

Parent Memorandum 1/2017

Date	25 January 2017
From	Erik Hofsink (Principal)
To:	All Parents, Staff and Students

Dear Emmaus Families,

Welcome to the start of another school year. I hope and trust that you are as excited about 2017 as we are and I look forward to meeting you all again.

It is my delight and privilege to extend a special warm welcome to all our new families. We pray that your partnership journey with Emmaus will be pleasant, fruitful and a testimony of God's grace and goodness.

Staffing Updates

Resignations

Over the holiday period we received resignations from Mr Vaughan Minto (Secondary Technologies) and Mrs Heike Herald (Learning Support Assistant). While we regret losing two staff members who have contributed much to our school community, we wish them all the best on their journeys ahead.

New Appointments

Mrs Sara Thompson has been appointed to teach in the Secondary School, along with Mr Dereje Aby. Both have been relief teachers here at Emmaus, are well qualified and enthusiastic about their new roles. We look forward to their contributions as part of our team.

Mrs Ruth Potter will join the Learning Support Team for 2017. We are delighted to welcome her back to the staff of Emmaus Christian School.

In the front office we have made some adjustments to roles, but retained the same wonderful team. As a result of the reshuffle, Mrs Abbi Naude will now take on a revised role as Community Liaison Officer. Mrs Cath McGrath will support her in an administrative assistant role with some student services and admin assistance. As we look forward to consolidating our strong business and administration team, we pray that all our admin and support staff will have a very fruitful and pleasant year. Thank you in advance for your hard work and dedication to the school.

Once again it is my privilege to welcome to the school the following new staff members:

- Mr Dereje Aby (Humanities, Agriculture and Woodwork)
- Mrs Marcia Melville (English and Maths)
- Mrs Ruth Potter (Learning Support Assistant)
- Mrs Sara Thompson (Food Studies, Agriculture, Year 9 Home, Year 8 SOSE)

Please remember that the following staff members are on leave during 2017:

- Mrs Michelle Banfield (Maternity)
- Mrs Kellie Gierke (Maternity)
- Mr Godfrey Muthomi (Sabbatical)
- Mrs Angela Breeze (Maternity)

Mr Luke Behrendorf's (Year 6) contract has been extended for this year.

I'd also like to welcome back Mrs Helena Northey after an extended period of absence due to injury and surgery. We are very happy that Helena is back and look forward to her taking on the PE program again.

Special Parent Evening

As we did in 2016, we invite all P-10 to a Special Parent Meeting on **Wednesday the 15th of February 2017**. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm in the gymnasium and will provide you with essential updates and information on the Emmaus vision and journey.

Please note the date and time as this is an essential meeting for all to attend. Currently the agenda includes a number of updates on important matters including:

- 2016 Parent Survey Feedback
 - 20th Anniversary Celebrations
 - Leadership Review and Development Program - 2017
 - Emmaus Schools Registration
 - The Emmaus Master Plan
 - New Parent Induction Course
 - Further stages of the primary courtyard redevelopment
 - Constructing the new Preschool facilities
 - A 'new' vision for Performing Arts at Emmaus
 - Parents and Friends Committee - Plans for 2017
 - Staff Professional Development
 - Policy Updates
- To celebrate our 20th Anniversary this year, we have decided to engage in an awareness campaign by hiring some space on three Action buses operating from the Belconnen depot. From the 13th of February, these buses will tell people that Emmaus is a Christian school operating in Dickson for Preschool – Year 10, celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2017.
 - Please feel free to join us for the 2017 Opening Assembly at 9:00am on Monday the 30th of January in the school's gymnasium. This will be a short assembly to welcome everyone, introduce staff and kick off the year in prayer together.

Uniform Notice

Note that secondary students need to wear their full school uniform (NOT sports uniform) on the first day due to the Welcoming Assembly.

Parents who are looking for Sizes 4 and 6 for primary uniform, please note that Macdonalds School Wear is out of stock so we recommend purchasing generic green shirts from Target or Kmart (around \$5 each) for use in Term 1-2.

We apologise for the delay and will notify you when the new stock, along with new uniform items, arrive in store.

Theme for 2017

At Emmaus we will remain faithful to the narrative of the Bible and continue to let the gospel of Jesus Christ shape all our teaching and learning. As announced at the end of last year, our theme for 2017 will be:

“Learning and Growing by Knowing God better”

This is taken from **Colossians 1:9-10**: *“We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honour and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.”*

Therefore, as we start this year new year, please remember that our desire for fresh starts and new beginnings by itself renders us powerless to reinvent ourselves. It does not simply happen because the calendar has flipped over a year.

However, since the gospel of Jesus Christ carries with it a message of fresh starts and new beginnings - because of the forgiving and transforming power of God's grace - looking forward to the year ahead of us will give us renewed opportunities to give ourselves to practical, daily-life commitments that are rooted in the gospel.

So let's not fool ourselves with grand resolutions that none of us can keep. Rather, celebrate the gospel and its huge catalogue of graces. Re-commit yourself to living every day in light of what you have been given in and through your Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Happy New Year!