Dear Parents and Friends

Congratulations to the Class of 2015 who celebrated their Graduation Mass last Friday at St Patrick’s Cathedral, followed by the Graduation Dinner at the Sofitel. We are very proud of the quality and character of these young women and men. Congratulations also to those who received excellence in achievement and school spirit awards.

It has been pleasing to see that students have displayed strong commitment to the exam preparation program over recent weeks and the term break. The final scheduled day for Year 12 is Wednesday 21 October, followed by Swot Vac and then final exams. Best wishes to our VCE students for all success in the remaining weeks of exam preparation.

It was great to have members of the Class of 95 return to the College for their recent 20 year reunion and enjoy catching up with their school mates. The quality of graduates of the College is again exemplified by the achievements, both personal and professional, of these impressive alumni.

College leaders for 2016 were announced at today’s assembly. Congratulations to Bethan White and Jack Amourous (NDC) and Ethan Harkins (SPC) on their appointments as College Captains and to the following students on their appointments to leadership positions (SPC/ NDC):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Captain</th>
<th>Vice-Captain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cassidy</td>
<td>Ethan Harkins</td>
<td>Luke Dawson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Naina Singh</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dylan Lopez</td>
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<td>Chaminade</td>
<td>Thomas Lutovac</td>
<td>David Suric</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jennifer Wilson</td>
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<td>Michael Stragasano</td>
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<td>McCoy</td>
<td>Benjamin Singleton</td>
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<td>Jasmine Shields-Harris</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jack Amourous</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCluskey</td>
<td>Timothy Dinh</td>
<td>Phillip Alexiou</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kristy Ficior</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Joshua Muscat</td>
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<td>Winters</td>
<td>Simon Bugjeja</td>
<td>Alexander McPherson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bethan White</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alexander Lapitan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kristy Ficior, Jack Wilson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hannah Luna &amp; Connor Healey, Jack Wilson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NDC to be confirmed, Nicholas Brasier</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NDC to be confirmed, Harry Taylor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alice Growden, Jacques Ozone, Deon Graziosi</td>
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<td>Coreena Reyes, Aidan Epstein, Matthew Leckie</td>
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</table>

This week parents of our Year 7s for 2016 were welcomed to the College and briefed on the way ahead. This is an exciting time for our new Year 7 families and we look forward to the orientation day for our new students in December.

We pray the Lord’s blessing on our Year 12 students as they prepare for their final exams and the way ahead.

**College Board - Parent Member Vacancy**

Expressions of interest are called for the position of Parent Member of the College Board, 2016-18. The appointment to this position is ratified by the Association of Canonical Administrators. Information about the Board is available on the College website. Expressions of interest, outlining capacity for contributing to the work of the Board, should be emailed to principal@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au to be received no later than 4pm on Friday 30 October.

Christopher Stock
Principal

**School Fees**

This is a reminder that Semester 2 school fees are now overdue and therefore late fees of $50.00 per student per semester will be applied.

Mario Puopolo, Business Manager
News from Campus Leaders

It has been a smooth return to school for term 4. Both students and teachers have come back rested and refreshed from what was a very busy, yet exciting third term. We have a lot to look forward to during this final term, including the continuation of the interschool sports, Project Days and a number of special gatherings. Arts week was held during the final week of Term 3. The week culminated in the much anticipated Talent Quest at NDC. Well done to all staff and students involved in these very entertaining performances. We look forward to hearing reports from the SPC boys after their talent quest later this term. Toward the end of last week students received feedback on Simon regarding their learning progress. Students will reflect on this feedback during the Learning Advisor session to be held on 30 October. Both students and parents are reminded that Homework Club is held each week to assist students with homework or class work. Students must have a signed permission form in order to attend Homework Club. This form can be obtained from Student Services at both campuses.

We appreciate the level of parent commitment in the important partnership in the education of your daughters and sons. As well as academic support, one area to monitor compliance is uniform. In this warmer weather boys are encouraged to wear summer shirts and girls the summer dress at an appropriate length. Please refer to the photos in the student handbook (page 11) for College expectations in this regard.

