



EMANUEL SCHOOL

Grandparents & Friends

NEWS

December 2014

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from the **Development Office**



Welcome to the end-of-year edition of our newsletter.

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of another year, but what an amazing year it has been, with many *Gesher* Community events bringing together so many members of our amazing School in many different ways. Our recent Nine and Dine Golf Day, held at The Coast Golf Club brought

Gabriel Pallo, recently retired Head of Primary, back to join some of our parents, alumni and friends, and he

was, in fact, a member of the winning team on the day! We are so grateful to you, our Grandparents and Friends, for all your help and support throughout the year and we look forward to seeing you at events planned for 2015, including our annual Grandparents and Friends Day which we hope to hold in Term 3, to coincide with *Rosh Hashana* and *Kabbalat Shabbat* celebrations. Don't forget that you can see all past editions of this newsletter on the School website, www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au under "Publications".

A new initiative this year is our *Gesher* page in the weekly School newsletter, *Ma Nishma* – we invite you to send relevant information to snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au if you have any information you would like to share.

We wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing many of you back here at School next year, either volunteering and/or seeing your grandchildren participate in our many school events.

Sonia Newell – Development Officer



Year 10 students at Machane (camp)



Volunteers Assembly



City2Surf



Volunteers Assembly

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Emanuel School is a member of the JCA family of Organisations



EMANUEL SCHOOL

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EMANUEL SCHOOL Where the Individual Excels

From the **Principal's Desk**



Dear Grandparents and Friends of Emanuel School,

During this year we have continued to watch with great interest the development of our new building, to which so many of you contributed very generously for our Capital Appeal last year. From the Brender-Moss building and the Art Room courtyard, we have a wonderful view over the developing building and I'm sure that the builders feel like their every move is being watched! We followed the removal of the demountable as every piece was

lifted high into the sky and placed on flat-bed semi-trailers (all 16 of them) to be taken away. We watched as each truckload of dirt was taken away and were closely connected to it during the drilling of the bedrock.

Now we are marveling as the building comes out of the ground, level by level. They have recently poured the ground floor and it will quickly take shape from here. Hopefully in July next year, after the Term 2 holidays, we'll return to a completed building and be able to begin using it. It will be the main classroom building for Years 1 – 4, and also house a tiered theatre for 200 people, a leadership, learning and wellness centre, and an art precinct.

Our musical productions have been wonderful highlights this year. Recently we had the exciting Inter-House Music event in which all High School students performed. The House Captains arranged the music, choreographed the dancing and also led rehearsals along the way in lunchtimes over many weeks. Supported by the rest of Year 12 2015 and with enthusiastic singing and dancing from the Years 7 – 10 students, the end result of the performances was a real treat to experience. There was a strong spirit of pride, support and collaboration in each House, as well as a measure of friendly competitiveness.

The Primary School Production just recently was another triumphant event that showcased every student from Kindergarten to Year 6. It was a wonderful celebration of song, acting and dance. The children have been rehearsing for months, led by their class teachers and the amazing Music and Drama teachers. Their performances were confident and engaging, and the audience loved the whole show. Everyone walked away from both these evenings with a smile on their faces and great appreciation for the students' and teachers' efforts.

Earlier during the year we had the Nights of Song, Strings and Instrumental Music – all inspiring and entertaining events that showcased the musical achievements of the students from K – 12 and their teachers. Emanuel School now has 31 different musical ensembles in which students can be involved, from the many rock bands through the small instrumental ensembles to the stage and concert bands. It is wonderful to see the enjoyment that the students have for playing their instruments with others to produce the powerful, accomplished sounds of the combined groups.

I hope that you managed to catch a few of our musical evenings this year and also experienced the joy of watching and listening to young people playing and singing their hearts out.

I look forward, at the time of writing, to seeing many of you at our final events for the year, the Prize Presentations. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday period and hopefully, some time with your grandchildren.

