FOR YOUR DIARY
Week 4

Monday, 18 May
- New ACTON timetables
- 08:30 Uniform Store Open
- Y7 Immunisations
- 15:00 Parent Afternoon Tea

Tuesday, 19 May
- 08:30 Zone Cross Country
- 10:00 ICAS Computer Test

Wednesday, 20 May
- 08:30 Yr5 Camp
- Maths Olympiad
- Yr K-2 SOSE Excursion
- Korean Embassy Excursion Y4
- 14:30 Uniform Store Open

Thursday, 21 May
- Yr5 Camp
- Secondary Girls Futsal Cup
- 09:00 Parent’s Prayer Group

Friday, 22 May
- 15:30 Yr5 Camp Return
- 14:20 All School Assembly - Yr 8

Saturday, 23 May
- 09:00 Working Bee (PIP)

Week 5

Monday, 25 May
- 08:30 Uniform Store Open
- ANZAC Guest Speaker Y3-10
- 15:00 Parent Afternoon Tea

Tuesday, 26 May
- 09:00 PreKinder Excursion
- 18:30 NCCEA AGM

Wednesday, 27 May
- Fun Day - Crazy Hair Day
- 14:30 Uniform Store Open

Thursday, 28 May
- 09:00 Parent’s Prayer Group

PRINCIPAL MATTERS
Parental Engagement Part #3

In the last two columns, I have talked about some research into the ways in which parents can support their children's academic achievement. 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

This week, we’ll look at “talking together” in more detail. Talking together sounds so commonplace and such an everyday activity, but it’s a critical part of how children learn. In fact, child development theorist Lev Vygotsky argued, “that language is the main tool that promotes thinking, develops reasoning, and supports cultural activities like reading and writing”. In other words, there’s a good reason to gather your shattered nerves and answer thoughtfully when your child asks those million “But why…..” questions in the car on the way home!

Talking with parents is also one of the ways that children start to connect the dots between their experiences at school, both academic and social, and everyday life. My kids used the dinner table for this purpose. The conversations often started with something like, “I was trying to divide fractions today in maths, but it didn’t make sense to me.” Or, “I have this essay to write and I am not sure what to write.” Or, “I just can’t get along with this person and it’s driving me crazy”. We would brainstorm and refine essay arguments, argue about big ideas, and work through maths problems on the blackboard doors in our kitchen. In fact, the dinner table is the place where it has become clear to us what career direction our children would take. For our oldest, a Business Studies assignment sparked her interest in accounting, and she talked about it for weeks. For our second daughter, it was a programming assignment, and for our third, it was art and philosophy. We were able to share in that journey because we were talking to them. It was also really enjoyable as parents to watch our kids encourage each other in pursuing their different interests.

Interestingly, how we talk also seems to matter. Steinberg’s research, along with many others, points to the connection between authoritative parenting styles and academic achievement. Authoritative parents are described as having high expectations while being nurturing, responsive and supporting a child’s emotional development. A characteristic of authoritative parents is that they encourage verbal give-and-take, and they take the time to explain things to children. All of which, as Vygotsky put it, help to promote thinking and develop reasoning. Some kids like to talk to you while you drive, some like to talk at dinner time, and some always seem to choose the hour of your favourite TV show. The benefits of making the time, though, are worth the sacrifice!

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. 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 should contact our Secretary, Mr Pinghan Chua. Please view the Agenda in downloads.

Working Bee Sat 23 May 9am-1pm

Join us for our next Working Bee. It’s a great way to fulfil your PIP hours and meet/work with other members of the Emmaus community. Please bring along brooms, shovels, rakes, etc as we may not have enough for the work needing to be done.

Generation Z Defined Presentation

- TIME & DATE: 9am-12pm Thurs 16 July
- VENUE: Emmaus Gymnasium (Marshall Hall)
- COST: $25 per Emmaus Parent (discounted from $55 for Non-Emmaus delegates)
- Optional networking LUNCH: $15
- ONLINE BOOKINGS

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.

Changes to School Bus Services

Starting Monday 18 May 2015, all details are on the ACTION website. ph 131710.

Sister School in Korea

Dear Parents,

This year, due to circumstances at their school, Hogye Elementary School will not be able to visit us. Thank you to those who already expressed an interest to billet students, and we hope that we’ll be able to open Emmaus to our Korean sister school next year.
Meet a Staff Member
This week we meet one of our Preschool Staff. Hi my name is Lyndell McNevin and I am the 3 year old Preschool teacher. I enjoy being at the beach, bush walking and spending relaxed time with the family. I have four children at Emmaus.

- **Place of birth:** Dungog NSW
- **Favourite movie:** Pride and Prejudice
- **Favourite food:** Mango and Chocolate
- **An amazing place you have visited:** Uluru
- **Best thing about Emmaus:** Being a part of God’s plan and the community

PRESCHOOL NEWS
Mothers Day Disco
Friday 8 May saw the gym transformed into a disco for the annual Preschool Mothers Day Disco. Around 30 families attended with lots of dancing enjoyed by all. The mothers were presented with gifts made by their children which were much appreciated. A big thank you to the Neidorf family for the wonderful job of decorating the gym and playing the music; the preschool staff for their hard work in preparing the children and gifts; the wonderful parent helpers on the night and the families who attended. A wonderful night was had by all and $290 was made which will be put towards replacing tired and worn out resources.

SPORTS NEWS
ACT Swimming Championship
Congratulations to Noah P, Daniel G and Robert G who represented Emmaus at the ACT Swimming Championships on Wednesday 7 April. They all swam their best, Noah came 3rd in 100m butterfly. Well done!

PRIMARY NEWS
Soccer Skills
Over the past two weeks the Primary School have had Billy come in on a Thursday to teach soccer skills. We have been playing lots of fun games that involve dodging, dribbling, kicking, attacking and, of course, lots of running. We are looking forward to our last soccer clinic this week, thanks Billy. We had a great time!

First Aid Training in Primary
On Monday the Primary School had St John’s First Aid teach us how to administer first aid. K. 1, 2 learnt basic first aid skills like how to treat a cut and burn, and how to put on bandages. They also explained the importance of knowing when to call 000. Years 3 to 6 had a more detailed program which included the DRSABCD Action Plan and opportunities to practice first aid scenarios.

SECONDARY NEWS
Science Competition- Judges Needed
The Emmaus Secondary Science Competition is taking place this year on Thursday 13th 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, 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.

Secondary School Fustal Cup
GIRLS Competition on Thursday 21 May 2015 and BOYS Competition on Tuesday 26 May 2015. Students on the team please bring the notes (on Downloads) back by Monday 18 May.