Growing Up Too Fast Too Soon

In his book, *The Hurried Child, Growing Up Too Fast Too Soon*, Dr David Elkind challenges parents (and schools) to reconsider the pressures we place upon children from their very early years – the pressure to perform, to learn to read, to hurry up and cope with life. He asserts that our culture increasingly wants children to act like adults and childhood is becoming more and more crammed out.

Some examples: only 30 to 40 years ago, children had a few sets of very ordinary looking clothes, now even preschool children have designer outfits mirroring adult tastes and fashions. They look like an extra accessory to the parent (‘You do want your child to look fashionable don’t you?’); toddler life was all toys, exploring and mess, now people put special tubes on the pregnant mother’s tummy to expose the foetus to classical music and try to teach their 2 yr olds ‘starter reading and math’ (‘You do want your child to have a competitive advantage over future peers don’t you?’). When we were growing up, kids’ movies were so innocent, now people let their kids watch M-rated movies so that they can ‘learn’ about real life (‘It doesn’t hurt them does it?’). Many kids spend from 7:30am to 6pm at night every work day at institutions - school, and before and after school care.

Elkind asserts that a reason we do this more and more to kids is because we have to deal with a sense of guilt for our own frantic pace of life and its impact on our families. And the way we deal with it is by thinking that children are actually very mature and very strong, “They can cope with a lot more than we realise.” We like to think that our children are so competent that we can hurl them along without worrying. We don’t slow down, but we expect them to speed up, all the while convincing ourselves that our children are clever enough and tough enough to deal with it. Sadly Dr Elkind sees the results of a lack of an innocent, playful, freedom during childhood in the stress and depression that is more and more common among children and adolescents.

Boredom is a great thing for child to experience regularly because it means they have time to create their own amusement. Are you giving your child plenty of unhurried opportunities to be bored? PM

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Please note that our Principal, Mr Marshall will be on long service from Week 6-Week 8, returning on Monday March 30. Rachel McClure will be Acting Principal during this time.

ALL SCHOOL NEWS

Working Bee This Saturday!!!
Saturday 28 February 9pm - 1pm
Duties are varied, from cleaning & gardening, to general maintenance. We hope to see you here!

Our Open Day is coming up soon!
Wednesday, 25 March
Please put the date in your calendar. It’s an All School Event so please feel free to come along and get involved. More details to come but if you have any questions, please contact Abbi Naude on enrolments@emmaus.act.edu.au.

The Parenting Teenagers Course

**Dates:** 5 weeks on 18, 25 March, 1, 8 April & 5 June 2015
**Time:** 7pm - 9pm
**Venue:** Emmaus Staff Room
**Cost:** $15 (for materials & supper)
**Numbers:** Limited to 10 families

Parenting Teenagers can be tough and rewarding! Mrs Michelle Gillis (Emmaus School Counsellor) is hosting a parenting teenager course. Michelle and husband, Kim, have 5 adult children, “we want to help others do a better job than we did!” Alpha International have devised a 5 week course entitled “The Parenting Teenagers Course”. This course is for any parent or carer of children aged eleven to eighteen, whether they consider themselves to have strong parenting skills or are struggling, and whether they are parenting as a couple, a single parent, or a step parent. Participants can come alone or as a couple. The practical tools of the course are applicable to everyone who has responsibility for a child. Mrs Gillis will explain details of the course at the Parent Meeting at Emmaus on Wednesday 11th March 2015. For more course details see relationshipcentral.org, and to register email michelle@emmaus.act.edu.au.

