



EMANUEL SCHOOL

# Grandparents & Friends

# NEWS

December 2016

Kislev 5777

Vol 8 Issue 2



## from the **Development Office**

I hope this newsletter finds you and your families well. Time flies – 2016 really has been a busy year here at School. Since our mid-year edition of the newsletter, the students have been hard at work, not just with their classroom learning, but also with other activities

including Project Heritage, which culminated in the presentation held on 16 September. The following week we celebrated Primary Grandparents and Friends Day which as has been an annual tradition now for a few years, included Rosh Hashanah celebrations and Kabbalat Shabbat.

I hope you had the opportunity to attend one of the three performances of *Seussical* by our very talented Primary students – such fun! The hours that went into preparation of the sets and costumes by staff and volunteers, along with all the rehearsals, truly paid off with such high-quality performances – well done everyone!

Many of our graduates leave this campus after finishing School to return at some stage down the track – perhaps to help with various school-based activities and/or for particular events, whilst others return as parents having enrolled their own children as students at the School. We currently have a very special group of five alumni who are now here as members of staff. The latest alum recruit is Daniel Samowitz (Class of 2004) who wrote an entertaining article in *Ma Nishma* titled “Jewish Life



*Seussical. Photo by Ofer Levy*



*Grandparents & Friends Day*



*Seussical. Photo by Ofer Levy*



*Grandparents & Friends Day*



*Grandparents & Friends Day*

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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

*Madrich*", which you can read now on page 12. Katie (Levenson) Narunsky, a primary teacher now, graduated in 1989, the very first Emanuel School Year 12 graduating year. She is also now a School parent with her three children enrolled here, which of course means her parents now return to School from time to time to see their grandchildren on the same campus where they used to come to see Katie when she was a student here! Talia Hynek (Class of 2008) is one of our Year 1 teachers whilst Genna Radnan (Class of 2009) is our School Nurse and Adam Ezekiel (Class of 2007) teaches PDHPE and sport.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and have the opportunity for a relaxing break. We look forward to welcoming you to events here at School next year.

**Sonia Newell, Development Officer**



Daniel Samowitz, Talia Hynek, Katie Narunsky, Genna Radnan and Adam Ezekiel



## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Grandparents and Friends of Emanuel School

It is a surprise that we are so quickly at the end of the school year. It has been a fast-paced and successful year. Our School has close to full enrolments and we are continuing to improve the facilities by renovating some of the spaces.

It was wonderful to welcome so many of you for Grandparents and Friends Day at the end of last term and I hope you enjoyed the morning with the children. They love having you at school and proudly display their learning to you. We were also pleased to be able to thank the large number of you who form part of our immense squad of volunteers at our Volunteers' Assembly a few weeks ago. Your contribution to our school is always very much appreciated.

This term we opened our new Kindergarten rooms – beautiful new, vibrant spaces designed especially for our small Emanuel students. Formerly the Nuns' laundry and more recently our Art block, the new Kindergarten precinct provides a cottage-like, welcoming atmosphere in two light and bright classrooms. The children excitedly began this term there, and are very much enjoying their new environment. Over the December/January break, we are hoping to install an engaging new playground for them in front of their classrooms.

We are currently in the process of renovating the classrooms in the Adler block, so that Years 5 & 6 can move in there at the beginning of next year. Because of plans to rebuild the High School Library and Museum building so that we have up-to-date Design & Technology kitchen and Innovation spaces, along with new classrooms and Museum space, we will keep our demountable building, lovingly termed 'X Block' until these plans come to fruition.

We are looking for some grandparents who might be interested in being part of a Grandparents' committee. This committee would initially meet twice per term to act as advisors to the Gesher committee in relation to connecting with grandparents within our community. The Gesher committee is the 'friend-raising' sub-committee of the Board, chaired by Daniel Knoll. If you are interested in being part of this committee, please email Sonia Newell on [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)

Best wishes

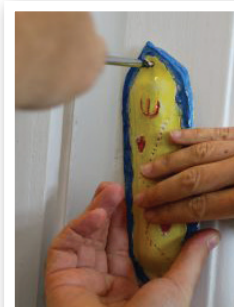
**Anne Hastings, Principal**



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2016



*Connecting the Emanuel School Community*

Gesher is the fun/friend-finding arm of our School community. It is under the banner of Gesher that a number of activities are organised for our wonderful community to embrace the life of

our School. We love that our Grandparents and Friends come to School to share in their grandchildren's activities, to hear beautiful music performed, attend the numerous very special events such as our Pathways ceremonies, as well as our annual Primary Grandparents and Friends Day. We also appreciate the time many of you give to volunteer here as well. We thank you for your contributions to the life of our amazing School and community and look forward to seeing you here again next year.

