



EMANUEL SCHOOL

Grandparents'

NEWS

July 2012

Tammuz 5772

Vol 4 Issue 1

Welcome to the latest edition of Emanuel School's Grandparents' newsletter – we hope you enjoy reading it and we look forward to hearing your news!



At our recent Year 4 Pathways ceremony, students received their *Tanakh* from their families.

Each *Tanakh* had been carefully prepared by their parents, to include family photos, family stories and a family tree, and had been personalised for each student.

SAVE THESE DATES

- **MONDAY 20 AUGUST** – High School Open Day and Showcase (2pm to 6pm)
- **FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER** – Rosh Hashana Celebrations and Primary School Grandparents and Friends Day



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



From the Principal's Office

Dear Grandparents and Friends of Emanuel School

It is amazing to think that half of 2012 is behind us – it has again been an exciting and fast-paced six months of learning for our students and teachers.

This year Emanuel School teachers have been working on building strategies for enhancing students' thinking in class, as the focus of our professional learning. As David Perkins in the book *Making Thinking Visible* says: 'in the complex, conflicted, and sometimes precarious world of today and tomorrow, the better people think about and with what they know, the more likely they will be able to make sense of the half conversations we all encounter. And the more prepared they will be to enter meaningfully into the whole conversation.' We had our very own two-day conference where we focused on why thinking is so important and ways we can ensure that students spend their time in class really engaging with their learning. Mark Church, who works with Harvard University, was our guest facilitator, expertly guiding us along this journey, which will be ongoing in the years to come.

Our Year 12 students have been wonderful leaders over the past 12 months, so often leading the students in prayers, singing and *ruach*. This has engendered a greater degree of involvement of the

younger students in High School, who clearly respect and look up to these student leaders. A new group of leaders will begin their term of office early next term, so that our Year 12 students can concentrate fully on their Trial Examinations and preparing for the HSC in their last term of school. The Trial Examinations this year will be held at the Little Sisters of the Poor, in Market Street, since the Synagogue will be under renovations. We are very grateful for all of our grandparents who assist with supervision and security throughout the Trial and HSC examinations.

We are having two events next term for which we will especially invite you as grandparents to the School. On the afternoon of Monday 20 August, we will be having our High School Open Day and Showcase. This will be an opportunity to visit High School classrooms, see what your grandchildren are learning at school and view the major works of all of our students, particularly the Year 12 HSC students in Visual Arts, Music and Drama. On Friday 7 September we invite grandparents of our Primary school students to our Rosh Hashana celebrations, which we will be combining with our K – 6 Grandparents Open Day. We do encourage you to look for the advertisements for these events and to come to the School to take part in these celebrations of our students' learning.

A note to remember, if you have mobility problems and would like to come to the School for an event, please contact the organiser of the event and they will arrange for your car to have access to our car park, which provides easy access to the lift and the Multi-purpose Hall.

I hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and keeping in touch with Emanuel School.

Anne Hastings, Principal

Message from Kornmehl Centre Emanuel Pre-school



We celebrated Grandparents Day with two very special concerts – one on Tuesday 19 June for the Dolphin and Starfish Grandparents and special friends and one the next day for the Seashells grandparents and special friends.

The excitement was palpable and the children all arrived at school eager to sing and dance for their special guests.

The Dolphins and Starfish performed on the stage in the PAC. For many of them this was the first time they had ever been on a stage. The children all looked beautiful dressed in their red Kornmehl T-shirts. The concert lasted almost 45 minutes and the children kept their appreciative audience entertained throughout. After the performance everyone walked down the hill to the Pre-school and enjoyed morning tea together. The children were so happy and proud to be sharing this special time together with their grandparents or special friends.

Our three year old Seashells looked adorable and each child had a small prop to wear. Some were monkeys, some ducks, even a doctor. They remembered all their actions and kept the audience entertained with their delightful repertoire of songs.

Many thanks to all our Grandparents and special friends, for joining us on the day. We hope you all had as much fun as the children did.

