PRINCIPAL MATTERS

A Servant Heart

I’m currently working on two subjects toward my Masters Degree, and one of them has really had me thinking this last week. We’re looking at the various theoretical models of leadership, which I find endlessly fascinating (you can roll your eyes - my kids do!), but last week’s topic was Servant Leadership. In a half dozen papers, chapters and talks, it was referred to as a “paradoxical”. It doesn’t sit well with some that a leader should serve. But I spent a lot of time smiling as I read and listened, because, when you come from a Christian perspective, servant leadership makes sense. It’s the kind of leadership displayed by Jesus Christ, and it’s the kind of leadership that we want to help our students develop as they grow. We want to teach our students to “Serve God and Serve Others”.

What do servant leaders look like? Here’s one story of a modern leader. Her name was Agnes Bojaxhiu, and she was Albanian, though she was born in Macedonia. Her parents taught her to love God, and also to take care of people – there were regularly hungry strangers at their dinner table. At 18, she moved to Ireland, then on to India, where she became a teacher, and then, at age 34, the principal of her school. Throughout her travels, she learned to speak English, Hindi and Bengali. She continued to teach, but her heart was moved by the very poor people she saw in the city of Calcutta. In 1948, she decided that helping them would be her life’s work. She set up an open air school and a small home for people who were dying. She convinced the city to help, and in 1950, persuaded the Catholic Church to recognize her organization. Slowly, the rest of the world took notice and people began to send funds and volunteers, and the work expanded to help the poor in other countries.

You know her by the name Mother Theresa. In the end, she led an organization with 400 employees in 100 countries, plus a million volunteers. She changed the lives of millions, and was able to speak boldly before presidents and kings. She did it by serving people. Her integrity was beyond question, and she led by example.

She had the most telling character trait of a servant leader: humility. When asked to sum up her life, she answered, “By blood, I am Albanian. By citizenship, an Indian. By faith, I am a Catholic nun. As to my calling, I belong to the world. As to my heart, I belong entirely to the Heart of Jesus.” I know we won’t all be a Mother Theresa, but I hope that students at Emmaus will catch hold of Mother Theresa’s heart, and model their service, like she did, on the heart of Jesus.

Have a great week!

Rachel

ALL SCHOOL NEWS

Come and Meet the New Principal Assembly and Afternoon Tea

Friday, 25 September @ 2.30pm

We have an important afternoon planned on the final day of this term. We will have a very special visitor, Mr Erik Hofsink, who will be joining us next year as our new Principal. Erik will be visiting the school and will be our special guest at an assembly on 25 September. You will also have the opportunity to meet him at an afternoon tea to be held in the Primary courtyard at 3pm following the Assembly.

Afternoon Tea Assistance: We would really appreciate families bringing along a plate of goodies to share for the afternoon tea, and some parents to help with the set up and pack up. Please contact the email leonie@emmaus.act.edu.au asap if you can assist.

Emmaus Parent Survey

Have you completed your survey yet?

This year we have made it quick and easy for every parent to complete a survey. Parents should have received a link via email; alternatively, the School website has a link on the home page. Please make sure that you follow the last step to submit your survey. We have had a few incomplete surveys lodged and are unable to access incomplete surveys. We appreciate your feedback and do want anyone to miss out on having a say.

Student Drop Off / Pick Up Times

Parents, please familiarize yourself with the rules regarding arrival and pick up times for students:

Before School

The school gates remain locked until 8.30am each morning when teacher supervision starts for the day. Any children who arrive on the school grounds before 8.30am will not be supervised, and remain the responsibility of their parents.

After School

School finishes at 3:00pm for Primary School and 3.10pm for Secondary School. Unless taking part in on-site After School Activities, children should be collected promptly. (Siblings of children attending After School Activities are not permitted to remain at school unsupervised.)

No supervision is provided for students after 3.30pm. Primary aged students still on school grounds at that time will be escorted to Emmaus After School Care and the family will be charged the casual rate of care for that afternoon.

Our Principal, Rachel McClure, will be away in Week 9 at Wee Waa with our Year 10 group. In her absence, Caroline Orr will be Acting Principal.
One Term’s Notice
We are now in the process of finalising student numbers for the 2016 school year. If you are anticipating a change in your child’s enrolment next year, please be reminded that a term’s notice in writing is required. If the school does not receive a term’s notice, one term’s fees will be charged in lieu of notice.

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.

ACTION Bus News
New ACTION weekday timetable information is now available for viewing on the ACTION website. This new timetable will come into effect on Monday 12 October 2015. Parents and students are encouraged to check changes to regular route services and connection times with dedicated school services. For service information or assistance please call 13 17 10.

