Principal Matters

During Monday morning’s staff devotions Mrs Caroline Lanivia reminded us of the power of prayer and the need for us to make time to talk to God. She also challenged us to accept the outcome of our prayers – even if it isn’t what we may have (selfishly) asked for... That’s not always easy but it does provide a liberating peace - trusting God and bringing glory to Him in all that we do.

Let’s look at a passage from Scripture that may help us understand this a bit better. In the Old Testament, in 2 Samuel 7:25-27, we read this: “Now, O LORD God, the word which You have spoken concerning Your servant and concerning his house, establish it forever and do as You have said. So let Your name be magnified forever, saying, ‘The LORD of hosts is the God over Israel.’ And let the house of Your servant David be established before You. For You, O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, have revealed this to Your servant, saying, ‘I will build you a house.’ Therefore Your servant has found it in his heart to pray this prayer to You.”

Maybe it sounds a little egocentric to pray: “Lord, let the house of Your servant David be established before You.” Yet, in that prayer, David asked God to let his house, his royal dynasty, stand forever as rulers over Israel. Yet at a second look, we see that there is nothing selfish in David’s bold prayer. His prayer brought great glory to God, not glory to David himself.

Going back to the context, it started when David wanted to build God a house – a magnificent temple. God was honoured by David’s desire, but He had a different plan in mind. Instead of receiving a house from David, God promised that He would build a house for David and through him establish a ruling dynasty over Israel that would never end. In this bold prayer, David simply took God’s promise and brought it back before Him. David said, “Lord, You promised this - now do all that You promised.” It is a glorious thing to come God and say, “do as You have said.” It glorifies God as a loving, faithful Lord who keeps every promise and can always be counted on. It honours God when His children think so highly of Him that they totally rely on His promise.

This wasn’t passive prayer that said, “Well God, do whatever You want to do – I don’t really care one way or another.” This wasn’t arrogant prayer that said, “Well God, let me tell You what to do.” This was bold prayer that said, “God, here is Your promise – now I trust You to fulfil it grandly and to be faithful to Your word.”

Do we believe the promises of God for us as individuals, families and school community? Do we believe that his promise of salvation through Jesus’ sacrificial death is for all those who believe, trust and worship Him? If so, then it is not selfish to call on the Lord for his promises. It'll bring glory to him because his children accept that we belong to Him, love Him, know him and serve Him.

You are all welcome to attend our All school Assembly this Friday (26 Feb) where the focus will be on introducing our Year 10 student group to the school and also celebrate our achievers and winning teams of the recent swimming carnival. Following on from this, allow me to extend a big thank you to Mrs Northey and Mrs Harper for organising such an excellent swimming carnival last week. Thank you also to all parents involved and helping out.

Until next time, know God’s grace and love.

Erik Hofsink
Principal

From our Secondary Coordinator

I attended my first Emmaus swimming carnival last week. It was a very enjoyable day and it was great to experience the Emmaus spirit in person.

The way the day was organised and the student participation must be commended. Thank you to Mrs Northey and Mrs Harper for the hard work you put into this event.

Parents and students in Year 10 are invited to attend an information night about the mission trips at the end of the year. It will take place straight after the parent meeting on March 10 in the Secondary School. Please attend if you need more information on this significant event.

It is encouraging to see the positive attitude towards camps at the school. Camps are an integral part of the curriculum and are beneficial for students on many levels. If you have any concerns about camps please feel free to contact your child’s Homeroom teacher to discuss. All students would have received their camp permission slips by now and they need to be returned to school by the requested date.

During staff devotion on Monday morning, Mrs Caroline Lanivia talked about the importance of having a prayer life. It confirmed again that we need to pray constantly for our children, our school and for the spreading of the Gospel. I want to share with you the following quote from Charles Spurgeon:

“We should pray when we are in a praying mood, for it would be sinful to neglect so fair an opportunity. We should pray when we are not in a proper mood, even if it isn’t what we feel like praying – the Lord may be waiting for you to pray.”

Charles Spurgeon

Eugene Roodt
Secondary Coordinator
Term 1, Week 3 & 4
15 -28 Feb 2016

Make a joyful noise!
Reeds for band instruments are available in the front office. The prices are:
- $4 for Clarinet reeds
- $5 for Alto Sax reeds
- $6 for Tenor Sax reeds.

Icy Poles!
The SRC is doing some fundraising, and will be selling ice blocks at lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays for $1.

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.

From our Director of Studies

The first few weeks of school are now behind us, and for some students, the novelty of homework has already worn off! If this causes stress for the kids (or the parents!) at your house, here are some ideas to take the sting out of homework:

1. Create a quiet, organised space for homework.
2. Be available to help, but keep it positive.
3. Talk to your child’s teacher about your approach so there’s a consistent message about homework.
4. Praise your child for their effort and persistence.

