**Principal Matters**

What an exciting first two weeks we have had – indeed one of new beginnings and fresh starts! New faces, new classes, new friends, new teachers, some refurbished rooms, the list goes on…For those who were able to attend the first assembly last Monday, thank you for your presence and for making me feel welcome again. As I said at the assembly, I am eager to share the vision for Emmaus with you very soon. Please watch this space and make an effort to attend that evening. It would be good to get to know you all a bit better.

It has been nice to spend some mornings and afternoons ‘out at the front’ and getting to know more and more students and their families. I may not remember all the new names but I will most certainly recognise the faces. I was also delighted to join a group of our Prayer Parents on Thursday and stay with them for a little while. Don’t hesitate to use the ‘prayer mailbox’ at the school’s entrance to submit prayer requests. Don’t forget our Meet the Teachers Day & School Picnic this Friday! I look forward to seeing many of you there.

As the staff gathered last week Monday morning for their weekly devotions, Josiah and Lily, our SRC Executive students, came to share with us and to pray for us. Not only was I impressed with their maturity, their testimony of faith and resilience in daily walk, their willingness to lead our students this year is exemplary of good student leadership.

In my first column, I quoted Paul Tripp. He says that he is deeply persuaded of the root of our complaint, or, conversely, our gratitude, is the result of the way we view ourselves in our hearts. He says that if we foolishly assume that we are a good people, then we will arrogantly assume that we are deserving people. We place ourselves in the center and live with an “I deserve” attitude. Have we forgotten that this universe wasn’t created to serve us? We are not the center of this narrative. The Gospel tells me that I’m not a good person; in fact, the only thing I deserve in this life is God’s wrath. So if I remember that, in an act of outrageous grace, God turned his face of mercy and kindness towards me, and that every good thing in my life is an undeserved blessing, feelings of humility and thankfulness (rather than entitlement and disappointment) will fill my heart. Instead of trying to exploit situations, locations and relationships in my life to serve me, I will now approach people and places with a servant’s heart. I will be so overwhelmed with gratitude at the sacrifice of Christ that my life will now be defined by similar sacrifice. Isn’t that a better way?

Until next time, know God’s grace.

Erik Hosfsink, Principal

**From our Primary Coordinator**

What a wonderful start to Term 1. Students seem to have quickly settled in with new friends, new teachers and new routines. I have enjoyed spending time with each class during Week 1, revising and explaining the school rules and Brave Talk. Our school rules can be summed up under three main headings; be kind, be safe and be respectful.

Please encourage and support your child in their use Brave Talk. We want to teach them skills to enable them to resolve problems with peers, politely and respectfully, and to move past what has happened… and Brave Talk works!

**Brave Talk involves:**

Student 1: Expressing what’s frustrating: I didn’t like it when you _______.

Student 2: Explicitly apologising: I’m sorry for _______. (Meaning: ‘I’m going to try my hardest not to do ____ again!’)

Student 1: Forgiveness and moving forward: I forgive you.

**Highlights of my first two weeks of school:**

- Bright, sunny faces at morning line-up, happy to be at school
- Having students go out of their way to assist me when I was carrying something
Running a Year 6 leadership day where students got excited about leadership and working as a team

Acting out Brave Talk and having students misread the card ‘Act out one student sticking their tongue out at another student’ as ‘Act out one student sticking their tongue on another student.’ Whoops!

We look forward to a wonderful year with your child.

Caroline Orr
Primary Coordinator

From our Director of Studies

It’s been a wonderful start to 2016 here at Emmaus, and I am so excited to be in my new position as Director of Studies. My main area of responsibility is academics. This encompasses curriculum development, Professional Learning for teachers, analysis and communication of student learning data, and assessment and reporting. I also teach Year 8 English, which I hope the students will enjoy as much as I do! I look forward to catching up with you as the new year progresses.

Rachel McClure
Director of Studies

Alumni News

On Saturday, February 6, Mr Hofsink and Mrs McClure had the enormous privilege of welcoming a former Year 6 class returning to Emmaus for a 10-year reunion! Some had not seen each other in the intervening decade, and it was wonderful to watch old friends reconnect. After a tour of Emmaus, much of which has changed since their time here, they had dinner together in Dickson.