Terry Aizen, Director



Update from the Board

(excerpt from the President's Report 2011)

The School has maintained stable enrolments from Pre-school to Year 12. That said the Board remains more than alert to the economic challenges facing many of our families. We remain frugal in our approach and uncompromising in our retention of our talented staff.

The Federal Government Review of the school funding model was released earlier this year. The implication for the School and all independent schools is yet to be clarified.

The main focus of the Board is to ensure our Strategic Plan is being progressed including investing in enhancing our facilities to optimise the educational outcomes for our students.

The School's substantial building program is focused on bringing the facilities to a level that will make the learning environment an optimal one for students and teachers alike.

The next major project will be the replacement of the Primary School demountable building that abuts the new Kleinlehrer Family Science Centre with a new building which will simultaneously enable us to remove the demountables from the basketball courts thereby increasing our open recreational space.

Anne Hastings continues to lead from the front. She has brought many strengths to her role and there is evidence that her strong commitment to academic excellence is serving the School well. We were delighted with our 2011 HSC results, with close to 40% of our students gaining ATARs of 90 or over and we approach the 2012 HSC results with much anticipation.

Emanuel School is grateful to the JCA for its community leadership and the generous support it has provided Emanuel School over the years. This year Emanuel School again received tremendous support from the JCA.

We commend all individuals who volunteer their time and expertise to Emanuel School. They set a fine ongoing example to their children and grandchildren and are an invaluable part of the success of Emanuel School.

Message from the Parents & Friends

With a new Executive in place and goals of continuing to foster the Emanuel community and fundraising for a school bus it has been a very busy first half of the year for the P&F.

We kicked off the year with the annual Staff Lunch and enjoyed welcoming new families to Emanuel at the New Parents' Cocktail Party. This was followed by the Emanuel family outing to the musical *Annie* which was sold out and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

This year we combined the Purim Disco into a single event for the Primary school and had record attendances with the children all dressed up and enjoying the entertainment by Baraka and Kelly Sports, as well as eating their fill of hotdogs and hamantaschen.

Following hot on the heels of Purim we worked with the Jewish Studies team to provide the model Seders for all of the students and their families. The Sederim are a resource intensive event, which rely heavily on volunteers and we were blessed to have the support of so many of our grandparents to help us in ensuring these events ran smoothly.

Not even the torrential rain could dampen the spirits of the families who attended the first of our two camping trips this year and a great time was had by all.

Our Mothers' Day Breakfast and stall returned this year bigger and better and it was so wonderful to hear the sounds of laughter in the hall as over 300 mothers, grandmothers and children enjoyed breakfast prepared by Emanuel dads, under the watchful eye of the mums of course! The children thoroughly enjoyed being able to select gifts for their mothers and grandmothers at the stall and we hope you enjoyed receiving your gifts as much as we did ours.

We have benefited from the work of our grandparents from the Pryor family in the sale of Entertainment Books to raise funds for the school. The Mitzvah Meals program and the Wellness Club run by two of our mothers continue to grow from strength to strength. The Challah program which allows families to have challot delivered to school weekly for Shabbat continues to be enjoyed by many families.

The Uniform Shop team has benefited from the support of our grandparents in volunteering to assist us so we can continue to provide this essential service to our school community. We also had our first ever Uniform Sale on a weekend which proved to be a hit.

As busy as all this sounds, we cannot rest on our laurels as we are only at the halfway point this year both in events and fundraising.

The second half of the year promises to be as action packed as the first. We are organising a theatre outing to *Chitty Chitty Bang*, our Fathers' Day Breakfast & Stall, assisting the school with a uniform review, our camping trip, an Art Evening to remember and a variety of fundraising initiatives including the Coles & Woolworths shopping vouchers which we hope you will assist us with as well.

Thank you for your continued support of the School and we look forward to seeing you all at our Primary Grandparents' Day on 7 September.