**Daniel Knoll,**  
**Board member and Chair, Gesher Committee**





## Message from the Parents & Friends

As the year closes, our children and grandchildren grow a little taller and wiser, while we reflect on another wonderful year as heads of the P&F and how the communal efforts of parents, grandparents and

friends of the Emanuel community have yet again come together with some great results.

The second half of the year kicked off with our annual Fathers' Day breakfast, carefully prepared by our wonderful team of volunteers, with fresh coffee and beverages supplied by BILLER Property. In addition to our annual breakfast, our Fathers' Day stall was expertly co-ordinated by Michelle Stockley and her wonderful team of gift organisers, who are always at hand to help at this time of year.

The highlight of the P&F calendar this year was the P&F Trivia Night which we hosted in late August and was attended by some 270 guests. This is the third Trivia event we have hosted and probably one of the best, raising approximately \$16,000. It took a huge amount of planning by our Trivia Committee and was expertly MC'd by parent Andrew Klein, who, as always, had the room captivated and entertained throughout the night. Each table was given a letter of the alphabet as a theme, so we had many weird and wonderful letter interpretations, ensuring the MPH was filled with colour and laughter. The committee spent many hours and nights preparing for the event, so a huge thank you must go out to members Jo Rose, Andy Bromberger, Jennifer Opit, Ruby Berkovic, Suzanne Itzkowitz, Michelle Stockley, Daniela Freed and Samantha Butt. We also need to thank the wonderful 2016 *Madrichim* who also volunteered their services on the night. We could not have raised the money without our sponsors and many in the community who donated gifts to auction on the night. Although there are too many to mention, we are always very grateful and appreciate every contribution.

Term 4 has been another frantic one with our second Camping Trip for the year at Cattai National Park organised by our wonderful Camping Co-Ordinator Lindi Bloch. Some 90 friends and family of our community spent the weekend enjoying the warm weather and all the wonderful natural amenities this camp site has to offer. Our camping trips have become a very well attended event with a group of regular die-hard campers together with new recruits wanting to experience this wonderful communal weekend. We have already locked in dates for 2017 to make sure no one misses out – the weekends of 24 February and 3 November.



We finished the term with another wonderful theatre outing this time to *Aladdin the Musical* at the Capitol Theatre to which we sold 170 tickets, with everyone enjoying a stunning performance. We are all looking forward to our next theatre outing. We always have large numbers of grandparents attending the theatre outings so please look out for our next one which will be mentioned in *Ma Nishma* and the next newsletter. A huge thank you to Lena Fridgant for organising the event and Michael Nebenzahl for securing great tickets that we all got to enjoy.

So as the year is almost at an end, it is time for us to say farewell as we retire from our roles as Co-presidents and to welcome two new wonderful ladies who will take our place and bring new and fresh ideas to the P&F. But before we introduce our successors, we have a few thank yous we would like to make. Over the past five years, we have had a wonderful, stable P&F Executive who have worked tremendously hard and often long hours



in addition to their 9-5 jobs and roles as parents. A particular mention must be given to Michelle Stockley, Jo Rose and Lisa Studencki, who have been around pretty much all the time we have (and more with Lisa) in their roles as Secretary, Volunteers Co-Ordinator and Treasurer respectively. Attending every meeting each month is no mean feat, so thank you.



We must also mention Sonia Newell who in addition to her other various roles is also the School P&F liaison person. She attends each one of our meetings with coffee, tea and biscuits which are always welcome. She photocopies, collates, prints and does a myriad of other tasks for us on a weekly basis. She has been a wonderful lifesaver on many occasions and a much needed helper on many more!

Thank you also to Marketing Manager Michelle Favero who helps us with our marketing materials and to PA to the Principal and *Ma Nishma* editor, Darryl Bourke, with whom we liaise on a weekly basis when writing for the School newsletter.



