



EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

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A message to the community

Dear Families,

Welcome back to a new year.

We welcome our existing families, new families and new teachers.

There is a lot of information in this newsletter. It takes me back to COVID-19 days when I felt like I was writing 'War and Peace'. Please make a cup of tea or pour a glass of wine and read through all the Emmaus news.

I have visited every classroom and I have seen happy faces eager to connect with each other, their teacher and their environment. The children have had stories to tell about their holidays and their hopes for the year to come. One new parent told me they loved the feeling in the piazza with children playing, laughing and chatting while parents watched on, chatting with others. We are blessed to have such a wonderful school community.

Teachers began back at school over a week ago now. The theme of our professional development days was 'connection'. We connected with ourselves, each other and our environment. We also connected with the Emmaus story - a story of gathering, of sharing stories, and the sharing of food. We shared our story, listened to others, shared lunch and prayed together at a mass celebrated by Father Maurie. We also prayed this prayer for the beginning of the year. I invite you all to pray this prayer to begin our new school year.



EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

Let us pray:

*God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly,
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others, mindful that our steps
make an impact and our words carry power.*

May we walk gently.

May we speak only after we have listened well.

*Creator of all life, help us enter the New Year reverently, aware that
You have endowed every creature and plant, every person and habitat
with beauty and purpose.*

May we regard the world with tenderness.

May we honour rather than destroy

Lower of all souls, help us enter the New Year joyfully,

*willing to laugh and dance and dream, remembering our many gifts with thanks and looking forward to
blessings yet to come.*

*May we welcome your lavish love. In this new year, may the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and
in the days ahead.*

Amen

Together we shared our purpose:

Like Christ, we believe in nurturing and empowering so all can flourish.

We also shared our vision and mission.

***Inspired by Christ, we live out the mission of Jesus through the celebration of the 'breaking of the bread'.
As a Catholic community, we work together in unity, on our journey of faith, knowledge and love. We
foster lifelong learning that promotes success and nurtures the talents and abilities of each individual.
"Jesus, stay with us."***

This is our core business and we are really excited to work together for the benefit of the children of Emmaus.

Over the holidays

During the school holidays we upgraded the school WiFi at a cost of about \$60 000. This upgrade is to ensure the effective running and reliability of our internet connections. We also had painters in to paint the poles in the piazza, decluttered and freshened up our Year 2 - 4 buildings and the fence where the car drove through was finally fixed. We are now waiting for our Masterplan to be completed by our architects, ROAM, so we can plan some further works in the school. We look forward to sharing these with you.



EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

Connection Time

At this time of the year we spend time getting to know each other and getting to know the children's new learning environment. It is very important to build relationships before we start teaching rigorously. The children have been involved in many 'connection' opportunities over the last week.

Last Thursday we had an open classroom afternoon. This was a wonderful chance for parents to visit their child's classroom to connect with classroom teachers. Many families took this opportunity and we enjoyed a sausage sizzle together. Thank you to all staff and parents who made this possible. Teachers are available in the afternoons after the bell for a chat. You can also email teachers. Seesaw will soon be operational as a means of communication.

Discovery Days

This week we began our Discovery Days. The students were divided into four groups based on friendship choices. They explored Visual Arts, Physical Education, STEM, and Performing Arts or Outdoor Discovery. Our specialist teachers work very hard to provide our students with wonderful learning experiences. While the children participate in their Discovery Day the teachers are involved in planning and preparation for the following week. All children are required to wear their sports uniform on their Discovery Day.

Carpark

Thank you for your patience with the car park. As always, the beginning of the year is very busy in the carpark. We are doing all we can to keep the cars moving with staff rostered on to support parents. Please be kind to one another and keep being patient as we work through these busy times. It is also a good idea to give yourself extra time in the morning so children can be at school on time. Every minute of the school day is important and to have children ready to learn in the morning supports them. Don't forget you can use the Pecks Road gate and the church gate to drop your children off and pick them up.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN testing is occurring earlier this year. The testing will take place in March. The testing will occur between Wednesday, 15th and Monday 27th March. We will follow up with more information as we get closer to this time.

Cybersafety

Year 5 and 6 students will be participating in their first cyber safety incursion on Monday 13th February at 9.15-10.15. This will occur once each term.

The incursions inform and empower learners so they can be more aware, clever, kind and brave online citizens.

A parent Information night from 'Inform and Empower', will be held on the evening of Wednesday 1st March. Further details to follow.



EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

Year 6 Camp

We have been endeavouring to find a school camp earlier in the year for our Year 6s to bond together as leaders of the school but we have been unable to find one suitable. We have been very lucky this year to find a new camp located in Warrnambool. This camp will take place from March 1st - 3rd. There will be a camp information meeting on Tuesday, 21st February at 3.30pm in the library. The children will be supervised to play on the netball courts at this time.

Interschool Sports - Year 5 and 6

On Fridays our Year 5s and 6s participate in sporting activities with local schools in our area. They participate in football, soccer, T-Ball, tennis and netball. Bianca, our Senior Leader will send the fixture home soon. Parents are welcome to attend the games to watch their children participate.

2024 Foundation Students Information Meeting

We will hold a Foundation 2024 Parent Information night on Monday, March 20th from 6pm - 7.30pm in the hall. We will advertise this in the local kinders but if you know someone who has a Prep starting please let them know.

Pupil Free Day, Friday 10th March

On Friday the 10th March, the teachers will be involved in professional development on Restorative Practice with Real Schools. There will be no school for students on this day.

School Photos

The date for our school photos is Tuesday, 21st February. Make sure you put this date in the diary so you can organise haircuts!

COVID Updates

This is my first year at Emmaus without the threat of COVID-19. We need to remember it is still around and we need to continue to implement important practices to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmissions. We will continue to ensure our air purifiers are used, external ventilation is maximised, good personal hygiene is encouraged, and face masks are made available for staff, students and visitors who wish to wear them. We are also recommended for students and staff to use a rapid antigen test (RAT) if they have symptoms or are in close contact with someone who has COVID-19. If your child is unwell, please keep them home from school.

Second Hand Uniforms

Every Friday afternoon, from 3.15 - 3.45 parents are able to purchase second hand uniforms from our second hand uniform store located in the Arts building. Rachel McGuire, one of our parents, will be available to help you. We can only take cash for second hand uniforms. If you are unable to attend school at this time please email or ring the office and they will organise the uniforms for you.



EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

Don't forget to follow us on Instagram (emmaussydenham) for more updates and news.

If you ever want to clarify anything, ask anything or chat through anything please make an appointment to meet with me or call me at school on 9390 4500.

Have a great week,

Jackie

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday 21st February- School photos

Tuesday 21st February at 3.30- Grade 6 Camp information meeting

Wednesday 1st March- Grade 5 Inform and Empower information session

Friday 10th March- Pupil free down