Best wishes

Anne Hastings, Principal



Photo: Ofer Levy



Photo: Ofer Levy



Photo: Ofer Levy

Gesher

Connecting the Emanuel School Community

We are really pleased to see how the whole Emanuel Community embraces the life of our School and this bi-annual newsletter is just one way to let you, our Grandparents and Friends, know about so many of the great things our students, staff and other members of community have achieved both here at School and in the wider community. It was good to see some of you at our recent Volunteers' Assembly, where we had the opportunity to thank you and all our volunteers for helping throughout 2014, and we look forward to your continued assistance in 2015. We had more than 80 runners, including some grandparents, in the Emanuel Team for City2Surf in August. How proud we were, cheering from the sideline, seeing the many Emanuel T-shirts go past us en-route to Bondi Beach! We held another very successful Nine and Dine golf event at The Coast Golf Club last month, and our new building works are progressing well – you can see the time-lapse video and progress photos on the School website, www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

A new *Gesher* initiative this year, organized in conjunction with our Careers Advisor Claire Pech, was our E-Zone event for senior students, showcasing varied career stories within our community. Our four very interesting guest speakers were: David New, parent and *Gesher* Committee member – “Is online all it's cracked up to be?”, Vic Alhadeff AM, CEO of NSW Jewish Board of Deputies – “Can you earn \$\$\$ and still save the world?”, Winsome Bernard, past parent of the School – “Women in Business” and alumnus Gabrielle Rein (Class of 2004) – “How did I get here?”. Following on from the success of this event, we are planning one for 2015.

Our third *Gesher* CBD Networking Breakfast was held in the Boardroom of JBWere Sydney on the 42nd floor of the Governor Phillip Tower, hosted by Grant McCorquodale Board President. Close to 30 Emanuel parents from Preschool through to High School had the opportunity to meet one another and hear Anne Hastings, Principal, speak briefly about the HSC.....does it encourage thinking or rote learning? She showed some examples of the scope of major works that are undertaken by many of our Year 12 students for their HSC as well as a variety of sample HSC questions, some of which stumped the audience! Alumnus Joe Harris (Class of 2013) then spoke about some of his experiences and opportunities School provided him through his high school years and as a student leader, and how that prepared him for life at UNSW where he was awarded a Co-op Scholarship to study Electrical Engineering. Serena May, 2013 Dux of the School gave an enlightening overview of her time at School and the amazing efforts of our teaching staff for her and all the Year 12 students, especially during their hectic final year of School. She spoke eloquently about how she enjoyed all the opportunities student leadership at School offered, as well as the grounding and preparation all this provided for her to follow her passion of languages and literature at Sydney University, and life in general after School.

It is always wonderful to see the *nachas* your grandchildren bring to you and other members of your families and to the School, and how lucky are we as a community, to have so many of you share events such as School drama performances, Pathways ceremonies, graduation assemblies and Speech Nights, just to name a few.

We wish you a happy *Chanukah*, and look forward to seeing you again at some of our School events next year.

Daniel Knoll, Board member and Chair, Gesher Committee



Message from the Parents & Friends

With another year just about behind us, we cannot believe what an action packed 12 months we have had. How very quickly it has gone by, and we have to admit to breathing a sigh of relief as the year comes to an end whilst a much anticipated break beckons us all.

The P&F has continued to work in conjunction with the School and also very much in the background to help weave the fabric of our Emanuel community.

The highlight of the P&F calendar this year would have to be the Trivia Night which we hosted in late August and was attended by some 280 Emanuel family and friends all dressed and themed wonderfully. We were surprised at the numbers that attended as this has been a record number for this style of event at the School and the MPH was buzzing on the night. Although it was a big undertaking, utilising the skills of many of our parents from Darren Isenberg (Year K Parent) who was our Trivia Host to the parents on our Trivia Committee, we raised some \$27,000 from the event, which we are all exceptionally proud of and made up for the long nights of preparation. Fortunately we also had the support of many volunteers and parents, friends and family of our community who generously supported the event through gift donations.

Hot off the success of the Trivia event, we enjoyed another very special Father's Day breakfast for Dads, Granddads and special friends. These breakfasts seem to get bigger and better each year as we catered for some 300 people. The primary children then enjoyed selecting a gift for their fathers and grandfathers at our Father's Day Gift Stall, where there was a great selection of fun gifts to suit everyone.

Our camping trips continue to grow from strength to strength, and yet again, over 60 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.

Our Uniform Shop continues to provide an essential service to our School community and has had another great year selling pre-loved uniforms and raising funds for the School. We have some wonderful volunteers who go above and beyond the call

of duty each week selecting, maintaining and documenting all the uniforms that come in for sale and then again all the lost property items on behalf of the School. This year, Sara Landa who has been managing the uniform shop for some four years, will be retiring from her shop duties so we would like to extend a huge thank you to Sara for all her amazing work over this time – she will be greatly missed!

