Not for the first time, the Senior School provided a picturesque setting for the Annual Primary Cross Country. Anticipation was high as the trained-up athletes descended upon the lightning fast course. Every vantage point was a winning view as the brilliantly constructed course allowed all to get a sense of the cat-and-mouse game which is Cross Country running.

After a brief introduction and explanation of the course, it was time to get down to action. Newly appointed ‘bunny’ Mr Richard Baker set himself the challenge of not being overtaken by a talented runner from Coates in the opening bout, however this was not as easy as it first looked.

The Junior race started us off and 2km of high energy, precise and fleet-footed running ensued. Young Bililign Robertson had his sights on Mr Baker and his first lap broke the hearts of all the other competitors as he scorched the immaculate pitch with some breathtaking distance running. Although he slowed in the second lap, his lead never looked in danger and he took out the junior event for the second year running. Two James’ were hot on his heels though, with James Whiteing showing the benefit of some intense training as he powered to second place, with James McGregor showcasing a beautiful running style in finishing third.

In the chaos of a packed finish it is always hard to see where the 8 and 9 year olds finish amongst the 10 years, making for an exciting wait at the conclusion of the carnival for final placings. This year it was Nicholas Venetoulis taking out the 9 years event, showing that he is extremely multi-talented after his swimming exploits, and showing that the Biathlon competitors should watch out come November. Matthew Torrible and Ryoma Suzuki were second and third respectively, proving that the future of distance running at Newington looks very bright for years to come.

In the Senior race it was clear from the outset that it was a race in two, with Grayson Richardson taking the early lead with a powerful start before succumbing to the relentless speed and endurance of Oscar Moody who led almost from start to finish. Third in this event was Rhett Schlaphoff who continues to impress at all athletic events.

The 11 years were not far behind and after a very close finish Fletcher Jakes was awarded first place. Gaelen Dorigo also finished with a rush and although Fletcher was the official winner of the event, the closeness meant that he and Gaelen shared the honours of age champion in a great show of sportsmanship. Second and third place went to Samuel Eagleton and Flynn Leung-Nicholson in an 11 years race that will be talked about for years to come.

So after all the heroics, saw legs, aching lungs and smiling faces, there had to be a winner of the day. And despite the results proving too difficult to announce on the day due to the unprecedented numbers in the championship races this year, we had a winner….....and the result was the closest in living memory with the bitter rivals Rydal and Kingswood almost sharing the spoils. But there can be only one winner, and this year it was RYDAL, who finished ahead of Kingswood on an adjusted score by 0.01 of a point. First home for the Wyvern houses was Williams, who were only a few points away from the top two.

Another brilliant day, some more spectacular moments, close finishes and satisfied boys and parents! And at the end of it all we have four teams that are going to give the IPSHA Cross Country a real shake come the 5th April…

**HOUSE RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSE</th>
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<tr>
<td>COATES</td>
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<tr>
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**AGE CHAMPIONS**

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<th>11 YEARS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHAMPION</td>
<td>Stirling Williams</td>
<td>Nicholas Venetoulis</td>
<td>Billilign Robertson</td>
<td>Fletcher Jakes</td>
<td>Oscar Moody</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUNNER UP</td>
<td>Cameron Davey-Webb</td>
<td>Matthew Torrible</td>
<td>James Whiteling</td>
<td>Samuel Eagleton</td>
<td>Grayson Richardson</td>
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</table>
Wyvern Trials for IPSHA Football Nominations

Congratulations to Alex Solomou (Year 6), Jackson Sumich (Year 6), Jack Newton (Year 6), Zac Papadimitriou (Year 5) and Joe Reilly Malkovec (Year 5) on their selection to represent Wyvern at the IPSHA football trials. We wish these boys the best of luck.

Winter Sport

Next Monday we will begin the process of allocating boys to teams for the winter sport season. Training sessions will be held at the Newington Senior School during our normal Monday and Wednesday afternoon sport training times (1:45 – 2:45pm).

During this time, coaches will be observing and assisting the boys to learn the game and demonstrate their skills. They will ensure all boys are given an equal and fair opportunity to demonstrate their abilities. There will be a series of skill assessments followed by mini games and modified match situations to test the boys’ match play skills. Consideration will be given to previous form eg In the event of a student being injured before the trials and unable to participate, but it must not be presumed that because a student played in a particular team last year, that he will automatically be selected in that equivalent team this year.

