



EMANUEL SCHOOL

Grandparents' NEWS

December 2009

Kislev 5770

Vol 1 Issue 2

Welcome to the second edition of the Grandparents' Club Newsletter. It was great to hear that so many of you enjoyed reading the first edition of the newsletter which was launched at our Grandparents and Friends Day in August and we hope you enjoy reading this edition just as much if not more. You can now read all our newsletters on our School Website www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au as you can the weekly School Newsletter, *Ma Nishma*. If you have some news you would like to share with our Emanuel School family, please contact Sonia Newell, Development Officer, snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au



Please send in your updated contact details, especially if you are on email. It seems we may not have your correct information as quite a few emails have bounced back to the office. We are always very pleased to have our wonderful Grandparents help out at School when volunteer assistance is requested.



Emanuel School is a member of the JCA family of Organisations



EMANUEL SCHOOL

20 Stanley Street Randwick NSW 2031
www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

EMANUEL SCHOOL Where the Individual Excels

Report from The Board...

Upgrading Facilities

This Term sees the recent completion of some exciting building projects and the commencement of many others. These projects will help optimise our facilities in a practical and affordable way, and when complete, we will have a substantially upgraded school site.

Solar Panels have recently been installed on the roof of the MPH as part of the Federal Government's stimulus programme.

This is an outstanding outcome for the environment and the School as the panels will generate over 9,000KWH of energy which will be put back into the grid, saving 9.6 Tonnes of CO2 annually and partially offsetting the School's energy bill.

Mechanised curtains have recently been installed in the MPH, which provide both light and heating/cooling control. This project was fully funded by our outstanding P&F, and together with the recently installed air-conditioning in the MPH, we expect to have a substantially improved experience in this building as we approach the hot summer months.

Significant upgrades to the Wolanski Family Specialist Learning Centre are currently underway. This is a major project for us and will see a vastly expanded and improved facility when it is completed for the start of 2010. The project includes enclosing of the previously central courtyard within the Learning Centre and creating a number of individualised classrooms for one-on-one or small group learning that is so necessary for this Centre. This project has partially been funded through the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution Programme, and partially from the School's own resources.

Construction of our most significant building project, the new four-storey building next to the Canteen, has begun. The building will comprise underground parking, a new Primary School Library, four large and modern Science Laboratories, and an extra Primary School classroom. While having a contemporary design, the building has been given the nod of approval from the NSW Heritage Council, which felt that the proposal displayed significant architectural merit and showed that it was planned with regard to the various layers of cultural heritage on the site. The building has been funded by a significant grant from the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution Programme (\$2.5M), an extremely generous donation from Aron Kleinlehrer (\$1.5M) and the balance by the School. The project will be completed for the start of the 2011 school year. I would like to remind all parents and staff to avoid Chepstow Street during this period as it provides the only access point for the builders to the construction site, and they will need to bring in large vehicles like excavation and concrete trucks.

Jonathan Sesel,
President



Message from the Parents & Friends Association (P&F)

Dear Grandparents,

It is wonderful to see your enthusiastic support of our School. The P&F recently held our major Fundraiser for 2009 – An Evening of Art, Cocktail & Auction. The evening was a wonderful success. It was lovely to see some of our grandparents enjoying themselves at the event and I hope to see many more at our fundraisers and community events in the future. Thank you also to the grandparents who generously donated goods and services for the Auctions. Your fantastic contributions helped significantly to the success of the function.

The role of the P&F is to contribute to the school community by organizing functions and events, assisting the teaching staff and the school executive when required, and of course, by fundraising for various projects within the School. We are made up of a core executive of parents, and a wider circle of people who are on our Volunteers' Register who assist us whenever they can. The P&F is facing tough times. As everyone is so busy, it is difficult to find volunteers to fill executive positions or volunteer to organise and run the various events the P&F likes to hold throughout the school year. If any of our wonderful grandparents are willing and able to assist, we would gladly welcome your support.

There are many other things the P&F is involved with. Many of you may have already seen that the P&F has a weekly information page in the *Ma Nishma*, our School's weekly newsletter through which we communicate to the school community about what is happening, how you may be able to assist us and when P&F meetings are held. We also update those on our Volunteers' Register by email. Speaking of the Volunteers' Register ... if you are able to help in any way or would like to be involved in the Parents and Friends community, we would welcome you with open arms. We need you, your ideas and your muscle power! We value any contribution you are able to make, no matter how big or small. If you are happy to be placed on our Volunteers' Register, please email Sonia Newell to let her know. All we require is your email address and mobile phone number. From time to time you will receive an email asking for assistance at various functions or events. There is no obligation by putting your name on the register. You will simply be informed when assistance is required and if you can assist, that would be much appreciated.

On behalf of my Executive, I wish you all a fantastic summer holiday with your grandchildren. We look forward to seeing you in 2010.

Alexis Aruch,
President, P&F



Scene from the recent Primary School concert, *Cinderella & Rockerfella*

Invitation to Grandparents & Special Friends



The Emanuel School Grandparents Club would love to hear from any Grandparents or Special Friends who would like to become more involved with the School. There are many opportunities to help including:

- Grandparents Reading Group Volunteers for Year K to Year 2
- Assistance with special events such as Purim Parties and Pesach
- Help out at Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day functions
- Help to update our database for the Grandparents Club and Newsletter
- Working bees for the Library, Concerts and costume making.

