**Important Dates**

**March**
- Mon 16th - Wed 18th: Yr 12 Aboriginal Studies Camp
- Wed 18th: Primary Parent/Teacher Interviews 3.30pm - 8.30pm
- Thu 19th: Primary Parent/Teacher Interviews 3.30pm - 5.30pm
- Fri 20th: Autumn Instrumental Night @ 7.00pm in EPAC
- Tue 24th: Yr 8 Immunisations
- Wed 25th: Principal Tour - Middle & Senior
- Thu 26th: Principal Tour - Primary
- Yr 7-12 SACSA Secondary Athletics @ Santos Stadium
- Sun 29th: P & F Yr 7/8 Family Picnic at ECC from 1.00pm

**2015 Term Dates**

**Term 1**
- Wed 28 Jan – Fri 10 Apr
**Term 2**
- Tue 28 Apr – Fri 3 Jul
**Term 3**
- Wed 22 Jul – Fri 25 Sep
**Term 4**
- Mon 12 Oct – Fri 4 Dec (Subject to change)

Weekly Prayer Meeting
Tuesday Morning
8.30am - 9.00am

**Next College Newsletter: Wed 25th March 2015**
Please email your articles to: newsletter@emmauscc.sa.edu.au

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**Upcoming Principal Tours**

Due to this Term’s Tours being fully booked, please encourage family and friends who may be interested in enrolling their children at the College to attend the next Principal Tours being held on **Wednesday 3rd (Middle & Senior)** and **Thursday 4th June (Primary)** at 9.15am.

Principal Tours are a great way for prospective parents to visit the College during a normal school day while providing the opportunity to talk directly with the Principal and Heads of School. Bookings are essential, please contact Barb Greenslade on 8292 3834 to register your place.

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**From the Principal**

“He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.” Psalm 25:9 9

**Dear Parents and Friends**

Our Inter-house Competitions for 2015 are well underway! Yr 3 - 6 Primary students had a wonderful morning of competition when our Annual Primary Swimming Carnival was held in near perfect conditions at Marion Outdoor Pool on Friday 27th February. On Friday 6th March, the second major Inter-house Carnival was held for Middle/Senior School Athletics at Bowker Street Sports ground (North Brighton). We were blessed with another day of ideal conditions for competition. Friendly rivalry and colours provided by the three House Teams added wonderfully to both the Swimming and Athletics Carnivals. Later this Term it will be the Primary students holding their Athletics Carnival also at Bowker Street Sports ground.

The Inter-house competitions lead to our team selection for the Athletics Interschool Competitions later this Term (Secondary) and early next Term (Primary). Emmaus Christian College is affiliated with the South Australian Christian Schools Association (SACSA) and it is with SACSA that the College provides a range of one day carnival opportunities for students to compete against other schools. Athletics, Cross-country, Basketball, Netball and Touch competitions are held annually.

It has also been a fortnight where the College has invested heavily into developing our College Student Leaders seeing our Primary, Middle and Senior School Leaders participate in various conferences relevant to their specific age group. I also had the privilege of accompanying our three Year 12 College House Captains (Georgina Lampard, Edward Omondi and Lachlan Hillier) to the annual Compass Conference in Canberra. We were joined by about 150 other Year 12 student leaders from almost 50 Christian Schools across Australia. This 4 day conference provided a powerful program designed to develop Christ centered servant leadership skills in the participants. A central focus was how these skills can be taken and used to impact the student’s school and Church environments upon their return. Georgina, Edward and Lachlan have each summarized different aspects of the conference in the paragraphs below.

**2015 Compass Schools Conference**

One of the biggest perks of being House Captain is having the privilege to attend the annual Compass Schools Conference. The leadership sessions were nothing like what we had anticipated, providing intriguing viewpoints on the Christian faith and how we should view leadership through the Bible. Every session was based on ‘The Compass Question’: How are you God’s image and likeness on behalf of God for all creation? Whilst most sessions comprised of us young leaders earnestly listening to the messages, (which usually included a few entertaining videos to help get the message across) and eagerly taking down notes, some simply allowed time for each school to group together, both leaders and teachers, and analyse the sessions, whilst planning ways of helping the school move forward.