So at this point we would love to welcome Jennifer Opit and Ruby Berkovic who will be taking over the reins of the P&F in 2017. We could not have wished for two more enthusiastic and capable ladies to take our place, and with six young children between them, we wish them and the P&F team all the very best.

Thank you for being such wonderful and supportive grandparents and we look forward to seeing you in and around the School.

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

## Greetings from the Emanuel School Foundation

The Emanuel School Foundation Board is made up of parents and grandparents whose role it is to fund-raise for the School, with the emphasis on providing bursaries, scholarships and educational programs to students who would otherwise not be able to afford a quality Jewish education. The Foundation also provides financial support to further the development of activities and facilities across the School. All donations are fully tax deductible.

We are extremely grateful to Mr Emery Angles and to our other donors for their support of the Foundation during this past year. Their generosity will help ensure the educational future of children in our community, who are in need of assistance.



We look forward to sharing updates from the Foundation with you in the future.

For further information, or if you would like to make a tax deductible donation, please contact  
Jillian McCormick, Business Manager on 8383 7333  
or [jmccormick@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:jmccormick@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)



## Save the Date

MAR  
26

Jazz on the Hill 2017  
Sunday 26 March 2pm to 5pm

SEP  
15

Primary Grandparents & Friends Day  
Friday 15 September 2017

## What's New?

**Grandparent Committee – get more involved in the day-to-day life of the school.**

If you are interested in being on this committee, please contact:  
[snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)



# A snapshot from **Primary Grandparents & Friends Day**







# Message from Kornmehl Centre Emanuel Pre-school

*A Grandparent is someone with silver in their hair and gold in their heart*

Grandmothers and grandfathers have always enjoyed a central role in the family. Now more than ever, mums and dads rely upon grandparents in order to help care for young children. The roles that many grandparents take in the lives of their grandchildren are of critical importance and these close relationships help to establish togetherness within families.

For children, this strong bond helps to shape their personalities and behaviours. Grandparents show tolerance, unconditional love and understanding to a child. We need to recognise our elders as having a wealth of knowledge and experience that is relevant to our lives today.

At Kornmehl, we are blessed to be surrounded by grandparents on a daily basis. Our daily contacts with grandparents enrich our lives as educators as well as the lives of the children in our care.

Kornmehl Pre-school provides many opportunities for grandparents to become involved in our program. These range from accompanying us on excursions, trips down to Bush School, reading stories to the children, visiting for *Shabbat*, baking and Grandparents Day concerts. We also make time each year to visit the Burger Centre and sing and dance for the elderly visitors there. This is a highlight for them and for us.

Building connections to families is a special and valued part of our program.

We truly are very lucky to have the opportunity to build relationships with the grandparents who visit our Pre-school on a daily basis.

Many of our grandparents who are overseas are able to stay connected to us through the use of our online communication portal called EDUCA. We often receive lovely comments from grandparents about their grandchild's learning and experiences at Pre-school.

We trust and hope that the feelings are mutual and that grandparents equally feel this sense of belonging when they walk through our doors and a deep connection to the place, educators and of course the children.

Two special and valued grandparents have shared their thoughts with us too:

**Susan Sweller:** I love being involved with the children at the Pre-school. Apart from my personal pleasure, I know that my grandson, Nathan, loves having his two grandmothers there. I learn about what Nathan does in the place where he spends so much of his daily life, understanding better what he is telling me about School. These enrich our relationship. Thus I feel closer to him and more a part of his life. Bush School is a great time to see Nathan in his peer group and he can see a different side of his Nanna. Great for us both!

**Ros Shammay:** Volunteering at Bush School for the last two years has been a great experience for me. I have watched our Grandson, Nathan, grow & develop and become more confident. I have also seen how Nathan interacts with other children, which I don't usually see when we babysit at home, and how he has gone from being clingy to spreading his wings and playing with others. I look forward to volunteering at Bush School next year.

