



EMANUEL SCHOOL

# Grandparents & Friends

# NEWS

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## from the **Development Office**

**Another busy year comes to a close. Since our mid-year newsletter, grandparents, friends and other members of the Emanuel community have come to School for numerous events, including performances by our students of *Fiddler on the Roof*, the official opening of our amazing new Kleinlehrer Family LINC Building, the Project Heritage presentation, and our annual Primary Grandparents and Friends Day, just to name a few.**

Over 300 visitors attended Grandparents and Friends Day on Friday 11 September, sharing special time with their grandchildren in the MPH for musical presentations, *Kabbalat Shabbat* and *Rosh Hashanah* celebrations, before moving to the classrooms for a variety of activities including *Shofar* and card making. This was followed by morning tea and the Book Fair in the Triguboff Courtyard where some of the students performed Israeli dances, much to the delight of the audience. The children decorated goody bags filled with apple and honey for each of the grandparents.

Close to 80 players, including a number of our grandparents and friends, registered for our P&F Golf Day fundraising event at Bonnie Doon Golf Club on 29 October. What a fantastic day – the weather couldn't have been better! Following a light breakfast the players set off in their four-balls for 18 holes of golf, stopping along the way at the coffee cart on the first hole. Some went in golf buggies and others took the walk around the course in their stride. Through our generous sponsors, over \$28,000 was raised to help fund renovation of playground spaces for our students. See page 3 for more details in the P&F Report.

I hope you enjoy reading this latest issue of the newsletter. You can see all past editions on [www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au/publications](http://www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au/publications). We wish you a relaxing and enjoyable summer break, and look forward to seeing you again here at School next year.

**Sonia Newell, Development Officer**



Israeli dancing



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EMANUEL SCHOOL Where the Individual Excels



## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Grandparents and Friends of Emanuel School,

It was exciting to move into our new Kleinlehrer Family LINC (lead, inspire, nurture, create) Building at the beginning of Term 3 this year. We have settled into it very quickly and now it's hard to remember the campus without it. I hope that many of you made it to the official Opening at the end of August to view this new, multi-purpose building that includes Years 1 – 4 classrooms, a Visual Arts precinct, the Millie Phillips Theatre, the Angles Leadership and Learning Centre and the Wellness Centre. The students are loving it, especially the extra play space it provides.

We have started on our next building project already, with additional music practice rooms and a rehearsal space being built around the north-east corner of the Multi Purpose Hall, as well as a large deck under the trees at the end of the basketball court. We will also be renovating the old Art block into a Kindergarten space, and the Adler building into Years 5 & 6 classrooms, before removing the remaining set of demountables, our lovingly named 'X Block', sometime next year. We have plans to improve the playground spaces as well and will be renovating different outdoor areas as the year progresses. By the end of 2016, we should have an up-to-date and engaging campus that has lots of different play spaces and wonderful facilities for our students.

As we move very quickly towards the end of the school year, it's very gratifying to look back on all the initiatives and programs that we have implemented this year, including our new and very successful venture into East Timor, three trips to Jilkminggan in the Northern Territory, much activity through EActive and a great deal of learning across so many domains. If you were lucky enough to see our production of 'Fiddler on the Roof' in our own theatre this year, and/or some of the many musical events, you would also recognise that the dramatic and performing arts remain very strong. We are proud of our commitment to the education of the whole person and the many facets of the broad set of experiences in which our students are able to engage. 'Mind, Spirit, Being' is a motto that we live by.



It is wonderful to witness the very special bond between grandparents and grandchildren when we have events here attended by grandparents. To see the mutual love and interest is very special. We very much welcome all grandparents to our musical evenings, Pathways ceremonies, Prize Presentations and other such opportunities to see their grandchildren shine.

If you know other Emanuel School grandparents who don't receive this newsletter, please encourage them to contact Sonia Newell and register their details.

I wish you all a wonderful summer break with your families.