So as the year draws to a close and we reflect on the year gone by we also look ahead to 2015. Much is planned and we look forward to sharing details with you as the year progresses about our major P&F fundraiser for the year. This will be our Golf Day and we hope to have you join us.

Lastly, we can never quite close off the year without extending a very special thank you to you as Grandparents and Friends, for all your continued support of the P&F. We see so many of you helping us at various events and look forward to your continued support in 2015. We would also like to extend a huge thank you to Carol and Barry Pryer who, despite leaving the School as Grandparents, continue to support the P&F with the sale of the Entertainment Books.

Have a great summer holiday period with your family and see you in 2015.

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



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

Jilkminggan

In 2010, a group of teachers from Emanuel School visited the Northern Territory with a view to establishing a connection with a remote indigenous community. The aim of the trip was to develop an authentic educational experience of Aboriginal Australia.

In 2011, our first two trips took place. A group of eight Primary students, each with a parent, embarked on a nine-day adventure through the Northern Territory, with a focus on developing our relationship with the Jilkminggan community. Later in 2011, a High School group of 18 students also visited and further strengthened both the program and the relationship.

The Jilkminggan-Emanuel connection has gone from strength to strength with a total of ten Emanuel visits to the Northern Territory so far, involving 185 people from the Emanuel community. The highlights of the trip centre around the days visiting Jilkminggan School and working with the students on various projects, from Maths to billycart races, from swimming lessons to bush tucker walks. The trip also includes visiting magnificent natural sites and cultural experiences.

In 2013, we were thrilled to host our first group of Jilkminggan visitors to Emanuel School. Together, our students enjoyed shared activities, both on campus and around Sydney. The Jilkminggan students and teachers were billeted by Emanuel families and experienced surfing, a visit by the Indigenous Sydney Swans' players and an excursion to the Sydney Jewish Museum.

Thirteen of our High School students from Years 9, 10 and 11 visited our sister school in Jilkminggan in October this year. This was the fourth High School group to go on the trip and every year the bonds between our schools and communities grow stronger and stronger!

In mid-November, we welcomed 11 visitors from the Jilkminggan group to our School and community for their second visit to Sydney. They were billeted by three of our own school families and for this we say "Thank you". They had a jam-packed stay, visiting Bondi Beach, Skyzone, Taronga Zoo, Darling Harbour, the National Aboriginal Sporting Chance Academy and the Blue Mountains. They also shared class lessons with our students, made kites together, played footy, visited Centennial Park and La Perouse just to name a few experiences.

Here are some comments from Primary and High School students:

I learnt how lucky I am and how happy you can be, even when you have so little. I also learnt how differently people learn.
Mimi Silberstein



Over the course of the trip, I realised that the Indigenous people are so much like us in who they are but so different in what they do. Any stereotypes that I had were erased forever.
Mordechai Auerbach

The Northern Territory trip was an experience unlike any other. Every single activity we did was educational, fun and eye-opening. The highlight of my trip was definitely hanging out with the Jilkminggan kids. Whether it was working with them in the classroom or playing with them in the river, I had so much fun with them and they taught me so much. Eve Altman

Going on Jilkminggan was one of the most incredible weeks of my life. There are too many negative stereotypes and generalisations about Aboriginal people, and the trip highlighted for me how ridiculously superficial stereotypes can be. Now when I think about Aboriginal people, all that comes to mind are the amazing people I met during the Jilkminggan trip. The kids were some of the happiest and best people I have met in my life. I admire the way they love their lives, considering their circumstances and what they have. It made me think about what we value in our society compared to what the Jilkminggan children value in theirs. Jessica Lax

The people I met were some of the most beautiful people on the planet. They were so open and friendly. I feel like I made a real and human connection with these kids and I truly miss them. And on top of all this I formed relationships with the other Emanuel kids on the trip. It was one of the best things I've ever done in my 14 years of life. Asher Klein



Message from Kornmehl Centre Emanuel Pre-school



How lucky we are to be able to continually build and nurture relationships with grandparents of the children who are enrolled in our Pre-school. These special relationships are valued and appreciated on many levels.