The conference as a whole provided us with memories we’ll never forget, but the sessions in particular challenged us and inspired us to truly be God’s image and likeness as leaders. **Edward Omondi.**
Parliament House
On the Sunday afternoon, we had the privilege of experiencing Parliament House first hand. As we walked through several security scanners, taking our blazers off, putting them back on, we soon realized that although there was some sort of sincerity in making certain no one was armed or dangerous, the Parliament itself could not continue the solemnity we first felt. The way the Labour party whined, grovelled and laughed humourlessly at the Liberals was actually quite heart breaking to see. Personally, I found the whole ordeal to be completely childish and my heart was filled with compassion for the leaders of Australia. All of them must constantly feel exhausted by the weight of their arguing, day in and day out.
We also toured Old Parliament House, and were able to engage in activities such as exploring the library room and re-enacting a debate on the topic of Australian soldiers being commissioned in Vietnam.

The whole experience was a real eye opener for me and it confirmed my goal of one day standing in politics myself. Georgina Lampard.

The Australian War Memorial
The Australian War Memorial was an incredible experience. It was extremely humbling walking around different displays, hearing stories about soldiers in battle, seeing the artillery and seeing footage of Australians in various wars. After a few hours of exploring the War Memorial’s displays, all leaders attending the conference were asked to gather in the Commemorative Courtyard. Sandstone sculptures of Australian animals lined the courtyard, along with the Roll of Honour, several bronze plates with more than 102,000 names engraved on them to honour the Australians that have died in war. The Commemorative Courtyard was the location at which the War Memorial hosts the Daily Last Post Ceremony. Students, teachers and members of the public gathered there to remember the life of a man who died serving Australia in World War 1. For each Last Post Ceremony, a name is selected from the Roll of Honour and the ceremony is dedicated to them to honour their service to the country. The students were also given the opportunity to lay wreaths at the Pool of Reflection for the fallen soldier. It was remarkable to reflect upon the life of this one man, then to look around at the Roll of Honour surrounding us, to see that there are 102,000 others that suffered the same terrible fate. It truly was a humbling, breathtaking experience. Lachlan Hillier.

Prayer Points:
• Pray for our student leaders that they make a Kingdom impact in their roles as leaders.
• Pray for safety during our House Sporting events and that students can realise their God given abilities.
• Pray for our Year 12’s as their assessment requirements begin to escalate.

Andrew Linke
Principal

Primary News

Year 6 Student leadership Conferences
As part of the Primary School’s Leadership Program all Year 6 students attended the GRIP Student Leadership Conference at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre last Thursday. Our students came away with new skills, new ideas and new enthusiasm for making a positive contribution as a school leader to our school Community. The students reported that the day was inspiring, encouraging and fun! Our nine Primary Student Leaders also attended the Halogen Foundation National Young Leaders’ Day on Tuesday 3rd March. It was an inspiring opportunity for our students to continue to develop their leadership potential along with strong leadership values.

Assembly Week 5
Sean W Smith one of the biggest names in Christian children’s entertainment and music in Australia, presented the gospel to the students through song and stories. The students really enjoyed his very exciting and interactive performance emphasising God’s great heart for kids. Thank you to all the parents who came and joined in!

Peer Mediation Training
During Week 4 all Year 6 students were involved in Peer Mediation Training with Mrs Wicks and Mr Carson. After 2 days of intensive training the students are now confident and competent in conflict resolution skills such as listening, critical thinking and problem solving. The students enjoyed the opportunity of learning these life skills and look forward with much enthusiasm to their Peer Mediator duties at lunchtime.

