



EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

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A message to the community

It was the Feast of the Assumption on Tuesday. This day is a very special day on our liturgical calendar and marks the occasion of the Virgin Mary's bodily ascent into heaven.

**Taken up into heaven,
Mary shows us the way to God,
the way to heaven and the way to life.
Pope John Paul 2nd**

Dear Families,

It has been another wonderful fortnight of learning at Emmaus.

100 years of Foundation

Yesterday we celebrated 100 days of learning for our Foundation students. They were so gorgeous. Some dressed up as 100 year olds and some dressed in Disney costumes as Disney celebrates 100 years this year as well. The students showcased some of their learning to parents, friends, aunties, uncles and grandparents. They sang The Aboriginal 'Our Father', shared their Italian learning, their Zones of Regulation, their learning about sentences, even discussing nouns, verbs, adjectives and punctuation. They finished off the presentation with a very vibrant dance. The audience was very impressed with their learning. I was a very proud Principal. Parents were able to view some of the students' art work and then finished off with a cuppa in the staffroom. We thank all of those that came along to enjoy the celebrations.



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First Holy Communion

Last Saturday we celebrated our Year 4s First Holy Communion. The children were stunning and presented to Father Maurie beautifully. We were very proud of them. Thank you to Lorraine for your organisation of this very special sacrament. We also thank Danielle, Rosemary, Adriana and Kate for their preparation of the students. A big thank you to our educators - Jessica, Marlene, Vanessa, Lorraine, Kirsty and Elizabeth for giving up time on their weekend to attend this Sacrament. A BIG thank you to Elizabeth for organising our school choir to sing at the three masses and Kirsty for supporting the choir.

Choir Thank you

Thank you to our AMAZING Emmaus choir who offered their time to support the Year 4s at their First Holy Communion. Their singing was beautiful. Some of the students sang at all three masses which was an extraordinary effort. There were many year 2 students in our choir and they were amazing. Of course they were led by other students from year 3 - 6. These children have given up many of their playtimes to practise. THANK YOU!

Restorative Practice meeting

Next Wednesday, 23rd August, we have a parent meeting about Restorative Practices at Emmaus. This is part of our wellbeing focus at Emmaus. We are working with Adam Voight's team at REAL SCHOOLS. The meeting will address how we can work together to mould young people for today and tomorrow and how we can use the same strategies to manage behaviour, encourage responsibility, and improve the chances of success for our children. This meeting will be led by Kirsty Lush. Kirsty is a very engaging speaker and will explain how it all works at school and give you some suggestions for home. Kirsty is coaching our staff and will be at our school all day on Wednesday working alongside our teachers with the children. The meeting will be held in the school library next Wednesday, 23rd August at 7pm. We hope to have as many parents as possible come along to this meeting.

School Review

On our last school closure day we worked with MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools) to review the teaching and learning at Emmaus and to set goals toward our strategic plan for 2024 - 2027. The staff worked together to reflect on our practice. Every Catholic school is reviewed every four years.

Portugal Pilgrimage

Danielle has returned safely from her World Youth Day pilgrimage to Italy and Portugal. We loved receiving her photos and reflections that were shared on our Instagram page and look forward to hearing more over the coming weeks.



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Congratulations

Congratulations to Mr A!! Andrew's wife Nicole gave birth to a beautiful baby girl this morning. Andrew will be away on parental leave for the next four weeks.

Picking Up Children at the end of the Day

If you need to pick children up from school early for appointments please pick them up before 3pm. The office is very busy at the end of the day. We understand if you need to attend an occasional appointment so please pick the children up before 3pm. Picking up children to avoid the busyness of the carpark is not a reason for children to miss the end of the school day. The last 15 minutes of the day is an important learning time. We set the classroom for the next day of learning, reflect on our learning and discuss what the children can expect the next day.

The school day concludes with the bell at 3.15. We have had up to 40 children waiting more than 15-30 minutes to be picked up after school. Teachers need to get to meetings after school and should not have to wait this long. We understand if you are running late now and then but it seems to be the same children waiting for these extended periods of time. If your child is being picked up late continuously we will place them in after school care at your cost. Thank you to the parents that have had conversations with me explaining where they are.

Adult Toilets

When adults are dropping off children at school or picking them up after school they may use the Ambulant toilet located near the children's toilet. Adults cannot enter the children's toilets. If someone else drops off or picks up your children please let them know there is an adult toilet for them to use.

District Sports

On Wednesday we had a team of 33 students attend the District Sports at Keilor Athletics Track. We had our senior athletics carnival earlier this year so we could choose our team based on their results. Thank you to Kathryn and Sarah, our physical education teachers who held early morning training sessions to ensure our success at the event. We were lucky enough to have 13 children go through to the Divisional finals which will be held on Tuesday 5th September at Keilor Athletics Track again.

Keeping children safe

We work together to embed the 11 child safe standards at Emmaus. The first child safe standard asks us to provide culturally safe environments for our students. You will notice we now have three flags flying - the Aboriginal flag, the Torres Strait Islander flag as well as the Australian flag. Today is the National Day Against Bullying and Violence and we made special mention of valuing the cultural diversity everybody brings to our Emmaus Community.



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We continually work at keeping the children at Emmaus safe. If the children think something hasn't been dealt with adequately or they have a concern, the children are invited to share their concerns with their teacher or a member of the leadership team. Please remind your children we are here to help them work through things.

The Emmaus Disco

We have the school disco happening this evening. We hope everyone has a wonderful time dancing the night away.

Please remember my door is always open and you are welcome to discuss anything with me.

Take care,

Jackie

Dates

21st - 25th August - Book Week and Book Fair (Monday 21st is the Dress Up Day)

23rd August - Parent Meeting 7pm in the library - Restorative Practices

28th August - Last Day for Pie Sales (Late orders cannot be taken)

1st September - Father's Day Stall and Emmaus Mass - Foundation - Year 2 at 2pm

5th September - Family Engagement Evening for Year 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation

6th September - Pick up pies

6th - 8th September - Year 5 camp to Queenscliff

12th September - Sacrament of Reconciliation for Year 3s 5pm and 6.30pm

13th September - Sacrament of Reconciliation for Year 3s 6pm

14th September - Footy Day and Hot Dog lunch

14th September - Celebration of Learning - School Open Night 3.15pm - 4.30pm

15th September - Emmaus Mass at 9.30am Foundation - Year 4

15th September - Term 3 concludes at 1pm

2nd October - Term 4 Begins
