



EMANUEL SCHOOL

Grandparents & Friends

NEWS

December 2013

Tevet 5774

Vol 5 Issue 2

from the Development Office



2013 has been a really exciting year for Emanuel School. We celebrated the School's 30th anniversary with special events throughout the year. We also held our Capital Appeal in October to raise funds for a much-needed new building, which will

incorporate a Visual Arts Precinct, tiered performance space for 200 people, a Leadership and Learning Centre and eight classrooms. Numerous Capital Appeal events were held including our Grandparents Morning Tea, the amazing P-2 Gala Event at the School and the spectacular Year 3-12 Gala Event at the Angel Place Recital Hall in the City. Our annual Primary Grandparents and Friends Day at the end of August, combined with *Rosh Hashanah* and *Kabbalat Shabbat*, saw around 350 guests enjoy musical presentations by the students followed by classroom activities shared by our visitors and their grandchildren. See photos later in this newsletter, as well as reports about other events.

Sonia Newell, Development Officer



Capital Appeal Founders Morning Tea



Capital Appeal Gala Event



Volunteers Assembly



Volunteers Assembly

Volunteers Assembly

At the end of November we held our annual Volunteers Assembly, to which a number of our Grandparents and Friends helpers were invited so we could show our appreciation of them and all our volunteers for their time, input and support of our School.



Volunteers Assembly



Emanuel School is a member of the JCA family of Organisations



EMANUEL SCHOOL

20 Stanley Street Randwick NSW 2031
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EMANUEL SCHOOL Where the Individual Excels



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Grandparents and Friends of Emanuel School,

It was wonderful to see many of you at the Grandparents' function for the Capital Appeal in October. It gave you an opportunity to hear about the School's plans for our new building to replace the demountable buildings. We sincerely thank those of you who were able to show your support of our Capital Appeal and this project.

Our Gala events, both the P – 2 Concert and the Years 3 – 12 event, were outstanding and demonstrated the values of Emanuel School beautifully. Those who were lucky enough to be at either of these functions would have come away with a great appreciation for the efforts of our students and staff in bringing these delightful experiences to our community. There were many accolades sent to us in the weeks following these events, with so many mentioning the pride and joy they felt in being part of our School community that reflects and demonstrates so many important values. In addition, the Years 3 – 12 Gala event raised over \$1 million! If you missed this event you can purchase a DVD if you wish – just visit the School's website for details.

We have received amazing support from our own community and are so grateful to the generous donors who have contributed. At the Presentation ceremonies at the end of this year, we announced the success of our Capital Appeal. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of our community, we achieved our stretch goal of \$7.5 million! The Board has given the go-ahead for the commencement of construction of our new building. In the next newsletter I should be able to report that we are well underway with this major project.

The year has flashed by, with so many exciting events and activities for our students. Among our usual opportunities this year we have instigated a Homework club, three afternoons per week after School, where ex-students provide support and assistance to current students. This has been a great success and one that we hope to continue next year.

I wish you all the very best for the holiday period and hope that you are able to enjoy some time with your grandchildren.

Best wishes

Anne Hastings, Principal



GESHER Community Connections

As part of my responsibilities on the Emanuel School Board, I am also the Chairperson for our *Gesher* Committee.

As you may know, *Gesher* is the Hebrew word for “bridge” and from that word and its connotations we developed *Gesher Community Connections* – it really is the figurative bridge between the School and the wider Emanuel community. Through *Gesher* we connect with our Alumni, as well as Grandparents and Friends, both past and present. Under the *Gesher* umbrella, we also include external organisations that have an interest in our School.

Over the last year, the Committee has continued to evolve with more new faces and skills. We are continuing to leverage the great momentum built up during the Capital Appeal to solidify our links with the community. New initiatives this year included our inaugural city networking breakfast and developing stronger links with the Emanuel School Foundation. We are also working on our social media strategy – to enhance our alumni communications and to support Emanuel School links in the business world and broader community.

I look forward to working with our Committee to serve this important part of the Emanuel family, and welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have to enhance the services provided. You can read about *Gesher* news on the School website under 'Community'.