Meet a Staff Member
This week, we meet Mrs Pamela Bellard who is one of our Year 6 teachers. Pamela has taught in Christian Schools in New Zealand, and is enjoying being with us at Emmaus. She enjoys working around lots of people, and loves her job as a teacher. Pamela has three children who attend Emmaus. Place of Birth: Warkworth, New Zealand Favourite Movie: Sweet Home Alabama Weirdest Food Eaten: Haggis Favourite Singer: Chris Tomlin Favourite Bible Verse: Proverbs 3:5 (“Trust in the Lord with all your heart…..”) Best Thing About Emmaus: That we can talk openly about Jesus and our relationship with Him.

Composite Classes for 2016
For information relating to the possible set up of composite Primary School classes next year, please refer to the letter in the downloads page of the School’s website.

Grandparents’ & Special Friends’ Day
THIS Monday 14 September 9am - 12 noon (PreKinder Tues 15 September)
We’re all set to bless and celebrate with our grandparents and special friends and enjoy a lovely morning together. Families….please assist us by bringing a plate of morning tea to share!

It’s Show Time!
Matinee Performances

‘JUST JOSEPH’
Monday 14 September 11am
Tuesday 15 September 11am
Evening Performances
Monday 14 September 6pm
Wednesday 16 September 6pm

ALL performances are now fully booked.
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 7.25pm, and picked up from their classrooms by 8.00pm.

Sausage Sizzle Before the Musical
If you have placed an order for sausages before either of the evening performances, don’t forget to collect them before you get into your costume!

Cast Party Thursday 17 Sept
Let’s celebrate all the work that has been put into our production this year with a Primary School cast party. We ask students to bring a named, washable cup and bowl along with something to share as follows -

⇒ 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 NOTE students with food allergies will have their own table of goodies - please let the teacher know if you can supply something allergy friendly. It would be appreciated.

PRIMARY NEWS
Touch Football Skills
Thanks to some funding made available through the Sporting Schools program, Emmaus is having a coach from Touch Football Australia come and spend the day with us on Tuesday 22 September to teach us some skills and have some fun with each Primary class throughout the day. Normal school uniform (including hats) to be worn but joggers may be brought to change into. Any questions, see Nikkie Harper.

Thank you to everyone who collected stickers for the Earn & Learn promotion. We’ve had a fantastic response! The program is now closed and we will soon know how many points we have towards some new Educational Equipment for the School!!
SECONDARY NEWS

Year 7/8 Art Excursion

The Australian National Gallery was a great place to be on Thursday 27th August as the year 7 and 8 art classes descended on the damp sculpture garden and enjoyed time in Fujikoh Nakaya’s ‘Fog Sculpture’ while also looking at Flugelman’s ‘Cones’ and the unusual distortions the stainless made as reflections.

7A had a tour inside the gallery where we saw a very large painting being hoisted into place by a team of people, visited the exhibition of Myth and Magic featuring artworks from the Sepik River region in Papua New Guinea and there was even some time to discuss numerous paintings including the Ned Kelly series, Blue Poles and also the abstract sculpture ‘Birds’ by Brancusi.

8B visited the Fern Garden, a hidden oasis on the other side of the gallery where tree ferns bend and twist in a garden that represents the relationship between the body and the natural world. Then onto the National Portrait Gallery where lots of discussion and sketching took place.

Everyone finished off the day with lunch and games on the lawns in the Sculpture Garden and beside the lake. A great day out learning about art!

Mrs Sloan

Congratulations Daniella!

Recently, one of our Year 9 students, Daniella Lee, successfully passed all of her violin auditions and has been accepted by the Sydney Conservatorium High School. The process for getting into Con High was a lengthy one which consisted of three theory and musicianship exams, an aural test and a performance. Besides music auditions, Daniella also had to take an IQ test as the academic expectations are very high. We will miss you at Emmaus, Daniella!

SPORTS NEWS

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

Mountain Bike Championships

On 28 August, the ACT Schools Mountain Biking Championships were on. We had 4 teams representing Emmaus Christian School. The day was run by CORC (Canberra off road cyclists) which is Australia’s largest Mountain bike club through its affiliation with mountain bike Australia (MTBA) is committed to the development of mountain biking at all levels. It was a really well organised day with 540 students competing travelling from all parts of Australia. Our Emmaus MT bikers rode well throughout the day and were great representatives for our school. Our senior boys team had an injury during the practice lap and had to compete one down. Our senior mixed team had one of their riders Alice complete the 2nd fastest time out of all the female competitors. Our junior boys rode hard throughout the day. Our Junior girls, Chloe, Anna, Abby and Linley came 2nd overall and 1st ACT team. Well done to all Emmaus Competitors!! Mrs Northey

Car Park Patch Up

In spite of a few rain delays, the potholes have now been patched with road mix while we pursue a complete upgrade of our main carpark. Stay tuned....

PIPE OPPORTUNITIES CORNER

Please contact Leonie Penton.

DATE | TO DO
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Fri 25 Sept | Set Up / Pack Up Afternoon Tea
Fri 25 Sept | Provide a plate of afternoon tea
Weekly | Tidying the Boardroom on a weekly basis
Book covering | Would you like to go on our list of people to cover books with contact?