

We walk with

Update

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DATES TO REMEMBER 2022

April

8th End of Term 1
14th Holy Thursday
15th Good Friday
25th Anzac Day
26th Term 2 begins

May

23rd Wellbeing Week begins
26th Harmony Cup
27th Emmaus Day

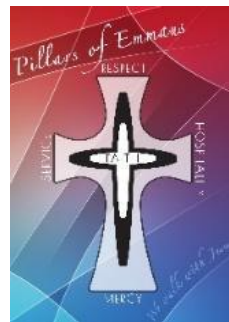
June

10th Athletics Carnival
13th Queens Birthday Holiday
Pupil Free Day

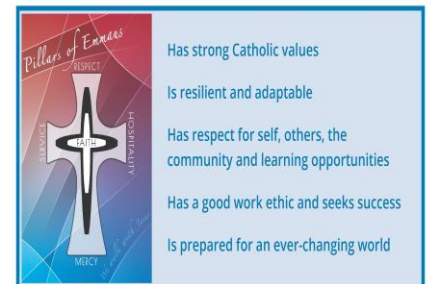
July

1st End of Term 2

Message from the Principal



THE EMMAUS GRADUATE



Mercy theme 2022

Luke 6:36 – “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Curiosity to Clarity to Challenge



LOOKING AHEAD AND STAYING POSITIVE IN OUR WORLD

We are closing in on two years of pandemic life and I was only recently thinking back to the beginning of March 2020 and how different the world was then and how different our lives were then. Throughout this COVID 19 pandemic, returning to normal has been the hope promoted by news outlets, political leaders, and a lot of others including schools. More recently we have seen restrictions eased and the concept of “normality” beginning to surface again as most of us look ahead to a post-pandemic future with a sense of anticipation.



College Leadership Teams

Executive

Principal Mr Nastasi

Principal's Personal Assistant

Mrs Schembri

Assistant Principal Mr Roberts

Director of Learning & Mission Ms Waring

Director of Academic Growth Mr O'Connor

Director of Curriculum Administration

Mrs Else

Leaders of Wellbeing

Year 7 Mr Liceralde

Year 8 Miss Gaudiosi

Year 9 Mr Petrocco

Year 10 Mr Hamond

Year 11 Mrs Luke

Year 12 Mr Pearman Sultana

Leaders of Learning

REC Ms Waring

Diverse Learning Ms Varga

English Mr O'Connor

Mathematics Dr Goundar

PDHPE Mr Brunt

HSIE Mrs Curran

TAS Mr Chhabra

Creative Arts

Miss Ashton & Mr Connolly

Science Mrs Hamama

Learning Innovations Ms McQueen

Sport Co-ordinators Mr Safi & Mr Saba

Language Mrs Scarfone

Library Mrs Ellery

VET Co-ordinator Mrs Grills

Careers Advisor Mrs Scarfone

College Counsellor

Ms Wen & Ms

Read

Business Manager Mr Anchique

I know that I am a different person now, and a different Principal, than I was two years ago. I am not necessarily thrilled about the physical changes the pandemic has bestowed on me these last two years as the ageing process seems to have quickened 😊 Nonetheless, my commitment to the school, our students and the importance of learning has grown even more deeply over this time. We will not understand the full impact of COVID for years to come, but at Emmaus we have been determined to do all that we can to learn from these experiences to give our students the best opportunities possible to grow and to prepare for their future. What I am extremely proud of is that together, we have navigated school closures and leveraged using technology to keep our community operational and more importantly connected even when we were apart.

I apologize to all students and their families that we have had to plan and then cancel events repeatedly including more recently with the flood crisis around us when there have been further disappointments and cancellations. I do however believe though that it has made us all more resilient and better human beings as a result. What is even clearer to me now is that we are ready to take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way going forward even though there are sometimes variables (like Omicron and its new variant) that we cannot predict. My hopes and dreams now are that we will continue to be optimistic and plan for want of a better phrase 'normal' experiences that have occurred previously and will once again enrich our College such as carnivals, excursions, Emmaus Day, retreats, camps, and many others. An American expert [Dr. Lisa Damour who has had much to say during these times of COVID lockdowns and school closures explains](#), that over and over it is our job as parents and educators to protect children from hopelessness and promote hope for the future. I recognize that this can be a tall order given the challenges we have faced over these last few years, but as Dr. Damour notes, "the stakes are too high not to try."

So, whilst we cannot change the pandemic and its after-effects, it is more important to be looking for the wonder and beauty in our world with hope and gratitude in our back pocket, making the most of these precious days we have been afforded here at Emmaus.

At the same time, the events in Ukraine over the past weeks have also been unsettling and worrying to say the least with news reports highlighting much pain and suffering. We keep all those affected by this conflict in our thoughts and prayers as we hope that all parties will lay down their weapons and that peace will be

restored.

