Dear Parents and Friends

Welcome to the 2016 school year at Emmanuel. A special welcome to new students and parents and best wishes to our Year 7 students as they commence their secondary studies.

Welcome to new members of staff who join us this year:
St Paul’s Campus
Clayton Zwanenburg, Carmelo Puglisi

Notre Dame Campus
Lisa Degnen, Kim Weekes, Catherine Toebelman, Andrea Roberts-Davison, Emma Llewellyn, Suzanne Sutherland, Rhona Van Veldhuisen, Peter Mossemear, Georgia Sue, Nicholas Kopitschinski, Rebecca Seery, Teon Haywood, Terry Manoussakis.

Welcome back to Glen Robertson and Mark Sciberras from teacher exchange in Canada, and Ashley Diamond and Genevieve Billinghurst who return from leave.

An information morning for parents, including tours, will be conducted at Notre Dame Campus, Pt Cook at 9:00am and St Paul’s Campus, Altona at 10:30am on Saturday 6 February. For further information, or to obtain a copy of the College Prospectus, please contact the College Registrar, Donna Grech, on 83255119.

A reminder that an application form must be submitted for all prospective students, including those with siblings currently at the College.

Classes for all students commence on Monday, 1 February at 8.30am. I look forward to working with you in the exciting year ahead at Emmanuel.

The feast day of Blessed Chaminade, the founder of the Marianist Order, was celebrated today. May we imitate Blessed Chaminade as we follow the One whom we call Emmanuel – God with us - and take up his work on earth.

Jarrod Beven and Ethan Watson-Day, RIP
Many would be aware of the fatal car accident, in late December, involving two Emmanuel students, Ethan Watson-Day, Class of 2014, and Jarrod Beven, who completed Year 11 in 2015. Jarrod’s funeral service, led by Father Greg Trythall, was celebrated at St Mary’s Williamstown on Friday 15 January and Ethan’s funeral service, led by Father Joe Giaccobe, was conducted at St Augustine’s, Yarraville on Tuesday 19 January. Many class-mates of Ethan and Jarrod attended the services as well as the community gathering held at St Paul’s Campus on New Year’s Day. Thank you to staff who joined members of the leadership team on these days, to provide support for the bereaved families and friends. A commemoration for Ethan and Jarrod will be conducted at the College following the commencement of the school year. May they rest in peace.

Christopher Stock
Principal

Issue No. 1   22 Jan, 2016
News from Campus Leaders

We trust your summer holidays were a time of rest and relaxation and we wish you every happiness and success this year. We pray that the students in our care grow in knowledge, skills and the ability to live in harmony together.

It is very exciting to think that in a few days another intake of students will enter the gates of Emmanuel College at both campuses. The facilities at both campuses are looking great, with furniture and resources in place to ensure a successful start to the year.

First Day
School commences on Monday 1 February at 8.30am for all students. Year 7 Students at both campuses are to gather in the Hall – where they met for Orientation last year. Students will then be taken to their Homeroom to start Orientation. The two days set aside for Orientation have been designed to ensure that all the girls and boys feel comfortable and confident in their new surroundings. Students in Years 8 to 12 are to go directly to their homeroom.

New students in Years 8 to 12, at both campuses, are asked to go to the office where a member of the house team will connect with students and will take them to their homeroom.

On this first day students may receive a considerable amount of paperwork. Please read this documentation, sign as necessary and return it to the College on Tuesday 2 February.

A reminder that the canteen will operate from day one at both campuses.

Drop Off and Pick up
Notre Dame Campus
Parents are encouraged to drop off and pick up their child from the service access in Dummings Road. Foxwood Drive will be very congested at these times, as both Notre Dame and the primary school adjacent have similar start and finish times. Please be aware that the Campus car park is not to be used for dropping off or picking up students, however you may park there if you have other College business. The Campus will be supervised by a Yard Duty teacher from 8.05am - please don’t arrange for your son or daughter to arrive earlier.

St. Paul’s Campus
Parents are reminded that parking is not permitted in the College car park. Pick up and drop off points are on the southern end of Chambers Road. Traffic regulations apply. The Year 7 camp for SPC is being held in Week 2 from Wednesday 10 – Friday 12 February. Forms for this camp have been sent home and are easily accessible through CareMonkey. The preferred confirmation of permission is to use CareMonkey, however, if you have not yet had an opportunity to set up your child’s profile, please send the hard copy to school with your son on Monday 1 February.

