From the Principal

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Matthew 11:28-29

Dear Parents and Friends

No doubt you will be aware of the natural disaster that has hit Vanuatu (impacting over 80 islands across the sprawling archipelago). Many have recently experienced destruction due to earthquakes and active volcanoes, and now being hit by the devastating force of cyclone Pam could not come at a worse time. Unfortunately the disaster continues due to the lack of sanitation, shelter, safe water/food and medical help/supplies.

Such situations call for Christians and Non-Christians alike to render assistance as able. As Christians we can additionally pray for those impacted and those in support. I encourage you to actively pursue this avenue either individually or as part of your family/worship communities. We can also support the aid services through the many opportunities to donate.

There are multiple personal Emmaus connections on staff with ministry services in Vanuatu. Through these Scripture Union associates we have a unique avenue to financially contribute in a direct way where we know the money will be put to addressing immediate and pressing needs. Next Monday to Thursday (Week 10) class teachers will be collecting any donations from families and students towards this relief effort. Please prayerfully consider your response and discuss it as a family (children can learn how to process and respond to such matters through family discussion). At the end of next week we will forward all funds donated to bless the people of Vanuatu through this Scripture Union channel. Please refer to the following website if you are interested in more details about where the funds will go (or wish to donate directly yourself) http://www.sunsw.org.au/donate/vanuaturelief

NAPLAN 2015

Each year, Yr 3, 5, 7 and 9 students participate in National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy. 2015 NAPLAN is scheduled for Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th May. In special circumstances students may be exempt (eg students with a disability which significantly limits capacity to participate, new arrivals to Australia with limited English ability or withdrawn eg where parents have philosophic or religious objection to testing). Decisions about exemption and withdrawal must be made by Friday 10th April. Please contact Mrs Carolyn Adams (Special Education Coordinator) if you wish to discuss this.

Prayer Points:

- Pray for the people of Vanuatu and those serving their needs.
- As the last newsletter before Easter pray for our Easter services, and that the true meaning of Easter is represented throughout the community.
- Pray for our Emmaus staff and students as they perform musical items in the Mall on Wednesday 1st April reminding the community about the true Easter message.

Blessings,

Andrew Linke
Principal

Lost Property

All lost property will be placed on a clothes rack outside the Front Office during the last week of Term (Week 11).

Any articles not claimed by the end of Term will be either given to the Uniform Shop, First Aid or donated to Charity.
Primary News

Athletics Carnival
The Primary School had another memorable and enjoyable Sports Day on Friday. Congratulations to all Year 3 to 6 students for the way they entered into the spirit of the day. Students were encouraged to perform to the best of their ability and work as a team which they achieved really well. A fun day was had by all students. The winning House was Ruby. Mrs Debbie Beaty did a superb job in organising the event as well as training the students. The success of the day was also due to the support and hard work of the parent helpers. A big thank you to parents who assisted with the sausage sizzle and selling drinks and icy poles. The money raised will go towards purchasing a shade sail for the sandpit.

Parent/Teacher Communication
Ongoing communication between parents and teachers is important. We believe that a true partnership can only be achieved when the communication between home and school is free flowing. This year there will be interviews in Term 1 and Term 3. Thank you to the parents who made the effort to attend Parent/Teacher interviews on Wednesday and Thursday last week. It is another valuable way in which parents can be involved in their child’s education. Ongoing individual meetings with parents and teachers can be organised as needed or requested. Thank you also to Lara and Faith Cleversley, Judy Owuor, Kimberley Owuor, Chantel Frost, Allison Minchington, Jo Nicholl, Sandra Mastrogiacomo, Jane Finlayson, Kelly Collingwood, Domenique Ellul, Kerryn Morriss, Paulina Salamon, Anjali Grierson, Tracy Stamou, Maykoo Yu and Naomi Williams Bradley for providing the delicious food for the staff dinner on Wednesday evening.

National Assessment Program: Literacy and Numeracy. (NAPLAN)
Just a reminder that the NAPLAN testing of our Year 3 and Year 5 students will take place on the mornings of the 12th, 13th and 14th May. There will also be a catch up day on the 15th May. All classroom teachers have been trained to analyse and use the NAPLAN data to support students with their teaching and learning

Primary School Theme for 2015:
“God lights our world and our way.”
Week 9 Bible Verse – Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3

Annette Craven
Head of Primary School

Middle School
Thank you to those who attended our recent Middle School parent workshops on iPads. Adrian Cotterell lead us through some key questions and answers for using these devices. We also looked at how we can support and encourage our children to be wise digital citizens and use their new personal devices with wisdom.
A reminder that we are running a drop in centre in the Middle School E-Centre on Tuesday mornings and Thursday’s after school and parents are welcome to pop in and ask questions regarding this new technology. It is recommended that you bring your child’s iPad with you so that the IT team can assist you well.

Andrew Edmondson
Head of Middle School

Student/Family Support Worker
As we near the end of the Term, I would like to mention a very important topic which isn’t something I have written about before. As many people are aware, Rosie Batty is currently Australian of the Year and she is a staunch campaigner for ending family violence. Rosie was tragically impacted by family violence when, after enduring many years of battling a violent and psychologically abusive former partner he bludgeoned and stabbed to death her only son Luke in February last year.
While this whole story is so tragic, Rosie has managed to use the unique window of opportunity she has to ‘get Australia talking’ about a topic which in many ways has been taboo in our society. Family violence can occur in any family to people from any background. I applaud Rosie for being willing to bring to Australia’s attention a topic which sadly is usually surrounded in silence.
If you would like to read the article in full please go to -

Rosie Batty is also a patron of the group ‘Our Watch’ which is a nationwide group established to change the culture, behaviours and attitudes that lead to violence against women and children. If you would like to learn more about this group please go to -

Sue Chapman
Student/Family Support Worker
First Aid

Students feeling sick at school
First Aid Staff would like to remind all parents and students that any student feeling unwell at school and needing to go home must report to the First Aid Room. Where a student is too sick to remain at school, First Aid Staff will contact parents and arrange for them to be collected. Students are not to sign themselves out sick without having reported to First Aid. Nor are they to phone parents from their own mobile phones to be collected. If your child is not well prior to school, we would urge you to keep them home until they have recovered.

