard.



Visual Arts

Some of the year 7s designed and created an action pose sculpture. We used plaster and worked with wire. They all look fabulous and they were fun to make.

This is Jasmine modelling the beautiful movement sculptors that the year 7 students have been working hard on. You can see all of their cool poses and some are even on strings. This has been great and fun to learn how to sculpt a human body.



Action Pose Sculpture



Technics

Above are some of the amazing clocks being made by Year 7 who are learning all about the tools and how creative they can be to turn a piece of wood to an amazing sight with the help of Mr Cayzer.

Year 8 have also been hard at work learning about light, shape and colour and have made new and innovative lamp designs. They have been able to use the laser cutter as part of their design and construction process.



Poetry

We have been studying Poetry in English. Above are haikus that the Year 7 and 8 students have been working on they are about the seasons. Haikus are made from 5 syllables, then 7, then back to 5. It is interesting doing poetry and expressing yourself and finding things that rhyme or make you laugh.



Geography

This term Stage 4 Geography did a poster on coastal and mountain landforms as part of their learning and understanding of this topic. It was good fun for us to make and learn more about their chosen landform of God's amazing world.

Music

Year 7 Music have just started learning the guitar and singing while playing. Everyone has fun and learns to play new instruments, they learn music history and culture. They are improving every lesson thanks to their teacher Mr Crew. Pictured is Brayden Gray on guitar.



Each Tuesday, Stage 4 meet together in our extended Growth Group time. We sing together, listen to a Devotion and sometimes play a game. This is an extension of our normal daily Growth Group time. This Term, Mrs Pickworth asked us to come up with ways in which we could serve the school community, doing jobs around the school and not really telling people what we had done for them. We can't mention everything as this would give it away, however one group cooked and prepared a morning tea for all the staff and others gave short Devotions to Kindergarten and tidied up storeroom type areas.

Stage 5 Pastoral Care Program

In Years 9 and 10 Wycliffe students are involved in an intentional pastoral care program overseen by the Stage 5 Co-ordinator, Mr Marks. The Year 9 program, Encounter, focusses on a student's personal learning adventure, exploring their strengths and engaging in issues of personal faith. In Year 10, the Aspire program builds upon this, positioning students to 'have eyes to see' and 'ears to hear' what God is calling them to in a post school setting.

Encounter

The Encounter program sees students take part in several days of 'breakout' learning experiences throughout the year. We started the term continuing our focus on Digital Citizenship, with a particular focus on cyber identity, cyber security and on individual rights and responsibilities.

We were fortunate enough to have Senior Constable Dean Perkins from the Youth and Crime Prevention Command come and speak to Year 9.

During the middle of the term we spent time focussing on financial literacy with a guest speaker Tamara Bennetts from Start Smart coming to speak to students about smart choices, saving and spending. We have also been looking at individual character strengths with students reflecting upon their own strengths and those of their peers.

Students had an Encounter day on the 21st June that looked at the strengths God has given students. The Year 9 boys retreated into the beautiful surrounds

of our school to undertake a range of scenario based bushcraft activities and be in active fellowship with one another. The day was built on students identifying the biblical characteristics of a strong man, specifically male leadership, speaking the truth, standing strong, being humble and serving others. We were truly blessed with a beautiful day in the bush and the boys had an enjoyable time. Whilst the Year 9 girls under the care and guidance of Mrs Hare and Mrs Van Leerdam spent the morning looking afresh at God's creation through the lens of a camera. The girls were shown techniques to capture photos of people and scenery that played with light, perspective and proportion. This was overlaid with a biblical discussion of what their focus was in life. The afternoon was spent under the guidance of an external self-defence instructor gaining confidence and skills to protect themselves should the need arise.

It was a fantastic day, relationships were deepened as we spent time outside the classroom.



Year 9 boys ready to begin their bush adventures



Year 9 girls receiving self-defence instruction

Aspire

The Year 10 Aspire program builds on the experiences of Year 9 and focuses on specific skills that will help each student be better equipped for senior school and life outside of school. Aspire is delivered through days set aside for learning experiences and regular timetabled lessons each week.

This term we have been exploring the concepts of choices and consequences as students navigate discussions regarding the next stages of schooling. We have been reflecting on the abundance of choice we are blessed with and the responsibility of using this blessing for the purposes God has in store for each of us. By using examples from World Vision students have undertaken some simulations highlighting the stark differences they face compared to other children around the world.

As part of these discussions students had a presentation from Tamara Bennetts from Start Smart on financial literacy, planning and investment.

Year 10 students also attended the HSC and Careers Expo in Sydney to explore further the choices they have. Some of the feedback students gave included:

"I liked it, it was fun and in some ways inspiring. I highly suggest this for future years. It was amazing and helped me look at some alternative paths for my plan to be a mechanic."