We are excited to announce that those students accepted our invitation to be the first official Emmaus Alumni members! If you know of any former students, parents or staff who would like to take a renewed interest in the school and receive alumni updates, please email Rachel McClure on rachel@emmaus.act.edu.au.

Secondary News

We have been hard at work in the Secondary School this fortnight especially preparing the students for what will be an amazing Swimming Carnival this year. The Sports Captains have been nominated and we would like to congratulate the following students: Emma W and James T for Wilshire, Lames L and Emma P for Davenport and Nayree K and Samuel S for Bancroft. These captains will do a great job organizing and assisting the younger Emmaus students during Rev Up and on the day. This year’s theme is ‘The Olympics’ and all students are encouraged to dress to the theme and support their house with team colours. Come along and cheer our swimmers Thursday, Week 3.

Kelly Gierke
Secondary English Teacher

School Banking

Commonwealth Bank School Banking Welcome Packs are available through the front office for students who wish to participate. If you require further information, please contact Jo, the bank’s School Banking Specialist on 0475821274.
ALL SCHOOL NEWS
HELP Wanted!!
More helpers are urgently required for the swimming carnival next week, Thursday 18th February. We need in-pool helpers, people to provide morning tea for the day, and people to help transport equipment back to school at the end of the day. Please contact your class teacher if you are available, or contact Mrs Harper or Mrs Northey directly.

House Captains
Congratulations to the following students, who are the new Secondary School House Captains for this year: Bancroft - Sam Salvair and Nayree Khalil Wilshire – Emma Wishart and James Taylor Davenport – James Lanivia and Emma Pranjic
Listen out for those house cheers at the swimming carnival!

After School Activities
The school website is up-to-date with after school activities for 2016. Click on the link below for more information:
After School Activities

Library News
It’s great to see students back visiting the library already. This year in addition to your class library time, the library will be open at lunch on Mondays (for Primary only) and on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday for all students.

A Message from ACTION...
Minor changes have been made to ACTION’s dedicated school services in 2016, but we ask that parents and students familiarise themselves with the most suitable route, times and stop locations. School bus services are available to school students only however, parents with young children may apply to travel on these services for a few weeks to help their child get used to bus travel.

New bus fares came into effect on 2 January 2016. Single trip concessions cash fares will remain $2.30 and MyWay fares are now $1.13. School Students are almost $60 a month better off when using MyWay rather than paying a cash fare to and from school. Parents and students can find more information at action.act.gov.au or by calling 13 17 10.

SPORTS NEWS
We would love to congratulate students representing our school and those that are celebrating success in their chosen sport. Please send Mrs Harper your news at nicole@emmaus.act.edu.au.

ADMIN CORNER
Parent Involvement Program
At Emmaus we encourage and welcome parent involvement. If you are needing ideas how to help, here are some suggestions - contact your child’s teacher (they always love volunteers), check out the PIP Current Opportunities on our website, look out on permission notes (teachers are sometimes asking for helpers) or keep a look out on the newsletter for any urgent jobs.

The PIP register is located at the front counter of the School Office and needs to be updated so that PIP hours are not charged at the end of the year. Please see the PIP policy for more information.

Fees
Families should be well underway with their payment options. Term 1 fees should have been paid or a payment authority form lodged with the accounts team. Please note when a family goes a Direct Debit plan it remains in place while your child in enrolled at Emmaus, unless we are notified otherwise. Please contact accounts@emmaus.act.edu.au if you have any queries regarding your account.

Absences
If your child is absent from school either send an email to the School Office at absences@emmaus.act.edu.au or call 6247 7151. If you choose to let the school office know verbally, then a written note is required to meet Government requirements. An SMS is sent out for any unexplained absences, please contact us on the methods above if you receive an SMS incorrectly, as we need to adjust our records accordingly.

After School Care
Tanja McMaster (our Emmaus After School Care Coordinator) and Judy Kweon (our EASC Assistant) have started the year off well with strong enrolments in our After School Care program. Enrolments are accepted for ages Preschool to Year 6. If you are interested in more information about After School Care, please see our website or email afters@emmaus.act.edu.au

Medical Forms
We are currently sending out medical forms to families to confirm families details are correct and up-to-date. Please ensure the School always has your current contact details and your child’s medical plans and/or medication with the school is kept in date.