



EMMAUS NEWSLETTER

November
30th 2023

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**GOD OF LOVE,
YOUR SON, JESUS, IS YOUR
GREATEST GIFT TO US.
HE IS A SIGN OF YOUR LOVE.
HELP US WALK IN THAT LOVE
DURING THE WEEKS OF
ADVENT,
AS WE WAIT AND PREPARE
FOR HIS COMING.
WE PRAY IN THE NAME OF
JESUS, OUR SAVIOR.**



A message to the community

Dear Families,

What a time of great celebration.

Congratulations to our amazing Emmaus educators.

Our external review, by VALAD Solutions on behalf of the Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools has been completed. Like every other school, this is a review that is conducted every four years. Below is the letter we received from Mary Oski, the Director of Learning and Regional Services to confirm our compliance.





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The report provided by our reviewer Emma Richardson stated that the school,

'has made progress against the priorities of the 2020 - 2023 School Improvement Plan (SIP), including to strengthen and embed knowledge and application of highly effective teaching practices, and to build a performance and development culture underpinned by collaboration, reflection and feedback. Emmaus Catholic Primary School has provided staff with a breadth of Professional Learning opportunities aligned to the priorities of the 2023 Annual Action Plan. The leadership and management of the school was endorsed by staff in the 2023 MACSSIS surveys, and the review found that positive cultural change had occurred. Collaborative and collegiate teams were operating with direct support from executive and instructional leaders, with the breadth and depth of professional learning creating an environment where teachers were striving to improve outcomes for all students. A commitment to enhancing partnerships across all areas of the school community should be maintained as a priority. Student wellbeing is a visible priority at Emmaus Catholic Primary School, with a sustained focus on building a restorative culture discussed by students, parents and staff. A positive impact of the whole school prioritisation of wellbeing was evident.'

We are thrilled that our dedicated team of teachers have been recognised for their hard work and commitment to all of the children, their families and their colleagues. We are sure our parent community will join with leadership in celebrating and congratulating each of them.

Over the next few weeks we will work with our Regional Leadership Consultant to develop our 2024 - 2027 Strategic Plan. We will be able to share this plan with our parent community early next year. It is a very exciting time at Emmaus.

2024 Classes

We are currently finalising classes for next year. This year we can guarantee each child at Emmaus has been placed with at least one friend from their friendship list. We have endeavoured to accommodate teacher and parent recommendations, but as you can appreciate classes are socially complex and there are limitations to what we can put into place.

Reports

End of year reports will be available from Monday, 4th December via email. Please check your emails and junk spam on Monday. Parent teacher interviews will be held on Monday, 4th December, Tuesday 5th December and Wednesday 6th December. This is an opportunity for you to chat through your child's report with their teacher.



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Farewells

At the end of every school year the time comes for us to farewell staff members and welcome new ones. This year we farewell Steff Hall who is relocating to Geraldton, Western Australia. Rachel Parke is setting off on an adventure to travel the world and Alicia Hudson is heading off to experience other opportunities and Yukai Wang, our psychologist, will be returning to Sydney. Martha Mikhail and Claudia Larsen-Vannata will be growing their families, both expecting a new baby early next year. We also farewell Mary Bailey who has decided to take a little rest from teaching. The time has also come for us to farewell Sandra Evans who has been a part of the Emmaus community from the very beginning. We wish them all the very best and thank them for their contribution to our Emmaus story.

New Teachers

We are welcoming new teachers from far and wide. We welcome Ines Moita, Ben Donnelly, Anthony Dimkopoulos, Simone Smith, Vicky Tzourtzouklis, Luisa Failla and Libby Page. All of these teachers will be starting at Emmaus at the beginning of next year. Francine Grant will join us at the beginning of term 2. We also welcome back Hayley McNicol and Adena Casa who have both been on maternity leave. Julia Martino and Alicia Delgadillo have both joined us this year and will stay with us next year. Julia Everest will also return to the finance officer role. Julia filled in for Sandra Evans while she was on long service leave in Term 3. We are really looking forward to welcoming these new teachers to our learning community.

Welcome

We also welcome two new members to our Emmaus family. Bianca gave birth to twin girls, Tiana and Sophia on November 18th. They were a couple of weeks early but are both doing very well. Bianca is also doing well. Congratulations Bianca and Michael Majstorovic.

Grade 6 Graduation

Our Year 6s will be graduating from Emmaus very soon. The Year 6s will head off to bowling on Monday, 11th December and will share a lunch together on Wednesday, 13th December. This lunch is a gift to the students from the fundraising committee. Their graduation mass will be held on Wednesday, 13th December at 6.30pm at the Emmaus Church. We are very sorry to see our beautiful students leave us but we know they are ready to head off to high school and we wish them the best of luck. Year 6s finish school on Wednesday, 13th December with a guard of honour.

Mini Fair 2023

What a wonderful day we had last Friday celebrating at the Emmaus Mini Fair. A big thank you to the families who volunteered their time to help support the successful running of the fair. Your assistance was very much appreciated by all. Thank you to the families who came along to participate and join in the fun. Thank you to the children of Emmaus who supported the fair well. We are still finalising the profits of the fair and will share with you in the next newsletter.



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Concert

Christmas carols are being practised all throughout the school for our Christmas concert next Thursday, 7th December. This year the concert will be performed at CRC North Keilor as the hall at CRC Sydenham is still being renovated. The hall will be opened at 6pm and the concert will begin at 6.30pm. The children look forward to showing off their talents. Thank you to our performing arts teacher, Elizabeth Kietner who has been coordinating this event.

Fun Run

Next Friday, 8th December we will hold our Emmaus Colour Fun Run. This is a great fundraising event for our school. Children are asked to wear a white or light coloured t-shirt so you can see the colours. If you haven't registered for the fun run please register before the 8th December to qualify for a prize. Prizes will be distributed at the beginning of next year.

Holiday Program

Some of our parents have expressed interest in extending our before and after school care program to a holiday program as well. As parents return to their place of work instead of working from home we are considering this program. We have spoken to Kelly Club and they are interested in providing this service if they have enough interest. Early next week we will send home a questionnaire inviting your thoughts on this matter. Thank you to the parents who have brought this matter to our attention.

Late Pick Ups

We have a new EBA and teachers are unable to supervise children after 3.30pm. The same people seem to leave their children at the office well after the end of day dismissal time. We ask parents to reassess their pick up time or enrol their children in after school care if they are going to be late every day. Thank you to the parents who have explained their circumstances to us.

We look forward to seeing you all next week at the Christmas concert.

Kind regards,

Jackie



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Dates so far:

December 4th-School reports go home

December 5th and 6th- Parent/Teacher Interviews

December 7th-Christmas concert

December 8th- Crazy colour fun run

December 12th- Year 6 Graduation Mass 6pm

December 13th- End of school year- Year 6

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

January 29th - Staff only return to school

January 30th- Prep and new students 2024 Orientation 9am-11.30

January 31st- First day for Years 1-6