Daniel Knoll, Gesher Committee Chairperson

NINE AND DINE

**GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2014

We invite all alumni, parents, grandparents and friends of Emanuel School to this exciting golf afternoon and dinner at Bonnie Doon Golf Club, Pagewood. Bookings and secure online payment can be made at www.trybooking.com/EALV
Contact Sonia for further details.

Message from the Parents & Friends



Here we are with another year almost behind us. We are sure that like us, you have been caught up in the wonderful spirit that is Emanuel as the School celebrated its 30th birthday and of course embarked on the Capital Appeal. We were both blown away by the

performances of the children at the Gala Concerts and we are sure that for those of you who attended, you left full of nachas and joy in the achievements of your wonderful grandchildren.

Whilst the Capital Appeal has been the focus of activity, the P&F has been working in the background continuing to help weave the fabric of our Emanuel community.

Since the last newsletter our primary children enjoyed a very special Father's Day breakfast for dads, granddads and special friends. These breakfasts seem to get bigger and bigger every year and all who attended enjoyed a hot breakfast which was served up by our team of volunteer mums. The morning was capped off with some stretching from our Wellness Club before everyone headed off for their days with big smiles on their faces. The primary children then enjoyed selecting a gift for their fathers and grandfathers at our Father's Day Gift Stall.

Our camping trips continue to grow from strength to strength, and yet again, over 100 people experienced a magical weekend at the Colo River Valley. A great time was had by all from the Friday night *Kiddush* under the Emanuel Gazebo to the Talent Show on the Saturday night, which proved to be the highlight of the trip. The children loved roasting marshmallows by the open fire. What was most exciting was the number of new families who chose to participate. We have already locked in our dates for our first trip next year in March, and there is much anticipation for what promises to be another amazing weekend.

We would like to extend our thanks to you for your support of the Woolworths voucher program this year. Whilst the program ran for a significantly shorter time

frame this year, we still managed to collect in excess of 5,000 stickers and the School has been able to purchase some maths and science learning aids for the classroom which are being put to good use.

We hope that you were able to take advantage of the return of the Emanuel Theatre outings and will be joining us on our "Lion King" spectacular, which will take place in April next year.

We are excited to be making Glicks *challah* available as part of our *challah* program for next year. If you would like your grandchild to bring a Glicks *challah* to your *Shabbat* table, just place an order via this link and we can arrange to have fresh challot delivered weekly for you.

In early November, photographer Ofer Levy, one of our talented parents, held a Professional Family Portrait shoot day at Kornmehl as a fundraiser for the P&F, whilst also creating some wonderful memories for the families who chose to take part.

Our Uniform Shop continues to provide an essential service to our school community, and we would like to extend our thanks to our grandparents who volunteer their time there.

As the year draws to a close, we are edging ever closer to our goal of funding a new school bus. Since we started fundraising in 2012, we have managed to raise in excess of \$80,000, and we hope that by this time next year, our children will be enjoying their new bus.

We are busy preparing our calendar of events for 2014, and we hope that you will be able to join us at some of the many events the P&F has planned for next year.

We thank you for your continued support of the P&F.

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



Snapshot from Grandparents & Friends Day



Message from Kornmehl Centre Emanuel Pre-school



Grandparents are special

This year in particular has been a year of exceptional involvement from grandparents within our Kornmehl community.

Grandparents are evident and available in every aspect of our daily life at Kornmehl. The incredible part for us as educators is that we have daily contact with the grandparents in our Pre-school and get to know them very well. They are an integral part of life at Kornmehl.

From first thing in the morning to last thing in the afternoon, we see grandparents arriving and leaving with their grandchildren. This year in particular we had a number of grandparents volunteer their services in many other capacities. We had grandparents assist with providing lifts for children to and from Centennial Park each fortnight for our Bush School program. We had grandparents accompany the Seashells children on their excursion as well as join us on our bumper Bush School Family Day at Centennial Park. We had grandparents coming in to bake for various functions as well as coming in to share their knowledge and expertise with the children about topics of interest.

Involving and collaborating with family and extended family are a strong focus for us at Kornmehl and one that we emphasise strongly.

As Quality Area 6 in the National Quality Standard – Collaborative Partnerships with Families and communities states: *Effective relationships between educators and families are fundamental to the quality of education and care that children receive.* This highlights the strong collaboration and commitment we encourage and foster at Kornmehl with all our families – parents and grandparents.

