From the Principal

I am expecting 2015 will have flashed by for many Emmaus families as it has in the Linke household! It seems our modern lives continue to present new opportunities and obstacles at an ever increasing rate. With our entering the Christmas & holiday season, approaching the celebration of the birth of Christ, I wanted to remind us all of the really good news of Christmas in the midst of a world full of distractions. While some people are even saying “Bah! Humbug!” Christians ought to be saying “Thank you God for being so good!”

I recently came across an article by Brandon Cox, Pastor of Grace Hills Church (USA) which reminds Christians that as we remember and celebrate the birth of Christ we should also see Christmas as a time for family, giving, hope and receiving.

**Christmas Is a Good Time for Family**

We emphasize gathering with our relatives, but we also belong in God’s family. We believe the truth together, behave in holiness together and belong together for all eternity. (1 Peter 1:18-25)

**Christmas Is a Good Time for Giving**

Christmas usually brings out the giving nature in us. Jesus said it is “more blessed to give than to receive,” and the New Testament is full of examples of churches that were enduring poverty and persecution, yet dug deep into their pockets to support the family of God across the Mediterranean.

**Christmas Is a Good Time for Hope**

All of the Jews placed their hopes in the coming Messiah. Jesus’ mother Mary said about His birth, “He has fulfilled the hope of His people.” And today, we hope still. Part of our hope (of forgiveness) is fulfilled in Jesus’ death and resurrection, but we still hope for His second coming and final deliverance of His people.

**Christmas Is a Good Time for Receiving**

Is it not interesting that while giving a gift brings us joy, receiving a gift forces humility? It’s almost awkward to open a gift because of our feeling of unworthiness. Jesus said when He came to earth the first time—God’s Son wrapped in flesh—His own people did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, “to them He gave power to become the children of God.” Why not receive the greatest gift of all—the gift of eternal life?

Dear Parents and Friends,

Celebrating Student Achievements.

Our Senior School Speech Night and Year 12 Graduation, Year 9 Graduation and Year 6 Graduation were fitting celebrations to mark the end of another successful and busy year in the life of the College. Congratulations to all graduating students and our award winners. This newsletter provides a summary of major awards announced at our Graduation nights. While we acknowledge these special achievements we also thank God for the unique abilities, gifts and talents given to all our students. And as our school year ends we also give God our thanks for his provision for our needs in 2015.

**Looking Ahead**

This is the last newsletter for 2015. End of year reports will be posted home on Thursday 10th December with an information and forms package for you to complete and return to Student Services as soon as possible or by 18th January 2016. A very important event early in 2016 is the annual Staff Dedication and P&F Welcome BBQ which is scheduled for the first Saturday in Term 1 (Saturday 6th February), commencing in the College Performing Arts Centre from 5.30pm. This is always a great opportunity to pray for the year ahead and for families to meet each other. To ensure we cater adequately we ask that the response form for the Welcome BBQ be returned with your anticipated numbers.

**Prayer points:**

Thank you for your prayer support for the College during this year. As we head into the long summer break:
- Give thanks to God for the contributions of all our staff and volunteers to the learning and growth of the students in 2015.
- Pray for a relaxing and safe summer holiday, rich in special times with family and friends, for our students, staff and their families. May the blessings of God be yours this Christmas and in the coming year.

Andrew Linke
Principal
Awards & Competitions Results

University of NSW International Competitions and Assessment for Schools 2015.
Each year a number of students elect to complete these assessments. Congratulations to the following students on achieving a High Distinction or Distinction.

Digital Technologies:
Georgia Carr, Cameron Coggins, Daniel Jung, Erica Phua, Domokos Pinczel, Samuel Smith, Joshua Sutton.

Mathematics:

Spelling:
Thomas Dickinson, Daniel Jung, Hannah Trezona.

English:
Jack Cheesman, Mahalia Coggins, Daniel Jung, Gabrielle Micallef, Isaac Phua, Domokos Pinczel, Hanna Pinczel, Jamie Smith, Amherstia (Jade) Vergara.

Science:
Jack Cheesman, Mahalia Coggins, Daniel Jung, Isaac Phua, Mitchell Raw, Joshua Sutton, Raymond Wen, Bryant Wu.

Writing:
Cameron Coggins.

Student Awards 2015

The Graduation events for each sub-school provided an opportunity to celebrate the graduation of our Year 6, Year 9 and Year 12 groups and announce our 2015 prize winners. Congratulations to the following award winners:

Academic, Leadership, Encouragement, Sport & Service Awards:
2015 Caltex Australia Medallion - Lachlan Hillier
2015 David Martin Memorial Award - Benjamin Peters & Chloe Hall
2015 Australian Defence Force Leadership & Teamwork Award - Georgina Lampard & Tarni Heath
2015 College Delegate to Compass Summer Conference - Nicole Bevan
2016 Nomination for Adelaide University Principal’s Scholarship - Samuel Ferguson
2015 Junior Leadership and Service Award - Ricardo Reynold Chapa & Lydia Swinburne
2015 Hindmarsh Shield Award - Phoebe Wildman

Dux of Year 2015:
Year 6 - Jenna Pierobon
Year 7 - Millicent Peek
Year 8 - Andrea Marnerou
Year 9 - Emma Dunthorne
Year 10 - Amy Ricks
Year 11 - Zhen Yu (Mary) Chen
Year 12 - Daniel Ng

Sport - Individual Awards:
2015 Senior Male Sporting Champion - Daniel Grear
2015 Senior Female Sporting Champion - Emily Graham
2015 Middle School Male Sporting Champion - Ben Graham
2015 Middle School Female Sporting Champion – Gift Otiende

Music - Individual School Awards:
2015 Most Outstanding Instrumental Senior Student – Bradley Worsman
2015 Most Improved Instrumental Senior Student – Benjamin Magor
2015 Most Outstanding Instrumental Middle School Student – Greg Perkins
2015 Most Improved Instrumental Middle School Student – Daniel Hill-Brown

Performing Arts
2015 Most Outstanding Contribution - Ella Tonkin

VET Award
2015 Most Outstanding VET student – Muanfan (Daao) Chiengsaengthong

In addition a number of students were presented with Character Awards (recognising integrity, the gift of encouragement, persistence and serving others). Congratulations to all students on a great effort in 2015.