**Anne Hastings, Principal**



# Gesher

*Connecting the Emanuel School Community*

It has been a busy time since my last report in the June issue of the newsletter. It was wonderful to see so many of you attend our annual Primary Grandparents and Friends Day, at which this year you witnessed and participated in activities in our new Kleinlehrer LINC Building. What an amazing asset this building is to our School! Our recent Volunteers Assembly was, as always, a fantastic opportunity to thank all of our helpers. Some people could not make this event, but we sincerely thank all of you and hope you will continue to provide such a wonderful contribution to the life of our amazing School and community! We look forward to seeing you at the many events here on campus next year, after a well-deserved rest over the summer break.

**Daniel Knoll,**

**Board member and Chair, Gesher Committee**





## Message from the Parents & Friends



With another year almost behind us, this year has truly gone by a little too quickly as we reflect on all that has been achieved and the many changes that have taken place at the School. The Primary School children started Term 3 in the stunning new building which they are all enjoying so much. The Emanuel community should be proud of their contribution to various facilities, not only through the Capital Appeal process but also via various P&F fundraising activities throughout 2015, which continue to be directed to the enhancement of school facilities.

The second half of the year kicked off with our annual Fathers' Day breakfast hosted by Liane Fletcher and attended by 290 children, Dads & Grandads in the MPH. As well the Fathers' Day stall was expertly co-ordinated by Michelle Stockley and her wonderful team of gift organisers. The highlight of the P&F calendar this year was the P&F Golf Day which we hosted in late October and was attended by 76 avid golfers. It took a lot of planning, being the first golfing event the P&F has hosted for some six years, but what a wonderful day it was! The sun was out, everyone was in amazing spirits and thanks to the expert leadership of former Emanuel Primary School Head Gabriel Pallo, who commandeered the event, close to \$28,000 was raised on the day. The sub-committee consisting of Joanne Rose, Michelle Stockley, Sonia Newell and Gabriel, worked many late nights to make sure this event ran like clockwork. Thanks also goes to all our wonderful volunteers on the day. Sadly however, despite everyone's best efforts, no one managed to get a hole-in-one which would have won them a sparkling new BMW – maybe next time! The feedback has been tremendous and most importantly the community pulled together, showed extreme generosity through donations and generally made us all feel proud of the wonderful Emanuel community of which we are part.

**We thank the following people and businesses who supported this fundraising event with their sponsorship and donations:**

All Sorts	Mr Michael and Mrs Melanie America	Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce
BioPak	BMW Sydney	Chargrill Charlies
Conveyancing Solutions	ET Security Systems	FIIG Securities
Glenco Electrical Services	Goldman Travel	Good Food Kosher Catering
Harvey Norman Flooring Moore Park	Mr Brian and Mrs Olga Harrison	Katz's Food Factory
Midford, school uniform solutions	NEXA	Pacific Boating
Mr Gabriel Pallo	Mr Phil Favero, The Good Guys Rockdale	Power Golf Alexandria
Programmed Property Services	Quantum Partners	Ray White Double Bay
Stephen Edwards Construction	Synergy	Westpac

So as 2015 draws to a close and we reflect on the year gone by, we express great gratitude to all our wonderful volunteers. Each and every event is hosted by several of you in the community who offer precious time and support in many different ways.



We would like to bid Liane Fletcher farewell and thank her for five years of wonderful service putting together the Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day breakfasts for us all to enjoy. A huge thank you goes to Sonia Newell, who is the conduit between the School and the P&F, and ensures all our meetings are well catered for with coffee and biscuits, but most importantly does a great job on a daily basis.

Lastly, we can never quite close off the year without extending a very special thank you to you, our Grandparents and Friends, for all your continued support of the P&F. We see so many of you helping us at various events and we look forward to your continued support in 2016. 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 2016.

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



## Message from Kornmehl Centre Emanuel Pre-school

We are so fortunate to have experienced another wonderful year supported by all our Kornmehl grandparents. How special and lucky we are!

Grandparents continue to be involved in the daily life of the Pre-school in so many different ways, from accompanying us on excursions, trips down to Bush School, reading stories to the children, visiting for *Shabbat*, baking and cooking. We see so many of our grandparents on a daily basis at drop-off or pick-up time and they are truly an essential part of our Kornmehl family. We thank all our special grandparents for their support during 2015.