Primary Swimming Carnival
Congratulations to all students in Year 3 to 6 for their good sportsmanship and excellent behaviour at the Primary Swimming Carnival at Marion Outdoor Pool. It was a very close result with Topaz winning over Ruby by one point and Emerald coming third. We thank God for the perfect weather on Friday. Thank you to Mrs Debbie Beaty for her fantastic organisation and to the parent helpers who worked hard scoring and judging during the morning. We also appreciated the parents who came to cheer and encourage.

Primary School Theme for 2015:
“God lights our world and our way.”
Week 6 Bible Verse – Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. Psalm 86:11

Annette Craven
Head of Primary School
Middle School

You will have received an e-mail regarding some support regarding the role out of iPads in the Middle School. Please note we have booked the E-centre (top floor, first classroom on your left as you come up the new stairwell) as a drop in area for any technical questions or support you need. We will run this for 4 weeks to support students and families.

The E-centre will be open:
- 8.15am – 9.15am Tuesdays (10th, 17th, 24th & 31st March)
- 3.15pm – 4.15pm Thursdays (12th, 26th March & 2nd April)

We will also run a parents and caregivers training, support session on:
- Thursday 19th March 8.30am – 10.30am and repeat this 7.00pm – 9.00pm.

This will be a chance to ask questions and share answers regarding the use of digital devices and supporting students and families with technology. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Andrew Edmondson
Head of Middle School

Important Information from Student Services

If a student is absent or late
Parents please note that if your child is absent or going to be late on any given day you must notify the school each day your child is away. Please call the absentee line on 8292 3838 and leave a message. It is a 24/7 automated voice mail message service.

College Bus Information - Single Trips
As all our College Bus services are full, it is important to note that we unfortunately are unable to accommodate students taking friends home on the bus. NO single trip bus tickets will be available to purchase for this purpose.

Thank you
Debby Scheepers
Student Services

College News

Celebrating the life of Sherylle Kettle
As many of you will know, Sherylle was a beloved member of staff and served our school community in the role of Registrar/Student Services for approximately 20 years. She recently passed away unexpectedly but peacefully at home and we wish to extend our sincere sympathies to those who knew her.

A memorial book will be available at front Reception for those wishing to send messages of sympathy.

Heather Headland
PA to Principal

Social Justice Retreat 2015
Emmaus Social Justice Group kicked off on Tuesday 24th February with a half day retreat at school. The Social Justice Group is a collection of students from Year 8 - 12 who are passionate about seeing the world become a better place. The inspiration for the group is Micah 6.8: “He has shown you...what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (NIV).

The group meets regularly in their lunchtimes throughout the year to coordinate fundraisers, raise awareness, pray and discuss issues in the world today. At Tuesday’s retreat, around 30 students gathered to bond, discuss their passion for social justice and to begin thinking about the year ahead. Emily Little, heading up the group this year, opened with a devotion and prayer.

After a pizza lunch, students had the opportunity to hear from Ben Clark, TEAR Australia. He challenged the group’s thinking about how they can partner with organisations around the world and what makes ‘good aid’. They then engaged with a simulation game to help them with their understanding of the challenges in dealing with financial inequity around the world. Judging from the engagement and passion of these young people - it’s going to be a great year!

Jenny Wichert and Amy Chesser

2015 Cambodia/Vietnam Trip
Congratulations to the following students who have been selected for the upcoming 2015 Cambodia/Vietnam Trip.

Nicholas Bates, Thomas Butler, Magnolia Davis, Phoebe Gordon, Elizabeth Gould, Daniel Grear, Ashleigh Matthews, Jessica Richards, Ryan Richards, Shevaun Rutherford, Chantelle Taylor, Ethan Wildman and Michael Workman.

Neil Blenkinsop
Trip Coordinator/Teacher
Parents & Friends

Upcoming dates for this Term

Sunday 29th March, from 1.00pm - Year 7/8 Family Picnic at Emmaus

Term 3

Saturday 29th August 2015 - Bush Dance

The band is already booked. We are now looking for a team to coordinate this event. If you are able to be part of the ‘core team’ or can help out on the night, please email me at grears@mgsurvey.com.au as initial preparation meetings are being scheduled.

