FOR YOUR DIARY

Week 8

Monday, 7 September
- 8:30am Uniform Store Open
- Primary Pre-Production Rehearsals all this week
- 3:00pm Parents Afternoon Tea
- 5:00pm W. Health & Safety Meeting

Tuesday, 8 September
- CANTEEN DAY
- 7pm K,1,3,4 Parent Info Session

Wednesday, 9 September
- 9:00am K, 1, 2 Excursion
- 10:00am Preschool Excursion
- 2:30pm Uniform Store Open
- 7:00pm NCCEA Board Meeting

Thursday, 9 September
- 9:00am Parents Prayer Meeting
- 9:30am PreKinder Excursion

Friday, 11 September
- Science Comp Winners’ Trip

Sunday, 13 September
- Yr 10 Wee Waa Trip Departs

Week 9

Monday, 14 September
- Yr 10 Vanuatu Trip Departs
- 8:30am Uniform Store Open
- 9:30am Grandparents Day
- 11:00am Primary Production “Just Joseph”
- No Parent Afternoon Tea today!
- 6:00pm Primary Production “Just Joseph”

Tuesday, 15 September
- 9:00am Primary State Athletics
- 9:00am PreK Grandparents Day
- 10:00am Canteen Open
- 11:00am Primary Production “Just Joseph”

Wednesday, 16 September
- 2:30pm Uniform Store Open
- 6:00pm Primary Production "Just Joseph"

Thursday, 17 September
- 9:00am Parents Prayer Meeting
- 9:30am PreKinder Excursion
- 12:00pm Primary “Cast Party”

Friday, 18 September
- 2:20pm Primary Assembly (Yr 2)

Saturday, 19 September
- Year 10 Trip - Wee Waa Return

PRINCIPAL MATTERS

The National School Improvement Tool

Last week, I introduced the Strategic Plan for the next few years, which contained references to the National School Improvement Tool (NSIT). What is it, and why are we referencing it?

The National School Improvement Tool comes from the Australian Council of Educational Research (ACER), based on research into what makes good schools “good”. It cannot cover everything that good schools do, but focuses on the things that schools can improve to make a difference to student outcomes. The tool is divided into nine headings, or domains:

- **An explicit improvement agenda:** Do staff, students and parents know what we are working to improve at our school?
- **Analysis and discussion of data:** Are we making decisions based on good information?
- **A culture that promotes learning:** Do we foster a culture of trust and collegiality, with high expectations of student learning?
- **Targeted use of school resources:** Do we have systems to target our resources toward the identified needs of students?
- **An expert teaching team:** Do we have professional teachers who are committed to ongoing learning and development of their teaching practice?
- **Systematic curriculum development:** Is there a clear, sequenced plan for curriculum delivery across grade levels?
- **Differentiated teaching and learning:** Do we cater for the individual learning needs of students within each class?
- **Effective pedagogical practices:** Do we seek out research on effective teaching methods, and implement them to meet needs of students?
- **School-community partnerships:** Does the school actively seek ways to enhance student learning and wellbeing by partnering with parents and families, other education and training institutions, local businesses and community organisations?

The tool provides descriptors for schools to rate their own performance in each of the nine domains. The descriptors also provide ‘next steps’ for schools looking to improve in a specific area. If you’ve had a look at the strategic plan (on the school website), you will have seen that our three priorities overlap most of the domains in one way or another.

The NSIT doesn’t include everything that is important to us at Emmaus. Our desire to honour God in what we do doesn’t appear in the tool, but will continue to be the central focus at Emmaus. Our core values and our desire to equip students to serve God and other people remain as strong as ever. But the NSIT gives us an excellent framework for discussing, evaluating and improving in nine areas where research shows that we can impact student academic achievement.

Regards,
Rachel

ALL SCHOOL NEWS

Our Incoming Secondary Coordinator

The selection process for our Secondary Coordinator is now complete, and we are very pleased to introduce to you Mr Eugene Roodt who will take up his position at the start of Term 4.

“I am very excited with my appointment as Secondary Coordinator at ECS. My family and I will relocate to Canberra in October from Western Australia to start our new adventure in the ACT. I would like to share a little bit about myself and my family. I have been married to Hannelie for twenty years and God has blessed us with four beautiful children. The kids will join ECS at the end of October. Hannelie is a physiotherapist and an awesome wife and mother.

We have been in Australia since 2002. We spent ten years in Tasmania where I taught in the independent school system before accepting a leadership position in Western Australia in 2012. I love Science and Psychology and have taught these subjects and a few others over the years. I have adopted the Brumbies as my Australian rugby team and I also love cricket. I play golf as much as I can and I will be exploring the courses around Canberra as soon as I get there.

My passion is to empower the students and staff that I work with through good, solid Christian Education. I love talking about Christ and sharing His wonderful message. I am looking forward to start at Emmaus and to meet you.”

We know you will all give Eugene’s family a big Emmaus welcome when they arrive!

Emmaus Parent Survey

Have you completed your survey yet?

We are very keen to hear your feedback. This year we have made it quick and easy for every parent to be able to complete a survey, with our on-line survey. You should have received a link via email, alternatively, the School website has a link on the [home page](http://www.emmaus.school). No computer access at home? Come in to the School Office and complete the survey either on an ipad or on paper if you prefer. Thank you to all parents for your participation.

Lost Property

Please make sure all uniform items are clearly labelled. Both Secondary and Primary lost property boxes WILL BE CLEARED and any unlabeled items donated to charity.

Don’t forget!
ALL SCHOOL NEWS….cont’d

Changes to ACTION Timetable
On Monday 12 October 2015, ACTION will be implementing a new timetable for the weekday bus network. This includes some timing changes to the ACTION schools network. There have been changes to our dedicated school service/s. We encourage you to view this information now on the ACTION Website.