When we are faced with events that are both scary and out of our control, we sometimes need to borrow strength or seek comfort from others, and that is not only okay, but encouraged. There is no shame in asking for help when you need it. I am grateful to the teaching staff at Emmaus for providing opportunities always for students to learn more about the importance of caring for the individual's wellbeing, because in prioritizing self-care we can find strength and function better, a glass half full is no good to anyone, least of all yourself as one of my close colleagues always reminds me.

God Bless



Year 7 Camp

***'ECC focus in 2022 continues to be: Learning,
Learning and more learning-
Transformational/Differentiated/Blended;
Attendance; Positive Behaviour focus; Respect;
Growth Coaching; & Wellbeing for all.'***



***Robert Nastasi,
Principal,
BEd, MEd-Curriculum, MA (Theolst)***



Assistant Principal



The importance of Attendance

School attendance plays a critical role in enhancing the lives of students in schools. Every day of attendance adds to a student's achievement and success at school. At Emmaus, in partnership with parents, we encourage the students to maintain a regular attendance pattern so they are not missing out on vital learning.

Did you know

Your child's best learning time is the start of the school day
just a little bit late doesn't seem much but

He/she just missing,	That equals ..	Which is ...	and over 13 years of schooling that's ...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40mins per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and a half years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 and a half years

every learner every day ✓

ABSENCES ADD UP!

FEBRUARY 2 DAYS A MONTH = NOVEMBER 4 WEEKS A YEAR = MISSING MORE THAN 1 YEAR OF LEARNING IN 12 YEARS

DID YOU KNOW

1 IN 4 SECONDARY STUDENTS ARE NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY!

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- ✓ **BE FIRM.** Send your child to school every day unless they are sick
- ✓ Develop good sleep and morning routines
- ✓ Schedule appointments after school
- ✓ Avoid taking holidays during term time

EACH DAY MISSED:

- ▶ Puts your child behind and makes it harder for them to catch up
- ▶ Can lead to lower achievement in reading, writing and numeracy
- ▶ Can lead to gaps in learning and social connections

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE

- Going to school more often can make a difference.
- Attendance habits will follow your child into work and life

SCHOOLS ARE THERE TO HELP

If you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address it.

Each day our young people are provided with rich opportunities to learn more about the world they live in through their experiences in and out of the classroom. We aim to enhance the students' knowledge about themselves, their relationships with others and about life beyond school.

Regular attendance at school is critical to ensuring that your son and/or daughter has every opportunity to grow to their fullest potential. We recognise that, at times, students are required to stay at home due to Covid, being a close contact or other various reasons. For this reason, the College has ensured that students can still access the work whilst they are away, via online platforms, so they do not fall too far behind.

As seen in the graphics, every little bit counts and I encourage all students to be at school on time, all the time!

Mr Roberts, Assistant Principal



Religious Education



Year 8 Spirituality Day

Last week, Year 8 embarked on buses bound for the Edmund Rice Retreat Centre, Mulgoa, affectionately known as 'Winbourne', to immerse themselves in a day of finding their spiritual selves. The theme was 'Mercy', which is one of our College Pillars and the Formation/Mission focus for 2022.



The day involved three sessions with each session focussing on a different way of learning about Mercy – thinking, connecting and actioning. Using the Senses of Scripture strategy, students explored the parable of the Good Samaritan through an historical lens, a spiritual lens and a future lens, as a means of unpacking the nature of Mercy via compassion. Another aspect of Mercy, forgiveness, was reflected on, particularly the difficulties of forgiving someone. So too was the understanding that forgiveness is liberating and life-affirming to the relationships in our lives.

Empathy, via the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, informed the second part of the program for the day. Students made connections between these acts of mercy and how they would respond if each of the senses was stimulated by them. It was proposed that empathy is the key to unlocking mercy for others.



Finally, the third workshop challenged students with this driving question: How can we as Catholic school students be activists, in order to design and implement an initiative for Project Compassion, to action Mercy in the community? After viewing the Project Compassion story of Janice who lives in Arnhem Land, students broke into groups to design a plan of action in order to make mercy a reality this Lenten season. Some notable ideas were to promote the dignity of the human person via an indigenous cultural awareness campaign, as well as sacrificing some personal money to donate to Project Compassion before the end of Term. I can't wait to see these come to life within the College!

In addition to the religious nature of the day, students got to spend time with their friends as well as play games at the start of each session. At recess and lunch there was also an opportunity for further activity in the form of basketball, soccer, volleyball and football within the picturesque grounds of Winbourne. These relaxed interactions with friends and peers support the spiritual development of each and every person at Emmaus – the teachers included, as the time spent forming strong relationships is invaluable to living mercifully.