**Terry Aizen, Director**





# From the Jewish Studies Department

## 2016 Primary Grandparents and Friends Day.

On the last day of Term 3, we held our very special Primary Grandparents and Friends Day, welcoming around 300 visitors to share Kabbalat Shabbat and Rosh Hashanah celebrations with Year K-6 students. Principal Anne Hastings welcomed all the visitors after which Primary Head *Madrachim* Lily Berger and Myles Cohn as very confident MCs, introduced Charles Aronson, President of the Emanuel School Foundation. Charles gave a brief outline of the Foundation's role and the importance of having grandparents involved. Four generations of one family lit the *Shabbat* candles – Sue and Michael Finger, along with Sue's mother Faye Karet, their daughter Samantha Butt (herself an Emanuel alumnus of the Class of 1998), and her three daughters, two of whom are now students here in Years K and 2. Sylvia and Brian Lenny, together



with their five grandchildren as well as a niece and nephew, recited the blessing for wine. Then Linda and Manfred Salamon with their five grandchildren, made the blessing over the *challah*. The very special ceremony included a story from Emanuel Synagogue Rabbi Jacquie Ninio followed by a moving performance of *Aveinu Malchenu* sung by all the Primary School students. Everyone then moved off to the classrooms for a variety of activities including *Shofar*-making, *challah*-baking and *Shanah Tova* scrapbooking, creating lots of fun things to take home for the Rosh Hashanah table and as keep-sakes. A scrumptious morning tea along with some musical presentations in the Triguboff Courtyard concluded the morning. We thank the Music Department for preparing, conducting and accompanying the musical items, along with the Hebrew and Jewish Studies Departments for their wonderful organisation of the activities. A special thank you goes to Primary School Head of Jewish Life Adam Carpenter and Head of Hebrew Hagit Bar-On for all their wonderful oversight and planning of the day.

## Kindergarten Mezuzah Ceremony

Year K students began the new Jewish year of 5777 in style, spending their first day of Term 4 in the wonderful new Kindergarten classrooms. Over the years their beautiful heritage-listed building has served a number of purposes, first as a laundry for the Little Sisters of the Poor and then for many years as the School's Visual Arts space. This building is now dedicated to our Year K students. The Lynette Sandra Phillips Kindergarten has been named in honour of her loving memory by her mother Millie, sister Sharonne, brother Robert and their children.

The students spent the first days of term familiarising themselves with their new learning space and its beautiful nature-themed interiors of rivers, grass, leaves, trees and clouds. Year K teachers, Emma Buzo and Carmen Yunis are loving their new classrooms and look forward to lots of fun, creativity and learning with their students. The Year K students dedicated their new rooms by putting up beautiful student-made *mezuzot* and learning about the meaning and symbolism of the *mezuzah*.

Chloe Opit shared: "We put a *mezuzah* on an angle on our door because a long time ago people were disagreeing about how to put up a *mezuzah*. Some said it should be standing up straight, others said it should be lying down flat. A rabbi said: "You are both right. Let's find a win-win and put the *mezuzah* on an angle."

Nate Weinberger said: "We put the *Shema* inside a *mezuzah* to remind us of the *Torah* and to help us behave."

Rafa Kuper shared: "We put the *Shema* in the *mezuzah* so God blesses us and our family."

Saskia Esra said the *mezuzah* has the letter *Shin* on it because it reminds us of the *Shema* and of one of God's names, *Shaddai*."

**Adam Carpenter, Primary Head of Jewish Life**





## Year 7 Shorashim

"Ben Zoma says: Who is wise? One who learns from every person." Year 7 students have been working on their Shorashim Roots project. They investigated the history of their families and where they came from. The project is an invaluable resource for them and their families and is sure to be well taken care of for future generations.

This project leads the students to investigate the lives of their parents, grandparents, great grandparents and other members of the family. The interviews they conducted enabled them to spend quality time with family members and learn so much about them in a personal way. This project also allowed parents to share, enjoy and help their children celebrate their family. By understanding their past and present as well as their connection to their cultural background and religion, the students attained a balanced understanding of who they are and the importance of their identity. I am certain that this project afforded the students much wisdom about their families. It is my wish that they continue to be curious and investigate their heritage in the years to come."

**Written and read by Rebecca Gaida, (Jewish Studies) at the presentation evening.**



## Project Heritage 2016

On 16 September, we held our annual Living Historians Project, a unique opportunity that gives students an understanding of their heritage by enabling them to interact with members of the community, who are outstanding role models with interesting stories to share. This year's Living Historians were Ruth Barnett, Lena Goldstein, Robert Grynberg, Eddie Jaku, Kitty Lowinger, Gabriella Nash, George Nash, Katerine Passman and Vera Ranki.

