



EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

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A message to the community

Welcome back to Term 4,

Here we are settling back into Term 4 and half a world away there are countries in total anguish. Please take time to pray for these people. I cannot begin to understand their pain and the terror they are enduring. It is one thing for armies to fight each other but it is another to involve civilians, particularly children who have no hope of protecting themselves.

Let us pray.

A Prayer for Peace

How do we pray for peace from half a world away?
How can words salve and soothe real wounds,
Assuage real fears, Wipe tears from real eyes?
God of endless compassion, transform our prayers
From words into bridges, that span the distances
Between us, uniting our hearts in yours.
Every time we turn our keys in a lock,
May we remember all who are losing their homes.
Every time we step into our cars,
May we remember all who are having to flee.
Every time we embrace our children,
May we remember all who are trying to shield theirs from war.
May our besieged sisters and brothers
Be drawn into the arms of the suffering Christ,
And may our cry be heard as one voice,
Ringing out from every corner of the earth:
God of endless mercy, grant us peace.
Amen.

— Cameron Bellin

INS JESUITS spirit & verse



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Social media Warning

A warning has been issued to all families whose children use social media platforms. Dr James Coulson and Susan Maclean, two people I rate very highly, have warned parents that their children's social media could be interrupted with images from the war in Israel. The images coming out of these countries are hard for adults to comprehend. I imagine they would be very traumatising for our children. We can never 'unsee' the images. Please be vigilant with this. Dr James Coulson has a video explaining this if you would like to view it. Just Google it.

Liturgy News

Thank you to the parents who came to celebrate mass with our Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 students today. It was a beautiful mass. Thank you to Lorraine and the team who planned it and prepared the children.

School Improvement news

Over the school holidays we had the Foundation and Year 1 building carpeted and the new playground completed. The children are loving both of these endeavours. Thank you to our parents and friends committee who raised the money for our new playground. Thank you to Michael who gave up most of his holidays to supervise the workers.

Fundraising

We have two major fundraising endeavours this term. Our first is our Mini Fair which will take place on Friday, 10th November and the second is our Colour Run which will take place on Friday 8th December. The money raised from our Colour Run will go towards our Emmaus Forest. Our architects are currently drawing up some plans for this area. We will then engage a landscape gardener to bring our dreams to light. We have shown the architects how the children play in this area. They will create a space where children can play freely - digging, building, creating and problem solving. It is wonderful to see so many children of various ages playing together happily in this area.

2024

As we begin Term 4 we are beginning to plan for 2024. We need to know if families from Foundation to Year 5 are moving on. If you are thinking about moving on or know for sure please let us know as it affects our funding and staffing for next year. We will keep this information confidential and we will save a place for your child until you know for certain.

Child Safety

Yesterday I sent an Operoo not home to all parents. Please take the time to read it. It is very important to the wellbeing of all children. We do not send our children to school to just be taught maths and literacy. They come to learn about relationships and this can be tricky and children make mistakes. Our teachers will support them with this. If you ever have any concerns please chat with your child's teacher.



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Junior Athletics

Our Junior Athletics Day is on Friday 3rd November. Thank you to Sarah and Kathryn, our Physical Education teachers who are planning for this event and preparing our children. We welcome parent helpers on the day and parents are most welcome to watch their children in their events on this day. There will be a 3pm assembly on this day to celebrate our winners.

Icy Poles

Icy Poles are back on! Children can purchase a Zooper Dooper for \$1 each day. The children eat these icy poles in their classroom when they have finished their lunch.

A Grant for New Classrooms

We have been unsuccessful in our attempts for the recent grant to build new classrooms for our children. A new grant opportunity has been announced. We will try again with the help of MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese for Catholic Schools) and our architects. We are likely to find out if we are successful next year. The process is very slow and we have to save money to put towards the new building. In the meantime we will keep repairing the portable classrooms and updating our existing classrooms.

Remember if you have any questions please email me or ring the office and make a time for a chat.

Kind regards,

Jackie

Dates so far:

October 27th- Year 3-6 Mass at 2pm

November 6th- School Closure Day

November 7th- Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

November 10th- Emmaus Mini Fair

November 10th- School Mass

December 4th-School reports go home

December 5th and 6th- Parent/Teacher Interviews

December 7th-Christmas concert

December 8th- Crazy colour fun run

December 15th-End of school year- Prep-Year 5