Recently, grandparents accompanied us on excursions to Sculpture by the Sea and Bush School, as well as visiting for *Kabbalat Shabbat* or preparing dough for us to make *Challah* on a Friday. Grandparents are also regular visitors to birthday celebrations at Kornmehl.

Last term, we were lucky enough to have a grandparent Susan Sweller, bring along some wonderful artefacts from the Australian Museum related to snakes. This intrigued and fascinated the children, especially the opportunity to touch a real snakeskin and see how long it could stretch across the room.

We also enjoyed the pleasure of one of our avid grandparent gardeners Geula Burke, coming in to help plant new vegetables and herbs for our veggie patch. How excited the children were when they could pick the herbs and veggies and sell them at our Kornmehl shop to the families of the Pre-school.

We are privileged to have daily contact with grandparents and enjoy observing their special interactions with their grandchildren, and we hope to continue nurturing our bonds and relationships with grandparents for many years to come.

Terry Aizen, Director



What children need most are the essentials that grandparents provide in abundance. They give unconditional love, kindness, patience, humour, comfort, lessons in life. And, most importantly, cookies.
~Rudy Giuliani

Project Heritage 2014

On Friday 12 September, the Year 6 students presented their oral presentations for Project Heritage. It was the culmination of a full term of work, including interviews, biography writing and much more. The families of the students and the living historians were all in attendance to watch the memorable, delightful presentations the students prepared. Our living historians this year were Miriam Sonnenschein, Rose Novis, Elsie Weiss, Elizabeth Levy, Eleanor Saul, Paul Winter and Jack Romano. Here is a report on the Project, written by one of the students, Jamie Orleow:

Project Heritage was a busy and fun project that came with some small problems, but in the end it all came together. It all began with the first interviews with our seven groups and seven different historians. My group's historian, Miriam Sonnenschein, had a fascinating and fun life. We went back to the classroom and wrote biographies about our historian's childhood. The same thing happened for the next two weeks, but in the second week we learnt about our historian's adulthood and in the third week we learnt about our historian's values and achievements. The presentation was when we got to show our families and the other groups what we had learned. Each group performed a 6-10 minute presentation about our historian's life. My group spoke about my historian and performed a re-enactment of part of her life. Amber Langman also read a poem she wrote about Miriam, her grandmother. I liked listening to the interviews and writing biographies about my historian's life because I think I learnt a lot from it. I especially loved performing the presentation because it was good to tell everyone what we learnt from our historian and teach them about some of their life.

Overall, I loved Project Heritage and I'm so glad I got to take part in a project like this.



Miriam Sonnenschein



Jack Romano



Eleanor Saul



Elizabeth Levy



Elsie Weiss



Rose Novis



Paul Winter

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

Contact Sonia Newell at Emanuel School to find out how
phone 8383 7350 or email snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

From the Jewish Studies Department

Towards the end of August, Year 10 students attended *Machane* (camp) run by Israeli *Madrichim* and local youth movement *Madrichim*. The camp provided the Year 10 students with opportunities to learn about *Hadracha* (Jewish leadership), Israel and Judaism, and to reflect on their connection to Zionism. The combination of a fantastic year group and amazing *Madrichim* created a unique camp experience and atmosphere. We thank Kobi Bloom who was a wonderful *Rosh Machane* (head of camp) and the dedicated Year 10 tutors David Bartlett, Neil Furman and Miranda McMahon.

Some of the camp experiences included:

- A full *Shabbat* experience of rest
- Zionist Activism – creating an activist organisation that reflects Jewish and Zionist values
- Israeli Culture – experiencing aspects of Israeli culture
- Personal Identity – exploring and reflecting on the relationship with Judaism, Zionism and Israel
- *Hadracha* (Jewish Leadership) training and practical application.

Here are some of the students' comments:

"Year 10 Zionist *Machane* was undoubtedly the most amazing, inspiring, *ruach* filled camp I have ever been on. The year group bonded and learnt how we can use each other's strengths to be a team of great leaders. From the relaxed family group sessions with our incredible *madrichim*, to the enthusiastic *ruach* at nights, there wasn't one dull moment. We shared our opinions on Israel and Zionism as a whole, and I believe that this experience enhanced our individual connection to Israel. We can't wait to spread the *ruach* at school!" Sara Ehrlich.