Helen Grear
P & F President

Student/Family Support Worker

Teens and mobile devices

Most parents would agree that teens and their mobile phones (and iPads etc.) are almost inseparable! These devices are important and necessary, but as most families now own mobile phones and as iPad devices are being introduced in Middle School I would like to remind parents and students of some of the risks involved in excessive use of devices and the importance of providing children with clear guidelines about their usage.

Research continues to suggest that excessive use of devices interferes with sleep, relationship, academic performance and physical and mental health. According to the mental health and wellbeing source ‘Generation Next’ some research also suggests that excessive device use is associated with an increased risk of being bullied, aggression and in some cases disordered eating. Devices can also affect the quality of relationships between children and their parents and children and their teachers due to continual conflict over when and where devices can be used.

Our gentle reminder to parents is that as in other areas of your child’s life – you are still the adult in authority and it is your responsibility (no matter how much your children may try to argue against it) to protect your children from making poor decisions regarding their health for as long as they are children (under 18). Providing strong, clear boundaries for use of media devices early, means that your children know what time they need to finish using them and where in the house they need to place these devices before going to bed at night. Parents need to make their expectations about their children’s viewing clear, discussing use of communication devices in public areas of the home, which sites children are allowed to view, who they should be communicating with etc. I know it is a struggle to put these rules in place to start with, but it is much easier to gradually reduce your children’s restrictions as they prove themselves to be responsible and trustworthy than to suddenly introduce very strict rules that will be a lot harder for a child to accept.

It is also the parent’s responsibility to investigate how to protect their children from exposure to inappropriate sites and to provide relevant internet filters and pornography blockers on computers to safeguard children from being exposed to inappropriate material. Discussing with your children their ‘internal filters’ is also vitally important – parents can’t be with their children 24/7 so teaching children to make safe choices about what they view and what is age appropriate is an essential part of allowing children the privilege of owning media devices.

For further information about helping your child to build ‘internal filters’ against inappropriate material, please see the fact sheet at the end of this newsletter. Thank you once again to the Parents and Friends for providing the funding for our College to subscribe to ‘Parenting ideas’ which enables us to access these valuable resources.

Sue Chapman
Student/Family Support Worker

Music

Term 1 & 2 Music Calendar

Please encourage your child to perform at one of these musical events and come along to hear the amazing talents of our students.

Term 1, Week 8, Thu 19th March - Autumn Instrumental Night, 7.00pm in EPAC
Term 2, Week 9, Wed 24th June - Winter Instrumental Night, 7.00pm in EPAC

Andrew Verco
Uniform Shop

2014 Opening Hours
Monday 8.30am - 10.00am
3.00pm - 5.00pm

Christine Blom-Cursaro
Uniform Shop Manager

Canteen Roster

Week 7 T1

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Week 8 T1

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Week 9 T1

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Week 10 T1

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<td>Suzanne Gill</td>
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Thank you for the time you volunteer in the canteen, it is very much appreciated. The hours are from 9.30am to approximately 1.30pm. Due to Occupational Health and Safety, please make sure you wear enclosed shoes and long hair is tied back. Thank you.
Help your kids build their own firewall against online Nasties

The online world provides endless access to inappropriate content for our kids. Filters can play a part, but as Catherine Gerhardt describes, it’s much better to have a fully rounded approach to tackling the issue.

**Fiction vs. reality.** One of the biggest concerns I have as a parent at the moment is the relative ease with which children can access to online pornography. Recent studies revealed that children as young as eight years old have seen it, and most kids have witnessed it before parents have even considered discussing it. For me, it’s about considering what the long-term effects are going to be on our children’s future relationships. With wide access to the internet, including mobile devices and gaming systems, it is too easy for even young children to reach inappropriate content.

