



# EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

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2023



Happy Father's Day

God of all creation,  
pour out your blessing on all fathers  
and those who provide fatherly care.

Grant them keen insight into their  
children's needs. Help them to be  
faithful examples of truth and love.

Sustain them with the knowledge  
that they are your beloved children.  
Amen.

## A message to the community

Dear Families,

Last week I was inspired by one of my Principal newsletters. In it there was a reflection on smiling. It was pointed out that smiling is *"an underrated tactic that is free, takes little effort, but can make a positive difference to your site culture."* It really got me thinking about how a 'smile' can contribute to a positive culture in our school. In this newsletter we were encouraged to mindfully take a walk around the school and smile at the students, the staff and the birds. This newsletter reminded me how fortunate I am to be the Principal of Emmaus. I never have to force a smile and I never need to be reminded to smile. The Emmaus community brings it out in me. It doesn't matter what my morning or day has been like there is always something at Emmaus that makes me smile. Over the coming weeks I will share what makes me smile at Emmaus on Instagram. I am blessed and so very grateful. Hopefully, the images will give you something to smile about too!

### Safety of our children

The safety of our children is extremely important to us at Emmaus. In the mornings the gates are open at 8.30 and the children are then supervised by teachers on duty until the bell goes at 8.45. At the end of the day the children are supervised until parents pick their children up.

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## **Parent responsibility before and after school**

We love having parents chatting in the piazza after school with their children playing around them, in the trees and on the playground. When parents pick their children up after school they are responsible for their child's safety. If your children are on the playground, parents must supervise them. If the children are climbing trees or playing on the asphalt, parents need to be responsible for them. Teachers often have meetings they need to hurry to after school and cannot supervise the children at this time of the day. Parents are also responsible for supervising preschool children before and after school. Thank you for partnering with us for the care and safety of the children at Emmaus.

## **Learning Support Officer Appreciation Week**

A BIG shout out to our Learning Support Officers at Emmaus. They work so hard to support the children and the teachers each day. We are very grateful to them all.

Thank you Cheryl, Susan, Katie, Julia, Leeann, Esther, Marianne, Marlene, Rachel, Jenny, Mary and Daniela.

## **Book Week**

Gone are the COVID days!! We have had another wonderful fortnight of learning at Emmaus. Last week we celebrated Book Week. It was a great opportunity to reflect on the wonderful books we are surrounded by. A fabulous week was had by all beginning with our Dress Up Parade. Families went to a lot of trouble and the children were dressed up magnificently. I, on the other hand, took the opportunity to dress up as a 'Llama in Pyjamas'. It was a wonderful opportunity to work in my oodie and ugg boots.

## **Incursions and Excursions**

This week has been a week full of experiential learning. Our Foundation students ventured off to the Werribee Zoo for their first school excursion to learn about animals and their natural habitats. Our Year 3/4 students experienced an incursion about space and how the sun and moon affects the earth. Our Year 5/6 students explored a science incursion about space and our Year 1/2 students joined in with a fun incursion about 'Light and Sound'. Our students were very engaged in their learning and a lot of knowledge has been gained. Look out for the photos on Instagram. Next Tuesday our year 3/4 students are off to Scienceworks.

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## **Sacramental Evening**

Next Tuesday evening, 5th September at either 5pm or 6.30pm our year 3 students and their parents will attend a Reconciliation Family Engagement session in the Emmaus Church, facilitated by Maurie Cooney our Parish Priest. This is a great opportunity for families to reflect on and prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The children will be participating in this sacrament on Tuesday 12th September and Wednesday 13th September.

## **Year 5 Camp**

Next week our Year 5s will attend their first camp. They are heading off to Camp Wyuna in Queenscliff. We look forward to sharing many fun activities together. The travellers will be leaving Wednesday morning, 6th September and will return on Friday 8th September.

## **Fundraising**

Our parents have been working really hard over the last few weeks. The Pie Drive finished last Monday and pies will be delivered on Wednesday, 6th September. More information about the collection will follow. Tomorrow we will hold our Father's/Special Person Day Stall. The children are invited to bring some money along to purchase items. Thank you to the many parents who have offered their time to support this 'shopping' experience for our children.

## **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.

We wish all our Emmaus Dads and Father figures a wonderful Father's Day this Sunday, and an enjoyable time with your families.

Have a great week,

Jackie

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## Dates

- 1st September** - Father's Day Stall and Emmaus Paraliturgie - Foundation - Year 2 at 2.30pm
  - 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
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