



# newsletter

30 January 2020

## Assembly

Please join us for assembly which is held every Friday at 8:50am

## February

Fri 7:  
Yr 6 Leadership  
Induction Liturgy

Thur 13:  
GRIP Leadership  
School & House  
Captains - 8.50am

Fri 14:  
Pupil Free Day -  
Bishop's Inservice Day

Wed 26:  
Ash Wednesday

## March

Fri 20:  
National Day of Action  
Against Bullying and  
Violence

Thur 26:  
School Mass at St  
Joseph's 9:30am

Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone! What a great start we have had this week despite the weather's attempts to spoil things. Thank you for having the students so well prepared; it goes a long way to getting the school year off to such a smooth start. Already our new Preps look like they are old hands at this school business and all other classes seem settled and ready to learn. We all understand that it is difficult for many parents to hand over little ones to school staff – especially when it's your first child at school and it's all new. How important it is to develop relationships characterised by trust, confidence, support and open communication. The rain certainly made for some interesting moments last Tuesday with the playground areas once more resembling a lake.

The start of the school year is always fairly upbeat and the classrooms and playgrounds are filled with happy and excited students and staff. There are many happy parents filling the grounds with smiles on their faces as well. It must be great to have some time and space for yourselves after the busyness of the holidays.

Please remember that all children are different when it comes to returning to school. Some children love it and settle back quickly, while others tend to miss being at home and do take a few days to get back into the swing of their school day. Be gentle on yourself and your children as the adjustment back into school life and routine takes place. I assure you that we will take good care of them. Whether you are a returning family or a new family to Emmanuel, I hope that you will find our school community to be a welcoming and friendly place enabling your association with our school to be a long and fruitful one.

May 2020 be a year filled with many blessings and opportunities to realise the potential of our community – parents, staff and students.

On a final note, I would like to congratulate and thank all parents for your co-operation with parking and traffic procedures. Despite the fact that building works are only half way completed, everyone has been very patient and understanding, ensuring the safety of everyone. Thank you also to those parents who are using the laminated name cards in their vehicles which assists us in enabling ease of communication allowing for the smooth flow of traffic. Pick up time is always a challenging time and it is important that everyone is patient when in the queue at the Stop, Drop and Go. Modelling patience sets a great example for your children to follow. A reminder to parents whose children access the Outside School Hours Care service of an afternoon that parking in the Staff Carpark is **NOT PERMITTED**. Parking is provided within the Stop, Drop and Go area when collecting children in the afternoon.

I wish you all a fantastic start to the year and look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks.

Wishing you every blessing for the coming week.

Geraldine Rostirolla  
(Principal)

# Religious Education

## A NEW SCHOOL YEAR – A Reflection

I dreamt I stood in a studio and watched two sculptors there, The clay they used was a young child's mind and they fashioned it with care.



One was a teacher; the tools she used were books and music and art; The other a parent with a guiding hand and a gentle and loving heart.

Day after day the teacher toiled with a touch that was deft and sure While the parent laboured by her side and polished and smoothed it o'er.

And when at last their task was done, they were proud of what they had wrought, For the things they had moulded into the child, could neither be sold nor bought.

And each agreed they would have failed if each had worked alone, For behind the parent stood the school and behind the teacher, the home.

(Author Unknown)

## BISHOP'S IN-SERVICE

Our annual Bishop's Inservice Day will be held on Friday 14 February. This is a pupil free day and all staff will be attending. The school office will be closed.

Focusing on Pope Francis's apostolic exhortation "Gaudete et Exsultate" (Rejoice and be glad), the theme this year will be "What is God calling me to?" The speakers will include Bishop Michael McCarthy and Diocesan Director of Catholic Education, Miss Leesa Jeffcoat. Staff will participate in a variety of workshops. It is always a great day for personal faith development and all staff appreciate this opportunity to focus their attention and learn something new.