Nothing gives us greater pleasure than seeing the delight on a child's face when their grandparent arrives to collect them or take them on an excursion or comes in to bake a honey cake for *Rosh Hashanah*.

What better way to continue with our strong Jewish traditions than through the eyes and wisdom of our wonderful grandparents? We thank you all for your support, help and contributions to our Pre-school program.

It was wonderful to see our pre-schoolers embrace the P-2 Capital Appeal Gala Event at School in October, where they performed on stage to a packed house of parents, grandparents and special friends of Emanuel School. The children learnt their lines and dance moves with gusto and confidence!!

We look forward to seeing our grandparents and special friends again next year.

Terry Aizen, Director



From the Jewish Studies Department

On 23 August, the Year K-6 students, their grandparents and friends celebrated *Rosh Hashanah*. The morning began with a *Shabbat* and *Rosh Hashanah* themed ceremony in the Multi-Purpose Hall, where students and grandparents joined together in song and celebration. Year 2 students performed a *Rosh Hashanah* themed play entirely in Hebrew, called the 'Hungry Caterpillar', where the caterpillar learnt the importance of saying sorry and the power of forgiveness.

The ceremony concluded with all the students turning to face their grandparents and together singing *Aveinu Malkeinu*. This was a moving part of the ceremony, which brought tears of joy and pride to many. Grandparents then accompanied their grandchildren to their classrooms for *Rosh Hashanah* related activities, such as *Shofar* making, *Challah* making, candle holders, *Challah* cover decorating and more.

The day concluded with a morning tea where grandparents, teachers and students were able to enjoy each others' company and to listen to the wonderful performances of the Junior Stage Band and Senior Stage Band.

In early November, Year 2 students and their families attended a special Primary School *Torah* Service and ceremony to present the Year 2 students with their own *Siddur*. This *Siddur* will be used by the students during their weekly prayers at School. In preparation for Pathways, each *Siddur* was personalised in a number of special ways. Each child composed their own prayer of thanksgiving and parents wrote their own special prayer for their child, both of which were incorporated in the *Siddur*. Before giving their child the *Siddur*, parents were led in the *birkat banim* – the blessing over the children. After receiving their *Siddur*, families recited the *Shechianu* prayer and the students sang *Adon Olam* and a Hebrew song of gratitude called *Todah*. This beautiful ceremony was followed



by hugs, kisses and the singing of '*siman tov u mazal tov*'. The pride and delight expressed by the children and their families over the giving of the *Siddur* were special to witness and one of those wonderful Emanuel School events. Families shared a quiet moment at the end of the ceremony to read over and share the special blessings they wrote. Year 2 students will spend the remainder of the term joining the Year 3-6 students for the *Torah* service and familiarising themselves with their *Siddur*.

Thank you to all the parents and family members who were able to attend the ceremony and for the love and care put into writing the blessing for their child. Thank you to the Year 2 teachers, Ms Yunis and Mrs Phillips and Jewish Studies teachers, Morah Becky and Morah Sandy, who worked with the students in preparing their *Siddur* for the ceremony.

During *Chanukah*, a number of our Year 6 students visited the residents of Montefiore Home, Randwick, including to some of the Living Historians for this year's Project Heritage.



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

Project Heritage

Once again, Year 6 completed an incredible journey during the Project Heritage Program. It is, without a doubt, the most intensive but rewarding program the children will participate in their Primary School years and certainly one of the most memorable.

This year we had nine amazing Living Historians, originating from all corners of the globe and each with their own unique life story to share. Some of the historians were grandparents, friends or relatives of Year 6 students and some were residents of Montefiore Home. For the first time ever this year, we actually had a participant who is a grandparent of one of our Year 6 teachers! Fay Bernstein is 97 years old and is the grandmother of Jacky Herman.

After a series of interviews over several weeks, the children then wrote a three-part biography which was incorporated into a booklet for the historian. The booklet also contained poetry, artwork and a variety of other written pieces relating to the historian's life. The project culminated in a beautiful oral presentation on Monday 16 September. Each of the historians was invited on stage, whilst the students in their group made an entertaining and delightful presentation about their life.

The special bond that was created between each historian and the students was clear for all to see. The presentation day was a moving experience for all who witnessed it.