"Zionist *Machane* is the best camp I have been on, and if you ask me why I can't tell you, because that's something you have to find out for yourself." Dana Rutner

"Zionist *Machane* has definitely been a highlight of my High School career. We arrived and I didn't have extremely high expectations, but the Camp exceeded anything I had imagined. I had the best time and was really surprised at how well our Year bonded over such a short period of time. The Year 9s should definitely start to look forward to it!" Jessica Lax.

The Shabbat Project, KeepingItTogether:

So many members of our community embraced and celebrated the Shabbat Project. We acknowledge the efforts a number of our staff and community made to supporting this project and leading our community involvement. Emanuel acting Deputy Principal Jewish Life Adam Carpenter and High School Jewish Studies Co-



Photo: Ofer Levy

ordinator Daphna Levin-Kahn, along with Marketing Manager Michelle Favero and Board Vice President Shira Sebban, spent many hours in meetings in the lead up to the event, in planning and preparing for the numerous activities.

Each family received a *Shabbat* Project show-bag; Primary School students and parents participated in "Create the Magic of *Shabbat*" at School, whilst the Year 3s baked *challah* under the expert guidance of the Year 10s; we had a whole-school *Shabbat* celebration on the morning of 24 October, and our *Madrichim* led activities at lunch time that day.

As outlined by Emanuel Principal Anne Hastings in *Ma Nishma* at the end of October, "as a pluralist, egalitarian, community Jewish Day School, Emanuel School supported the *Shabbat* Project to encourage Jewish people to experience the uniqueness of *Shabbat* and to engage with the Jewish community on a local and global level. As such, our approach to the *Shabbat* Project was two-fold:

- To promote and support the official, communal *Shabbat* Project initiatives, activities and events
- To provide a broad range of activities, educational opportunities, workshops and experiences for our students and families to reflect an open and diverse approach to observing and celebrating *Shabbat*.

Many families attended the Communal *Challah* Bake on the Thursday evening and our Year 5 choir sang at the Communal *Havdallah* Closing Ceremony on the Saturday night.



From the Jewish Studies Department continued

Shorashim Roots Project

Last term, Year 7 students worked on their *UJA Shorashim* Roots project, culminating in an evening where they displayed and presented their finished works. The Year 7 Jewish Studies teachers and Tutors lead and supported this project, which is an annual part of our students' studies. The students investigated the history of their families and where they came from. They investigated the lives of their parents, grandparents, great grandparents and other members of their family, allowing them to spend quality time with family members and learning so much about them in a personal way. By understanding their past and present and their connection to their cultural background and religious connections, the students are able to get a balanced understanding of who they are and how important their identity is.



The Eugen Drexler Memorial Essays

Some of you may not be aware that all our Year 10 students participate in this project. Here is some background information from sponsor, Paul Drexler:

"Most Holocaust survivors believe in miracles because that is the reason why we survived and are here today.

Sadly for me my father, Eugen Drexler did not survive. He was murdered on 3 May 1945 in the final disaster of World War II at Lubeck Bay, Germany.

The Eugen Drexler Memorial Prize was first awarded 20 years ago to a Year 10 student for proficiency in History.

Then in 1998 it became the Eugen Drexler Memorial Prize for Excellence in Holocaust Studies. I consider that all High School students should have the knowledge of the Holocaust. The history of the Holocaust and the researching of one's family or another survivor is the most effective way of understanding the subject.

Our younger daughter, Michelle was in Year 10 and completed the essay in 1998.

As a Holocaust survivor it is very important to me to see students pass onto future generations the atrocities of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust should never be forgotten and never repeated.

Several years ago the essays were expanded to include two further subjects to give the Year 10 students a wider choice.

At present there are three prizes awarded for Holocaust Studies and Jewish Heritage. These are:

- Journey of a Holocaust Survivor
- Wandering Jew – Australian Immigration
- A contribution to Jewish Community Life

I commend Emanuel School for participating in the Eugen Drexler Memorial Essay Competition. I have the utmost respect for the teachers' support and commitment.



I congratulate the students of Year 10 for their enthusiasm and dedication to the project. You have carried out the vital function, creating a legacy for future generations by recording the histories of the Holocaust and the experience of survival; narratives of life and of death during the Second World War; stories of displacement and migration; and accounts of the deeds of those who have made significant contributions to the Jewish community. The recording of survivors' testimonies is particularly important, as the number of Holocaust survivors is dwindling and the number of Holocaust deniers is increasing. One day, history will be all that is left to testify against those who seek to deny the historical truth and moral significance of these events.