## PRAYER CELEBRATION

Each year we come together to acknowledge, commission and congratulate our School Captains, House Captains, Student Representatives and Year Six students. This prayer celebration will take place in the Marist Centre on Friday 7 February at 8:50am. All welcome.

Student Representatives elected by their peers for Term One are:

6K: Lincoln Morgan and Chelsea Brandon

6S: Tori Dennis and Blake Grimshaw

6W: Samuel Carless and Alana Hyde

## VIRTUE OF THE FORTNIGHT –

### CO-OPERATION

Co-operation is working together for the good of everyone. It is a willingness to respect others and to follow rules which keep everyone safe and happy.

Co-operation is being helpful to one another, sharing the load. It is joining others in order to do something that cannot be done alone.

**Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.**

(Helen Keller)



Noeleen Kliese  
(Assistant Principal Religious Education)



**GOD IS WITH US AS WE LIVE LOVE  
LEARN IN A COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

**PUPIL FREE DAY**  
**Friday 14 February**

## FORMS TO BE COMPLETED

Parents, as you would be aware students were sent home with forms to be completed:

**Tuckshop Help Required**  
**Dental Form**

**Per Family**  
**Per Child**

**It is important that these forms are completed and returned to the class teacher promptly.**

**Information & Technology Forms (ICT)** will be distributed today to each child. Please find attached to this Newsletter copies of the "Information and Communication Technologies" Code of Practice. Parents are asked to please read these and discuss with your child/children. If this form could please be signed and returned at your earliest convenience. If it is not returned, students will not be able to access the computers. We are aware that some

parents received the ICT form earlier this week. If you have already signed and returned the form to your child's teacher, please ensure you read the Code of Practice carefully and discuss this with your child.

### **CONCESSION CARD DISCOUNT**

**Are you eligible for a Concession?** Catholic Education has introduced a means-tested concession card discount. Parents/carers with an eligible means-tested Australian government health care or pensioner concession card automatically receive a 70% discount to tuition fees (does not apply to school levies).

Card holders are required to advise the school of their concession card at enrolment or when the card is gained. Once the card is sighted by the school's administration, tuition fees for future terms will be adjusted. This initiative is intended to assist those families who genuinely do not have the financial capacity to pay tuition fees in full.

For further information, Concession Card Discount FAQs is attached to this Newsletter. Please contact Therese or Robyn at the Finance Office if you are eligible, or if you have any questions.

### **ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL**

If a child is absent from school, it is imperative that the school is notified. There are two options for notification. Firstly, in the case of a planned absence (eg: holidays, eisteddfod) a note to the teacher outlining the date/s of absence would suffice. In the event of a sudden absence (eg: sickness) a phone call to the school is required. **PLEASE NOTE THE ABSENTEE NUMBER IS 4994 8256.** This is a direct line and is available 24 hours a day. It is very important that parents notify the school BEFORE 10am each day if their child is absent. If notification is not received, a text message alerting parents that their child has been marked absent will be sent. All students arriving late, or leaving early, are required to be signed in/out of the office by a parent or guardian.

### **ANAPHYLACTIC AWARENESS**

Parents should be aware that there are a number of students at the school who are anaphylactic. Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen to which they are sensitive.

There are many potential allergens that can result in an anaphylactic attack, however the most common (and most publicised) are nuts and eggs.

Schools have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to keep students safe at school. With regard to anaphylaxis procedures, our school ensures we meet our duty of care by:

- Training staff in the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and how to respond in the event of an anaphylactic attack.

- Ensuring a general use Epipen is available for use by first time anaphylactic sufferers.
- Ensuring Individual Action Plans and individual Epipens are available in an emergency, when they have been provided by parents.
- Communicating known allergens to camp staff if anaphylactic students are attending camp.
- Encouraging parents of relevant year levels not to bring known allergens if a severe anaphylactic is present in that year level.
- Encouraging all parents not to send food containing the most common allergens.