Emanuel Principal Anne Hastings thanked the Year 6 teachers, Ms Nehama Werner, Ms Anna Economou, Ms Tanya Jeckeln and Ms Jacky Herman, for their superb guidance of the children during this project, the Year 6 children for their great interest and care taken with each historian and our nine living historians – Lotte Weiss, Cedric Amoils, Thea Riesel, Eliane Ben-Mayor, Anna Reich, Jack Greene, Fay Bernstein, Robert Rowland and Josie Lacey – who were so generous with their time and input to the students. We wish them all good health and happiness in the future and hope they will visit us again soon.



Schmooze with a Grandparent...

Thea Riesel

Thea Riesel, an only child, was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1924 and is the grandmother of Nikki, Jacob, Adam and Jono Riesel.

In 1934, the family went to live in Tel Aviv, Israel, which was at that time, still Palestine. Thea was put into a "Transition school", where a class was divided into three for most subjects. Those who spoke no Hebrew were taught in German (at that time nearly all migrants came from German speaking countries), those who already spoke some Hebrew came into the intermediate group and then the advanced students studied entirely in Hebrew. After a few months Thea's mother was advised to put Thea into a normal public school and take a private teacher for Hebrew, which she did, and Thea learned Hebrew much quicker this way. It was a big school with huge classes of about 60 pupils in each class. Thea often comments on the huge differences she sees with her grandchildren's schooling at Emanuel, with what they are learning, particularly in Jewish Studies, and the way they react to what they have learned.

The years in Palestine were good years, although many people at that time were not well off and could not afford even small luxuries, such as ice creams, movies etc. These things that our children consider "normal" were at that time big treats. Birthday presents consisted of clothing such as shoes, underwear and socks. Items you buy nowadays as you need them throughout the year were given on birthdays or *Rosh Hashanah*. But this was a very happy time.

In 1939, Thea and her family moved to live in Java, which was then part of the Dutch East Indies. But in 1942 the Japanese occupied Dutch East Indies and interned all white people in prison camps where they were kept till 1945.

After this liberation, Thea went first to Holland to study and six years later, in 1951, she migrated to Australia.

In 1955, Thea met and subsequently married Fabian Riesel. Their first child, Ruth, was born in 1957, and three years later came twin boys, Mark and David.

Thea became an accomplished violin player, and played until recently, with the Woollahra Philharmonic Orchestra. Thea says that music touches something inside her. She particularly likes listening to Mozart, Schubert and Beethoven. Thea also loves reading and



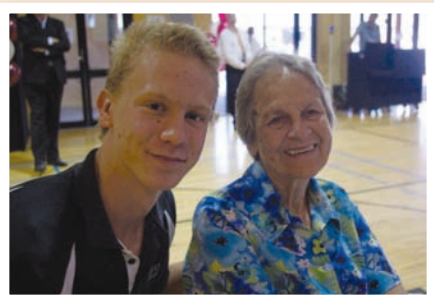
explains to her grandchildren that when she reads, she becomes friends with the characters. Thea attends lectures at Shalom College and participates in Melton Courses. Until recently Thea was a driver for the Centre on Aging (COA) in Woollahra.

Thea's relationship with Emanuel began 13 years ago when Nikki began Pre-school at Kornmehl. Since then she has notched up "36" school years at Emanuel, watching four of her eight grandchildren progress through the School. Thea has volunteered her time as a Living Historian for three of the four grandchildren who have passed through Year 6. Thea describes this as a very pleasant experience, both experiencing the children of Emanuel first hand, and also being able to pass on her experience of life first-hand, watching the children's expressions, and answering their questions on what life was like when she was a child. This involvement with the School has also shown Thea the opportunities that Emanuel offers her grandchildren, as well as the dedication of the teachers.

Would you like to join the Emanuel School Grandparents & Friends Club?

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

Capital Appeal Morning Tea



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 parking in our car park, which provides easy access to the lift and the Multi-purpose Hall (MPH).

Stay in touch with the Emanuel School Grandparents & Friends Club

Do you want to add or update your details on our Grandparents and Friends 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 & Friends Club, Attention: Sonia Newell, PO Box 202 Randwick NSW 2031

We thank our Grandparents and 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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