Here are some comments from some of the Year 6 students:

Lilly Goldberg: *It was a very fun and engaging experience that we got to share with the whole year. It was interesting because we could connect with our historians and talk to them as if we were friends.*

Idan Peer: *I found Project Heritage interesting because we were able to learn about people who have been through so much and connecting with them was really fun. I really got to connect with*

*my historian and I learnt so much about him. It also helped me to overcome my fear on stage.*

Casey Fiori: *It was very educational and fun. It also helped me to understand more in-depth what happened during the Holocaust.*

Eden Glass: *I found it interesting to learn about my family heritage as my grandmother was my historian.*





# Sydney Jewish Museum



Yotam Weiner, Education Manager at Sydney Jewish Museum since 2013 is an Emanuel Alumnus (Class of 1998) and also a past member of staff, teaching here from January 2010 until June 2013.

He writes "as I am sure you are aware, our Museum education programs rely heavily on volunteer guides who meet school students in the Museum and teach them about the Holocaust and Judaism.

We have just launched a very large recruitment drive – we are operating a course next year to teach people how to guide in the Museum (details below) and I would really appreciate if you are able to spread the word. It is vital to the smooth running of the Museum that we recruit a new group of passionate, interested people. Feel free to spread the word among friends, family and colleagues! Historically, we have found that many people find it worthwhile to become a volunteer guide in the Museum during their retirement. But, we're not ageist and would love anyone who is interested and passionate to get involved!"



## Volunteer

We invite you to become a guide at the Sydney Jewish Museum. Our volunteers are a committed and conscientious group whose expertise, energy and enthusiasm help visitors to connect with the Museum in a deep and lasting way. By sharing their knowledge and personal experiences, Museum guides encourage our school and adult groups to think meaningfully about the past, the Museum and the world we live in today.

To become a guide, first complete our Generation to Generation Guide Course: a seminar series operating on Tuesdays, 28 February to 1 August, which includes historical lectures, artefact exploration and practical sessions on the Museum floor. Participants will learn about Holocaust history, Judaism, Jewish history, culture, tradition and the history of Jews in Australia.

For information and to apply click here:

[www.tinyurl.com/p3zxzah](http://www.tinyurl.com/p3zxzah) or email: [volunteer@sjm.com.au](mailto:volunteer@sjm.com.au)



## Tree of Appreciation and Celebration of Staff

At the start of Term 4, the School recognised the years of service of our staff. Each current staff member who has worked at the School for five or more years was awarded a certificate, whilst those with ten or more years' service, were awarded a "leaf" that was then placed on the tree designed by alumnus Joel Adler (Class of 2011). Here is a quote from Primary School teacher Anna Economou (20 years at Emanuel School):

"I just wanted to thank you and the wider school community for the recognition of all the staff members who have contributed to the School over the past five years or more. It was such a thoughtful and meaningful way in which to be recognised and I will personally treasure the experience, warm words and gifts, which the Emanuel community bestowed upon me and my fellow colleagues. Thank you for all the efforts you and your staff went to, to make it such a memorable celebration. I think it has again reminded us all just how special Emanuel is and why so many of us have stayed at such a vibrant and innovative place. What a wonderful way to end a day of collaborative learning and looking to the future."





# Schmooze with Gregory Krasovitsky...

**As this newsletter is for grandparents and friends of Emanuel School, I thought it would be a great opportunity to introduce Gregory Krasovitsky as our "Schmooze" for this edition.**

Gregory and his wife Marlene's sons, Michael and David are graduates of our amazing School, finishing in 2005 and 2007 respectively. Michael was Head *Madrich* in 2005 and is now a Medical Registrar at the Prince of Wales Hospital Group, whilst David is a qualified solicitor currently working with Gilbert & Tobin Lawyers. I met up with Gregory whilst playing bridge in Double Bay and when we realised the Emanuel School connection, Gregory told me he has retired and he would now like to give back to the School after all the amazing opportunities it offered his sons.

In early November, Gregory started coming to School once a week in a voluntary capacity, to take a small group of High School students for a maths session – teaching geometry, algebra and trigonometry in different ways to the current curriculum. One of the students, Joshua Amoils (Year 10) said "The problem solving and geometry that Gregory introduced me to showed me a new way of logical and creative thinking that I've never seen in curriculum mathematics. The development of this skill provides innovative and exciting solutions to problems. I am excited to work further with Gregory."