The school cannot and does not claim to be nut or egg free. It is not advised schools do this, because a school has no day to day control over what food is placed in lunch boxes in the home and is not in a position to be checking lunch boxes during the school day and determining what the ingredients of all items in the lunch box are. **However, we do request that parents avoid sending products that contain nuts or eggs to school.**

Exposure to allergens is impossible to manage in public places (such as a school); the most effective risk management procedures with regard to anaphylaxis are:

- Parents of anaphylactic children educating their child so that, as they become more independent they are more likely to identify their own signs and symptoms of an anaphylactic emergency and raise the alarm.
- Parents of anaphylactic children educating their child about their allergies and how to minimize the risk of exposure (such as not sharing food or utensils if allergic to food, or precautions outdoors if allergic to insects).

It is also requested that parents of anaphylactic children:

- Notify the school of the student's allergies and risk of anaphylaxis and provide appropriate medical information.
- Ensure that the school is notified of changes to the student's medical condition or medication order.
- Ensure the student has an anaphylaxis emergency kit which includes their Action Plan completed by the student's doctor and the student's personal adrenaline auto-injector.
- Monitor the expiry date of the student's adrenaline auto-injector and replace if used and before it reaches its expiry date.

Your support with such procedures is truly appreciated and will greatly enhance the creation of a safe learning environment for the increasing number of children who are enrolled with life threatening allergies.

### **BIRTHDAYS AND TREATS AT SCHOOL**

Here at Emmanuel we like to acknowledge children's birthdays at school. Teachers do this by providing a birthday sticker for students and the class sings "Happy Birthday." Birthdays are also acknowledged every second Friday at our whole-school Assembly. When it comes to providing birthday treats from home, we need to be mindful of the amount of sugar children are consuming, as well as food allergies and intolerances. If parents wish to acknowledge a birthday

at school, they are asked to provide only healthy food options such as fruit platters (eg: pieces of watermelon). Cakes laden with icing/lollies, bags of lollies and ice-blocks are discouraged at school and should be reserved for birthday parties. Unfortunately we do not have the freezer space to store ice-blocks.

Parents are also asked to NOT send whole class treats (such as chocolates/marshmallows/candy canes) for events such as Easter, Christmas, End of Year. This practise puts teachers in a difficult position when students are unable to partake of treats due to food allergies. You can also appreciate that some parents are not happy for their child to consume unknown food-stuffs, and for this reason parents are asked to be mindful and respect the decision which has been made by the school for the safety and well-being of all students.

### **PARENT HANDBOOKS/PARENT LOUNGE**

New families to the school will receive a copy of the Parent Handbook towards the end of next week. A copy of the handbook is also available on Parent Lounge. New families will also receive their Parent Lounge login details at the end of next week.

### **STOP DROP & GO**

New families to the school will receive two laminated cards with their surname printed on them. These are to be used when picking students up from the Stop, Drop & Go area off Tolcher Street. Please ensure that these are clearly displayed either on your car's dashboard, or on the back of your sun visor. If you have not received one, or require a different name, please contact the office.

### **TUCKSHOP ORDERS**

Reminder to all parents. Please ensure you update your child's/children's teacher and class details on QuickCliq before placing your order

## **SCHOOL BANKING**

### **Student Banking - Commonwealth Bank**

Due to the limited space we have at our current Administration site, we will not be commencing Student Banking at this time. Once we have relocated to the New Administration building, Student Banking will re commence. At this stage, we anticipate that will occur **second semester**. Thank you for your understanding.

### **UPDATING DETAILS**

If there have been any changes to your contact details (e.g. address, phone number, email address) please update these in Parent Lounge. This will ensure that you are up to date and receiving all correspondence from our school.

## **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

With so many extracurricular activities available for the children of Mackay, we have received an abundance of flyers to share with our school community. If you are looking for a new sport, hobby or a new club to join, please see the noticeboard located in the undercover area near the Prep classrooms.

### **NORTH MACKAY SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC**

If you would like to access our service please complete the Medical/Consent form sent home and return to the school office by **FRIDAY 7 February, 2020**.

