PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Parental Engagement Part #2

In last week’s column, I talked about some research jointly published by the ACT Education Department, the Association of Independent Schools and the Catholic Education Office. It talks about the ways in which parents can support their children’s academic achievement. Of course, it included parent-school communication and involvement in the school community as things that improve partnerships between parents and schools, but most of the ways that parents support their child’s academic achievement happen at home. To recap, the list of “what works at home” included:

1. Believe in your child’s potential
2. Reading together
3. Talking together
4. Supporting children to develop positive relationships
5. Learning together
6. Creating a positive homework environment

In this column, we’ll look at the first two in a bit more detail.

Believe in your child’s potential - It’s no mystery to any of us that it is easier to succeed at a difficult task if someone is encouraging you to keep going. Children at school look to their parents to say, “I know you can do it!” High expectations, delivered in an atmosphere of caring and support, give children confidence that they can achieve. It’s also important for children to understand that potential is just that-potential. Nothing comes of it without perseverance and hard work.

Consider this example: The youngest of seven children was sent to school in Michigan in the 1850s. He was hyperactive and his teachers said he was impossible. In total, his formal school career lasted 12 weeks. His mother, though, knew he had potential. She turned into a voracious reader. In spite of a severe hearing impairment, he started his first business at the age of twelve. In the history books, he is remembered for his keen mind, perseverance and ability to turn failure into success, patenting 1093 inventions in his life time. His name was Thomas Edison.

Reading together - It’s hard to overestimate the value of reading together! Children who have been read to from very early ages come to school with a huge head start. They might not know “how to read” yet, but they do understand that printed letters fit together into words and sentences. They know which direction to turn the page, and where to begin reading. They understand how stories are put together, and they have a better grasp of important phonetic structures like rhyme. Interestingly, research also shows that children who have been read to are able to concentrate for longer and are more willing to persevere with a difficult task.

We live in an information age. Being a good reader has never been more important. Comprehension, critical literacy and being able to express an idea in words are essential skills for the 21st century. Students begin to develop those skills by reading and being read to. Whether your child likes story books, factual books, history books or nature books, encourage them to read!

Kind Regards,
Rachel McClure, Interim Principal

ALL SCHOOL NEWS

NCCEA AGM, Tuesday 26 May @ 7.30pm in Marshall Hall

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for our school association will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 26 May. At the AGM we celebrate the previous year and address business matters. As a parent-led school, all parents are welcome to attend. The North Canberra Christian Education Association (NCCEA) is responsible for the running of Emmaus Pre-school, Primary and Secondary School. Parents wishing to apply for full-voting membership of the NCCEA are to contact our Secretary, Mr Pinghan Chua, on chua.pa@gmail.com

Working Bee Sat 23 May 9am-1pm

Join us for our next Working Bee. It’s a great way to fulfill your PIP hours and meet/work with other members of the Emmaus community. Please bring along brooms, shovels, rakes, etc as we may not be able to concentrate for longer and are more willing to persevere with a difficult task.

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Kind Regards,
Rachel McClure, Interim Principal

Generation Z Defined Presentation

We invite you to join the Emmaus staff, and teachers from other schools, for this presentation by Claire Madden. Find out more in this short clip of Claire speaking about Gen Z and Gen Alpha

| TIME & DATE | 9.00am-12:00pm, Thurs 16 July |
| VENUE | Emmaus Gymnasium (Marshall Hall) |
| COST | $25 per Emmaus Parent (discounted from $55 for Non-Emmaus delegates) |
| Optional networking LUNCH | $15 per person (Lunch available from 12.15pm) |

Changes to your Dedicated School Bus Services from 18 May 2015
Message from ACTION Buses:
On Monday 18 May 2015, ACTION will be introducing a revised timetable for all normal weekday route services and some dedicated school services. Your current dedicated school services have been reviewed and improvements have been made. Affected routes include 457, 574, 813, 575, 684.
All details are on the ACTION website. Should you have any queries please call 13 17 10.

Meet a Staff Member
This week we learn more about Mrs Angela Breeze our Year 2 Teacher. Angela also teaches flute to our Primary Band students.

- Best weekend activity – My favourite activity to do on the weekend is go on a picnic with my friends.
- Favourite animal – My favourite animal is the panda bear. They are just so cute!
- Hobbies – My hobbies are playing my musical instruments in a concert band.
- Best day of life – The best day of my life was when I got married to the man of my dreams.
- Nickname – My nickname is Angie.

Fundraiser for Nepal
On Monday we had a special Mufti day to raise money for the country of Nepal. We wore red, blue and white which are the colours of the Nepalese flag. We raised $700 to send to Nepal to rebuild their houses and to get them clean water and healthy food. We prayed that:

- the people who are sick and injured will get better;
- homes will be built for people whose homes were ruined;
- they will have enough food and water to be healthy; and
- that they will remember that God loves them.
Written by Year 1 and Mrs Kerma

PRIMARY NEWS
Emmaus Chess Club
The After School Primary Chess Club has started and will be held each Tuesday for the rest of the term (weeks 2-9). Notes are available from the School Office or outside Mr Miller’s room, or see Mr Miller. Come and join the fun, all levels of experience welcome.

SECONDARY NEWS
Secondary Parent Information Meeting
WHEN: Wednesday 13 May 2015
TOPIC: Overview of the curriculum
FOOD: $5.00 to enjoy a home-cooked curry.
TIME: Meeting and dinner from 6.00-8.00 pm

Science Competition - Judges Needed
The Emmaus Secondary Science Competition is taking place this year on Thursday 13 August (Term 3, Week 4), from 9.20am – 1pm. We would like you to consider accepting our invitation to be one of the judges for the morning. The theme for this year is Physics. We are looking to have 14 people interested in or with qualifications in Science who would be prepared to come and judge the projects. Even if you are not interested in judging you are invited to come and see the student investigations as they present them to the school community. As a matter of policy, all judges will be required to have a Working With Vulnerable People card. To volunteer for this position or for more information please contact Peter Willis via email. peterw@emmaus.act.edu.au

Yours Sincerely
James Lutalo, Michelle Banfield, Godfrey Muthomi & Peter Willis (Secondary Science Team)

After School Activities for Secondary
Many and varied activities are available for our Secondary students. They run from 3.15 to 4.15 pm (Girls Bible study runs until 4.30pm) and are free of charge. We encourage you to make the most of these opportunities. Please contact the teacher listed for more information.

Activity                      Contact                Day       Room
Study Club                    Ms Eagar                Mon       ICT Hub
Secondary Spanish            Mr Jenkins              Mon       Y10 Room
Korean Tutorial               Mrs Cho                 Tues      Korean Rm
Study Club                    Mr Jenkins              Tues      ICT Hub
Girls Bible Study            Miss Orr                 Tues to 4.30 Miss Orr's Office
Maths Tutorial                Mr Lutalo               Tues      North
Maths Tutorial                Mr Lutalo               Wed       ICT Hub
iPad Club                     Mrs Falusi               Wed       North
English for new speakers      Mr Jenkins              Wed       Y10 Room

PIP Opportunities
Assistance on Monday morning from 9am – 10:30 in the Year 8 textiles class would be very much appreciated. Tasks would include threading machines and giving advice on simple sewing tasks. For more information please contact Wendy Kerma at wendyk@emmaus.act.edu.au

NOTE DATE: GRANDPARENTS DAY
Monday 14 September
(15 Sept Preschool)