Head Lice
We would like to remind parents of the importance of checking your child’s hair on a regular basis in order to restrict the spread of head lice.

What to look for:
- Small light or dark brown insects without wings.
- Tiny eggs on the hair shafts, which are not easily brushed off.
- Intense itching on the head and neck.

Please inform the school immediately if you find head lice. You will need to treat your child with an effective head lice treatment and remove all eggs before he/she can return to school. Please check other family members for the presence of head lice.

Preventative Measures:
- Long hair should be tied back at school.
- Encourage children to avoid using anyone else’s brushes, combs (home or school) and to avoid wearing other children’s hats.
- When head lice are found, in addition to treating your child, pillow cases, towels, hats, combs and hair ties should be washed thoroughly.

To avoid lice re-entering the school, First Aid Officers will check your child before they return to class. Please contact Ros Argent or Maria McIver for more detailed information about what to look for and how to treat head lice. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Medication Plans for Camp
We would like to remind parents of students attending the Year 8 Camp, 7th to 9th April, that if your child may require medication during their camp a Medication Plan completed by a doctor is now due. This includes medicated skin creams, eye drops, paracetamol, hay-fever and allergy medications, travel sickness tablets and other over the counter preparations and alternative medicines (vitamins and nutritional supplements). Please note that Asthma Record Cards/Asthma Plans must include details of reliever AND preventer medication if your child is on a preventer.

If you have already given your child a Medication Plan to return can you please ensure that it has been handed in to Student Services or First Aid.

NB: If your child has a current Medication Plan or Asthma Care Plan in place which is less than 12 months old and there have been no changes, you do not need to provide another plan.

Thank you
Ros Argent and Maria McIver
First Aid Officers

Parents & Friends

Upcoming dates for this Term
Sunday 29th March from 1.00pm - Year 7/8 Family Picnic at Emmaus. We look forward to seeing you there.

Opportunity Knocks...
Emmaus Christian College Parents and Friends with Affordable School Uniforms are offering families the opportunity to purchase affordable, quality GROSBY and SLAZENGER leather school shoes. Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter for further information. Please allow 4 working days for delivery (to the school).

Helen Grear
P & F President

Music

Term 1 & 2 Music Calendar
Please encourage your child to perform at this musical event and come along to hear the amazing talents of our students.

Term 2, Week 9, Wed 24th June - Winter Instrumental Night, 7.00pm in EPAC
Term 3, Week 1, Wed 22nd June to Fri 24th July, Senior School Musical in EPAC
Term 3, Week 7, Thu 3rd September - Spring Instrumental Night, 7.00pm in EPAC
Term 4, Week 4, Thu 5th November, Primary Music Showcase, 7.00pm in EPAC

Andrew Verco
**Uniform Shop**

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

Christine Blom-Cursaro  
Uniform Shop Manager

**Canteen Roster**

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<tr>
<th>Week 9 T1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 30th</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 31st</td>
<td>No help needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 1st Apr</td>
<td>Suzanne Gill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 2nd</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
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<td>Fri 3rd</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<table>
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<th>Week 11 T1</th>
<th>Week 1 T2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 6th</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 7th</td>
<td>Tam Battersby</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 8th</td>
<td>Katherine Papazoglou</td>
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<td>Thu 9th</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
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<td>Fri 10th</td>
<td>Heather Bevan</td>
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<td>Mon 27th</td>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
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<td>Tue 28th</td>
<td>Julia Barry</td>
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<td>Wed 29th</td>
<td>Jessica Lee</td>
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<td>Thu 30th</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 1st May</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</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.

**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 until the end of Term 1 for those wishing to send messages of sympathy.

Heather Headland
PA to Principal

**Welcome to Boys Connections**
We are entering our second year of running this group and it has grown significantly. This year we have a great group of Year 12’s who are enthusiastic and passionate about building relationships and connections with the younger year levels. Boys Connections is a group created to bridge the gap between the oldest and youngest in our Middle and Senior School from Year 7 to Year 12. We meet fortnightly on Tuesday’s at lunch time to eat, have fun, build relationships and share about God. So far we have heard testimonies from two Year 12’s, Edward Omondi and David Monaghan, who have shared about how God has challenged them and comforted them. We welcome any Year 7 to Year 12 boys who are interested and who would like to meet together. We are also wanting to encourage any Year 11 boys who would like to help learn to lead as we can train them to become leaders in Term 4 when the Year 12’s finish.

Ben Squire and Paul Mills
Emmaus Christian College Parents and Friends with Affordable School Uniforms are offering families the opportunity to purchase affordable, quality GROSBY and SLAZENGER leather school shoes.

- Search for ‘my school’ and select ‘Emmaus Christian College’
- Order and select ‘Free delivery to Emmaus Christian College’ to have your order delivered to the college. The order will then be given to the student.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Part proceeds go towards funding Emmaus Parents and Friends school projects.
- There is no cost involved for returning or exchanging stock.
- The **uniform shop** has a foot gauge to assist with identifying the correct shoe size for your child and a sample of each style of shoe is available for you to view.