Michelle Lyons-Zwarenstein, Head of Mathematics says "Some people learn Mathematics and others are Mathematics. Gregory is one of those inspiring teachers who lives and loves his subject, talking Mathematics, thinking Mathematics and sharing Mathematics. Having Gregory as a mentor is only the beginning of the possibilities of us sharing the skills of this wonderful man with our extension students."

Gregory was born in a small town in the Ukraine and then his family moved to Kiev when he was only a few months old. His maternal grandparents perished in World War II and he knows not much more about them. His own father was aged 15 when War broke out, and his family was evacuated from Kiev. To survive, Gregory's father learned a trade as a mechanic repairing sewing machines. After finishing school, Gregory went to university in Kiev to study physics and mathematics, graduating with a gold medal. He became a teacher first of physics and then later of Mathematics, becoming Master of the subject and in his final year of teaching in Kiev being nominated the most popular teacher. In 1979, Gregory then aged 27, his parents and his younger sister and her husband, all left Kiev. 52,000 Jews left Russia that same year.

Gregory says it was painful to leave but they had no life as Jews, being unable to practise Judaism. He recalls one friend who tried to learn Hebrew but was stopped from doing so by the Secret Service which threatened serious harm should he continue. Anti-Semitism and persecution were rife. Gregory's family lost friends because of their religion and once they applied for immigration, they lost their jobs. Gregory says it was really hard to walk away from the school and students he loved, but he knew the family had no choice if they wanted to practise their religion.

They left Kiev, spending the next two weeks in Vienna before moving to Rome, where they lived for six months whilst all the official



paperwork was completed before they could come to Australia. They arrived in Sydney on 1 November 1979. This he says was a real cultural shock – he got off the plane at Kingsford Smith Airport and all he could hear was noise but no words, as he neither spoke nor understood English. For the next three months he locked himself in his room, learning English. He then took an English course at the University of New South Wales and then applied to the Department of Education for a teaching position. In the meantime, he had an official letter from Canberra to say his BSc qualifications from Kiev were recognised for teaching purposes and were deemed to be the equivalent of a Masters in Education. However, the Department of Education would not accept him supposedly because of his accent – he was told to get elocution lessons and then come back. He reapplied one year later again to the Department of Education for work as a teacher and was knocked back yet again!

After that he went back to UNSW and studied electrical engineering and computer science and before graduating got a job with News Limited as their IT Manager, staying there for a few years before working with the Department of Primary Industries as their IT Manager. He was with them for many years and only retired about six years ago. Gregory never stopped going through his Mathematics books over all those years, and his love of teaching the subject continued as he took on private students and of course helped his own sons during their school years.

Gregory met his wife Marlene in mid-1980 through mutual friends. She was born in Sydney, her parents came from Austria and Poland, and she attended Maroubra Bay High School. They were married on 17 January 1982 in the Yeshiva by Rabbi Pinchus Feldman, and then moved to Leichhardt. Their sons attended the local primary school but they really wanted a Jewish education for their children, something Gregory never had, so they moved to Randwick and enrolled the boys at Emanuel School in 1998, with David starting in Year 3 and Michael in Year 5. They both had their Bar Mitzvah at

**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**



Maroubra Synagogue, where their grandfather Max Silberstein was president for six years. Gregory never had a Bar Mitzvah but says perhaps he will have one when he turns 70! Life in Randwick was good – “as we live so close to the School, our house was a gathering place for the boys and their friends – that was also very special”.

Marlene holds a BA in Psychology, an MBA (UTS) and an Executive Masters of Public Administration (ANZSOG) and is currently undertaking PhD studies with the School of Government, University of Sydney, reviewing the Royal Commission. She is the Director of Willing to Work, the National Inquiry into Employment Discrimination Against Older Australians and Australians with Disability with the Australian Human Rights Commission. Marlene has worked in Commonwealth and State Government in a range of policy and operational roles, as well as a number of major public inquiries, including the Review of Women in the Australian Defence Force and the Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW. Gregory is fiercely proud of Marlene’s academic achievements as he is of their children’s.

Gregory, together with his sister, plays bridge regularly and he is also an avid yoga and meditation expert. He helps children to develop skills in meditation to enable them to study better. He is a member of the Great Synagogue and has volunteered there as a guide for High School students from all around Sydney as part of their comparative religious studies subjects.