## *Curriculum Corner*

Welcome to the 2020 School Year! Many of you would have read several helpful hints to support your child's successful transition into the new school year and I would like to thank you for preparing your children so as they are feeling ready and keen for the school year ahead. Although stationary; new uniforms and lunchboxes are very important tools to instil a preparedness for school within our children, I would like to share with you one of the most important tools you can provide for a successful school year...READ

The proven benefits of Reading with your child are:

- Relationship Building: Reading is a relationship and it is the bond between children and parents that is enhanced through reading together. It only takes 20 mins a day to build this relationship.
- Children's reading improves: Research is conclusive – when parents support teachers with their child's reading habits learning outcomes improve.
- Children read more: Students who read with their parents are better prepared for school. They begin school with knowledge of book language and familiarity with concepts of print.
- Children's self-esteem improves: knowing someone cares enough to take time out of a busy day to provide undivided attention around a book makes a significant difference to how students perceive themselves as learners and readers
- Reading unites families through shared stories: When a family reads together, stories form a common ground for communicating. Stories bind families and help students make sense of where they fit in the world.

Not only does parent involvement have a specific and profound impact on children's reading, but also on children's language and literacy learning in general. It is through interactions with parents and carers that children learn new vocabulary, seek clarification of new

understandings, and to learn to comprehend their expanding worlds. Talk is the key to reading and writing success. Talking with children (walking to school; at the table; in the car; bedtime) has a significant effect on literacy learning in general.

At Emmanuel, all classrooms begin the day with reading, this time is known as the “Read to Self” component of our Daily 5 practice. During this time children are encouraged to read a book for enjoyment to encourage all children to foster a love for reading. We have feedback from many parents since introducing this routine at the beginning of last year that many students have developed or rekindled their love of reading. Research shows that regular reading

routines such as this at home and school turn children from being able to read into “avid readers”.

If you would like further information about supporting your child’s reading at home please contact me via the front office.

If you are available to assist with one to one or small group reading within the classroom please let your child’s classroom teacher know or contact myself via the front office.

**Mrs Janine Refalo**  
**(Assistant Principal Curriculum)**

## Emmanuel Catholic Primary School

### Priorities 2020 - 2022

 <p><b>Catholic Identity and Ethos</b></p>	 <p><b>Effective Teaching and Learning</b> <b>(NSIT Domains 2,5,6,7,8)</b></p>
<p>1.1 For all members of the school community to continue to strive and maintain Emmanuel as a dialogue school through the traditions and practices; celebrations; teaching and learning.</p>	<p>2.1 That our school has a culture of data informed practice where every student is engaged and learning successfully in their own ways at their own pace.</p> <p>2.2 That our school has a feedback culture of continuous improvement which builds a schoolwide team of professional highly able teachers who use data and evidence based teaching strategies to support deep student learning.</p>
 <p><b>Pastoral Support and Wellbeing</b> <b>(NSIT Domain 3)</b></p>	 <p><b>Leadership, Partnerships and Resourcing</b> <b>(NSIT Domains 1,4,9)</b></p>
<p>3.1 To enhance student learning and well-being outcomes through deliberate and strategic school community partnerships.</p>	<p>4.1 That the school leadership team/staff/parents/students have a shared understanding and are committed to the explicit improvement agenda.</p>

Last year in culmination of our three year School Improvement Cycle, the above “School Priorities” were set for 2020 – 2022. The School Improvement Cycle seeks feedback from parents; students; board members; staff and leadership to provide feedback on their school’s current position in relation to international effective practice to plan a focussed approach to school improvement appropriate to the context of their school (ACER 2019). The School Priorities frame the Annual School Goals to ensure all members of the Emmanuel School Community are working towards school – wide improvement to maximise teaching and learning whilst enhancing the educational experience of all students. Over the coming weeks, I will outline the 2020 School Goals and the initiatives taking place throughout the year to ensure we are working towards achieving each goal.

**Janine Refalo**  
**(Assistant Principal Curriculum)**