I thank the teachers and students for their hard work and sincere application."

Paul Drexler

Proud Sponsor of the "Eugen Drexler Memorial Prize"



The following article by Shira Sebban, Sydney writer and editor, appeared first in the online publication, Eureka Street on 18 November 2014. Shira, mother of three boys who are all students at Emanuel School, is Vice President of the School Board.



Doing good and being happy.

I recently surprised myself by turning down a rare opportunity to attain what I had long considered my dream job. Having compromised my career for motherhood for many years, I had often compared myself to those I consider high achievers, judging myself as coming up short.

Yet here I was saying no. For weeks I had toyed with the proposal, feeling flattered. At last I felt needed by someone other than family and community. I could contribute to society at large. After all, my children were now older and surely able to cope. Doubts lingered, however. The job would be all consuming. Was this really what I wanted?

Then the realisation hit me. I rather liked my life. True, I had to juggle work and family and never got the balance quite right. But I suddenly saw how much I cherish the time I have to write, and the precious hours I spend with my children, who are growing up so fast, not to mention the importance I place on my voluntary work. I was not prepared to sacrifice any of them for another job, which I now recognised was no longer even my dream vocation.

That realisation has been a major step in my finding happiness. But not necessarily the emotional state of happiness, which Hugh Mackay in his 2013 book *The Good Life*, dismisses as 'the most elusive and unpredictable of emotions', but rather happiness in its original sense, meaning to flourish.

While Mackay doesn't like using the word 'happiness', lest it be confused with its modern, more selfish meaning of how you may feel at a particular moment, I don't see any problem in striving to discover 'the happy life', becoming fully and meaningfully engaged in whatever is on offer.

Like many of us, I have often thought that what really matters is what makes us happy. We're all going to die some day and few will long be remembered. So why not make the most of life? Indeed, didn't the Americans think so highly of the pursuit of happiness that they enshrined it as an inalienable right in the Declaration of Independence?

Rather than seeking external factors such as pleasure, wealth, or honour, Mackay, however, argues that we should aim to live 'the good life', by which he means being motivated largely by compassion, treating others according to the Golden Rule of how we would like to be treated ourselves.

'We ought to pursue goodness for its own sake... No one can promise you that a life lived for others will bring you a deep sense of satisfaction, but it's certain that nothing else will.'

In contrast, people of faith seem able to find an opportunity for growth, spirituality and meaning in every good deed they do and each bit of wisdom they acquire, apparently experiencing true happiness along the way. No wonder the 2011 Gallup survey found that the very religious are amongst the happiest in the US!

In other words, doing good can make you happy and when you're happy, you do more good. So happiness is actually a moral obligation.

As a child, my family urged me to find an interest in life to sustain me. Indeed, my grandfather lived as if on an insatiable intellectual quest, telling me, 'life is full of exciting curiosities, joy and deep feeling for the world's mysteries'. My family's view of life involved plenty of struggle towards a noble cause – a view former Commonwealth Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks has identified as a form of happiness: 'the happiness that comes from challenge, ... a life that has its setbacks ... there is fulfilment, passion ... and moments of exhilaration'.

Today my children are taught a broader idea of happiness. Influenced by positive psychology, their teachers get them to identify their 'signature strengths', which they are to use to lead engaged and meaningful lives. This reflects the ancient wisdom: 'Raise a child according to their way' (Proverbs 22:6). In other words, you need to concentrate on what works for you.

My children are also taught gratitude. As the ancients explained, 'Who is rich? The one who appreciates what he has' (Ethics of the Fathers 4:1).

Developing positive relationships is another area of focus. After all, we are social creatures who need connection through family, friendship and community. Surely such 'social happiness' is crucial to a society's survival. I certainly intend to continue focusing on relationships, finding meaning and purpose through work and community, and hopefully savouring many emotionally happy moments along the way.



"When we feel love and kindness toward others, it not only makes others feel loved and cared for, but it helps us also to develop inner happiness and peace."

The Dalai Lama



Schmooze with a Grandparent...