"I found this very useful. It was interesting, and there was a lot of good information that could be found. There was a wide range of 'stalls' there, so there was something for almost everyone. I think this should definitely be done again by future years."



Year 10 at the Stand Tall event in the city



Year 10 growth group with Miss Bray

Students also made second expedition into the city to participate in the Stand Tall Event. The feedback from the students was highly encouraging and inspiring.

"I think everyone who comes through year 10 needs to hear what the speakers said, in particular Michael Crossland. Michael's story was amazing and he really knew how to make his points... This event delivered many valuable lessons and messages that I think future year 10 students should hear."

"I found this day to be quite inspiring. It was good to listen to different people speak and share their stories. I would recommend this day to future year 10 students as it made you leave with the thought that we can do anything as long as we strive for that goal. Never dream too little."

Along with these exciting initiatives, students have been continuing to grow in relationship and understanding of Jesus through the wisdom and guidance of their Growth Group teachers.

From the Library

Mr Cooney

As part of the Early Literacy course being undertaken by our Junior School teachers, we have recently been considering the importance of a child's vocabulary upon their reading success.

The Value of Books

The gap between rich and poor vocabulary is determined by a child's exposure to words before school, both in oral language and printed form. Parents who read to or with their pre-school children are contributing to their vocabulary bank at a time when their brain is undergoing its most intensive development.

However, this gap can also be closed once the child is of school age through deliberate exposure to and the teaching of new words. Research has shown that children who read even ten minutes a day outside of school experience substantially higher rates of vocabulary growth between second and fifth grade than children who do little or no reading.

Vocabulary and reading fluency contribute to comprehension. A simple but effective

means of developing fluency is through repeated reading. In class, this would be from selected passages of limited length. But the same principle applies to the reading of whole books at the child's level, which can be done at home.

In a recent article on the library website, I discussed the book, *Bookworm: A Memoir of Childhood Reading*, by Lucy Mangan. In this book, Mangan talks about the pleasure that she found in books that she was able to read and re-read. In her memoir, Mangan explains the reason for this. It is a salient reminder of the investment that is made in a child's future when we provide them with the opportunity to connect with books from an early age and it is supported by the research into reading success.

Mangan writes, "Adults tend to forget what a vital part of the process rereading

is for children. As adults, rereading seems like backtracking at best, self-indulgence at worst. Free time is such a scarce resource that we feel we should use it on new things.

But for children, rereading is absolutely necessary. The act of reading is itself still new. A lot of energy is still going into (not so) simple decoding of words and the assimilation of meaning. Only then do you get to enjoy the plot – to begin to get lost in the story. The beauty of a book is that it remains the same for as long as you need it. You can't wear out a book's patience."

The school library supports parents to encourage reading that enhances enjoyment and understanding, building the foundations for school success and, more importantly, a rich and imaginative life.

The Library website can be accessed through the Parent Portal on the school's website



Children are made readers on the laps of their parents – Emilie Buchwold

We are committed to high quality education that encourages and equips each student to do their very best, whatever that might look like for each student, and to celebrate that for each student.



From the Board

Mr Ian Fryer

Thank you once again to all our families for partnering with us in the education of your children. It is an immense privilege for the School and we take the responsibility that comes with that privilege very seriously.

Our job is to provide a school environment where your children can learn and thrive and grow into young men and women who are equipped for all sorts of jobs in our ever-changing world, who engage constructively with our complex world, who respect others, who serve God, and by doing all that, bring glory to God.

In Term 2, it has been encouraging to see the continuation of the cultural change that was evident in Term 1. Teachers are being supported and empowered to teach well and our school community is being strengthened. We seek to extend that cultural change further into the student body.

It has been a very busy term for our staff with our five-yearly registration visit from NESAs, the NSW Education Standards body. It has been a huge amount of work for all our staff for the last 9 months.

The school received a positive report from NESAs - thanks to everyone who contributed and especially to Mr Johnston and Mrs Williams.

Last term many families and staff completed the Community Health Audit survey. The School has just received the survey results from the independent consultant and it was encouraging to see that staff, parents, students and Board all had a consistent message about what we do well and what we can improve. On the evening of August 13, the consultant will deliver a summary of the results at a school community meeting - everyone is welcome! At the same meeting, the Principal and Board will outline responses that will further strengthen what we do at school - some of those changes are already being introduced. We will also present a summary of our strategic plan that is partly informed by the survey responses.

