

## Dear Parents and Friends

I wish to acknowledge the Year 12 2023 VCE and VCE VM students who recently received their results. I congratulate our students, who have done extremely well in 2023. Our College Dux, the Brophy Scholar, attaining an ATAR of 98.8, is Lily McColl. I look forward to acknowledging our high achieving students when they return to our first assembly in 2024, and finding out the pathways they have selected for 2024 and beyond.

As I write this final newsletter article for 2023, I would like to recall some of the points I made in my address to the Year 7 to 9 students in their final assembly of the year.

*'As we finish off the academic year today and begin our preparations for the holidays and for Christmas, I think it is important to recap some of the key events of 2023, and in doing so, highlight how lucky we are to have the opportunities and freedoms to live our lives here in Australia.'*

*This year, Emmanuel students have been given many opportunities to engage in learning. Through a great variety of classroom subjects and excursions, students can learn about the world around them, find out what they like and don't like, and begin to make plans for a future career.*

*Students have also had opportunities to engage in sporting competitions - the number of sports is far too great to list, but individual pursuits and team sports are both available. Equally important is the Arts, where students can engage through instrumental lessons if that is an area of interest, or by taking part in the musical, as cast, backstage crew, support for the nights or as an audience member. We have also seen the amazing talents of students in the Art and Technology exhibitions. It is always rewarding to see the students at Emmanuel strive for personal best, and the contribution and interactions of our students is what makes Emmanuel College a vibrant and cohesive community.*

*I have observed students on tours present our College to potential students and their families with great knowledge and pride. The engagement of these students – in their own time – exemplifies a commitment to this Emmanuel College community.*

*In these school events and activities, the dedication of teachers and college staff also shows through, ensuring that the students here can have wonderful experiences. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment and hard work of the teachers at Emmanuel – all who have a love for education – and a love for teaching. I also acknowledge the teachers and learning diversity staff today – without them, there is no education, and we are the people who know how great working with young people truly is.*

*I acknowledge the other staff of our college – as teachers cannot do their work without those who make the College great. From the front office staff to our maintenance team, to the canteen, to IT, to the library staff – a great school takes a great force of people and Emmanuel is very lucky that we have them.*



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*And as a final special mention – we must remember that we have these options in Australia – and it is called the lucky country for a reason – but for those in Gaza and Ukraine currently, and other less fortunate locations in the world, where war and famine impede life options, choices and opportunities, they may not have access to education currently - so let us always acknowledge the work of the College in remembering those less fortunate than ourselves. The involvement of many staff and students in Mission work this year, in support of the initiatives of our Mission team, is so vitally important.*

*So – in what ways have you perhaps moved mountains this year with your faith? Maybe it was a small mountain – however, I have been fortunate as a new member of this community to have seen evidence of faith in action by the students and staff of Emmanuel in 2023, and I look forward to 2024 with hope. We are a truly blessed community.'*

### **Staff departures and well wishes**

I thank the following staff for their service to the Emmanuel College Community and wish them well as they move onto the next part of their career journey:

Adrian Josipovic	Jasmine McDonald	Milad Pinnone
Alexis Withers	Jenna Lucas	Nicholas Tubb
Alice Power	Kate Challen	Rachel Prince
Amy Wilson-Matesevac	Kayla Best	Rebecca Smith
Aron Altun	Kelley Revelman	Rebecca To
Brent Diamond	Leanne Meilak	Rita Hanna
Christopher Micallef	Linette Kong	Sangeetha Thanapal
Helen Chan	Luke Rushbrook-Stock	Satendra Lal
Jacqui Hu		Suzanne Woolley

Special mention to Adrian Montana, who has retired from teaching at the conclusion of 2023.

### **College reports**

College reports will have been released to all families. As many are currently aware, the College has been impacted by teacher shortages and teacher absence. In some cases this may impact on the completion of all details within a report. A letter will be provided to accompany reports if this is the case.

### **Information for families for 2024**

A letter detailing arrangements for 2024 will be provided to all families. This will provide information about new staff in particular roles in the college, as well as providing an outline of the structure of the school day, term dates and any days which will be student-free due to staff professional development.

### **Office Closure and Reopening**

Please note that the College office will close on Friday 15 December, and will re-open on Thursday 18 January.

As I conclude my first year as Principal of the College I thank the staff, students and parents for the welcome and support I have been provided.

