

EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

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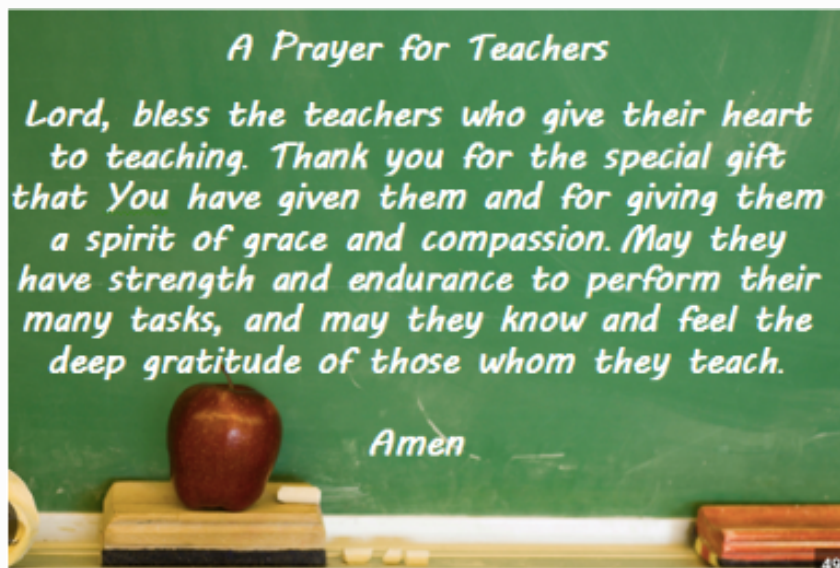
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October
27th 2023



A message to the community



Dear Families,

Today is 'World Teachers Day.' On this day I acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding work of all teachers at Emmaus who work hard to inspire and enable our students to flourish in our world. They are a tremendous team who continue to give of themselves for the children in their care and to their profession. We are very grateful for each of them.



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Staffing Update

As you already know we have quite a few pregnant staff members getting ready to go on maternity leave. We are really excited to be welcoming so many little babies to the Emmaus family. Melissa Balzan (6 Mabo) will finish up on Thursday, 2nd November and Bianca Babic (6 Mabo) will leave on Friday, 3rd November. We are finalising who will be teaching in Year 6 Mabo and will let these parents know early next week. At the moment we are busy recruiting. Good teachers are hard to find in the current climate but we have got some wonderful teachers choosing to teach at Emmaus next year.

School Review

Over the last fortnight our school has been under review. This happens in all schools every 4 years. It was wonderful to be able to share our work at Emmaus with our reviewer. The reviewer met with teachers, students and parents to gain a picture of all we are doing at Emmaus. We will receive our report later this year and we will work together with the Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools staff to develop our next steps and we will be in a position to share our strategic plan with you early next year.

Social Media

We work hard to communicate information to parents. We send home newsletters and often post information on our Instagram page and on LinkedIn. On Instagram you will find us at *emmaussydenham* and *Emmaus Catholic Primary School, Sydenham* on LinkedIn. We post mostly about the children's learning and reminders on Instagram and about teacher's professional development on LinkedIn. We are very lucky to have a teaching team of great learners always wanting to develop their craft.

Seesaw

Seesaw is another way we communicate teaching and learning to our families. It is like being a 'fly on the wall' of the classroom and you can see your child's learning straight away. This is often learning the children want you to see and have chosen themselves. The children love it when you like their work and write a positive comment to them acknowledging their effort. The learning is not meant to be perfect. We encourage all children to do their best and we know mistakes are a part of learning.

Children leaving early

Many children have been leaving school before the 3.15 finish. One day last week 40 children were picked up early. As I finish off this newsletter, 13 children have left in the last hour. We understand if a child has an allied health appointment but many children are just being picked up early to avoid the carpark or to get home quickly. Parents can park at the train station or Watergardens or Pecks Road and pick up their children. Every minute of the school day is important. It is a huge disruption to the office and the learning in the classroom when children are picked up early. Please make appointments after school with enough time to allow for the traffic around our school at the end of the day. Of course we understand if children are being picked up early occasionally or if they have a regular allied health appointment.



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Mass

Today the Years 3 - 6 children celebrated mass together. The children were involved in planning the celebration, writing beautiful prayers and offering to read and to participate in the offertory. The theme of the mass was The Good Samaritan. Thank you to the many parents who were able to attend. The children love seeing you there.

Thank you to our Outdoor Discovery Children

A BIG thank you to some of our outdoor education children who have been helping to regenerate some areas around our school. They have been placing mulch around the trees in the 'piazza' and filling the sandpit with fresh sand. The students have really enjoyed their 'hard' work and have loved reviving some tired areas in our school for others. Thank you to Michael, Raquel and Cheryl for making this happen as part of our Outdoor Discovery program. This helps the children to appreciate the hard work that goes into keeping our school beautiful and safe. It is also good to be helping and doing things for others to enjoy.

Vandalism

Over the last few weeks there has been some vandalism at our school. Last week a door was pulled off its hinges in the boys toilet, toilet paper has been thrown on the ceiling of the toilets again and disgusting language has been written in the toilets. We spent \$3900 getting toilet paper off the ceiling of the toilets and repainting last year. We are really working hard to save our money and put it back into our school and we really do not want to be redoing work we have already done because of the disrespect shown by a few children. This behaviour is not ok and it is very disappointing to think that some children are seeing others do this and not being 'upstanders' and reporting the behaviour to teachers. We only have one rule - one of respect, for ourselves, others, the environment and our God. These students are not demonstrating respect at all. Could parents please talk to their children about being an 'upstander' and reporting these incidents when they occur so we can deal with it straight away. Being an 'upstander' is not being a 'snitch', it is about doing the right thing.

Change of Date for the Mini Fair

We are really excited to be having our Emmaus mini Fair next in the coming weeks. It was originally planned for Friday the 10th November but we have had to change the date to Friday, 24th November. We can't wait to enjoy this day. It is a lot of work to organise and we will be looking for parents to help out, but it is so much fun.

Junior Athletics Carnival

Our Foundation, Year 1 and 2 students will be involved in their Athletics day next Friday 3rd November. They have been working on their skills throughout the year and can't wait to showcase them on this day. Parents are welcome to come along and watch. Thank you to Kathryn O'Beirne and Sarah Gonsalves for all their work in preparing the children and the day.



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It looks like it is going to be a beautiful weekend. I hope everyone gets a chance to be outside enjoying the sunshine. I'm excited to be able to hang my washing outside!!

Warm regards,

Jackie

Dates so far:

November 6th- School Closure Day

November 7th- Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

November 10th- School Mass

November 24th- Emmaus Mini Fair

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