**Terry Aizen, Director**



## Jewish International Film Festival

From the end of October to mid-November, Sydney celebrated a wide variety of Jewish films at the Jewish International Film Festival.

One of the films, "Pockets of Hope", had its world premier screening here in Sydney on 1 November. This film was directed and produced by international award-winning Sydney based film-maker and Emanuel past parent, Judy Menczel, (mother of Zoe Menczel Schrire, Class of 2012). This documentary portrays Klezmer Diva Fay Sussman's moving story about returning to perform in Poland. It is about the Holocaust, about past conflict and relationships between Poles and Jews, about overcoming fear and anger, and about reconciliation. It takes a candid look at Poland today, involving a roller coaster of emotion.

[www.pocketsofhopemovie.com](http://www.pocketsofhopemovie.com)

There are numerous other Emanuel community connections to this film. Zdunska Wola, one of the towns featured, is the birthplace of the great-great grandparents of Anastasia Uricher (Class of 2015) and of the maternal grandfather of Shira Sebban, Vice President of the School Board. Alumnus Daniel Weltlinger (Class of 1995), an internationally-renowned violinist and composer, is a member of The Klezmer Divas and although he now lives in Berlin, Daniel travels back to Sydney a number of times a year to visit family and to perform here, most recently as part of *Zohar's Nigun*, a Jewish/Jazz ensemble. He spends much of his time in Europe travelling and playing with various ensembles and orchestras: [www.danielweltlinger.com](http://www.danielweltlinger.com)

The original music for this film was composed by alumnus Sam Weiss (Class of 2012), his first major composition for a full-length film.



Above: Daniel Weltlinger, Fay Sussman, Emily-Rose Sarkova, John Maddox  
(photo by Paul Green)



# Project Heritage 2015

Year 6 students held their Project Heritage oral presentations in the Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH) on 10 September. This year there were nine living historians who were proudly honoured by the students in their group. After several interviews earlier in the term, the project culminated in the moving dramatisations and videos presented on the day. It was clear that the students had made strong connections with their historians and memories of the project will last a lifetime. Our living historians were Diane Armstrong, David Reed, Anna Libter, Gitta Gold, Lotte Weiss, Lena Goldstein, Vic Alhadeff, Michael Rakusin and Eva Engel.



Lotte Weiss



David Reed



Anna Libter



Michael Rakusin



Gitta Gold



Lena Goldstein



Vic Alhadeff

## What's new in Jewish Life?

To quote Rabbi Daniel Siegel, Head of Jewish Life, "At Emanuel, we subscribe to the path of Abraham, the way of shared humanity. To be responsible is to hold ourselves accountable." **This term saw a new initiative, where the students write and deliver the Devar Torah each week.**

Here is Year 10 student Pnina Hagege's *Devar Torah* which she presented, together with Adin Ephraim, also in Year 10, during High School *Tefillot* (prayer service) on 16 November.



"Genesis, *Bereishit*, spends ten chapters on Jacob, *Yaakov*. But why so many? After all, only 11 chapters were dedicated to the period of creation until the Tower of *Bavel* and there are only 14 chapters on Avraham, the father of our people.

Well, this *parashah* begins with *Yaakov* fleeing out of Beersheva to *Charan* due to his brother's vow to kill him after a dispute between them. Although it may seem extreme, *Yaakov* did manipulate his twin, *Eisav*, by taking his blessing and birthright – a serious act of deceit. When arriving in *Charan*, *Yaakov* meets *Lavan*, the father of two daughters, *Leah* and *Rachel*. He soon falls madly in love with *Rachel* and promises to work for seven years in order to marry her. Seven years later, their wedding day arrived and *Yaakov* waited in a tent for his "wife-to-be", *Rachel*. Due to the dirty work of *Lavan*, *Leah* was sent to the tent and not *Rachel*. It is said, this is why the woman lifts her veil on her wedding day to show her husband her face. Like a perfect circle, the manipulation and disruption caused by *Yaakov* had come back to him. *Yaakov* then worked another seven years for *Rachel* and seven years after that to build a flock of his own to provide