I wish all families a happy and holy Christmas and New Year period.

**Dr Janine Biggin**  
**Principal**

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## Campus Leaders

2023 brought with it an incredible opportunity for personal growth, the excitement of learning, the adventure of trying new things and the richness of building relationships. As the boys and girls left both campuses for their summer holidays it seemed like just yesterday that they were arriving for their first day of the year. But their physical growth and developed emotional maturity is clear. Once again we are fulfilled and blessed to have joined your child in their journey this year.

As students departed, when asked "What was your highlight of the year?" their responses were many and varied. At Notre Dame they included: Great classes; SACCSS Swimming, House Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals, SACCSS Golf and Tennis Tournaments, the Premier League competition, DAV Debating and the Talent Quest. St Paul's students identified many of the same events including: House Competitions, ACC Sports, Athletics Carnival, excursions, Camps, Retreats, Seminar days, Cross Country Carnival, Student Leadership Programs, DAV Debating and College production. The list went on and on. Such a variety of curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular activities ensured that there was something for everyone to be involved in and experience success. The student involvement in the extracurricular activities has been fantastic.

Both campuses celebrated the end of the year with a Mass on 5 December. Also on that day at House Assemblies, the achievements of the students who were awarded a certificate in either Excellence in Academic Achievement or Personal Best Effort were recognised and presented. Congratulations to all the students who received Academic awards, either at the Celebration of Excellence Evening or at the House Assembly, and we encourage all students to work diligently next year to ensure their personal best.

The Orientation Day for the 2024 Year 7 students was a fantastic morning. It was great to see the smiling enthusiastic students who will be joining our community next year. At both campuses the House activities ensured students were immersed in the culture and values of their House and made new acquaintances, and hopefully will feel a little more comfortable making the transition to Emmanuel College in the new year.

In preparation for next year, please support us by ensuring that your child is able to adhere to the College expectations regarding uniform, which can be found in the Student Planner. Holiday hair experiments and piercings need to consider the following:

- Hairstyle and colour should reflect a neat and moderate image; hair should be one, natural colour
- Mullets, shaved or severe undercuts, shaved sides and lines are not acceptable; clippers should not go below a number three.
- Fake eyelashes and nails are NOT permitted.
- Piercings, including nose rings, are NOT permitted. One plain ear stud may be worn in the ear lobe. Plastic studs are not permitted
- Please note that school shoes must be black leather, lace-up school shoes only; some buckled/t-bar styles have been seen recently but these are NOT permitted. Black leather runners are also not permitted with the formal uniform.
- Please note the required sock colour with the uniform: Girls- black; boys- grey; must be 10-15 cms above the ankle; with PE uniform - white socks which may be short sports socks.

A reminder that these expectations are clearly communicated to parents and students and agreed to as a part of your enrolment. It is important to the community that everyone is treated equally in this regard and that the rules apply to all.

Today's article relates to the 3m's of Digital Nutrition. We have a certain relationship with our devices and online activities which are complex. Read through to see the important measures we can take to ensure digital time is purposeful.

We hope the holidays provide an opportunity for you to spend time together as a family. Merry Christmas and God's Blessing.

**David Barr, Chris O'Malley & Kelley Revelman**  
**Campus Leaders**

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## Leader of Mission Integration

### Closing School Mass

Fr Samuel and Fr Binh led us in our celebration of our closing school mass for Year 7-9s at Notre Dame and St Paul's Campuses respectively. It was a wonderful occasion where the students were invited to reconsider the words of Jesus which formed our Mission Theme for 2023, 'Faith can move mountains'. The students were sent forward in this season of Advent as people who rejoice and people of courage.

### Christmas Appeal

Congratulations to all staff, students and parents who donated generously to our St Vincent De Paul Society and West Welcome Wagon Christmas Appeal. As a community we donated hundreds of toys/gifts, which will be used to bring joy to children from financially disadvantaged families this Christmas.

### The Season of Advent

The first candle on the Advent wreath represents hope. The first Sunday of Advent leads us to anticipate the birth of Christ. The first candle is purple, the primary colour of Advent and a colour symbolising royalty. Sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle," the first candle reminds us of Isaiah's foretelling of the birth of Christ and all of the promises God gave us in the Hebrew Scripture that would be fulfilled by the birth of Jesus.

