FOR YOUR DIARY

Week 5

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

Tuesday, 26 May
- Secondary Boys Futsal Cup
- 09:00 PreKinder Excursion
- 19:30 NCCEA AGM

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

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

Week 6

Monday, 1 June
- 08:30 State Cross Country
- 08:30 Uniform Store Open
- 15:00 Parent Afternoon Tea

Tuesday, 2 June
- 17:00 ICT Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 3 June
- 10:00 ICAS Science Exam
- 14:30 Uniform Store Open
- 18:30 Term 2 Parent Meeting

Thursday, 4 June
- 09:00 Parent’s Prayer Group

Friday, 5 June
- Primary Assembly (Yr5 hosting)

NO PARKING
Davenport St Nature Strip
Parking on the nature strip by the Pedestrian Crossing blocks the view of drivers and endangers students. DO NOT PARK HERE!

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

Parental Engagement Part #4

For the last few weeks, I have talked about some research published by the ACT Education and Training Directorate into the ways in which parents can support their children’s academic achievement.

This week, we’re up to number 4, helping children develop positive relationships, and it can be quite challenging for both parent and child!

Firstly, as parents we quickly find out that the world has changed dramatically since we were children. It used to be perfectly normal to send the kids out to play with the neighbours’ kids for the day, let them sort out their own disagreements and play with very little supervision until the sun went down. Whole summers passed that way in my neighbourhood. Now, of course, play dates are organised and interactions are more closely supervised. Play dates aren’t bad, but they do change the way that children learn to manage relationships and conflict.

Secondly, with demographic changes to the way that we live, often separated from family by large distances, children don’t always have the number of siblings or cousins nearby that they once would have. They may have less opportunity for developing the skills of negotiating with a group of their peers. So, how to help? The research highlighted three areas of relationship building that affect academic performance. The first is helping a child to build and maintain positive relationships with teachers. It’s rare to find a child who likes every teacher, but learning to work positively with people whether you like them or not is a skill for life. Talking to your child about your experiences of successfully working with people you really liked, and those that were less likeable, will help them to understand how to manage those relationships.

The second area highlighted in the research is negotiation skills. The only way to learn this one is to practice! Find opportunities where kids will have to share, play games with rules, or make joint decisions. Playing complex board games, team sports and even making decisions about family movie nights are all important childhood training grounds for developing negotiating skills. The tricky bit for parents is to resist the urge to ‘rescue’ our kids by jumping in and making all the decisions. Yes, there will be conflict sometimes (Risk and Monopoly games did occasionally end in tears with our kids), but if they don’t practice these skills, they won’t learn them.

Third, help your child learn to deal with negative experiences. As parents, we are the most powerful examples to our children of how to cope when things aren’t going our way. Resilience is a crucial attribute for managing the adversity we’ll all face at some stage in our lives. Resilient kids are flexible, communicative, realistic, willing to accept change, and ask for help when they need it. As parents, we can encourage this by being supportive and optimistic, keeping negative experiences in perspective and by making sure our kids have opportunities to be involved in social and community activities.

Have a great week with your kids!
Rachel Interim Principal

ALL SCHOOL NEWS

NCCEA AGM Tuesday 26 May
@ 7.30pm in Secondary Music Room
The North Canberra Christian Education Association (NCCEA) is holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) for our school association in the Secondary Music room. This important meeting is open to all families and we encourage everyone to be active and come and hear from the Board what happened in 2014 and what will be happening in 2015. If you are interested in becoming a voting member then please contact the Board Secretary, Mr Pinghan Chua.

Crazy Hair Mufti FUNDAY Wed 27 May
In case your children are asking questions and you have started to shave your mullet over….next Wednesday is Crazy Hair Day and Shave for a Cure. Jack Best, in Year 4, will also be shaving his head, to further support the Leukemia Foundation. Donations are welcome for this great cause. We can’t wait to see all our students with crazy, out-there doos and outfits.

Working Bee Saturday 13 June
NOTE NEW DATE
As a consequence asbestos removal work in our boiler room, the Working Bee that was to occur this Saturday 23 May will be postponed to Saturday 13 June (end of Week 7). We apologise if this causes anyone inconvenience, but it is our intent to make the Boiler Room as safe as possible, and appreciate your understanding.