Where possible, coaches will select squads that include a number of placements for reserves. This is necessary to allow us to cover the absence of players due to sickness, injury etc. The team may be subject to change at any time during the course of the season.

Reserves will be rotated on and off the field each week throughout a match.

Depending on the size of the final squad it may be necessary to roster some students off from playing each week. This will be done on a rotational basis so all boys get an equal opportunity to play.

‘Rostered Off’ reserves are not required to attend the matches but their attendance to show support for their team mates is welcome. This ensures that all boys in attendance receive adequate game time and do not spend a large amount of time sitting off. We will do our best to ensure that all boys that have been selected for a particular game will be rotated throughout the game and play equal time. This may even itself out over a number of games so please do not become worried if it does not happen over the course of one game.

It is important, regardless of the team that your son ultimately finds himself selected in, that we encourage team camaraderie, good sportsmanship, a positive attitude and that we reinforce the values that working hard to achieve a goal will make the rewards far more appreciated.

Round 1 will be on Saturday 3 May after we return from holidays.

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS FOR MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY WINTER SPORT

Football (soccer)

- PE shirt, soccer shorts, Newington black and white striped socks and runners to and from school.
- Newington soccer shirt at training, shin pads and boots
- Uniform for Saturday can now be purchased at the uniform shop. If your son does not make a football side, exchanges of uniform can be made.

Rugby

- PE shirt, rugby shorts, Newington black and white striped socks and runners to and from school.
- Newington rugby jumper at training, mouth guard and boots.
- Uniform for Saturday can now be purchased at the uniform shop. All boys who chose rugby as their preference are guaranteed a position on a rugby team.

F.A.S.T Football Program for Years 1 and 2

During Term 2 Wyvern will once again be offering the F.A.S.T Football program for boys in Years 1 and 2 to help develop their skills before entering inter-school sport in Year 3. The program will begin with a free demonstration lesson during school time on Thursday April 10, for Y1 and Y2. Boys don’t need to bring anything special for this day. Following this demonstration lesson, permission notes will be sent home and upon their return, students will have the opportunity to participate in a 12 week programme held after school on Friday afternoons during Term 2 and 3. More details are on the flyer attached.

AFL – Paul Kelly Cup

A record number of 50 boys represented Wyvern in the Paul Kelly Cup this year. We entered 3 teams consisting of a Year 5 team, a Year 6 team and a team mixed with boys from both Year 5 and 6. A fun filled day was had by all. Unfortunately this year our teams were unable to replicate the feats of our all-conquering AFL team from last year. However, based on the interest and enthusiasm shown by so many of the boys to play...
AFL again in the future, we can confidently say AFL was the winner on this occasion.

**NSWCIS AFL**

After a busy week representing the CIS in cricket, Ned Barnett-Hepples made the long journey down to Canberra to try out for the NSWCIS AFL team. Competing against players brought up playing AFL in the Riverina and Canberra areas was always going to be a tough challenge for Ned. However, he proved his quality by more than matching it with these players during the trials. Unfortunately, Ned just missed the 22 player AFL side but was named as the first emergency. This was a fine achievement and demonstrates what an all-round sportsman Ned has become.

**Shining Stars**

- If your son has had some successful sporting achievements outside of school, I would love to hear from you. They can be shared with the Wyvern community through this “Shining Stars” section of the Wyvern.

**Newington Holiday Camps (Flyers on Spaces)**

1. Multi-Sport Camp: 14 – 17 April
2. Tackle-a-Tah Camp: 14 – 16 April

**Coming Up**

- Friday 21 March – Sydney Rugby 7’s at Sylvania (selected students)
- Monday 24 March – Winter sport training commences (team allocations)
- Tuesday 25 March – IPSHA football trials (selected students)
- Wednesday 26 March – CIS swimming carnival
- Saturday 5 April – IPSHA Cross Country at Kings – (selected students)
- Thursday 10 April – Fast Football demonstration (Year 1 & Year 2 students)

Neil Brunton

**Newington College – Wyvern Sportsmaster**