SEXTING
‘Sexting’ means sending sexually explicit photos or videos electronically (e.g., by mobile phone, app, chat, social networking or email). With modern technology this can be done instantly, but it can have serious and lasting consequences. For people under 18, sexting is illegal. It is a criminal offence to take, possess, or transmit a naked image of a person under the age of 18 years. It doesn’t matter if your child took their own photo and willingly sent or published it. You cannot ‘give someone permission’ to break the law. Penalties for these offences are serious and can result in your child being placed on the sex offenders’ register. It is important that you regularly talk to your child about their experiences with communications technology. Make sure that you continually reinforce that your child should come to you if they have any problems, if they see something that they know is wrong or anything that upsets them. If you require further support, please contact us.

After school Library use at both NDC and SPC
Students wanting to access the Library after school till 4:00pm on a given day must have a completed "After School Library Incursion Consent Form" completed by parents to present to the library staff on the day you wish to access the Library. Therefore, the form needs to be completed prior to arrival to school on that day. You cannot decide on the day that you wish to stay back. These forms can be accessed from student services.

A reminder to families that students from Emmanuel College are not permitted to attend the final day celebrations arranged for students at Mount St. Joseph’s Girls College. Students are expected to attend normal classes at this important time of the year.

Current Year 7 parents are invited to a Year 8 Information Night on 28 October at 7.00pm. NDC parents will meet in the Bordeaux Building Gathering Space and SPC parents will be in the McMahon Centre. There will be further information about these evenings closer to the dates but please mark them in your calendar.

Families are also reminded that they should change their password to access PAM regularly to enhance your security and ensure continued protection of your personal details.

Attendance – It’s not OK to be away!
While the effects of irregular attendance adversely impact directly on a student’s current progress and understanding, the long term scars to his/her learning are devastating. Just as research has proven that exposure to the sun as a youngster can cause irreparable damage to his/her skin that will emerge later in life, poor attendance mirrors this.

The gaps in knowledge and understanding accumulated in Years 7 to 10 become a glaring problem in Years 11 and 12. Subject development is a sequential building process that relies heavily on a firm grasp on each section of material. When part is missing the student finds immense difficulty in learning the work and real frustration sets in; this effectively makes school life a genuine chore. In many senior classes across all subjects, teachers spend much valuable class time trying to fill in the gaps in students’ knowledge caused through parent-condoned absence. Time is lost on teaching the Year 11 and 12 subject material; a real disadvantage to our students. This situation can be substantially reduced if not eliminated by saying NO to any student absences other than genuine illness or serious family issues. This also applies to family holidays. Students should not be taken out of school for extended periods during term time. This is particularly important for senior students (Year 10-12) undertaking VCE studies, as VCAA dates cannot be amended by the school and absences will have a significant impact on a student’s capacity to successfully complete their study units.

Should you require assistance in saying NO to your son/daughter with regard to any matter, including unacceptable absence, please do not hesitate to contact his/her House Leader.

The Michael Grose article this week is an article called “Developing your child’s social media scripts.” This talks about the importance of starting conversations with children about using social media at a young age to prepare them to be savvy users. Please just take a few minutes and read this interesting article.

Let’s work together to make a difference to your child’s future. **Be on Time, Be at School, That’s the Rule!**

David Barr  
Campus Leader  
Notre Dame Campus

Jennifer Webster  
Campus Leader  
St Paul’s Campus
News from Leader of Faith Development

**Social Justice Statement: 2014-15**

Each year the Bishops issue a major statement for the coming year on Social Justice Sunday, which is the last Sunday in September. This year the statement draws particular focus on those who have come across the seas: Justice for refugees and asylum seekers. In this year’s statement the Australian Bishops ask us to re-examine our responses to refugee and asylum seekers. The statement reminds us of the nearly 60 million people around the world who are displaced from their homes and of the war and violence devastating countries in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. If you would like to read the Social Justice Statement you can follow the link below. I would encourage as many of you to follow the link and see the wonderful resources available in connection to the latest justice statement.