Information Meetings
An information evening session is planned at both St. Paul’s and Notre Dame Campuses for Monday 8 February for Year 7 and 12 parents as well as parents of students new to Emmanuel College across the other year levels. This session will provide the opportunity for parents to meet with their child’s Homeroom teachers/House Leaders and hear details of what is in store for their child in the year ahead. Please mark this date on your calendar now and use this time to make a positive start to the year ahead. Further information will be distributed closer to the date.

Attendance follow up
As occurred in 2015, all absences will again be confirmed via SMS message to a mobile phone number where the college has not been notified regarding a student’s absence. In order that this system works most efficiently, and to ensure prompt contact with families, it is imperative that the contact details recorded at the college are correct at all times. Please ensure that your details are correct and notify the office promptly if you change your mobile telephone number and/or update your CareMonkey profile. The attendance officer will continue to contact families who do not have access to a mobile phone.

Uniform
Students are encouraged to wear the summer uniform on these hot days. As many of the girls have grown taller, they need to ensure that their summer dresses are knee length. Boys are reminded that they must wear the College blazer if they choose to wear shirt and tie in preference to the summer shirt. Girls are reminded that they should not wear their jumper as an outer garment with their summer dress. The uniform policy is contained in the student handbook, which your child will receive at school. Please read this, and all other information, during the first week of school to ensure that both you and your child are fully aware of all the responsibilities and obligations of being an Emmanuel College student. Please sign the acknowledgement section in the student’s handbook no later than Friday 19 February.

Hair/Piercing
A reminder to students to ensure that their hair style and colour is appropriate for returning to school. No remnants of any extreme experiments left over from the holidays should be in evidence. Students and families are also reminded that the only piercing that is permitted at school is a single [pair], plain stud earrings worn in the ear lobe only. No other piercings are permitted.
News from Campus Leaders cont’d

SunSmart Policy
All students participating in Health and Physical Education, ACC/SACCSS competition, excursions and outdoor activities are required to wear the approved college head wear. Students are also encouraged to be protected when walking to and from school and at recess and lunch times.

The College has a number of options available to students: baseball cap, bucket hat or wide brimmed cricket hat. Students who do not wear the appropriate head protection will not participate in these activities, as the College approved head protection is an integral and important part of the Emmanuel College sports uniform.

As you are aware the College is associated with Michael Grose and his Parenting Ideas website. In each newsletter we include articles of interest from his Parenting Ideas website. This week’s article is about making a smooth start to secondary school. The article talks about getting used to new subjects and new teachers, as well as forming new friendships which are just some of the requirements of this transition. Parents are encouraged to refer to this website for future reference.

Finally, we and staff feel privileged to work with you in the very important task of educating your daughters and sons. If you have any queries or questions please contact either your child’s Homeroom Teacher/House Leader or Campus Leaders on 8325 5100, or alternatively write a note in your child’s Student Handbook. I feel certain 2016 is destined to be a successful and enjoyable year for all.

David Barr & Jennifer Webster
Campus Leaders

Leader of Faith Development

As with the beginning of every year, I am once again excited with all that will unfold. We have welcomed back our staff and students from their great work in Cambodia and we prepare our three student representatives who will be heading to Poland for World Youth Day this year. Term one for us sees wonderful events such as our Year 12 Seminar day with Glenn Manton, the Year 12 Retreat at Rutherford Park and our Opening College Mass to mention but a few of the events to start off our year. I sincerely wish everyone a wonderful and successful year and look forward to all the exciting things that lay ahead of us.

Instrumental Music Program
I am very excited to announce that as part of the further development of the music program at Emmanuel College, all Year 7 students will be part of the compulsory instrumental program which will see them all learning a musical instrument for one semester. As this is part of the classroom music program it will be at no cost to parents, and will allow our students the opportunity to experience a musical instrument with the hope they may wish to pursue it after year 7. Please read the article about our music programme further on in this newsletter.

Opening College Mass
On Friday 19 February, we will be celebrating our opening college mass, which is an opportunity to bring us all together as a community of faith, in the presence of God. As we did last year, we will be coming together as one College at St Patrick’s Cathedral. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all parents and families to join us at the Cathedral for mass at 10.30am. If you would like to attend please contact me so we can ensure adequate seating for all. Our major theme for 2016, and a theme that will remain constant in all that we do here at the college throughout the year, is:
“I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

Reflection
The Catholic school is at its best when it is a vital part of the parish community, sharing in the Church’s work of spreading the Good News of salvation. Let us do all we can to strengthen the links between our parish, our school and our homes. Let us pray that all within our school will feel at home in the Catholic community of Emmanuel College, and see their Faith as something that gives meaning to their lives.

Lord Jesus, help us to become builders of bridges. Bridges that will link our parish and our school, our teachers and our parents, our hopes for our children and the realisation of these hopes. Above all, help those at Emmanuel College to see the relevance of their Faith, and ours, to their everyday lives.

