Principal Matters

I am delighted to welcome you back to 2016 – new beginnings and fresh starts. We especially welcome all our new students and their families to Emmaus.

At the recent time of planning and preparation by the Executive Team, we took some time to carefully discuss, design and set up the vision for our school in 2016 and beyond. I would like to thank Kim and Michelle Gillis for generously providing us with their retreat residence at Moruya.

We consider the investment of time and energy that went into this planning retreat to have been worthwhile and fruitful and trust that it will serve the school well. We can assure you of our unity, commitment and excitement to lead this great school into the future. We will share more of our plans and approaches through newsletters and information evenings as the year progresses.

At the start of our retreat we reflected on a passage from the Old Testament which holds an interesting story. Here’s a short summary of 2 Kings 6. The nation of Aram (Syrians) was always at war with Israel. However, every time they would, God would tell Elisha, a prophet of God in Israel, what Aram’s war plans were. So Aram’s war plans were frustrated and Israel would win every time. When the enemy king learned that Elisha was the one who frustrated their plans, he stopped going after Israel and sent an army to get Elisha instead. Elisha’s servant woke up and went outside one morning to see that he and Elisha were surrounded by enemy troops. Understandably in panic, the servant ran back in and asked Elisha, “What are we going to do?” Elisha said: “Don’t worry. The people on our side far outnumber those against us.”

This would have frightened the servant even more because he knew it was only Elisha and himself ‘on their side’. Elisha then prayed, “O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!” So God did and suddenly, Elisha’s servant saw an army of angels on the hills outside ready to protect them from the army of Aram. The servant wasn’t scared anymore and God gave Elisha just the right tactics to defeat the enemy army without any need for violence.

Just like Elisha and his servant, we all have concerns and matters tempting us to panic. It is good to remember that we also have a whole lot more for us than against us. Yet, often when we are in the midst of it, we just can’t see it. God needs to open our eyes to all that is on our side and, like Elisha, let’s just ask him to do that. What an encouraging way to start the year!

As I write this, Emmaus staff are heading out to Warrambui to prepare for the new year. Teachers have also been busy setting up their classrooms ready for the return of students. Once again, welcome to Emmaus for 2016.

Erik Hosfsink, Principal

From our Primary Coordinator

Welcome back to 2016. I trust you have been blessed and refreshed during the break. I spent my holidays Peru-sing amazon scenery. Boli-va me, it was truly Orr-some! Can you guess where I went?

This year is going to be exciting. We are looking forward to working with Eric, our new principal, to continue growing ECS into a caring community that promotes excellence in all areas.

In Term One we will “meet the teacher”, enjoy a whole school picnic, have fun at a working bee, and hold our swimming and cross country carnivals.

I hope you are, like me, looking forward to a fantastic year.

Caroline Orr
Primary Coordinator

From our Secondary Coordinator

Welcome back to 2016. I hope you had a fantastic festive season. It is exciting to start the New Year at Emmaus and I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our students and parents. It is great to see new families joining us this year. Please welcome them into the Emmaus community. I am also very pleased to welcome Mrs Jo Brown back to our school. She is an excellent Japanese teacher, returning to Emmaus after some time away.

Homeroom will be taking the first fifteen minutes of each day this year, as a time to take the role, deal with administrative issues, and have class devotions. Your child’s homeroom teacher is your best first point of contact with any concerns. You are also welcome to contact me directly.

Other changes this year include the timing of camp, which will be in Week 7 of first term, and the introduction of a Christian Education Program in Secondary. This will be taught by Mr Peter Willis.

Assessment information for each subject will come home in the first two weeks of term. Please see the letter coming home to all Secondary parents for further information, as we look forward to an exciting Term 1!
ALL SCHOOL NEWS

Whole School Swimming Carnival
Our school swimming carnival is coming up quickly in Week 3, Thursday February 18. If you did not return permission notes last semester, or are new to the school, please see your class teacher for notes and return them ASAP.

WWVP
We love to have parents help out in the classroom and on school excursions! Please be aware that legislation in the ACT requires parent helpers to have a Working With Vulnerable People card. Applications are available from Canberra Connect, and it can take several weeks to complete the process. If you are planning to be involved in the classroom, excursions or school camps this year, we encourage you to apply early.

Secondhand Uniform Sales
Available from Monday 18 January
Our supply of Secondhand Uniforms will be set up in the Canteen foyer for families to come and purchase. There will be a small number of new uniform items available at bargain prices. Secondhand uniform sales will remain set up during the first week of Term 1.