Sharon Schulz & Susie Rosen,
P&F Co-Presidents



There are many opportunities to help our children. If you have a little time to spare and would like to help at School, please contact Sonia Newell on 8383 7350

From the Jewish Studies Department

Pesach Sederim

Term 1 ended with a grand finale of five different Sederim. Each Seder was unique in its setting, structure and educational purpose. Year K students, together with their parents, conducted the Seder, as they sat together and told the story of the exodus from Egypt. The students of Year 1 and Year 2 conducted a traditional Seder together, and performed the Pesach story mostly in Hebrew. Year 3 held a traditional Seder involving the students and their families, where parents, grandparents and other guests were invited to share in this intimate and special event. Year 4 students ran their own Seder in their classroom, without their parents. They researched aspects of the Seder and Haggadah prior and then reported their findings to the class. This research was documented in a modern style Haggadah which the students took home to use at their own family Seder. Over 150 students and parents from Year 5 and Year 6 attended our second family education evening which was aimed to give parents and students a sense of different ways a Seder can be enriched and experienced. All five Sederim were a great success, demonstrating how much the students had learnt and benefitted from their Hebrew and Jewish Studies lessons.



The Shorashim Project

For Shavuot we had K-12 students in the MPH for a Shabbat sing-a-long and Torah reading of the Ten Commandments. This was a good morning – led by the students, where we had the whole school together.

Last month Year 7 students and their families attended the Shorashim (Roots) Family Heritage Evening. This evening was a culmination of the students' work this term on a family heritage research project, based on the UIA Roots Project.

As part of their Jewish Studies course, students researched their family history and heritage. This process involved interviewing family members, creating a family tree, mapping their family's journey across the world and collecting old photographs and documents. All this material was then carefully and creatively presented in display albums. Students also researched a significant family artefact that reflected their Jewish heritage.

For the evening, students and their families were invited to School to view the 'Emanuel School Heritage Museum', where the students' projects and family artifact cards were displayed. Families then split into smaller groups to hear student presentations on their artefact.

The Shorashim Project provided a wonderful opportunity for our students and families to discover more about their family's history and heritage. As an Emanuel School community, we witnessed the rich diversity of the Jewish lives and experiences of our families. This project provided an invaluable opportunity for the students to learn more about their heritage.

Hagit Bar-On and Adam Carpenter

"Whilst doing this project I have learnt a lot about my family, my history and my ancestors. All of the lessons I have learnt from doing this project will reflect on my actions throughout my life. I will be more grateful and appreciative because I have understood what my ancestors have been through and how much I have, compared to them when they were my age." by Indigo Penn.



Schmooze with a Grandparent...

Jack & Myriam Romano

Jack, one of four children, was born in Cairo, Egypt in 1935 and his wife Myriam, the eldest of eight children, was born in 1939, also in Cairo. Myriam does not remember much about life in Cairo as a child except for the sirens during World War II and having to go downstairs during these times.

Jews began leaving Egypt from 1948 because of anti-Semitism and by 1956, they were allowed only two to three days to pack their bags and leave the country. However, as Jack had not finished his Mechanical Engineering studies at that stage, he was allowed to finish his course there but not to work, so they planned their move to Australia, where Jack's sister in Sydney was his guarantor and Myriam's aunt who by then also lived in Sydney after being in Adelaide for some years, was her guarantor. Myriam was aged 16 when she met Jack. Her school friend was to introduce her to a cousin (Jack) but chance had it that they met sooner whilst on holidays. Myriam at that time, told her friend she would marry Jack and in 1957, two years after meeting, they were married. Two weeks after the wedding they left Cairo, spending eight months in Milan, Italy, with Jack's family before their papers for Australia were in order, arriving in Sydney in 1958. Myriam's parents, who had moved to France by then, were also to emigrate to Australia with Jack and Myriam but unfortunately her father suffered a stroke and the Australian Government would not grant him entry. They stayed in Paris, where Myriam's mum, now aged 95 still lives. Jack's parents stayed in Cairo although all their children had left for various parts of the world by 1957. Both Myriam and Jack are fluent in French, English and Arabic and Jack also understands Italian.