Leora Ross

The Ross family has been a part of our Community since the very early days of the School, starting with Leora's husband Eddie's parents, David and Agnes Ross, whose names appear on our Founders' Board in the Administration Building.

David and Agnes Ross came to Australia from Europe as Holocaust survivors. Their daughter Julie and younger son Eddie are first generation Australians and were both born in Sydney. Eddie originally studied architecture and now works in finance. He served on the School Board for a number of years when his and Leora's children were students here at Emanuel School, and was Board President from 1998 to 2000.

Leora was born in Israel, as her parents went to Palestine after World War II before coming to Australia when she was two years of age. She graduated from Sydney University as a pharmacist and then worked in retail pharmacy before changing careers, to teach English to overseas students and migrants at the Institute of Languages at UNSW for 16 years. She is now retired and at various times babysits each her five adorable grandchildren or just enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren together. Leora says "If we count Eddie's side, our grandchildren are third generation Australian! Australia has given our family wonderful opportunities and we feel optimistic that it will continue to give the next generation a safe and happy future. We also trust that the future generations will continue to contribute positively and productively."

"Three of our five grandchildren are now second generation Emanuel School students – Koby Michel in Year 2, Jemma Michel in Dolphins, Kornmehl and Kayla Strous in Starfish, Kornmehl. Tali Strous will be two next month and Bianca Ross was born in August this year. All three of our children attended Emanuel School and were *Madrichim* (student leaders) in Year 12. I am delighted that we can continue our association with the School now, with our grandchildren attending. When I visit the School, it feels like coming 'home' albeit to a more modernised version", says Leora. Twins Nikki (Michel) and Lisa (Strous) finished Year 12 in 1995 and both then studied law at university here in Sydney. Following their tertiary studies, they started a business together called "Pickles and Loop", designing and manufacturing their own ladies' pyjamas. Having recently sold this business, Nikki has now gone back to law.

Son Andrew completed Year 12 in 2000 and after university, worked at Macquarie Bank in Sydney and then in New York for a few years. He and his wife returned to Sydney a few months ago, in time for the birth of their first child, Bianca, who was born in August.



Leora has done a variety of volunteer work at School over a number of years – for a period of time she took reading groups in some of the Primary classes, and now occasionally she accompanies her grandchildren on excursions. She picks them up from school in the afternoons, and has helped out in the Wolanski Family Specialist Learning Centre with overseas students who needed extra help learning English as a second language.

"At present I am on the Board of Montefiore Home and feel honoured to be able to assist in enhancing the quality of life of our residents. I recently became a volunteer guide at the Sydney Jewish Museum. Both my late parents and my husband's parents are Holocaust survivors. I hope to help tour participants expand their knowledge about Jewish life and history including the Holocaust.

I previously volunteered doing Meals on Wheels and later, teaching English through the AJWS (Australian Jewish Welfare Society). The Russian Jewish Immigrants enjoyed the classes, especially when occasionally I took my son Andrew, who would help me and charm the ladies."

"What do I love about Emanuel School? – the family atmosphere, the fact that it is K-12 on one campus, the pluralistic approach to religion, the support given to children who may have difficulties and to those who would benefit from extension, the welcoming attitude to grandparents' participation in events so we can enjoy our grandchildren flourishing.

We are excited about the modern Science Block which opened in 2011 and are thrilled that the School and general community have come together to allow Emanuel School to build the present state-of-the-art development. The School seems to be going from strength to strength."

2015 SCHOOL DATES

- Term 1 Thursday 29 January 2015 – Thursday 2 April 2015
- Term 2 Tuesday 21 April 2015 – Friday 26 June 2015
- Term 3 Tuesday 14 July 2015 – Friday 18 September 2015
- Term 4 Thursday 8 October 2015 – Thursday 10 December 2015

In a Pickle

Towards the end of August, over 40 students, staff, parents, grandparents and friends gathered around the tables in the MPH to listen to a wise Rabbi, who holds a very special secret – how to make the best Brooklyn kosher pickles! Thanks to Jewish House, the organisation that brought Rabbi Pickle to Australia, hundreds of Sydney and Melbourne-siders, including members of our own community, learned how to make these kosher pickles at our very own pickle-making workshop!



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.

Thank you to our staff and other members of our Emanuel School community for your invaluable contributions to this newsletter.

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



Emanuel School is a member of the JCA family of Organisations



EMANUEL SCHOOL

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