What is Wycliffe? Why do we exist? We are a Christian school that wants to express our identity in all we do. Education shapes minds and we want to ensure our students' minds are shaped by learning that comes from a Christian worldview that undergirds all we do - what we teach, how we teach, how we relate, what we do, what we value, what we strive after. We want to provide a place where students can discover their identity as they grow up in a supportive environment which provides meaning and answers to the big questions of life and of community. We are committed to high quality education that encourages and equips each student to do their very best, whatever that might look like for each student, and to celebrate that for each student.

Are we there yet? Do we do all this? Yes we do, but we can and will do better. The community will see more changes as the year progresses and we encourage you to come on August 13 to hear more about our plans. We will do all we can to continue to transform the school into a place that pursues our purpose with a passion.



Topologies

A group of interested Wycliffe students from Years 9 to 12 went along with Mrs Gardiner for a hands on day with Fabric artist Kate Scardifield in her exhibition 'Soft Topologies'. They then worked with her in the University of Technology Sydney workshop space, experimenting with folding, forming and embossing techniques in paper and fabric using steam. It was also an opportunity to see the university students working on a range of activities within the space and talk about future options in design.



Creative Arts

Our Creative Arts Students have had many opportunities and experiences both in and outside of the school. It is wonderful to see the results of their creativity mixing with the learning of new techniques and experiencing art created by others as inspiration.



Senior Visual Arts

The Year 11 and 12 Visual Arts students spent an interesting day visiting the 21st Biennale of Sydney at the MCA and Cockatoo Island.



Year 11 Visual Arts spent time applying aspects of Christo and Jean-Claude's art making practice to the interior of the lift. The resulting photos are quite effective.



Year 12 have been busy creating in the art room

Decoded – Drama Performance

Our students in Years 9, 10 and 11 Drama have been very busy in rehearsals, preparing for their coming Drama production, "Decoded", part of the Western Sydney Youth Drama Festival being held at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre on the last day of term.



Drama rehearsals

United through Sport

Stage 5 Electives

Stage 5 students at Wycliffe are given a unique opportunity to experience 8 different electives over Years 9 and 10. Students select 4 electives each year and study two during the first semester and 2 during the second semester of the year. Electives are available in the areas of Technological and Applied Studies (TAS), Creative Arts, and Personal Health and Physical Education (PDHPE).

Term 2 sees the end of the first semester of electives for Stage 5 students and a chance to look forward to a new and exciting round of subjects beginning next term. United through Sport is one of these subjects.

United through Sport

During Semester 1 Year 9/10 students had the opportunity to be extended in learning about the role sport can play in shaping a nation's identity and uniting diverse groups of people, as they studied the elective "United Through Sport". Students learnt about the important role sport has played in shaping Australia's culture with many for the first time introduced to past successes such as the America's Cup win in 1983. Students also

learnt about the important role sport has played in other countries. Each week a traditional sport from another nation was played with Tag Grid Iron (American Football) being popular.

Throughout the course major sporting events in 2018 such as the Winter Olympics, Commonwealth Games and World Cup soccer were discussed, as well as the Summer Olympics.

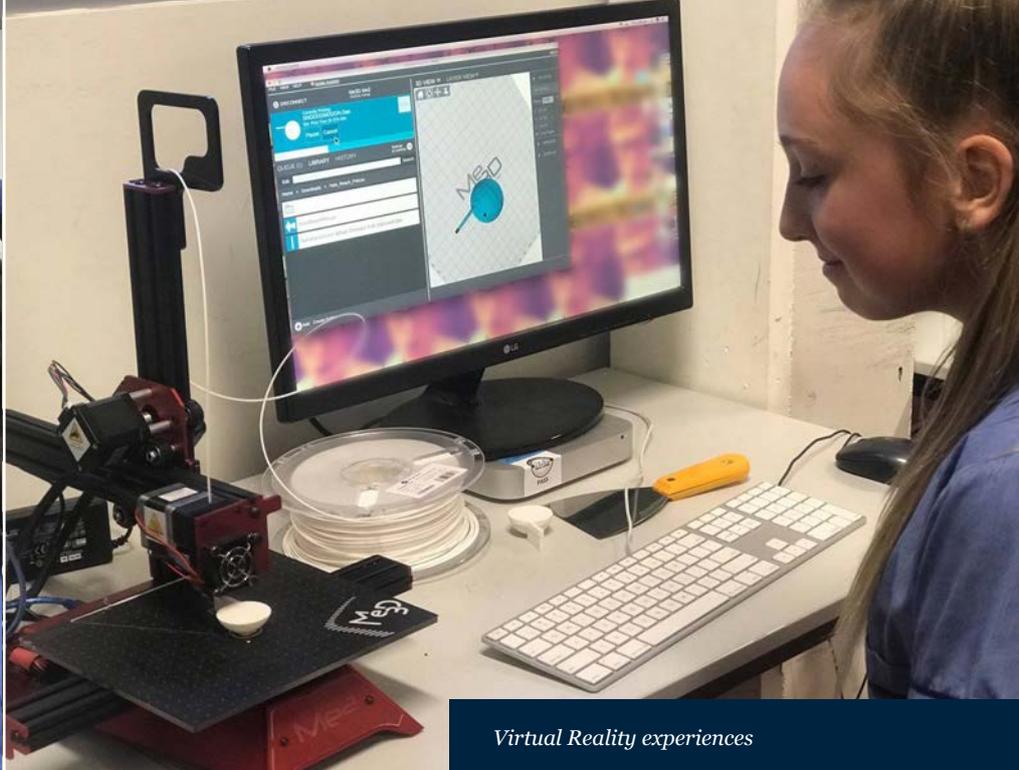
Students were also physically challenged and reflected upon personal attitudes as