for his family. When *Yaakov* cried out: "Why did you deceive me?" *Lavan* replied: "It is not done in our place to place the younger before the elder". *Yaakov* was the younger brother and after lies and deceit, he gained the rights of his older sibling. "*Yaakov*" is translated to "he deceives"... and he does so throughout his life. So does this make him deserving of the 10 chapters he received? Far from it. *Yaakov* even encounters G-d on his journey. This story is unlike that of the rest of the Genesis and other encounters with G-d. From what we know, *Yaakov*'s manipulative patterns don't make him worthy to speak to G-d. As said in Genesis: "The flocks bred in front of the (speckled and spotted) sticks and so the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted". Basically, *Yaakov* would place a stick in front of the sheep he was breeding and from there grew a new breed of sheep with spots and marks that were the exact colours of the sticks. This can be interpreted as a metaphor for when the effect of *Yaakov*'s actions became evident. The trail of lies he left was revealed. Were the spots just another miracle created by G-d? A pure coincidence? Or was it time that *Yaakov* was aware that the tainted marks he left were a permanent consequence of his own actions? Were the spots a symbol for the power of one's actions?

Whether you call it Karma, believe in a higher power or think it is just a coincidence, there is no denying that *Yaakov* and *Lavan* both received consequences for their deceitful actions."



## Year 2 Pathways ceremony

Year 2 students and their families attended a special Primary School *Torah* Service and Pathways Ceremony to present the Year 2 students with their own school *siddur*. 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 are incorporated in the *siddur*.

The service was a true Emanuel School community event, with the prayers led by *Morah* Gaida and our 'Mini Mad' prayer leaders. Three generations of Emanuel families participated in the *Torah* Service, with the Rosen family taking the *Sefer Torah* from the Ark and the Goldman family being called to the *Torah*. It was special to have Jeremy Glass read *Parashat Toldot* for us, which happened to be his *Bar Mitzvah Torah* portion.

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 *Shechiyanu* prayer and the students performed a beautiful rendition of *Adon Olam*. 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 spent the remainder of the term joining the 3-6 students for the *Torah* service and familiarising themselves with their *siddur*.

## Hebrew News

Week 3 of Term 4 was dedicated as Hebrew Week.

Each day began with the Word of The Day, which was displayed in staff and student restrooms, and sent by email to staff, together with a sound file for correct pronunciation.

Lunchtimes had a variety of activities, such as:

- Yoga Alphabet – students create a given word by shaping the letters with their bodies.
- *Banagram* in Hebrew competition.
- An Israeli movie screening at lunchtime in the Amphitheatre.
- Using the main chalkboard outside Brender Moss building as an interactive board for students' writing.
- Conducting a Hebrew activity for staff during the Morning Tea meeting: On Wednesday Primary staff learnt a *Chanukah* song in Hebrew about bringing and spreading Light, and on Tuesday High School staff had a Hebrew lesson. Winning raffle tickets provided movie tickets to an Israeli film in the Jewish International Film Festival.
- In High School assembly three short (two minutes each) Hebrew films, produced by our Year 8 and Year 9 students, were screened.
- Primary students enjoyed writing their names with cookie dough, then baked them and...ate them!
- Students were encouraged to order food from the canteen in Hebrew and were given a jelly bean when they did (not TOO much sugar).
- Hebrew was placed on various noticeboards, in the Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH) and outside the canteen.

**Ruth Harvey, Head of Hebrew**



# Schmooze, Community News

## Eat, Pray, Naches

Some of you will have already heard these three words together. In fact, some of you may have seen this amazing exhibition which was officially launched in September at Waverley Library. This Waverley Council project celebrates the area's Jewish community by preserving and sharing the stories of postwar immigrants and their families. The exhibition showcases the food, rituals and joys of Jewish immigrants from Israel, the former Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, South Africa, China, Egypt and other parts of the Middle East. It promoted their courage and optimism, despite hardships experienced, and explained how they found *naches* at places like Bondi Beach.