Chris O’Malley
Early dismissal for 2016 VCE Students

As a consequence of the VCE Curriculum structure, there are occasions when VCE students will be dismissed earlier than 3.10pm. Year 12 students and some Year 11s will have allocated Study Periods on their timetable and they will normally attend study hall in the designated area.

All students who have study hall in Period 1 are required to be at homeroom, and therefore will be present from 8.30am as normal. Any student who has study hall during the last scheduled period for the day may be dismissed after signing out at Student Services.

There may be a Period 4 where no class has been assigned due to other College commitments, for example interschool sport. Generally, students are not expected to attend the College at these times, as outlined below. However, this time will be used regularly for students to undertake School Assessed Coursework (SACs). This time may also be used when students who have been given approved absence from school, whilst an assessment task was being undertaken, may be asked to use this time to complete the task. VET students may also have classes to attend on these afternoons. Therefore no permanent commitment to any other activity should be planned - students are not to use this time for a part-time/casual job.

It is important that students use this time wisely. Students may use this time for research, either in the college or an alternative library. It is assumed that students not involved in the above activities will make their way home directly in order to start their homework or study.

**YEAR 12**

**SPC**

Wednesday (Weeks A & B) all Year 12 students are dismissed from classes at 1.05 pm (except for students undertaking Specialist Maths & Economics).

Friday (Week B only) all Year 12 students are dismissed from classes at 1.05 pm

**NDC**

Wednesday (Weeks A & B) all Year 12 students are dismissed from classes at 1.05 pm (except for students undertaking Specialist Maths & Economics)

Friday (Week B Only) all Year 12 students are dismissed from classes at 1.05 pm

**YEAR 11**

**SPC**

Wednesday (Weeks A & B) all Year 11 students are dismissed from classes at 1.05 pm (unless student is undertaking Japanese Units 1 & 2).

Thursday (Week B only) all Year 11 students are dismissed from classes at 1.05pm (except for students undertaking a 3/4 subject).

Friday (Weeks A & B) all Year 11 students are dismissed from classes at 1.05 pm (except Friday A for students undertaking Japanese Units 1 & 2).

**NDC**

Wednesday (Weeks A & B) all Year 11 students are dismissed from classes at 1.05 pm (unless student is undertaking Japanese Units 1 & 2).

Thursday (Week B only) all Year 11 students are dismissed from classes at 1.05pm (except for students undertaking a 3/4 subject).

Friday (Weeks A & B) all Year 11 students are dismissed from classes at 1.05 pm (except Friday A for students undertaking Japanese Units 1 & 2).

**VET Off Campus:** VET Off Campus subjects may occur on early leave days

**SPC only:** On Wednesdays, some Year 11 & 12 students will be involved in ACC and will be dismissed from classes at 12.25pm for away games and 1.05pm for home games.

If you have any queries contact us on 8325 5100, or the appropriate House Leader.

Stephen Lunardelli & Vince Crimi

**Campus Organisers**
2016 brings new opportunities for the Music Program at Emmanuel College. Firstly, I am pleased to advise of my appointment to the College in the capacity of College Director of Music across both campuses. This exciting opportunity to work with the Emmanuel College community comes after 13 years as Director of Music at St Bernard’s College and the 6 years prior to this as Director of Bands at St Bede’s College. I thank those who I have spoken to so far for their welcome, support and enthusiasm for the journey we are about to embark on.

The first significant part of this journey concerns the fabulous investment in music resources the College has just made. This investment in over 200 various instruments means that every Year 7 student will gain a high quality, hands-on opportunity to learn a musical instrument at no cost to parents for 2 terms.

Opportunities also exists for students in Year 8 and above, and it might be a good time to consider learning a musical instrument as a partner in your academic endeavours. The music tuition application is available as a download from the College website.

Those students who had been enrolled in instrumental tuition in 2015 will be automatically re-enrolled in 2016. An email will be sent to these students and parents to confirm. This will allow a timely start for lessons in the new year.

It is planned that various bands and music ensembles will be started at the earliest opportunity. The first of these will be Choir, which will have its first rehearsal for the year at the Notre Dame Campus after school on Friday February 5 until 4:30pm. Coming from an ACC school which had 70 boys sing at their last Cathedral Mass, I encourage and support more boys from the St Paul’s Campus to get involved in the preparations for the opening school mass.