We would really welcome your time and your support when assistance is needed. Please let us know if you can help. snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au or 9398 8388 ext 231.

Thank you to the Grandparents who helped out during the recent Higher School Certificate by supervising our Year 12 students as they entered the Emanuel Synagogue grounds. We appreciated your assistance, especially at such short notice.

Project Heritage 2009

- The Year 6 Students know that Project Heritage is the biggest piece of work they undertake in their Primary years. We were most fortunate to have such a wonderful group of Historians participating this year, most of whom were our students' Grandparents, all with very unique and fascinating life stories to tell.
- The interviews focused on Childhood, Adult Life and Values and Achievements. The students each wrote a series of biographies as well as many other pieces of writing. It was collated into a beautiful booklet for each historian to keep. The children also created art work and hand-made personalised gifts.
- The project culminated in September with an oral presentation about each Historian. It was a moving and delightful event that will be long remembered by the students and historians alike.
- If you would like to participate in next year's Project Heritage, please let us know.

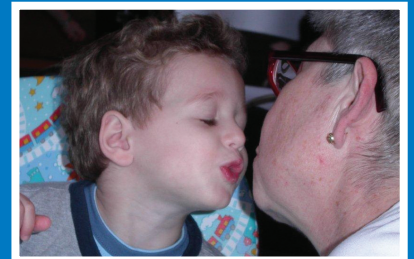


Grandparents Reading Group Volunteers (Year K – Year 2)

Nona Pryer's experience

"It has been my great honour and privilege to attend reading classes each week for the last two years.

I have enjoyed spending time with my precious grandson, Jonah, and I feel that a lot of the other children have enjoyed having me there as well. For example, some of the children instead of calling me Carol, have called me Caramel. Some of the children, whenever I arrive at school and they see me, come straight over to me to give me a big hug. In a recent session one of the children got up from his chair and came and sat on my lap."



Christine Evans, Grandmother of Ollie, Year 2

"Being part of the volunteers' reading group at Emanuel each week is one of the highlights of my week. Naturally, spending time with Ollie at school is great fun, and I've loved getting to know some of the other children too.

It's a very rewarding experience! And I feel lucky to be part of that, thank you."



Schmooze with a Grandparent...

Pam and Justice Ronald Sackville (AO) have been Emanuel School grandparents for the past five years, and despite the numerous accolades and distinctions they have both attained in their professional careers, "family has always been the most important thing".

Born, raised and educated in Melbourne, Pam and Ronald came to Sydney in 1972 when Ronald was appointed Professor of Law at UNSW, and then Dean of the Faculty of Law. During his most distinguished career, Ronald has headed many Commissions including Law Reform, became a QC and Federal Court Judge, and even now in retirement is an Acting Judge on the Supreme Court of Appeal.

Pam, a trained pre-school teacher, became Director of Hillel College Kindergarten before embarking on a BA Visual Arts course, leading to 23 fulfilling years of teaching drawing and painting to high school students and adults.

A talented and prolific artist, Pam has illustrated two books, and although now "retired" her beautiful watercolours continue to be commissioned and exhibited around the world, including an exhibition at the Eva Breuer Gallery Woollahra next April.

Pam and Ronald's two daughters Kerri and Tanya attended a Jewish day School and Pam and Ronald were delighted when Kerri and her husband Tony Owen chose Emanuel for Arkie Year 4 and Saachi Year 2. Their youngest, Calliope Tanya, was named after her much

beloved aunt Tanya, who tragically died at the age of 37, two years ago.

Now Pam and Ronald's days are filled with the many joys of being

"hands-on" grandparents – whether it's picking the children up from school, supervising homework, or enjoying the banter around the Shabbat table.

"Emanuel is a wonderful school. We love the family atmosphere and how welcome we feel there. We really enjoy attending Grandparents Day and all the concerts and presentations. The continuity of the children's Jewish education is important, but it's the direct communication between teachers, parents and grandparents which makes the school so special"

As a former teacher, Pam also appreciates how well Emanuel caters for the individual needs of children no matter where they are on the spectrum, and how art and music are an integral part of the school curriculum.

"We really enjoy being a part of such a warm, family orientated school, and would be delighted to become more involved whenever needed".



As 2009 draws to a close, we wish you and your family
a Happy Chanukah and a safe holiday.

Thank you to those who have provided contributions for the newsletters.

We look forward to exciting times ahead in 2010 and
hope you continue to enjoy reading these newsletters,
as well as sending us your news.

I would like to join the Emanuel School Grandparents Club

Name

Home phone Mobile phone

Email or postal address

Grandchild/grandchildren

Name Year

Name Year

Name Year

Please post this section to

Emanuel School, Grandparents Club, PO Box 202 Randwick NSW 2031 or email to snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

Special thanks to Zina Kaplan (Grandmother of Lucia and Samuel Meyerratken), one of the founding members of our Grandparents Club, for her inspiration and assistance with this issue of the Newsletter.



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