



EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

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2023

HEAVENLY FATHER,
LET LOVE AND RESPECT
INTO OUR HEARTS
LET FRIENDSHIP AND
COMPASSION
CONNECT US
TOGETHER
LET HOPE AND PEACE
GUIDE US THROUGH
LIFE
LET US FEEL JOY AND
COURAGE LIKE JESUS
AMEN



A message to the community

Dear Families,

We have had a great start to the third term. It was wonderful to see so many happy children entering the school gates, eager to learn and to see their friends.

This is one of those newsletters where you may need to sit down to read it with a cup of coffee or a glass of wine!! Sorry, but there is a lot to share.

We really look forward to the wonderful teaching and learning that will take place at Emmaus this term. There have been many excursions and incursions booked as well as some sporting clinics during Physical Education. Our Year 5s will be heading off to camp for the first time later in the term. I thank the teachers for all their hard work in making these experiences happen. I also know our Parents and Friends are also planning some fun lunches and experiences for our children. Book Week will also be celebrated during the Week of 21st - 25th August. This will be a chance for your children to dress up as their favourite book character. Keep your eyes out for information that will be coming soon on all of these events.



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Teacher Professional Development

Teachers began the school term last Monday exploring 'Functional Behaviour'. We learnt more about the behaviours of all children and particularly our neurodiverse children. As you will have probably seen in the media there is much talk about the behaviour of students in schools. We believe, to teach effectively, we need to know our children well and know how to best support them. As a teaching team we are always open to new learning opportunities and it was wonderful to learn from some very experienced and knowledgeable behaviourists.

We will continue our learning and practice of explicit and direct instruction which we learnt about at the beginning of the year. We have been focussing on the teaching of reading. MACS have just introduced a new initiative to develop high quality, comprehensive curriculum resource materials to better support our teachers ensuring all students have access to evidence based, quality-assured, sequenced learning materials that will help lift outcomes over time. We are well on the way with a structured approach to reading and look forward to working with MACS to improve our teaching and learning of Maths.

World Youth Day

On Sunday, I attended the World Youth Day Commissioning Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral to pray for our pilgrims attending the 16th World Youth Day with Pope Francis in Lisbon, Portugal. We are one of 134 parishes, schools and Catholic organisations represented. Danielle Cuthbert, our Middle School Leader and Year 4 Emerald teacher will gather with 520 pilgrims from Melbourne and millions of people from across the world in prayer and Eucharistic celebration in Portugal. On Friday, our Preps, Year 1s and 2s along with their parents blessed Danielle as she ventures off to this very important event. Danielle has also been fortunate to be invited by MACS to attend an emerging leaders program where she will learn about the traditions and rituals of our Church in Rome and will then spend 3 days of prayer in Assisi before she heads to Lisbon.

Please keep Danielle and the pilgrims in your prayers as we send them off and then welcome them on their return, as they bring their experience and the light of the Universal Church back to all of us at Emmaus.



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School Improvements

During the holidays, Michael supervised the painting of the Foundation and Year 1 building. The six classrooms, hallway and learning studios were painted. We have also ordered new blinds, which will be coming soon. The building will be carpeted during the next holidays. While our painters were painting they found some rotting skirting boards. We will have these fixed and repair the timber fascia on this building and then get the outside of the building painted. The school is just like our homes, the older it gets the more work is needed. And it all costs money!! Michael also had a new flag pole installed so we can fly the Australian flag, the Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander flag. With the help of the children, Michael has also been updating the seat around the flagpoles and the surrounding gardens. We also have new bins placed around the school instead of the big plastic commercial bins that used to blow over in the wind.

Technology

This year we have been able to develop our one to one digital device program. Each of our students from Year 3 - 6 have an iPad with a keypad to use throughout the day. Our Year 5s and 6s are able to take this device home to use. It allows them to continue their learning at home and encourages them to practise cyber safety in the real world. It is our dream to have all of our students from Foundation to Year 6 to be able to have the opportunity to have an individual device at school to enhance their learning. We will keep making good budget decisions to make this happen. iPads were chosen for the children to use at Emmaus as they are portable and have educational Apps for children to explore and learn with.

Over the last week we have also installed a new 85in 4K LED TV in the library. This TV is used for teaching and learning purposes and for staff meetings and professional development for teachers. This is all on top of the \$60 000 we spent in January so we could upgrade the Wifi and Internet so we can all access the internet when we are at school. The technology levy families pay at the beginning of the year goes towards these endeavours.

Books

We have spent about \$15 000 on reading books this year. Ordering the books is the easy part. Then they have to be covered to protect them and catalogued. We have three great parents supporting us in the covering of books. If you love to cover books with contact we would love to have you on board. Lisa, Lidia and Emma cover books on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9am-10.30am. If you would like to join them they are experts and I'm sure they would love to show you how. If you have a spare hour on any of these days you are most welcome to come along and help. The more the merrier and the quicker we can send these books home.

We also have access to an online reading platform called Decodable Readers Australia. We pay the licence for this so children from Foundation to Year 2 can practise their reading at home.



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Parent Code of Conduct

When you enrol your child at Emmaus you complete a Parent Code of Conduct. Every parent in our school signs it at enrolment. Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools has just updated this code of conduct and we sent it home last term to be signed. This is for all Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese not just Emmaus. Thank you to the many families who have signed this form. We will be sending home new copies for those families who have not done so yet to be signed early next week. Please send them back as soon as you can please.

Pokemon and Footy Cards at School

We are happy for children to bring Pokemon Cards and Footy Cards to school. Some children love playing the game with their friends and others just like to look at each other's cards. This is great social interaction and it is wonderful to see children of various ages playing together. However, we do not allow the children to swap or trade cards. This is a difficult concept for little children and the older children are a little more savvy. Please talk to your child about not swapping or trading them if they are bringing them to school.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

This weekend our Parish volunteers will be running a sausage sizzle at Bunnings - . All of the proceeds go towards the Parish's 3 schools - Sacred Heart, Emmaus and Cana. If you are in the area or shopping at Bunnings please buy a sausage and donate to our schools.

There is a lot happening at Emmaus and it is all very exciting. Very soon we will have some new signage at the front of our school so people know we are a Catholic Primary School and don't mistake us for being part of CRC Sydenham. I have also heard a whisper about a new playground that students have suggested we need and I've also heard a whisper regarding our Year 5 and 6 interschool sports uniforms. Shhhh!

Celebration of Learning

At the end of this term we are planning to have an open school afternoon. It will be a 'Celebration of Learning.' It is a chance for parents to wander into classrooms to look at children's learning. There will also be a showcase of our STEAM learning. This afternoon will be on Thursday 14th September at 3.15pm-4.30pm

Emmaus Primary School is a wonderful place to be. Thank you to the children, parents and teachers for making it the place it is. I am so grateful to be part of such a generous learning community eager to be there for each other to enable growth.

Take care

Jackie

DATES TO REMEMBER:

BOOK COVERING - WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

FROM 8.45AM - 10.30AM IN THE STAFFROOM.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETING-MONDAY 24TH JULY AT 6.30

YEAR 4 SACRAMENTAL PARENT ENGAGEMENT MEETING- THURSDAY 3RD AUGUST

SCHOOL CLOSURE-FRIDAY 4TH AUGUST

YEAR 4 HOLY COMMUNION-SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST

END OF YEAR DATE FOR STUDENTS: FRIDAY, 15TH DECEMBER

2023 YEAR 6S END OF YEAR DATE: WEDNESDAY, 13TH DECEMBER