Myriam is a qualified Kindergarten teacher but when she arrived in Sydney, speaking no English, she got a factory job as a finisher and machinist for four years. At the age of 37, after having children, she went to college to study and attained her HSC before enrolling at Teachers' College to become a Pre-school teacher.

Jack worked in Sydney as a mechanical engineer but when at the age of 57 was made redundant, he became a maths tutor. He still tutors from time to time.

"We have three daughters, Simone (Volonakis), Danielle (Sinani) and Michelle (Rutner) and seven grandchildren, three of whom currently attend Emanuel School – Jamie Rutner in Year 11 and his sister Dana in Year 8, and Jonathan Sinani – we call him Yoni, in Year 6. Jamie and Dana's older brother Harry finished Year 12 at Emanuel last year and is currently spending the year in Israel on the *Shnat* program. Yoni's younger sister, Tali is in Year 4 at Mt Sinai and Simone's daughters Elana and Leah are both at University".



Both Myriam and Jack have been involved with the Year 6 Project Heritage program now four times, first when Harry was in Year 6 in 2005, then again for Jamie and Dana and now for Yoni. "We would really like to help out at school on a more regular basis but Jack is currently recovering from major knee surgery and is not so mobile.....maybe next year!"

Jack and Myriam are very community minded – Myriam is an active member of WIZO Ayelet and she is working with the Sydney Jewish Museum Sephardi Showcase, especially researching into the little known area of Jews thrown out of Arab lands. She is also very involved with her family. In fact she claims family to be her number one hobby!! Myriam enjoys sewing, reading and painting, although she has not been able to paint for the past couple of years due to her asthma. Jack spends time helping older members of the local community at the Senior Centre based on the old Prince Henry Hospital site and he lists his hobbies as reading and doing crosswords, and of course his family!! Myriam and Jack were members of Probus for ten years, meeting regularly at Maroubra RSL until the site was sold and the group subsequently disbanded. They are members of Coogee Synagogue where two of their three daughters and their families also belong.

Myriam and Jack love the fantastic atmosphere of the Emanuel School campus...."the children are courteous and well mannered". They really like the secular education and pluralistic philosophy of the School, as well as the opportunities that the School offers its students, both from the point of view of subject selection and extra-curricular activities. Each time they have been involved with Project Heritage, where the students in their small group of about five or six, interview them about their life journeys, before presenting to an audience of students, parents, staff and other historians, they say these students have always shown great enthusiasm, asking appropriate questions whilst showing respect.

Would you like to join the Emanuel School Grandparents Club?

Contact Sonia Newell at Emanuel School to find out how
phone 8383 7333 or email snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

Little Shop of Horrors



In the last week of Term 2, a cast of 55 Emanuel School actors, singers, dancers and musicians dazzled a packed audience for three nights of performances of *Little Shop of Horrors*. This combined Drama and Music Department production represented more than eight months of dedicated rehearsal for the cast, band and production team, with the sold out performances

receiving rave reviews from the audience.

Three generations of the Klein family (left) attended Opening Night.



Happy Birthday!

On 15 May 2012, Mr Aron Kleinlehrer, Emanuel School founding member, Life Governor and generous benefactor, celebrated his 90th birthday with a morning tea of song at the School. He is pictured here with his three granddaughters.



Stay in touch with the Emanuel School Grandparents Club

Do you want to add or update your details on our Grandparents' mailing list?

Please complete this form and return it to the School at the address below, or send an email to

Sonia Newell at snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

Name

Current Postal Address

Telephone (mobile preferred)

Email

Grandchild(ren)

Name Year

Name Year

Name Year

Please return this form to:

Emanuel School Grandparents Club, Attention: Sonia Newell, PO Box 202 Randwick NSW 2031

We thank our Grandparents and Special Friends for their time and support in helping make Emanuel School such a special place and we look forward to your continuing assistance.

We believe the information included is correct at the time of printing. Any errors are regretted.



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