Catholic Youth Parramatta facilitates the annual Diocesan Good Friday Night Walk. The overnight pilgrimage of young Catholics (aged 14-35) starts at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown and ends at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, passing through four additional churches along the route for prayer and reflection. The initiative has been supported by our partners and collaborators for over 10 years involving our parishes, youth leaders, multiple Councils, Local Area Police Commands and the Blacktown Division of St John's Ambulance alongside the Diocese of Parramatta, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta and our private security team. Each year, the pilgrimage promotes a renewed source of faith, hope, and unity through the spiritual journey and lens of Holy Week. The 18km route begins at Blacktown Parish, and passes through Seven Hills Parish, Toongabbie Parish, Wentworthville Parish, Westmead Parish and ends at the Cathedral in Parramatta.

<https://parracatholic.org/goodfridaywalk/>

Ms Waring, Director of Mission and



From the Sports Field



PDSSSC Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all our swimmers who competed in the PDSSSC Swimming Carnival and represented our College tremendously! Many of our fantastic swimmers achieved personal best times and all we can ask is that we consistently pride ourselves on trying our best and our swimmers certainly did!

PDSSSC Rugby League Trials

Well done to **Daniel Ash, Luke Borg** and **Rhys Argæt** who was selected to represent Emmaus at the PDSSSC Rugby League Trials and played admirably well. Congratulations to **Rhys Argæt** who made the PDSSSC u/15s Rugby League Squad and will be starting as their half.

PDSSSC Touch Trials

Emmaus was extremely successful at the PDSSSC Touch Trials as many of our students were selected to represent Parramatta at the NSWCCC Tournament. **Cameron and Ryan Cloey, Kingston Graham-Withell** and **Kodey McQueeney**. Good luck at the NSWCCC Tournament!

Students who have experienced success in sport recently

Anna Dubier

We would like to wish Anna all the best as she will be representing NSW and competing at the Nationals Track Cycling competition this week. Good luck Anna!

Josh Carter

Josh competed in the Regional Athletics Carnival for Shot Put and Discus recently placing First and Second respectively. Well done Josh and good luck at the State Championships!



Parramatta Secondary Schools Sports Council (PDSSSC)/NSW Catholic Schools Sport

Individual Selection Trial Registrations are now open for many sports at either the Diocesan Level or NSW State level. Information about these and the respective sports and their closing dates can be found here: <https://www.secondarysportparra.catholic.edu.au/nswccc-representative-sport>

Students wishing to trial for an external PDSSSC team or individual sport can register via the link. These teams are composed of students performing at a highly skilled level from all schools across our Diocese.



From the Office



STUDENTS TAKING LEAVE DURING THE SCHOOL TERM

If parents are wishing their son/daughter to take leave during the school term, a Leave Form must be completed.

Forms are available from the Front Office or if parents would like a form emailed to them, please contact the College Office. Leave forms are for any length of time.

There are two types of Leave Form: (i) for Travel only and (ii) all other types of leave. Students receive an Exemption Approval letter from the Principal

Uniform Shop

*Trading Hours
during School Terms*
Monday 12pm - 4pm
Thursday 8am - 12pm

Our Parishes

Holy Spirit
Todd Row, St Clair
Ph: 9670 8222

Our Lady of the Rosary
Saddington Street, St Marys
Ph: 9623 1962

Our K-6 Schools

Trinity Primary
61-83 Bakers Lane,
Kemps Creek.
Ph: 9834 3212

Holy Spirit Primary
7-17 Todd Row, St Clair
Ph: 9670 5379

Our Lady of the Rosary
Yr K-6 Saddington St,
St Marys
Ph: 9623 2500

DONATION OF UNIFORMS

The College is happy to take donated uniforms however due to Work, Health and Safety, we request all uniforms are washed or dry-cleaned.

SECOND HAND UNIFORMS

Please call the College to make an appointment to see the Business Manager around whether you qualify for second hand uniforms.

COMPASS PARENT PORTAL

If you are still unable to log onto the Compass Parent Portal after you have downloaded the Compass School App, please contact the College Office.

Skoolbag Reminder: don't forget to change to the new Year Group in 2022.

How to install the SkoolBag app

Instructions for parents and community

1. Get your favourite mobile device
2. Open the App Store/Play Store
3. Search for "SkoolBag"
4. Download the free app
5. Open the app and add your school(s)



for more info visit skoolbag.com.au



WITHDRAWING FROM THE COLLEGE

If you are withdrawing a student from the College please be advised that 10 weeks notice is required in writing.

catholic healthcare

3-Bedroom Units with Private Ensuities

Enquire now: 1800 225 474

Emmaus Retirement Village, Kemp's Creek