Carmelo Puglisi
Director of Music
## Calendar Term 1 Weeks 1A & 2B

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>1 FEBRUARY</td>
<td>STUDENTS RETURN&lt;br&gt;YEAR 7 ORIENTATION DAY 1</td>
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<td>2 FEBRUARY</td>
<td>YEAR 7 ORIENTATION DAY 2&lt;br&gt;ID PHOTO DAY</td>
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<td>3 FEBRUARY</td>
<td>SPC ACC SENIOR CRICKET CBC v EMM&lt;br&gt;SPC ACC SENIOR TENNIS &amp; VOLLEYBALL SIM v EMM</td>
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<td>5 FEBRUARY</td>
<td>YEAR 12 CHEMISTRY @ MELBOURNE UNI 1PM-4PM&lt;br&gt;SPC YEAR 7 SWIMMING CARNIVAL @ WERRIBEE</td>
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<td>6 FEBRUARY</td>
<td>PARENT INFORMATION MORNING— 9AM @ NDC &amp; 10.30AM @ SPC</td>
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<td>8 FEBRUARY</td>
<td>YEAR 7 &amp; 12 PARENT MEETING @ 7PM</td>
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<td>9 FEBRUARY</td>
<td>SPC COLLEGE ASSEMBLY&lt;br&gt;NDC YEAR 8 MEDIEVAL DAY (HUM)</td>
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<td>10 FEBRUARY</td>
<td>ASH WEDNESDAY&lt;br&gt;SPC YEAR 7 CAMP @ PORTSEA&lt;br&gt;SPC ACC SENIOR CRICKET EMM v WFD&lt;br&gt;SPC ACC SENIOR TENNIS &amp; VOLLEYBALL EMM v MAZ&lt;br&gt;NDC SACCSS SENIOR CRICKET EMM v SALESIAN</td>
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<td>11 FEBRUARY</td>
<td>NDC COLLEGE ASSEMBLY&lt;br&gt;SPC YEAR 7 CAMP @ PORTSEA</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 FEBRUARY</td>
<td>SPC YEAR 7 CAMP @ PORTSEA&lt;br&gt;NDC HOUSE ASSEMBLY&lt;br&gt;NDC ATHLETICS SIGN UP</td>
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Making a smooth start to secondary school

Getting used to new subjects and new teachers, as well as forming new friendships, are just some of the requirements of this transition.

Starting secondary school is a time of change and uncertainty, which places new demands on young people. Being at the bottom of the pecking order where they are unsure of the playground hierarchies is just one adjustment that they need to make.

Some kids take these new experiences in their stride but it is natural to experience some difficulty, particularly when it’s accompanied by the potentially unsettling transition from childhood to adolescence. It’s no coincidence that many research projects indicate that children’s learning levels out in the transition year, presumably because the social tasks of adjustment take precedence over academic performance.

It helps to remember the Four P’s to help your young person settle in:

1. **Promote friendships**
   The quicker kids form new friendships the sooner they’ll feel comfortable in their secondary school surroundings. Encourage your young person to be open to forming friendships with all sorts of kids; to be accepting of others who may be different to them; to take social risks by joining in activities even though they may feel uncomfortable; and to be friendly, approachable and positive!

2. **Practice patience**
   Patience and understanding in the early weeks is essential. Brush up on your listening skills as you help your young person adjust. Talk to your young person about change and reassure them that it is normal to feel unsure or nervous in new circumstances. Let them know that many difficulties they face will be temporary.

3. **Pursue a positive attitude**
   Confidence is catching so make sure you see this transition time as an exciting challenge that your child can handle rather than an event to be feared. Ask them about the new subjects or interesting activities they are doing, and try to shift their focus to the positive aspects of school. Discuss settling in issues with the appropriate person such as a year level coordinator, but give your young person time to handle them on their own before seeking help.

4. **Process their day**
   Some young people may come home with fairly exaggerated accounts of secondary school and may not always paint a fair picture. They may become sensitive to things that they might have shrugged off in primary school. Listen without judgment and show a real interest in their new school, while providing them with the space they need to get away for a while. Expect some behaviour blowouts as many kids let off steam in the relatively safe and stable environment of a loving family.

If your eldest is starting, then secondary school will be a relatively new experience for you too. It will take some time for you to adjust to the school’s culture and communication methods.

Although secondary schools may seem a little foreign for those used to the relative intimacy of primary schools, one aspect is the same – outcomes for students are maximised when schools and parents work together in the best interests of the student.

One way to support your young person’s school is by actively promoting the school’s values. For instance, if respect is a prominent school value then you can discuss this in relation to the way your young person behaves around friends, relatives and family.

Most importantly, talk up your young person’s new school, rather than talk it down, as kids of all ages take their cues from the most significant adults in their lives – their parents!

Michael Grose