they explored disability sports. Students were given the opportunity to play various disability sports such as goal ball (a game for the blind) or games such as newcombe ball with physical restrictions

It was wonderful to see how our students appreciated the value of and the role sport has in breaking down barriers, as diverse individuals participate in the same game and abide by the same rules, fairness and equity.



Students experiencing playing volleyball without sight



Virtual Reality experiences

STEM at Wycliffe

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

At Wycliffe we focus all aspects of education on a Christian Worldview. As such, we comprehensively apply those philosophies to establish solid foundational skills in STEM learning areas, develop mathematical, scientific and technological literacy, and promote the development of the 21st century skills of problem solving, critical analysis and creative thinking.

Wycliffe also recognises the importance of a focus on STEM in the early years and maintaining this focus throughout the schooling experience. Our school identifies that students need to acquire core subject knowledge as well as the skills of collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and problem solving – and STEM education has a pivotal role in achieving this.

We are continuing to develop the opportunity to foster and nurture young people's curiosity towards STEM, and are using this to develop deeper engagement and learning. This requires renewed focus on achievement in the STEM 'building blocks', especially mathematics, as well as effective cross-disciplinary curriculum and pedagogical approaches that build student interest and performance in STEM education. 2018 has seen the exciting introduction of STEM throughout much of our school cohort.

Our Junior School students explored the wonderful world of Chemistry with a Unit of Work titled: Mystery Powders. Students investigated the different physical states and properties of chemicals culminating in developing casein glues to construct a bridge.

Students have also been working with Lego Robotics and coding. A variety of interesting and diverse mechanical devices all designed and constructed by Years 5 and 6 to perform specific tasks have been developed, tested and evaluated.

Our Secondary Stage 4 students have seen an incredible diversity of STEM options. Our Year 8 cohort commenced the year developing a whole program of investigation. Initially looking at an environmental issue which impacts many schools, students investigated if litter at Wycliffe was a real problem.

Working collaboratively, students selected specific target areas around the school and immersed themselves with their investigative focus. Once having undertaken investigation, students prepared and presented their findings to the whole year group, using technological methods. In evaluation, we are pleased to advise our whole school community that litter is NOT a real problem at our school. These students are now working with 3D printing and applying this process to real experiences, so stay tuned for further information next term.

Our Extension classes have further developed skills in Virtually Reality and 3D printing. Named our VR Ambassadors they will from next term, be improving their skills in developing whole school experiences in VR for every subject area so that the Ambassadors can demonstrate them to teachers and support them.

This is particularly exciting for our school as this is an innovative development and is unique to our school.

Neil Marshall
Head of TAS



Social Volleyball Competition

Please email Dan Catchpoole, Wycliffe Volleyball Coach at dcatchpoole@bigpond.com

IT'S BACK..... The Wycliffe Community Social Volleyball Competition. Get your teams together because every Wednesday night during Term 3 - starting 1st August - we will be competing for the coveted title of "Wycliffe Community Volleyball Champions".

This is a great time for Wycliffe Volleyballers and other members of the Wycliffe community - past and present, to bring along their families, friends and colleagues to form teams for some 'social' volleyball and to bring us together around the epitome of all team sports. All you need is a spirit of fun and a will to give it a go. Sporting prowess is an optional extra.

This will be a round robin competition for the 9 weeks of Term 3 (concluding 26th Sept). We will also be running our 'Masters' game each night for those who wish to play a slightly higher level of volleyball and to prepare our Wycliffe Senior Boys volleyball team as they work to compete at this year's Australian Volleyball Schools Cup in Melbourne in December.

Please get your teams together. If you don't have a team, but want to play, let me know and I will place you in a team.



To keep up to date with what's happening at Wycliffe make sure you download the Wycliffe Skoolbag App (available on smart phones and the web) and subscribe to the school news feed by clicking the envelope on the home page of the School's website.