Next Sunday we will light the second purple candle which represents peace. We once again live in a time where we desperately need peace in our world. Whether it be the wars in Palestine and Ukraine, or the daily experiences of violence in Australia today, we are all charged with the responsibility to bring peace into this world. We recall the words of Jesus "blessed are the peace makers".

Peace and blessings this Christmas,

**Mark Sciberras**

**DP – Mission Integration**

*"Faith Can Move Mountains" Mt17:20*





# McCoy House Reports

## NDC McCoy House Report

Things have been a bit quieter this term as the Year 10s – 12s have finished classes for the year. Please see Jorja Grebert and Samuel Bonser's reflection for Homeroom below:

Recently in homeroom, it's been a little quieter with the senior students finished classes for the year, but we're still trying to have some fun. Every morning we play Spot the Difference and Crosswords, trying to complete it all before the bell. It's especially fun when Mr O'Neale gives us chocolates and other treats on Fridays. Despite having fewer people in homeroom, we still find ways to entertain each other every morning and catch up with friends before classes. Homeroom is a time for us to relax and prepare ourselves for the day. A lot of us have busy mornings before school, but it's nice knowing that we don't need to throw ourselves straight into our schoolwork after the morning rush. Homeroom, although it's short, is an essential part of our day and we look forward to it every morning. (Sam and Jorja)

As a McCoy House, we would like to congratulate the following leaders for 2024 and we look forward to working with them in next year:

Year 12: Abigail Rhodes & Khang Huynh  
Sport: Evie Boniwell Lombardero & Emanuel Bol  
Year 11: Claudette Gatt Carabott  
Year 10: Ruby Masuglia & Andrei Tababa  
Year 9: Brianna Chetcuti  
Year 8: Emma Mathias & Leonardo Rodriguez Cano

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the opportunity to work with your sons and daughters this year. We have enjoyed getting to know so many fine McCoy students as well as their parents and we look forward to continuing this partnership next year in 2024.

**Joel Salmond and Tess Blassis**  
**McCoy House Leaders NDC**



## McCoy House Reports cont.

As we close the chapter on another successful year in McCoy House, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and students for a great year.

This term, we have farewelled our Year 12 students and celebrated their time at the College; the photo montage gave all McCoy students a chance to see the journey of our Year 12 students. I am proud of the team, and wish them every success and happiness in their future endeavours. I thank Phoneake Nithikwangwan, Caidan Da Costa and Zech Pardo for their fantastic leadership all year in McCoy. As one leadership team moves on, I welcome and celebrate our Year 12 McCoy leaders for 2024; Carl Refardt, Joel Aquino and Brodie McCleish. I know this team will only continue to build on the leadership approach within McCoy house and work with their fellow leaders in other year levels.

I also congratulate all our McCoy students on the way they conducted themselves during the exam period and final weeks of the year. It was wonderful to see the interconnectedness of year levels in homerooms as students supported each other, gave encouragement and reassurance and held last minute revision sessions.

The Homeroom competition has concluded for the year. Congratulations to McCoy Elliot Homeroom for winning the Homeroom competition for 2023!

Finally, I wish the staff, students, and parents of McCoy House a well-deserved holiday. Please take this time to celebrate another successful year with your friends and family. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

**Ms Cate Toebelman**  
**McCoy House Leader St Paul's**



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## Chaminade Homeroom Reports

Hi, my name is Omar, and I am a part of Fraser homeroom. I have equally contributed to the relaxed ambiance and peace in my homeroom. We all have a great bond with each other and always treat each other like brothers. In terms of me, personally, I have positively contributed to the school, as I was advocating relevant organisations and fundraisers. I gave up my homeroom time to advocate for the West Welcome Wagon toy drive this term and the Werribee-based organisation Corazon, as I made the poster that was displayed in all homerooms in SPC and NDC.

On the weekdays in homeroom, we do the daily Wordle, in which everyone is included, trying to find words that satisfy the given options. It is always great to see everyone working together, as we always get the word in the end, with due time. For everyone, it gets the brain up and running to accomplish their given tasks in their classes. On Fridays, though we have our homeroom sports, this term it was European handball, but unfortunately, our homeroom did not qualify for the semi-finals. But last term was a success as we won the futsal championship. In the end, none of this would have been achieved without amazing teachers and house leaders, such as Ms. Dalton, and Mr. Meegan. None of this is possible without amazing mentors like you.

