



**EMMAUS**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

# THE ROAD TO EMMAUS **NEWSLETTER**



## **WE WELCOME YOU TO THE EMMAUS CPS COMMUNITY**

Dear parents and care givers,

We hope this newsletter finds you all well and safe. We would firstly, like to thank you for enrolling your child(ren) into Emmaus Catholic Primary School. I have no doubt that this will be an exciting journey for us all.

Although we will officially open our school at the commencement of 2023, we wanted to send a brief newsletter to all our prospective families at Emmaus Catholic Primary School to keep you up to date with progress ahead of our inaugural year.

### **Our team to date**



**Loretta Hackner**

Assistant Principal

29 years experience in Catholic Education, 9 years experience as Assistant Principal



**Rachael Langdon**

Administration Officer

22 years experience in the Catholic Education system, working as an Administration Officer and Personal Assistant to Principals

### **OUT AND ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY**

During the last school holidays in mid-July, we commenced our school's marketing strategy. Not only did we meet and greet families within the community at a popup booth at Midland Gate for the week, but we have also 'splashed' advertising on the back of buses within our surrounding areas. We also have radio ads broadcast on 98.5 Sunshine FM at prime times in the mornings and afternoons. Letter box drops have taken place, social media updates regularly alert the public of our school and new signage is continually being displayed around the area.

Over the last weekend of July, our leadership team attended all masses at St Helena of the Holy Cross Parish. We were kindly invited by Fr Bonaventure to speak to parishioners of the new school's opening. We thank Fr Bona for this opportunity and look forward to further building our relationship with Father and our affiliated parish in Ellenbrook.

You may also have even recently seen us spruiking our new school at the Caversham Suns Junior Football Club at last Saturday morning's Auskick session. It's been great to meet many local families!

### **WHAT'S CURRENTLY HAPPENING IN THE SCHOOL?**

#### *Our outdoor areas*

In the next couple of weeks, we will have work commence around the school, leading into a significant refurbishment. We recently have had an arborist visit the school site to assess the trees and soon, some extensive work will be undertaken to ensure that our gardens and grounds are neat, appealing and most importantly, safe for students, parents and staff.

Plans are also being drawn up to construct a new play area in our Early Childhood playground. It has been an exciting time planning for brand new play and outdoor spaces. Designs are being finalised at this point and once completed, we will be clearing the large ECE outdoor area, ready for installation of the new equipment prior to the school's opening. Shade sails over play areas will be replaced and closer to the end of year, arborists and landscapers will be working on site to tidy up and freshen up the garden beds around the school.

While at this stage the planning of all our refurbishment works are underway, we are keen to update you in future newsletters of the works with accompanying photographs. Watch this space!

### *Our classrooms*

In the coming months, our classroom refurbishment program commences. Works includes re-flooring, painting (internal and external), replacing some furniture items and upgrading IT infrastructure which will enhance innovative learning opportunities across the grades.

We are currently working with our architects to ensure the teaching and learning spaces within the school are inviting, comfortable and great learning environments for all our students.

In January 2023, we will extend our work with the architects to develop a master plan for the future school build. The benefit of this is that our school community will be invited to have a say in what our newly built classrooms and learning spaces look like. Our aim is to build this school with you, as we seek input from our valued stakeholders, so that it becomes 'OUR' school. We will keep you informed in the future about these plans and progress.

### *Our Administration Building*

You will notice changes to the Administration block in the coming months. Our refurbishment extends to our office area, ensuring that parents feel suitably welcomed into our school and likewise, our staff have comfortable work spaces with furniture, facilities and resources that allow them to work effectively.

### *Before and After School Care*

There have been a number of inquiries in regard to before and after school care availability when the school commences. Our leadership staff are considering this service, but require input from parents to gauge the need. A forms survey has been sent to parents in this regard. We are seeking your feedback and will inform of the outcome of the received data.



