PRINCIPAL MATTERS

This week, Americans celebrated ‘Thanksgiving.’ At this week’s Farewell to Year 10 Assembly, I encouraged our graduating class to be thankful people. Thankful people look at a glass that is 50% filled with water and see it as half-full. Others see it as half-empty. Different people will look at exactly the same thing and see it differently – either as half-empty and terrible or half-full and wonderful. Every day we can wake up and choose to look at our family, our school, our friends, our future, our whole lives as wonderful if we choose to, even if we don’t have everything we would like.

Thousands of years ago, the writer of a book in the Bible told us to give thanks to God in all things. He would have had no smart phone, no Facebook friends, no colour TV (or black and white), no aircon, no McDonalds, no Jeep, no computer, no refrigerator, no hot water, no taps with any water in his home, no toilet, no electricity, no pop music, hardly any books, the list goes on… – surely his life was not just half-empty, it was completely empty! Yet he says that everyone should thank God – and in all things. Not for all things, but regardless of whatever good or bad is happening we should give God thanks. Not waiting until our ‘glass’ is completely full, but right now. He didn’t have a lot like we do, but he had something that is harder to find in rich countries these days – thankfulness.

Thankfulness in our children (and in us) is closely linked to our expectations. If we expect to live like movie stars – who are some of the saddest people on earth – we may never be thankful for what we already have. We need to train our children to be thankful and content with less ‘stuff’, to take nothing for granted.

Thank you, God, for our lives; for all the things we DO have – family and other people in our lives who care about us; opportunities to learn and to serve others; a country free of war; teachers who try to help us learn; the chance to be with our friends; times to laugh and people to cry with. Thank you for beautiful weather, tasty food, our favourite clothes, fun games, places to go and explore, people to have a laugh with, forgiveness and healing and good memories from the past, hopes for tomorrow. Thank you that you promise to show yourself to those who seek you.

Thank you that there are so many things to be thankful for, that the things we DON’T have are not so important. Help us to remember that at all times our cups overflow, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

PM

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

Helpers for Uniform Store 2015

We would urgently love to hear from one or two parents who are able to be a PIP helper in the Uniform Store on a regular basis. Please contact Michelle Burch or the School Office for more details.

Emmaus Carols on the Oval

Saturday 6 December 5 - 7pm

Bring the whole family and a picnic for a great community event together celebration the spirit of Christmas. There will be fun, food and celebrations on the oval! Calling all performers… from all our amazing, talented community who are interested in presenting a Christmas item email MrsThirkettle. Rosters are now open on the website, tasks include: setting up/pack down, gift stall, ice block stand, coffee cart, face painting, Christmas Tree decorating…….

Meet a Board Member

Each week we will aim to introduce one of our board members. This week meet Philip Bellard.

Philip is an Engineer working for a local Civil consulting company, he has a daughter and two boys in Primary school. Philip (and Pamela) have been in Canberra for 4 years having moved here from New Zealand. Philip and Pamela are very committed to Christian education. “We believe a Christian Education can give our kids the best possible start in their own Christian journey, teaching them a Christian world view, having God as the foundation and being in a Christian community. That’s why we send our kids to Emmaus”.

Philip brings to the board his engineering and practical skills trusting these can be of benefit in the stewardship of the schools facilitates.

Lost Property

Dear parents, our lost property boxes contain many items. Please check if you are missing clothing, lunchboxes etc. Note at the end of term all items left in lost property will be donated to charity or to the second hand uniform store. Please label all items as we have a ‘Label it or Lose it’ policy. LOST Library bag & 4 library books belonging to Samuel Beck (Year 3). Please keep an eye out for it!
**WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS cont.**

**Library Books Reminder**
In preparation for stocktake please return your Emmaus library books. Any questions please contact Mrs Morris.

**Christmas: A Time for Giving**

Thankyou so much ECS for supporting our Christmas Hamper appeal this year. We have already reached some of our targets of 200 items and getting very close with others. This year we will be helping 30 expectant women and mothers with new babies from Karinya House, as well as 40 families who are receiving support with financial crisis through Christians Against Poverty. The remaining 140 hampers will be offered to some of our long term customers at HandUp Food Care...families who use this service on a regular basis to help them manage on a low income and during difficult circumstances. Thankyou for helping us make a difference in their lives this Christmas!

**PRIMARY NEWS**

**Band Program Instruments**
Students in the Band program should by now have returned all instruments and books to the school. Please contact Mr Terence Lynch if you have questions.

**Mini-Market Day**
*By Jack R, Isaac J & Matilda R (Year 6)*

Mini-Market Day was last Thursday. It was heaps of fun and no one got hurt. We ran an ice-cream stall, teacher splash, lolly stall, ice-bucket challenge, café, beauty salon, spider stall and much, much more. It was lovely weather which made students enjoy the water fight, ice cream, spiders and ice-bucket challenge and the teachers happier to be splashed J. The Primary School students who attended really enjoyed themselves. We raised a bit over $930. With that money Year 6 voted and bought seven vaccinations, one toilet and two fresh water systems to help less fortunate people from overseas and also put some money toward the Year 6 Dinner.

**SECONDARY NEWS**

**Compulsory iPad Meeting**

Thursday 11 December @ 6pm in The Hub

Mrs Toni Falusi will be holding a compulsory iPad meeting for Year 7 2015 parents and students to discuss the expectations for next year. Parents, please submit any questions/concerns prior to the meeting to Mrs Toni Falusi by email so they can be answered on the evening.

**Secondary Uniform & Stationery**

We trust that parents of all 2015 Secondary students are aware of the changes being introduced to the Secondary Uniform, as well as the new Stationery requirements for each Year 7 & 8 student at the beginning of the year. Please contact the Office if you have not received this information.

**Marvelous Melodrama**

*By Joel B (Year 9)*

The drama production this term, Murder Malodorous, was a big success. Everyone put in their best effort to learn their lines and create a production ready to present to the school. While we started off slow, leaving some people in doubt whether we would make the deadline, especially Mrs Gierke, some frantic practicing in the last few weeks got us ready just in time. Some excellent teamwork and planning between the students meant that we present a play that was well up to standard. As well as a good group performance, some individual efforts really stood out. Dylan Greenwood and John Kim both had difficult parts in playing females, John had some difficult lines that I know that I couldn’t have done without laughing, and Dylan’s acting was superb as usual (although walking into the males bathrooms to be greeted by a man in a dress was something I’ll never recover from). Emma Cox had a difficult job of taking on a part for a sick student in the last two weeks. She did an excellently at learning her lines in the short time and we couldn’t have done it without her. Anna Bakos played a major role in both parts of the play with some incredibly difficult lines as well as painting an excellent portrait for the set. Everyone did a great job and really put in their best effort. We hope you can come to our performance next year.

**Have you booked your ticket for the Year 10 Dinner yet?**

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**CONGRATULATIONS** to Joy M (Year 6) who has graduated swim school after 5 years, and can now swim a kilometre.