### **Omar Abdul Ghaffar Fraser Homeroom Year 8.**

Homeroom is a great way to start every school day. As a part of Chaminade Roberts homeroom, there is always a sense of excitement as you walk in the room. Our homeroom teacher, Mr. Burns, is always ready to greet you as you enter, and we thank him for his hard work in supporting, connecting, and bringing fun to the homeroom. In Chaminade Roberts, we've been playing great in our European Handball competition throughout Term 4. This is a great way of creating comradery. We have also participated in answering questions for our weekly homeroom quiz. Not only this, we've also played lots of games within our homeroom, whether it be silent ball, cricket or Wordle. Overall, Chaminade Roberts homeroom is always a highlight and something to look forward to, and a great way to undergo a day of school.

### **Matthew Sy Roberts Homeroom Year 9.**

Term 4 has been amazing revolving around my Homeroom, on Fridays or any day we do all sorts of fun and exciting activities here are some things that I have done.

We did Homeroom Sports which is every Friday Morning and all terms from 1 to 4 are all different types of sport. The sports we have played are along the lines of Basketball, European Handball, and Futsal. We also played games in homeroom like Table Tennis and Uno which was a blast, and I would love to give a special thanks to Mrs. Solano for making this year amazing and being the best homeroom teacher.

### **Eli Josic Paul Homeroom Year 7.**



## Chaminade Homeroom Reports cont.

I have been in the Namatjira homeroom for three years now, from this time I can now proudly say that everyone from my homeroom has been nothing but supportive of each other. This has been done through their actions and more so their words, I now firmly believe that because of this there are now multiple house leaders in our homeroom including myself.

In my homeroom, I have made sure that the majority of my peers participate in homeroom sport, this means that Year Sevens have the opportunity to do something that they may not have had otherwise. Doing this has made homeroom a more engaging place for our students to be a part of. Homeroom sports are indeed significant for the collaboration of our homeroom but this takes up just a minor portion of time being only once every five days. During these other four days, the focus drifts from activities to academics, this provides the opportunity to help those who may be struggling in subjects. This time proved to be very beneficial in the time before exams, this helped myself and other people in our homeroom by helping each other with what we may be struggling with by sharing notes and providing study techniques. My homeroom, Namatjira has become a safe place for many as it has provided people with the opportunities to bond with other students through things such as homeroom sport and even through their academics.

**Patrick O'Keefe Year 9 Namatjira**





## Student Wellbeing

Emmanuel College joined the Refugee Education Support Program (RESP) in 2022. RESP is a two-year program aimed at assisting schools to identify and implement strategies which have a positive impact on the achievement, engagement and well-being of students from refugee backgrounds and their families. RESP is a whole school approach and the Emmanuel College RESP Team have worked hard over the two years to develop new initiatives and have taken action in the following five areas:

- Teaching and Learning
- Partnerships with families
- Partnership with agencies
- School climate
- Transitions

Some of the initiatives and programs we have implemented are:

- Improving our transition form for new Year 7 enrolment.
- Professional learning for staff on the Refugee Experience.
- Creating an 'Inclusion Statement'.
- New 'Welcome Signs' in multiple languages.
- Student support social group - "In the Conversation", in partnership with Edmund Rice.
- Mental health and technology session run by Foundation House.
- Shooters-shoot
- Junubi
- Western Bulldogs – Refugee Clinic African
- Western Bulldogs foundation - Goal mentoring program Advertisement



The RESP Team look forward to 2024 and being able to continue with the current programs implemented as well as bringing in new ideas and initiatives.



**Winnie Koth**  
Youth Liaison and Family Partnerships Officer





## Student Wellbeing



**Winnie Koth**  
Youth Liaison and Family Partnerships Officer



## Christmas at Emmanuel College—Then and Now

1978



1998



2009



2022



**Penny Cook**  
Emmanuel College Archives



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## Calendar Term 4 Weeks 12

15 December	Office closes at 4.15pm for Christmas Holidays
18 January	Office reopens at 8:00am
2 February	All students return to school

*We acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional land of the Kulin Nation. We recognise the First People's relationship to this land, water and culture and offer our respect to their elders, past, present, emerging. Emmanuel College commits itself to reconciliation.*

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## Community Notices

Dear Emmanuel College community, a friendly reminder that anything related to student attendance, absence or lateness—please email [ndcattendance@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:ndcattendance@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au) or [spcattendance@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:spcattendance@ecmelb.catholic.edu.au)