Homestay Family Needed

Do you have a spare room in your home and hearts for a lovely Christian Yr 9 girl from South Korea? We have a girl who will be arriving in Canberra on March 8 to study at Emmaus for 2015 and possibly longer. We need a family who would enjoy making sure she has a great stay as well as 3 meals a day, a quiet place to study, transport to and from school, and holidays with your family. You would be paid $220 per week as hosts and will receive a lot of love and appreciation from her family in Korea as well! Please ask around your church contacts, and also pray about whether this is an opportunity for you to open your home and family to a special visitor for a time. Please contact the School Office if you are interested.
Report on New Parents’ Dinner

It was a beautiful summer evening on Wednesday 18 February, over 100 guests enjoyed a meal provided by Year 8 families and Ainslie IGA (thanks Manuel Xyrakis ex parent). Parents heard from Board Representatives and Paul Marshall. A fabulous job was done by the Year 8 families who contributed in many and varied ways. Parents were rewarded for their efforts via their children who received an ice cream the following day. Well Done Year 8 and what a great way to welcome our newest members of the Emmaus community.

Meet a Staff Member

This week we meet our Music and Drama teacher, Mr Mark Body. Mark says, “While completing my Bachelor of Music between 2006 and 2010, I worked as a drum tutor at several locations, including Emmaus where I taught many students including Mr Marshall’s son. Since then I worked at Burgmann Anglican School as the Canteen Manager with a short stint running the Emmaus Senior Band for about 6 months. I completed my Graduate Diploma in Education in 2013. In 2014 I worked as a relief teacher at Lyneham High School for the second half of 2014. On day two of school (3 February) this year my wife, Katie, and I welcomed our first child, Tobias, into the family.”

Here’s a few fun facts about Mark:

- Place of birth: Canberra
- Last book read: What to Expect – The first year
- Favourite Food: Lasagne
- Famous dead person you’d like to have met: Moses
- Worst fashion moment: When I didn’t have a haircut for a year and a half
- Best subject at school: Music

Term 1 All-School Parent Meeting

Wednesday 11 March @ 6.30pm

‘How to read School Reports’ & ‘Parenting Teens’

We look forward to discussing these and other topics together at our upcoming All-School Parent Meeting to be held in the Gymnasium, followed by sectional meetings for Primary & Secondary. Join other parents and staff as we work together in the education of our kids. If you have any agenda items, please email emmaus@emmaus.act.edu.au by Monday 9 March.

2014 Year Book out now!

All families should have received our 2014 Yearbook, thanks to Mrs Falusi and the Elective Media class of 2014 for producing such a wonderful edition and Mr Marshall for editing. Please contact the Office if you have not received your copy.

Families in Need—Can you help?

We regularly have families who need assistance in a number of ways, one of those being meals. If you could please cook a meal we are hoping to build up a Frozen Meal Bank to draw on. Please email emmaus@emmaus.act.edu.au. Your help will be greatly appreciated and this is also a PIP opportunity!

PRIMARY NEWS

Network IT Technical Agreement

Form due back

All students in Year 3 to 6 will have received this agreement form. Please check you have returned these to your classroom teachers. Forms are on Downloads.

SECONDARY NEWS

Donations for Community Service Group

The secondary school this year is running a community service arts and craft group. We hope to bless the community by making gifts and would really appreciate donation of some of the following:

- Ring pulls
- Wool, yarn, string, thread
- Beads, buttons
- Scooby strings
- Newspaper, magazines
- Wrapping papers/contact
- Craft wires, cords
- Old fabric and socks
- Plastic bottles, milk cartons
- Tape, glue, glitter, sticks, straw
- Old cutlery

If you have any other craft materials and tools that you no longer want, please feel free to donate them too. Please contact Peter Willis (Science Teacher) on PeterW@emmaus.act.edu.au

Position Vacant

EVENTS MANAGER
Emmaus Christian School
“Help Us Plan Our Fun!”

See www.emmaus.act.edu.au/jobs for more info

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School Drop Off Zone - NO PARKING

Please be mindful not to park or stay in the Drop Off Zone at any time.

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Uniform Store New Hours

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

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PARKING REMINDER

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CANTEEN SPECIAL Week 4
Nachos
$4

Orders and money to the Office by 9am Thursday.

Sorry no late orders can be accepted. Specials will be served at second break.

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Click here to Access PERMISSION NOTES in DOWNLOADES

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