Meeting Fr Bonaventure and the Parishioners at St Helena of the Holy Cross

### *Teaching and Learning*

With Emmaus CPS taking over the site of the previous Riverlands Montessori School site, there are various teaching and learning resources currently in the classrooms. Catholic Education WA staff have been busy auditing and stocktaking resources and in commitment to delivering the WA curriculum using proven effective methods, strategies and impactful teaching and learning programs, we will be supplementing resources accordingly. Our balanced approach of using explicit, intentional teaching alongside guided inquiry, student-centred learning, and play-based learning in the early years, will be enhanced with quality instructional materials and learning resources for students and teachers across the grades.

### *Uniforms*

Designs for our school uniforms have been completed and our manufacturer is currently preparing sample uniforms for our school. We will be informing families thereafter of uniform order processes ahead of the new school year.

### *Staffing*

While at present we have our initial staff 'on the ground' at the school, we will interview new staff towards the end of this term and into Term 4. With incoming enrolments, we will by then have a better indication of students per class and the number of Teachers and Educational Assistants required.

## **UPCOMING INTERVIEWS**

Our leadership team are excited to be meeting your families soon for interviews. Our Administration Officer will be arranging appointments soon and we look forward to meeting parents, caretakers and students for these from mid-September. We will be informing of upcoming school tours soon as well!

# *Journeying together*



## IF YOUR CHILD IS COMMENCING SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME

### Tips For Parents

- Talk regularly about the excitement of starting school. Ask questions about your child's expectations, fears or uncertainties. Normalise feelings and talk positively about all the things for them to look forward to.
- Every so often, visit the school or go past, pointing it out to your child and excitedly speaking about starting school.
- Read nightly to your child. Discuss the story. Ask questions about what you have read. This could be a question after reading a few key lines. Keep it very simple and include some 'what / why do you think' questions.
- Try to model good social skills for your child. For example, smiling, making eye contact, sharing, and being helpful, kind and using manners. Encourage them to practise these skills with you, other family members and friends.
- Encourage independence, especially leading up to starting school. Examples include self-responsibility for getting dressed, packing essentials in a bag, helping around the house and cleaning up after themselves.
- Help encourage language development by talking extensively with your child. Ask open-ended questions that encourage expressive language and conversation.
- To help your child develop their fine motor skills, provide them with simple activities such as play dough, puzzles, tongs, tweezers and scissors. Show your child how to use scissors and how to hold a pencil properly and encourage this when they are writing or colouring.
- If your child already knows peers in the class, arrange a couple of play dates ahead of school starting if possible.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

Play is arguably the most important and fundamental experience children can have and in a world saturated by technological devices, changes in the type of 'play' experience children engage in are evident now more than ever. The greatest challenge for parents is that technological devices can become convenient in occupying children and many young people opt to engage in 'gaming' over dramatic, constructive or outdoor play.

Learning through play is considered by lead educators, paediatricians and psychologists as the easiest and most economic way to help all children learn important life-skills such as communication, creativity, collaboration and problem solving. Regular play, especially outdoor play have a wide range of benefits to children's wellbeing and learning. Our school has an important role in the facilitation of play and exploration opportunities for students, but as parents, you can do your part as well. The solution is simple: Let the children play!

*Children grow and develop through play. Proper play for young children can be achieved through hands-on activities.*

## FINAL THOUGHTS

We are only five and a half months from opening our doors to this wonderful Emmaus Catholic Primary School community. Our enrolment numbers are increasing daily and we are taking a number of enquiries about our new school. Please share information about Emmaus Catholic Primary School with friends and neighbours.

Our current staff are working at the school site, so should you wish to call or pop into the school to meet us, we welcome you warmly!

While this first newsletter gives a brief overview of the recent activity at Emmaus CPS and upcoming plans, we will continue to inform of updates, events and news.

The leadership staff of Emmaus CPS look forward to meeting your family soon.

Sandro Coniglio  
Principal



Sandro Coniglio, Principal



## Emmaus Catholic Primary School

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