There are some fact sheets from the combined ACT education community (ACT Education and Training, Association of Independent Schools, Catholic Education Office) available in the front office if you’d like more information or links to further resources.

Rachel McClure
Director of Studies

Secondary News

With the start of the new year, the secondary school has seen many new and exciting changes. One of these changes has been the introduction of the new Christian Studies classes for years seven through to ten. On top of having their weekly subjects taught through a Christian worldview, secondary students now have the opportunity to spend one lesson a week exploring their faith in a caring and supportive learning environment. Each year group will be exploring specific areas of Christian understanding as they develop in their own personal beliefs and wrestle with some of the bigger questions in life.

Year Seven will be working their way through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation in a study called “The Story.” They will be striving to understand how all the little stories of the Bible fit together into God’s big story of salvation and how this impacts their own lives.

Year Eight will be working through the Alpha Course before learning how to effectively read, understand and put into practice God’s word in the Bible.

Year Nine will be challenged to consider “What is truth?” as they look at the different world religions and world views in society today. In doing this students will be able to see how Christianity stands unique from other beliefs and they will be able to grow in their understanding of their own personal world view.

Year Ten will be looking at the importance of evangelism before trying to find answers to some of the harder questions in Christianity through apologetics. Later in the year they will go onto looking at what sort of challenges they may face as Christians as they move on to college and future life and learn how they can be equipped to hold firm through the ups and downs they may face.

It is my hope that the students of Emmaus will grow into amazing young men and women who put their full trust in Jesus and serve God through shining His light out into our broken world. It is my joy to play a small part in the amazing work God is doing at this school for His kingdom. I am very excited about what God will be doing in the hearts and minds of the secondary students this year and would appreciate your prayer support as they continue to grow in their understanding of Him.

1 John 1:7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Peter Willis
Secondary Science and Christian Studies Teacher

Primary News

Emmaus Christian School is the best place to make friends. On the first day of school I made a lovely new friend-Manilla. I also made another friend who I had met before, but now I think it is weird that we hardly ever talk to each other-Yeru. Our new classroom looks really cool. It has a big picture of the Eiffel tower that we coloured in for art up on the back wall, a photo booth next to the door, a smart board and two white boards.

My favourite subject we did on the first week was boards.

And because I can’t pay attention, I end up getting bored! Because of that I find it hard to pay attention. My least favourite subject is Maths because I just find it so hard. I have to do my best to finish and you can be proud of your work. My friend Emmaus Christian School is the best place to make friends. On the first day of school I made a lovely new friend-Manilla. I also made another friend who I had met before, but now I think it is weird that we hardly ever talk to each other-Yeru. Our new classroom looks really cool. It has a big picture of the Eiffel tower that we coloured in for art up on the back wall, a photo booth next to the door, a smart board and two white boards.

My favourite subject we did on the first week was boards.

My least favourite subject is Maths because I just find it so boring! Because of that I find it hard to pay attention. And because I can’t pay attention, I end up getting hardly any done.

In class we have been learning about Paris. I have learned some greetings such as ‘Allo’ and ‘Bonjour’, and I have learned things such as The Eiffel Tower is 15 centimeters shorter in the winter than it is in the summer. Our class is called Paris. The school’s classes are named after the cities that held the Olympics. Paris held the Olympics in the year 1900, 1924 and will hopefully hold them again in 2024. I think that this year for school camp we should go to Paris!

Anna M

Year 4/5 Paris
ALL SCHOOL NEWS

FETE COMMITTEE WANTED
Emmaus is looking for a committee of parents to take responsibility for organising and running this year’s school fete. We are planning a Twilight Spring Fair for Thursday, October 20, 5-8 pm. If this sounds like your ‘cup of tea’, please contact Mr Hofsink: erikh@emmaus.act.edu.au.

ALUMNI NEWS
We are excited to announce the establishment this year of Emmaus Alumni. 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.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES
The school website is up-to-date with after school activities for 2016.

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.

CRAZY HAIR DAY
Primary and Secondary students will participate in Crazy Hair Day on March 10. Come with crazy hair and support Jack B as he participates in Shave for a Cure – perhaps a few of you will join him!

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 is 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.

PIP Opportunity
We are looking for a parent to assist in organising the Book Club catalogues. There are two issues per term that need to be stamped with the date, bundled into class packs, and handed to primary class teachers. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Mrs Wendy Kerma (Year 1 teacher): wendyk@emmaus.act.edu.au.

NOTES
Due to privacy concerns, we will no longer post excursion permission notes on the school website. They will be on Edmodo for Years 3-10, and emailed home for Years K-2. If you do not yet have Edmodo access, or have lost your password, please contact your class teacher (Primary) or homeroom teacher (Secondary).