Make use of our Prayer Mail Box
Prayer requests can be placed in the NEW GREEN mail box located outside the canteen. It is clearly marked and locked.

Our Thursday Prayer Group will pray for you in a confidential manner.

Have you returned your INFORMATION & MEDICAL forms yet?
Over the break, you should have received Family Information and Child/ren Medical Forms. Please return to the office ASAP.

LEGO CLUB FOR YEARS 3-5
Mr Andrew Harper will be running an after school Lego Club for years 3-5, starting Tuesday of Week 2.

It will be held in the Year 3 classroom from 3.15–4.15 on Tuesdays.

The cost is $13 a week, or $100 for the term.

See the front office or Mrs Harper to sign up!

Technology Changes for 2016
Digital Technology at Emmaus is an integral part of our curriculum and we are committed to ensuring our practices are current and relevant to students educational needs. Important changes and information for the iPad Program for Year 7 & Year 8, the trial BYOD in Year 6 and new compulsory BYOD for Year 9 & 10 in 2016 have been emailed to parents and are available on the School Website.

REMINDER: Students not to use Mobile Phones
Parents please remind your child/children that mobile phones are not to be used at school. Phones will be confiscated if students are found using them.
**Canteen 2016**
We are very pleased to announce that we have a new Canteen Manager & Assistant! Helen Corliss will be running the Canteen, and will be assisted by Michelle Burch.

FRIDAY will be our Canteen Day. Orders need to be in the box in the front office by Wed mornings! Please be sure to welcome Helen & Michelle, and thank them for enabling us to continue this service within the School.

**SPECIALS FOR**
**Week 1:** Grilled Chicken Wraps with lettuce and mayo - $3.50

**Week 2:** Loaded Wedges with Guacamole and Salsa - $3.50

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**Sports News**
We would like to congratulate students representing our school and those that are celebrating success in their chosen sport. Please send Mrs Harper your news. nicole@emmaus.act.edu.au

If your child excels at a certain sport, please check the Primary School Sports Association website: [http://www.schoolsportact.asn.au/](http://www.schoolsportact.asn.au/)

The website has the dates for trials (normally after school hours). Should a student be successful in the trials, they play for North Gungahlin against other Canberra regions for a full school day. Students are then selected from these regional teams to play for the ACT. Students must have both the Sports Coordinator and the Principal’s signature on the downloaded permission slip to be able to attend.

**Reminder: We are ‘Nut Aware’**
A reminder to all parents that Emmaus is a nut aware school. Students should not share food and should never knowingly bring nuts or nut products to school that may find their way into contact with other students. Please stay aware!

**Be Sun Smart!**
Emmaus requires ALL students in Preschool, Primary and Secondary to wear a hat for all outside activities in Term 1. Students without a hat will need to stay under the shade cloth in their respective courtyards.

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**Lost Property**
Please make sure all uniform items and belongings are clearly labelled. The Primary Lost Property Box is now located outside the Front Office for easy parent access.

**School Pick Up/Drop Off Zone**
Let’s Keep it Safe for Parents & Students

The pick up/drop off zone in our main car park is just for … picking up and dropping off ONLY.

- In this zone DO NOT park or leave your car unattended – drivers must stay in the car.
- 1 minute should be the longest time you stop in this zone.
- Please DO NOT block the Davenport entry point, when trying to squeeze your car in at the end of the zone.
- Consideration for other parents and drivers is greatly appreciated.

**Term Dates for 2016**
**Term 1:** Mon 1 Feb – Fri 8 Apr
**Term 2:** Tues 26 Apr – 24 Jun
(Note: 3 week break)
**Term 3:** 18 Jul – 23 Sep
**Term 4:** 10 Oct – Tue 13 Dec

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**PIP Opportunities**
Parent TEAM needed to support students reading: Starting 2016, Mrs Denise Sheehan would like two parents per day, Mondays to Thursdays, from Term 1-4, to volunteer 20-30 minutes each day to listen and coach our students in reading. Training will be provided. WWVP required please contact Denise.

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**Specials for Week 1:**
Grilled Chicken Wraps with lettuce and mayo - $3.50

**Specials for Week 2:**
Loaded Wedges with Guacamole and Salsa - $3.50

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All Emmaus Uniform is now sold through Macdonalds Kidswear


Jamison Plaza
MACQUARIE
6251 2660
Monday - Friday 9 - 5.30pm
Saturday 9 - 4pm
Sunday 10 - 2pm