PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Hi and welcome to another great year of learning at Emmaus Christian School.

You may start to notice our new school logo appearing on things from the school – like this newsletter! Thanks to Brett Hatherly – Emmaus parent and professional graphic designer with his own business, Fivefold Creative – for helping us with the new design. The logo carries a story – the Bible story of two disciples walking to Emmaus, lamenting and confused after Jesus’ death on the cross. But, just like our school verse says in Luke 24:15,

‘…as they walked and reasoned along the way together, Jesus himself came and joined them.’

This is symbolised in our logo by the third white line joining the other two on a road. Our prayer is always that as we talk and reason together at Emmaus, the same thing will happen – we will sense God with us.

After a Summer of refreshment, our Teachers and Admin staff have invested time into training prior to the start of the year and we look forward to getting things underway again. We looked at best practice pedagogy (teaching strategies), ways to maximise student ‘working memory’, the use of iPads in class, the power of a person’s worldview, and ways to teach children to write stories.

More detail later, but in 2015, parents of each year level will be expected to take responsibility for a specific school event. Rather than call for helpers for every event (and receive assistance from the regular faithfuls!), this year we are assigning an event to each year group and asking parents to get involved. Rather than call for helpers for every event (and receive assistance from the regular faithfuls!), this year we are assigning an event to each year group and asking parents to get involved. More detail later, but in 2015, parents of each year level will be expected to take responsibility for a specific school event. Rather than call for helpers for every event (and receive assistance from the regular faithfuls!), this year we are assigning an event to each year group and asking parents to get involved.

After School Care 2015

Primary, Preschool & Prekindergarten families have access to Emmaus After School Care (EASC), also known as ‘Afters’. Afters will continue to operate from Monday to Friday out of the Emmaus Gym. It runs 3.15pm to 6.00pm during school terms (public holidays excluded). Please note that a new updated form needs to be completed every year. If you are interested in enrolling your child at ‘Afters’ or if you would like to renew your booking from last year please email afters@emmaus.act.edu.au.

Enrolment forms can be found under Downloads.

2015 School Fee Reminder

Every family should have received their 2015 School Fee invoice by now. If you have not received yours, please contact accounts@emmaus.act.edu.au or contact the School Office. Term 1 payments are due by Friday 13 February. We have various payment options available including direct credit, contact the School Office for details.

In order for any payments to be correctly allocated to your family, always quote your family code, located on the top corner of your School Fee Invoice.

Family Capital Level

Thank you families for the important contribution towards improving the Emmaus school campus via the capital levy. Over the break we replaced the shade cloths in the Primary Courtyard and Playground areas. Keep a look out for more improvements around school, next will be the carpark area!

After School Activities Term 1

We have several after school activities available for students. Unfortunately, the Australian Government initiative, Active After School Program will not be continuing in 2015. After School Activities on offer this term include chess, Taekwon Do, Dance, Homework Club, Senior Girls’ Bible Study, and Languages. All bookings and monies are to go straight to the Activity Coordinator, see After School Activities on the website for more details.
Meet a Board Member

Each week we introduce one of our Board members. This week meet Mr Josh Thow, our Board Chairman.

"I work as a Manager in a local IT company and I have a strong connection with Emmaus with my parents being founding members, and my brother Sam graduating in 2004. We have three children with our eldest daughter in Year 4 and a son in Year 1. I see such wonderful character developing in the children at Emmaus as they grow in knowledge and love. I want to see our school and community continue to raise children together in this way, nurturing each child in love, and providing an excellent education as we walk together with Jesus each day. When we invest ourselves into parenting our kids and also into our school community we will continue to see our children growing and healthy around us."

Meet our Primary Coordinator

Miss Orr started at Emmaus in 2005. After a brief interlude at Bible College, Home-schooling students in Thailand, and teaching K-2 in Swan Hill, she returned to Emmaus in 2010. Miss Orr deeply understands the vision and mission of the school – an excellent education within a Christian worldview and community. She is professional, caring and committed to the academic success of every child in the Primary School. If there is anything that is concerning you, please do not hesitate to email carolineo@emmaus.act.edu.au to discuss any matters at hand.

Welcome New Staff

Please say a big hello to staff who are joining us or taking on new roles this year.

- Mrs Pam Bellard (Year 6)
- Mr Mark Body (Primary band, Music and Drama Teacher)
- Mr James Lutalo (Secondary Maths and Science Teacher)
- Miss Sam Eagar (will provide Maternity Relief for Mrs Gierke, later this term),
- Mrs Rachel McClure (Secondary administration and Textiles Teacher)

2015 Class Names

This year’s class names are based on “Light” because 2015 is the International Year of Light!
The Primary Classes are -
- Kindergarten - The Bright Sparks
  Year 1 - The Rainbows
  Year 2 - The Dazzles
  Year 3 - The Pyrotechnics
  Year 4 – The Lightsabers
  Year 5 - The Illuminators
  Year 6 - The Visionaries

Parents Who Pray Group

If you wish to be part of our parents’ prayer group who meet each week, please contact Mrs Michelle Gillis on michelle@emmaus.act.edu.au so we can determine which day works best for the members.

Library Open

The library will be open three lunchtimes a week Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Notes handed out this week:

- Class Term letters
- Swimming Carnival note - Due back Friday 6 February
- Years 3-10 Student Network and Technology Agreement - Due back Friday 6 February

Uniform Store times change

Please remember that the new Secondary Uniform is now purchased through MacDonald’s Kidswear in Jamison. Secondary Sports Uniform remains available from the Emmaus Uniform Store. Emmaus Uniform store is now open 2 days a week -

  - MONDAY mornings 8.30am - 10am
  - WEDNESDAY afternoons 2.30 pm - 4pm

Emmaus Sports News

If your child excels at a certain sport, please check the ACT School Sports Association website: www.schoolsportsact.asn.au The website tells dates for trials (normally after school). Should a student be successful they go onto play for North Gungahlin against the other regions. Students are selected from these teams to play for the ACT. Students MUST have the appropriate Sports Coordinator sign the permission slip to attend trials. Students are expected to make their own way to and from these events. 2015 Emmaus Sports Coordinators Contacts for PRIMARY - Mrs Nikkie Harper on nicoic@emmaus.act.edu.au and SECONDARY - Mrs Helena Northey Helena.northey@emmaus.act.edu.au