**Graduation Mass – St Patrick’s Cathedral**

Friday 10 October saw our Year 12 students graduate at St Patrick’s Cathedral in what was a wonderful mass celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long. It is always a pleasure to see our two campuses come together for a single event and this did not disappoint. Graduation is always an occasion that truly celebrates the students in their final year at Emmanuel College and seeing the students dressed in their finest along with their families is a genuine pleasure. Our Year 12 theme this year was “I have carved you into the palm of my hand” which allowed our Year 12s to reflect on what that means to share God’s love and assist others through their journey. It was an opportunity for them to remember that we are called to share God’s love with them and how we can be people of action for the future while we gather in communion with God. Congratulations to all our Year 12 students.

**A Prayer for Healing**

At every moment of our existence you are present to us, God,
In gentle compassion. Help us to be present to one another
So that our presence may be a strength that heals the wounds of time
And gives hope that is for all persons,
Through Jesus our compassionate brother.
Amen

Chris O’Malley
Deputy Principal – Faith and Staff
Winters House Report

Term 4 has kicked off with some lovely weather last week, making it very pleasant to return to work. It is a very busy term for the boys from Winters however with a number of things happening over the next few weeks.

Firstly, I want to congratulate the graduating class of 2015. They represented themselves and their families exceptionally well during Friday night’s celebration. As a group, the Winters Year 12s have been great role-models for the younger students in our house. I want to extend a special thank you to our leaders Dylan Appleby, Kai-Quang Zhao and Jordan Psathias. You have been the best leadership team in my time as house leader. I wish you all the best in your future studies and endeavours and I hope to see you all at some point in the future.

For our future leaders, a reminder that applications are due back at the end of this week. You all have an opportunity to become an integral part of something special. Winters house is growing and developing and I am excited for what the future holds for this great house.

In addition to the above, the swimming carnival is approaching, along with Year 9 camps, Year 8 surfing and also exams. I encourage all of our students to throw themselves into these activities and take any opportunities that you are offered. Please begin thinking about your exams and your revision on what has been covered in class this semester.

A massive congratulations to Joshua Homeroom and their ferocious leader Miss Janelle Turner for taking out this year’s Green Sox Shield. A very strong start to the year and a strong finish set up the win. Participation is always key – this is a lesson for struggling homerooms for next year. I invite Joshua Homeroom students to meet in room 2 on Monday next week for a pizza lunch as a reward.

Good luck to all students this term as we strive for our personal best and, as always, please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any issues or enquiries.

Patrick Prendergast
Winters SPC House Leader

Term 4 shapes as a nervous wait for Winters House in more ways than one. At this very moment we are currently on top of the House Points Competition but we still have one major competition to go, the Swimming Carnival, which will no doubt determine the result. I’ve got my fingers crossed for another Championship year.

No doubt term 4 is also a nervous time for our Year 12s who are thinking about putting their heads down and studying for exams and even beyond to university, jobs and training courses. Friday just gone marked their official College graduation and it was with great pride that I looked on as our current group celebrated their graduation. They have been a fantastic group of young men and women and no doubt will continue to be. They are a credit to the House and the whole community and nothing reminded me better of this than our most recent House Assembly. Our senior leaders all made speeches reflecting on their time at the College, as well as two talented leaders who prepared a skit. Overall there was a motif of love, pride and care for the College and the people they had spent their time with over the last 6 years.

As the Year 12s prepare to leave us another group will step up and take their place as the leaders of the school. To this end we recently had a Senior House Leaders election. Speeches were made and the whole House voted to determine the leaders for 2016. Through this process we have appointed a highly dedicated and talented group of leaders for next year in Alex Lapitan, Bethan White, Nadya Ang and William Malcolm.

Moving forward in term 4 it is important that we finish the year off strong and for this reason we will be firing up the dodgeball comp in the coming weeks. May the best homeroom win!

Andrew Damon
Winters NDC House Leader
McCluskey Homeroom Reports

Being my last year at Emmanuel, it is a bitter sweet end to memorable years in my life. I say memorable because school, and specifically Year 12, is neither a breeze nor impossible. It consists of its highs and lows; times in which you struggle to find motivation and times in which you find joy in the company of your friends and teachers. When you are at school for so long, day in and day out in a continuous routine for 13 years of your life, I truly believe that it is the last months as a Year 12 student in which you grow to appreciate the small things that schooling life has given you; those 45 minutes we take for granted just chatting with your friends outside or those insightful conversations you have now and then with your teachers where you discuss what truly matters in life and how to traverse it. My time at Emmanuel has taught me anything it is that only when you’re faced with the challenges, stress and anxiety of Year 12 do you realise all the little things that those around you give to make your life easier, obvious or hidden, whether it be your friend seeing you down and asking “are you ok?” or the teachers who do so much for us behind the scenes. So while you may not realise it now, it is those specks of light in our lives that we are unaware of that define your experience at school, and as a Year 12, while I am happy at the prospect of living an independent life, it is those specks of light that you will miss the most and yearn to have again.