Quite a few members of our Emanuel community feature in *Eat, Pray, Naches*, including the MC for the launch, Susan Bures AM, whose three children Julian, Andrew and Jessica are past students, whilst her late mother, Mona Klein was a founder of the School. Current grandparents, Diane Armstrong and Eleanor Saul were also amongst those interviewed, as was alumnus Leon Goltsman (Class of 1990) who, as a Waverley Councillor was one of the instigators of the project, along with fellow Councillor Miriam Guttman-Jones whose son Adam Jones is a graduate of the School (Class of 2002) and daughter Michelle was also a student at the School. The list goes on! See [www.epn.org.au](http://www.epn.org.au)



Susan Bures AM



Dr Simon Holloway

## Shabbat Project 2015

I am sure many of you and your families participated in this fantastic event – *Challah* baking, *Shabbat* dinner and maybe one of the numerous Saturday afternoon schmooze sessions.

This year we had wonderful opportunities for both the High School and Primary students in the week leading up to and following The Shabbat Project weekend.

Students in Years K-6 had special programming and activities during Hebrew and Jewish Studies lessons to help enrich their understanding and appreciation of *Shabbat*.

On the Wednesday evening before, over 100 Emanuel High School students and staff braided, mixed and kneaded their way through the Bake Up Emanuel extravaganza. Thanks to Glick's generous sponsorship, each participant was able to plait and bake a *challah*, which was delivered to local senior citizens and homeless people the next day, and also to take home enough freshly made dough to bake two *challot* for *Shabbat*.

The Emanuel School community, from Kornmehl to Year 12, came together for a special *Shabbat* celebration on the Friday morning involving songs, music and *brachot*, and then at lunchtime there was Israeli music and dancing to help everyone get into the spirit of *Shabbat*. The following Monday morning saw the conclusion of our 2015 Shabbat Project festivities with a whole-school *Havdalah* ceremony.

Alumnus Dr Simon Holloway (Class of 1997) was one of the Eastern Suburbs *Shabbat* afternoon Schmooze speakers as part of the Shabbat Project. Perhaps you heard him speak? Simon says, "My

talk was called *A Fat Rabbi, a Gladiator and the Consequences of a Stupid Joke*. In it, I presented the tragicomedy of two 3rd century Palestinian rabbis, Yohanan bar Nafcha and Shimon ben Lakish. The former, while described as being enormous in girth, is also said (by himself, amongst others) to have been the most beautiful man of his generation; the latter, described variously as a former gladiator and as a reformed bandit, was a philosopher. The two, under curious circumstances and after a comic case of mistaken identity, become colleagues, brothers-in-law and best friends. Theirs is more or less a Talmudic bromance, but it ends tragically, and gives us pause to consider the importance of being careful with one's speech and of

respecting the feelings of others. Above all (and most importantly, in my opinion), the passage succeeds in touting the virtues of 'combative dialectics' – of heated argument on an issue of contention. Ultimately, watching what one says and respecting another's feelings does not preclude disagreeing with them strongly. For the rabbis of the Talmud, as for us, the important issue is how we argue: with the intention not of breaking down our opponents but of building up the topic that we agree is worth having an argument about."

Simon completed his PhD this year at the University of Sydney, with his thesis titled "The King is a Tree: Arboreal Metaphors in the Hebrew Bible". As the title suggests, it was an investigation into the use of tree-related metaphors in the biblical literature – particularly insofar as they stood for specific kings, or for the general office of kingship.

Simon has previously presented at *Limmud Oz* and numerous other community-based events. "Currently, I teach Holocaust at the Sydney Jewish Museum, Jewish history at Melton, and occasionally I lecture at Sydney University on matters pertaining to Jewish history, Biblical Studies and (when I am very, very lucky) the early rabbinic literature – which is my preferred field in Classical Hebrew and Biblical Studies. My research interests include the historical development of Classical Hebrew, the 'interface' between linguistics and literary criticism, and the Hebrew Bible as literature."





# Grandparents Day FreezeFrame



## 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 send an email to Sonia Newell at [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)

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.



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