Most kids who have seen pornography know immediately that it feels wrong. They can feel ‘strange’ and their personal instincts kick in like an alarm system telling them something is not quite right. They may feel sick, embarrassed, confused. Some kids stumble across it (many porn sites know popular key strokes kids use), and others are exposed to it by friends or family.

**Is pornography really that big of a deal for our kids?** The simple answer is yes. Pornography damages their brains by tricking them into releasing the same pleasure chemicals that drugs do. “A child’s brain is more vulnerable as it is rapidly forming neural connections. Viewing pornography can reprogram a child’s brain and initiate an addiction that is often harder to overcome than drugs or alcohol,” says Kristen Jenson, author of Good Pictures, Bad Pictures.

**Pornography harms relationships.** Youth are being exposed to pornography even before they have had the opportunity to experience a relationship. Teens tell researchers that they don’t like pornography but they feel pressured to watch it, and they even acknowledge that it provides a model for them to follow. When we start to think about kids getting sex education from pornography, we can start to understand why we should be worried about their future relationships. Viewing pornography is setting up unrealistic expectations and desensitizing sexual expectations. Pornography can distort a person’s view of what a healthy relationship should be, and devalues the principles of mutual respect, trust and love we expect our children to experience in the future.

**What can parents do to build their child’s firewall?**

**Be proactive, be preventative.** Like most things it’s helpful for parents to begin the conversation before their child becomes interested in porn. Younger kids are more likely to see the parent as a dependable source of information, peers are more likely to see the parent as a dependable source of information; by the time they are teenagers peers become the reliable source and peer pressure and curiosity can lead them down a path of unrealistic expectations and perhaps, even addiction.

**Be open.** Most kids won’t tell their parents because they know they shouldn’t be looking at that stuff and, worst of all, you might take the technology away from them. Be honest, for many of us that might be our first reaction. But in hindsight it only prevents kids from telling us about their online experiences later on. It’s okay to say, “Thanks for telling me, I’ve had that happen too”, or “Let’s look into that together”.

more on page 2
Start by asking your child. Ask whether they have ever seen inappropriate photos online. Let them know that if it happens you expect they will come and tell you, assuring them they will not get into trouble and will not have the device taken away from them. You can suggest your child leaves a note for you if they see something online that makes them feel uncomfortable. This lets you know when they are ready to discuss it and gives you the chance to have a chat with them on the subject when you are ready.

Internet filters and porn blockers. These are important, but they are not a one-stop shop on protecting our kids. They can certainly help by minimising the risk of ‘random’ porn attacks, but they won’t safeguard them either. Even if we feel we have placed adequate measures within our own homes, children must, and do, go out into the wider world where they will have exposure that is beyond our control.

Developing internal filters is about getting kids to understand what pornography is, how it affects their brain, and coming up with strategies they can use when they are exposed to it. Children need to be able to make safer choices when they are in situations where content filters or adults are not monitoring their behaviour. It is normal for kids to be curious and as they head into the teenage years that curiosity peaks. As children grow they spend more time online and get exposed to more of the online world, with parents having less control over their viewing habits.

Parenting responsibility. Websites and governments are taking the minimum responsibility on these issues, so it has to become primarily a parenting responsibility. Children can be protected and harm can be minimised by taking some common sense approaches. Parents need to establish their expectations about children’s viewing, make sure communication devices are used in public places; install net nannies and firewalls where appropriate and don’t be afraid to keep a check on website histories. Investigate how you can protect your children and minimise their exposure by installing a porn site blocker onto your internet connected devices. A quick Google search will provide some options which best suit your family.

Discussions about pornography need to be part of an ongoing conversation within the family. Talking won’t put your kids at increased risk; in fact, it increases their awareness and empowers them to make safer decisions when the time does come. Short, frequent discussions will help your child remember information – rather than one big long lecture. As bestselling author Steve Maraboli advised: “Take action! An inch of movement will bring you closer to your goals than a mile of intention.”

Catherine Gerhardt