Deakin Homeroom SPC

All Noura, McCoy House

In term 3, all of the McCoy homerooms were put to the test in a game of futsal. They were split into the juniors and seniors of each homeroom and played against the others, hoping to win a pizza lunch as the ultimate first prize. The juniors of McCoy C came out undefeated winning them first place in their division along with the seniors of McCoy I. As well as the futsal, the Year 8s of McCoy were put head to head with all of the other houses in a range of sporty activities. A group of people from FitnessWorks came into the school bringing activities in for each house to participate in. The Year 8s completed each activity and were rated out of 10 from each instructor based on attitude, participation and skill. There were a variety of activities ranging from dance and body beat or minute to win it. At the end of the first semester, McCoy took out the victory, beating all the other houses with the most points. Unfortunately in the second semester we only ended up coming in fourth place. It didn’t really matter in the end to be honest, we were just happy to have had a great time.

Georgiana Peace

McCoy C NDC

College Captains Final Report

Since Year 7, the beginning of my six years at SPC, I have always admired the work of the College Captain. I have been an avid watcher and onlooker and admirer of the confidence, capability and class of the captains who have preceded me. However, in all honesty, I would not have thought that upon entering Year 12 the position would be granted to me. I did not foresee having the opportunity to lead and hold this position of such high esteem.

But now that I have completed my duties as College Captain and am ready to pass them on, I can gladly say that this unexpected occurrence has worked out in my favour; I have grown and become a greater person and I have made new relationships and have more ‘brothers’ than ever. But most of all those around me seem to appreciate me. The building of relationships and the strong, united feeling gave me the incentive to keep giving effort, to keep pushing initiatives and to wear a smile on my face on a daily basis.

Admittedly this year has had its lows, but again, it was the kind and warm charisma of the school body as a whole that helped me get through these lows and turn them to my advantage wherever possible. For this I must thank the SPC community, namely the students and staff who have helped me become who I am today and helped guide me to the person I will be tomorrow.

Thank you to everyone for being such an important part of my life in Year 12, I am exceptionally gratified to know I have your support and encouragement and can only promise to try my best in the future to continue to do you all proud.

Dean Kotsianis, College Captain SPC

Exams are underway for some and fast approaching for others, at this crucial time of year. Graduation on 9 October was a great success; the formalities of the evening were followed by a beautiful dinner and social meet at the Sofitel to commemorate our six years at the college with our peers and teachers who have joined us on this journey. As formal classes are coming to a close, our efforts have not subsided in the lead up to exams. Year 12s are now well into the process of looking at tertiary education options and entering the workforce and look forward with great excitement at our options for our lives ahead. As the Year 12s are wrapping up, Term 4 continues with Year 10 and 11 exam preparation and 7, 8 and 9 final assessments and projects underway. In the latter end of what has been a jam-packed and thoroughly enjoyable, yet challenging year, the students of Emmanuel College Notre Dame Campus continue to show the ethos of community that has become so important to the development of our unique culture. As the Year 12s leave the cohort prepares to move into 2016 and all the excitement and challenges that the next years of their education with hold.

We would like to wish all the Year 12s good luck in this stressful, yet rewarding time. On behalf of all the Year 12s we would like to thank all our teachers and staff members for their contributions, that have made our time here such a blessing. We wish the younger years the best of luck; reach for the stars and live life to the full.