Many regular route services have also changed and students using these services will be also affected. This new timetable information will be available on the ACTION website from Monday 7 September.

Safety Issue
Parents, we ask for your assistance in reminding students NOT to climb or hang on the metal railings of the stairs and ramp outside the School Office area. This is a serious OH&S issue, as well as a costly one when the railing breaks - as it currently is. Students are to stay well behind the rail when waiting for parents to collect them, or in the morning before the roller shutter opens.

Heating of Lunch Items
A reminder to primary parents that the school is unable to provide the service of heating food or adding boiling water to make instant noodles for students. Please be sure to provide lunches that the students can fully look after themselves. Secondary school students, however, do have access to their own microwave.

Countdown is on to our Musical……

‘JUST JOSEPH’

Pre-production full dress rehearsals start in Week 8 for our Primary Musical Just Joseph.

Matine Performances
Monday 14 September 11am - FREE
Tuesday 15 September 11am - FREE

Evening Performances
Monday 14 September 6pm - $5 pp
Wednesday 16 September 6pm - $5 pp

Booking for ALL performances are essential as seats are limited! BOOK HERE!

Entry is via the gymnasium street entrance, and doors will open half an hour before. Get there early to get the best seats!

Evening Performances Drop Off/Pickup times
Students need to be delivered to their classrooms to change into costumes by 5:15pm, and picked up from their classrooms by 7.25pm

Sausage Sizzle Before the Musical
There will be a sausage sizzle available ($2) before the evening performances. Please complete the form in downloads on the website and return it to the box in the School Office, with the money, by Thursday 10 of September.

Cast Party Thursday 17 Sept
Thursday 17 September is the day of our Primary School cast party, and we ask students to bring a named, washable cup and bowl along with something to share as follows (please note, students with food allergies will have their own table of goodies - please let the teacher know if you can supply something allergy friendly):

⇒ Kindergarten: chips
⇒ Year 1, 4: juice or pre-diluted cordial
⇒ Year 2, 5: savoury snacks/ veg platter
⇒ Year 3, 6: sweet snacks/ fruit platter

Please place your Sticker Sheets in the designated Box in the Foyer. Reward points will go towards obtaining Educational Equipment. Thank you!
PRIMARY NEWS.....cont’d

Year 5 Mother-Daughter Dinner
On Friday we had a Year 5 Mother-Daughter dinner; it is an Emmaus tradition. I think it’s a great day to let mums catch up with each other and for ourselves to talk with friends. We had a normal school day but then after 3pm the boys went home and we stayed to decorate the Year 6 room and set up. Mrs Penton helped us do a lot to make the dinner a great success. She taught us to make a little container with Hershey chocolates inside; it was hard at first but then became very easy. Mrs Penton is very caring and patient, it was really kind and helpful that she spent time with us. I would like to thank Mrs McArthur for organizing the event for us – it was so much fun! (Chloe)

The Mother-Daughter dinner was a great success; full of laughter smiles, games and tasty food. We ate a delicious potluck dinner with so many dishes to try. At the beginning of the night the Year 5 girls performed a poem and a dance, some played their instruments and Charlotte gave a speech. There were many presents to give to our mums. We had a ‘Mother-Daughter’ look-a-like theme and at the end of the night there was a hilarious game of Charades. It was awesome. (Erina)

SECONDARY NEWS

YEAR 10 MISSIONS TRIPS
From 13 - 20 September, our Year 10 students will be on two missions trips.

Wee Waa Trip
A group of ten will travel with our Principal, Rachel McClure, and Maintenance Manager, John Donley, to the rural town of Wee Waa, NSW. There they will assist residents in various ways in particular spending time with Namoi Christian Primary School Community. Work will include cleaning, gardening, small construction projects, and participating in student classes and school events (including a Southeast Asian Festival). With little to no wi-fi or mobile coverage the week of being “offline” will be a big change!

Vanuatu Trip
Eight students will travel further afield to Vanuatu with teachers Samantha Eager and Godfrey Muthomi. They will spend most of their time visiting two schools which were affected by Cyclone Pam, which wreaked havoc through the islands earlier this year. North Vila School (Years K-9) is currently teaching from rooms without roof cover, and Erakor Village Primary School (K-6) is currently teaching out of tents. Students will assist in reading and speaking English to the students, cleaning, and other forms of cultural exchange. They will also be visiting a rural village church and we’ve also been able to squeeze in some spectacular sightseeing and cultural activities. We hope the trip will be an eye-opener for them, providing opportunity to experience island life and to appreciate what we have in Canberra.

Please join us in praying for the safety of all involved.

SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations to Felix (Year 3) who was awarded his ‘Bronze Wings’ with the Canberra Model Aircraft Club (CMAC) last weekend, something he’d been working towards for the last 6 months. The award confirms a good standard of flying skill and sound knowledge of basic flight theory and mechanics. There is no distinction between juniors and adults and Felix is thought to be the youngest ever member of his club to qualify. Very well done, Felix!

We would love to congratulate students representing our school and those that are celebrating success in their chosen sport. Please send Mrs Harper your news.

nicole@emmaus.act.edu.au

PIP OPPORTUNITIES CORNER

Can you help? PIP hours apply!
Please contact Leonie Penton.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TO DO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 14 Sept</td>
<td>Morning Tea items for Grandparents’ day Helper to setup and serve morning tea.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 14 Sept &amp; Wed 16 Sept</td>
<td>Organise and run Sausage Sizzle before evening performances of Primary Production.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Tidying the Boardroom on a weekly basis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book covering</td>
<td>Would you like to go on our list of people to cover books with contact?</td>
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