TERM 2 School Fee Reminder
An up-to-date School Fee Statement was sent out in April. Please contact the School Office if you have not received your Statement. REMINDER that unless your family is on a payment plan, Term 2 should now have been paid. We have received a payment in the Emmaus account that does not have a FAMILY CODE attached. Please contact the School Office if you think this is your payment.
Whole School Parent Meeting
Wednesday 3 June @ 6.30pm
Our next Parent Meeting will be held in the Secondary IT Hub, followed by sectional meetings for Primary & Secondary. The Agenda includes a Principal Recruitment Update and a Presentation by John Jenkins - “Revolution of Purity”. Any nominated agenda items must be submitted by Friday 29 May to emmaus@emmaus.act.edu.au

Generation Z Defined Presentation
Thursday 16 July, 9-12 noon
Claire Madden from McCrindle Research will provide valuable and useful insights into the various generations of our time – practical information that will equip us as parents to understand more about our children and the era in which they live.

She will present on "Generation Z Defined: The 7 Key Factors of this Global Generation"
VENUE: Emmaus Gym (Marshall Hall)
COST: $25 per Emmaus Parent
ONLINE BOOKINGS
Optional networking LUNCH: $15

Meet a Staff Member
Hi I'm Michelle Dempsey and I currently teach Year 6. I have recently added a new member into my family. His name is Toby. He's a beautiful 5 month old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel but he can definitely be a terror when he wants to be! My favourite verse is in fact not from the bible but was written by St. Augustine in his Confessions. The verse helps me understand that the restlessness we sometimes feel as humans in the world is natural and that we can turn to Him always to comfort us.

• Favourite food – Indian (Dahl and Roti)
• Worst fashion moment – the 90’s side ponytail with plaits
• Favourite verse – Restless is thy heart till it finds rest in thee – St. Augustine
• Best weekend activity – Walking around Yerrabi Park with my puppy, Toby. Followed by a coffee and breakfast!
• Favourite animal – Alpaca! They make me smile :)

SPORTS NEWS
Congratulations to Emmaus Students
Two Emmaus Secondary students have made it to state level in their chosen sports.
Jeremiah S has been selected in the ACT Schools Open Rugby League team to play in the Australian Schools Championship and Sammy P has been selected to play in the ACT Under 13’s Brumbies Rugby Union team. Well done boys!

ACT Cross Country Championship
On Tue 19 May Emmaus sent around 60 runners to compete in the North Gungahlin regional cross country carnival. Despite the wet weather, all runners ran their best and did Emmaus proud. We had many place getters, Joel W (4th), Harry W (5th), Lily S (7th) and Alyssa J (4th) doing well in their age groups. Special congratulations to an amazing run by our Secondary student, Jordan K, who led out from the start of the race and came 1st with a convincing win.

PRIMARY NEWS
Greeniacs at Emmaus
At Emmaus we have a fantastic recycling program set up called Greeniacs. We are volunteers who have signed up to help out by collecting and organising the recycling. We recycle our paper and our hard plastic containers as well as foil. In each classroom there is a paper recycling box called a ‘Visy’ bin for scrap paper. In the courtyard, there are other plastic containers around to place hard plastic containers, pops and foil (e.g. from under meat pies) into. These are called ‘Spongebobs’ named after SpongeBob Square Pants.

SECONDARY NEWS
Secondary Camp Report
In Week 2 of this term the Secondary School staff and students ventured off-site to participate in the Secondary School Camp. As always the camp was an excellent opportunity for students to push themselves beyond their comfort zone and to learn from the many challenges that Camp presents. This year saw all of Years 7,8,9 & 10 spending four days together at Port Hacking within the boundaries of The Royal National Park near Sydney. Our beautiful surroundings were an excellent backdrop to our inspiring camp experience. Several highlights from this year’s camp include the Year 9 & Year 10 overnight bushwalks, the talent night showcasing our students’ many gifts & abilities, and surprising Mr. Jenkins with a birthday cake and a birthday song from all of the Secondary students.