Joel Dyt & Erin Dick, College Captains NDC
Welcome back to term 4 ACC sport! Cricket, Tennis and Volleyball kicked off last week for our Year 7/8 and 9/10 teams. A couple of things to note with the hot weather approaching- make sure you are adequately hydrated before and during your games, and if you are playing outside please wear a hat. Tryouts are also beginning for the Year 7/8 Lacrosse tournament, following on the back of Peter Kwas’ success with the Australian Mens Indoor Lacrosse team over in America. The school swimming carnival is also fast approaching, and this year the venue has been moved to the Werribee Outdoor Pool. Once again, please make sure that if you don’t have a school hat, you organise yourself one before then. Stay tuned to notices daily for more information about upcoming sport.

Brad Robertson,
Leader of Sport SPC

Premier League
We are currently half way through the Year 8 Premier League round robin tournaments. Last round against CCCC was our most successful thus far, only conceding one game to Caroline Chisolm. Congratulations to those teams who had the win.

With mixed results some of the Year 8 teams will need to win the next few games in order to make cross over finals. If you are wanting to track the progress of your son or daughters team, head on over to www.sacss.com.au

FitnessWorx
Last Friday 9 October proved to be a most successful finish to the Year 8 Fitness Worx program. Throughout the year, students have participated in their Houses, competing for points in a variety of both mentally and physically challenging activities. Some of the activities this year included Circus Skills, Dance, Soccer, Minute to Win it and Parkour. In both and large and small groups, students were set challenges and were scored according to their team work, participation and overall result.

Semester 1’s champion House Team was McCoy.

Semester 2’s champion House Team was Cassidy.

The 2015 Champions are CASSIDY.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Sem. 1 + Sem. 2</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cassidy</td>
<td>83 + 82</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winters</td>
<td>82 + 80</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCluskey</td>
<td>78 + 52</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCoy</td>
<td>84 + 68</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaminade</td>
<td>66 +75</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>4th</td>
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Sport Captains
As we draw closer to the end of the 2015 school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the 2015 College Sport Captains. To Carly James and James Peterson, thank you for your support this year. Completing your final year has its own set of challenges but you were able to repeatedly give of your time demonstrating enthusiasm and leadership to the Sport department and for that we are most grateful. We wish you every success in your sporting endeavours in the years to come.

Kylene Simmons
NDC Leader of Sport
The most recent holiday break was definitely one to remember. Not only did it mark the end of covering content in class and the beginning of exam preparation, but it also granted me and my nearest NDC colleague Marcus Bertone an unforgettable and eye opening cultural adventure and language experience! On 24 September we were lucky enough to partake in an official SBS podcast by the Italian sector on ‘La lingua più bella del mondo’; the theme being ‘The most beautiful language in the world’. We showcased our abilities that we have accumulated across the years and did ourselves justice by putting together a cohesive and worthy discussion as to why the Italian language holds such great significance in our lives. Carlo Oreglia, our presenter, was exceptionally overwhelmed by the effort, a great sentiment to hold.

It needs to be acknowledged, however, that this experience is as much a recognition of all of my and Marcus’ hard work and effort as it is the commitment and dedication of our lively and active teachers; Signora Lo Bianco and Signora Tati, whose unceasing efforts have not stopped to amaze. Special thanks goes out to Signora Lo Bianco for organising and providing this amazing and long lasting memory, as well as the Italian SBS sector for their warm welcome.

Nearing our oral examination I can comfortably say that this experience has helped out, but it is still up to us to perform on the day.

‘In bocca al lupo’ to all I guess! (Good luck)

Dean Kotsianis, St Paul’s Campus

On 24 September I had the profound honour of being interviewed on SBS Radio for an Italian podcast appropriately named “La Lingua Più Bella Del Mondo” (The World’s Most Beautiful Language). My counterpart from St. Paul’s Campus, Dean, and myself were asked a range of questions by Carlo Oreglia in regards to our journey of Italian throughout high school, and where we see our linguistics taking us in the future.

Daunting nonetheless, we enjoyed the friendly company at SBS’ Italian Department, along with the other language faculties. This was an incredible opportunity to be asked questions under pressure in another language, which no doubt has assisted us in preparing for our terrifying oral exam. Although feeling under the weather I endeavoured to make the most of this chance to explore the extent of my Italian speaking skills. I am grateful to Ms Lo Bianco at St. Paul’s Campus and my own Italian teacher Ms Tati, as well as Magica Fossati, Carlo Oreglia and all of the folks at SBS Italian for allowing Dean and I to take part in such an eye opening experience.

I believe it is imperative to take on a challenge such as this when presented with the opportunity and I am passionate about getting other young people to study a language. It is extraordinarily rewarding to learn about another culture, another historical viewpoint and another method of articulating our ideas. As for why I chose to study “La Lingua Più Bella Del Mondo”:

LIFE’S TOO SHORT NOT TO BE ITALIAN!

Marcus Bertone, Notre Dame Campus
The Italian Masters Project
On Friday 4 September the Year 8 Italian students of St. Paul’s Campus went on an excursion to the National Gallery of Victoria. At the gallery we looked at numerous Italian artworks painted and sculpted throughout Italian history. In class, we had also explored the Italian Masters (Leonardo, Donatello, Michelangelo, Raphael) and even explored the Italian style of painting. We learned how the Greek and Roman art inspired Italian life in the Renaissance. At the gallery workshop we used copies of some of the most famous Renaissance artworks and pasted them onto paper to create our own revival artwork and they were displayed on Open Day. Overall the day was very informative and exciting at the same time.

Quoc Phan, Year 8 student

Commerce students visit Parliament

On Friday 18 September Year 10 Commerce students went on an excursion to the Victorian Parliament. After going through metal detectors and bag scanners we were met in the impressive marble mosaic floored foyer by our guide who led us into the main chamber where generations of politicians have engaged in debate. Sitting front row in the green leather chairs we learned about passing of bills, the history of the government in Victoria and what it means to be a part of the democratic process. Our tour then led us through the former grand ballroom which had entertained dignitaries and royalty and walked around the state government library which belongs to us all.

Bridget Maher
Commerce Teacher NDC
Careers News

Year 12 Students and Parents

As students are coming to the end of their time at Emmanuel College the Careers department is still very busy so even though you do not have set classes please continue to check emails as important information will be distributed about dates and programs available for students.

Change of Preference

ATARs and VCE results come out on December 14.

Students applying for university and TAFE-VTAC will be open until December 21 for students to log in and change preferences.

The Careers Department will be open from December 14-17 for students to come in and discuss with their careers leader their preferences, and if they need to make changes to their lists. Students can call, email or drop in to see their Careers Leader over the week. A timetable with dates and times for appointments will be set up shortly.

All institutions put on Change of Preference events during that week as well for students to attend or contact the intuitions directly for advice and information on courses and entry requirements.

The most important thing to remember with your preferences is to make sure you have back up/pathway courses so you do not miss out on a place.

Pre-Apprenticeships and Employment

Students applying for pre-apprenticeships and employment: you need to be making applications NOW. Do not leave it as February placements fill up very fast. See your Careers Leader for assistance.

Year 9 Students and Parents

Year 10 Work Experience is happening in June 20-24, 2016. This is an opportunity for students to get out into the work force and try out a possible career path for the future. It is very important that students start researching employers and applying now. Placements fill up very fast and you do not want to miss out on a really great opportunity.

So get going now to avoid disappointment! See your Careers Leader if you need assistance.

Amanda Silipo and Sol DiMaggio
Careers Leaders
Over the years, school camps have provided students at St Paul’s and Emmanuel College with a chance to engage in a wide variety of fun and challenging activities.

Camps are also a great opportunity for students to get to know their classmates and teachers better outside the classroom.
Calendar Term 4 Weeks 3B & 4A

19 October  Year 10 Science IMAX Excursion

20 October  SPC ACC Year 10 Cricket/Tennis/Volleyball WFD vs EMM

21 October  Year 9 Camp
            Year 12s last day

22 October  Year 9 Camp
            SPC ACC Year 8 Cricket Bye
            SPC ACC Year 8 Tennis/Volleyball EMM v SIM
            NDC Year 8 Premier League Rd 4 EMM v CRC STA

23 October  Year 9 Camp

26 October  SPC Year 8 Surf Ed Group 1 & 2
            SPC Year 7 Immunisation

27 October  SPC Year 8 Surf Ed Group 3 & 4
            SPC ACC Year 10 Cricket/Volleyball CBC v EMM
            NDC Year 7 Immunisation

28 October  Year 12 Exams Commence
            Year 8 2016 Information Night

29 October  SPC ACC Year 8 Cricket/Tennis/Volleyball Rd 4 EMM v MAZ
            NDC Year 8 Premier League Rd 5 CRC vs EMC

2 November   STUDENT FREE DAY

3 November   STUDENT FREE DAY
Foster Carers Urgently Required

Can you provide a safe and caring home?
Have you room in your heart?
Are you willing to make a difference?
Can you help vulnerable children and young people?

If this sounds like you then why not apply to become a Foster Carer today!

We want to hear from you.

To find out more about becoming a Foster Carer please attend our upcoming information session:

Date: Monday 19th October
Time: 5:30pm
Venue: UnitingCare Church, Cnr of Synott St & Duncans Rd Werribee.

Separation Anxiety In Children & Adolescents - Info Session, Altona

Presenter: Joanne Garfi, Psychologist

Date: Wed 28 Oct 2015
Time: 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Price: $15.00 Standard fee, $10.00 ADAVIC members
Location: Altona Meadows Library and Learning Centre


Wyndham City is once again proud to present the Children's Week Picnic at Werribee Park on Sunday 25 October.

An annual major event for Wyndham and part of the State Government’s Children’s Week, the Children’s Week Picnic will be held for the 15th year in 2015.

A fun, family friendly day the event is filled with FREE educational, fun and interactive activities for children of all ages.

More information on the activities at this year’s event can be found on our website:
Developing your child’s social media scripts

It’s important to start conversations with children about using social media at a young age to prepare them to be savvy users when we’re not around.

The same maxim holds true for the world of social media that children now inhabit from an increasingly young age. Even though our children are growing up with technology as a part of their every day lives, they will still make plenty of mistakes while using it. This means we need to have direct conversations with our kids about the comments and posts that are okay to make using social media of all forms.

As parents we teach our kids to talk politely and clearly so that they know how to speak to others when we’re not around. In effect, we give our kids social scripts to fall back on when they talk to friends, teachers and relatives. There’s no guarantee they’ll look an adult in the eye when they speak to them, but our discussions, reminders and lessons about manners will hopefully hold up when we’re not around.

The same applies to social media. Our conversations and lessons will prepare them to be savvy users when we’re not around. Here are some ideas to get you started:

1. “Is this worth posting?”
   The relatively impersonal nature of social media means that we can post information and pictures with relative immunity. Also its immediacy means that we can do so without much thought. This means that kids need to be very critical about what they see online. ‘Is this accurate?’ and ‘Is this worth posting?’ are two valid questions children can ask when they read posts placed by others.

2. “Have you taken a big breath?”
   A child who blurts out everything that comes into his mind without thinking is sure to put plenty of people offside. ‘Think before you speak’ is the type of message that every child should have in mind.
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The same applies to social media. Just because they think something doesn’t mean they post it. ‘Take a big breath’ may just about be the most important message to give your kids about social media.

**3 “Do you want the principal to see this?”**
An invitation to a teenage birthday party posted on social media is one way to get more attendees than you bargained for! The viral nature of social media means that kids should only post messages and photos that they want to be spread and read by a large audience.

**4 “How does this post make you feel?”**
We need to teach kids that not every post needs to be commented upon and not every thought needs to be shared, particularly when they are angry. Teaching them to walk away and then to step back in when they’ve calmed down is perhaps the most important communication lesson of all. It is very relevant to social media as emotions are often the last thing on many people’s minds when they haphazardly post a message.

**5 “How will you fix this?”**
Social media just like any social space requires kids to behave ethically and with kindness. When kids overstep the mark and post hurtful things then it’s fair that they fix their mistakes, and apologise. It’s reasonable that we teach our children to act with tolerance and with empathy online, and if mean things are posted then they should be expected to try to repair relationships through social media, just as they should offline.

I agree with Galit Breen author of *Kindness Wins* who says that parents should have conversations with children around social media before they reach the teenage years. Starting these conversations when they are younger means that they are more open to our parenting opinions, as well as being a little more amenable to the messages of tolerance, kindness and empathy that we need to encourage.

Michael Grose

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.