Emanuel School, says Gregory, gave Michael and David a beautiful academic and social environment in which to grow, and they are still in touch with many of their school friends. They both thrived and embraced the life of the School on all levels – academic, music and student leadership just to name a few, and “now it is time for me to give back to the School as a way of saying Thank you! I want to share my knowledge with other gifted and talented students”.

We thank Gregory and all our volunteers for the time they spend helping us and our students. If you would also like to help us, please let me know: [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)

## The U in Emanuel

**I want to share with you, this article written by Head Madrich 2016/17 Max Woolf.....**

Fellow students, teachers

You might have been wondering about the mural on the far wall.

The *Madrichim* and House Captains came together for the first time late in Term 2. We were asked to decide what the focus of our time should be.

There were a lot of good ideas circulating, but through discussion, one principle was common to everything we were saying – the concept that you don’t have to be the same as anybody else to be valued at Emanuel. We want everyone at Emanuel to express their individuality.

We don’t judge you on your academic ability alone. We like that you play touch footy or netball or swim, are in the band, join the musical, sew on Tuesdays, visit Monte, volunteer at Respite, sing in the choir, support gender equality, that you’re kind to your friends, that you listen and hear your teachers. We are building a community of individuals, and we invite you to join us. We are putting the U in Emanuel.

This School is a place, which is made great by the contribution of individuals to the whole.

When we made the mural at the end of last term, we intended it to be a reminder. A reminder when you walk past that we value who you are.

And so when you pass that wall, we would like you to ask yourself: “What of myself would I like to see become part of this School?”

Help us put the U in Emanuel.



## A first at Emanuel School

Jake Green, the younger son of the Sylvia and David Green has just completed Year 12 here, whilst his older brother Ben is a graduate of the Class of 1999. Ben’s older daughter, Maddison (Maddy) is now enrolled at Kornmehl Pre-school. This means that Sylvia and David have been both Emanuel parents and grandparents at the same time this year – how special is that!

## 2017 SCHOOL TERM DATES

Term 1: Tuesday 31 January to  
Friday 7 April

Term 2: Thursday 27 April to  
Friday 30 June

Term 3: Tuesday 18 July to  
Wednesday 20 September

Term 4: Tuesday 10 October to  
Wednesday 13 December





## Our new Jewish life madrich

an article that appeared in the weekly School newsletter *Ma Nishma* early in Term 4.....

My name is Samo (Daniel Samowitz).

I was born in Johannesburg, South Africa and at the age of 14 I immigrated to Sydney. Emanuel School swiftly became my second home. Much has happened since then.

For the last eight years, I chose to devote my life to the Zionist dream, living and breathing an Israeli Jewish reality committed to bettering the State through youth educational activities for Israelis and also for Jews from around the world. My aim was to educate people from many different cultures and backgrounds to see themselves as vital members of the Jewish people and the Zionist movement. They were very rewarding years.

And, now I'm back ... The question I am asked most often, by virtue of my really weird accent, is "Where are you from?" Although geographically incorrect, and I apologise to the English teachers reading this, my answer is I'm Jewish. I choose to be responsible for the Jewish people and this is what brings me back to Emanuel School where I first learned about Mind, Spirit and Being.

I arrived at Emanuel in Year 9, joining the class of 2004, and in Emanuel I found the community, Jewish philosophy and lifelong friends that would give me the foundation to try and live a meaningful and good life. To this day I call the cohort of the class of 2004 my closest friends. There is no need for Sonia Newell to organise a reunion because we meet up every Wednesday night.

I have been involved in the youth movement scene for the last 15 years – here in Australia, in Israel and many Jewish communities in the world, especially North America, Europe and South Africa. I'm excited to bring back my passion for Jewish life, Zionism and informal value-based education to Emanuel students.

I believe that Judaism can be a powerful prism through which to lead a life of responsibility, happiness and meaning. Jewish values should be the foundation of a moral compass that will give the students an ability to be critical thinkers and exist in a rapidly changing world, whilst having the tools to deal with whatever dilemma is thrown their way.

Big questions need to be engaged with, such as "What should I do after school? What does Zionism look like in 2016? What kind of pizza do I like? What does Judaism say about racism?" And, most importantly, for students to have more personal and relevant answers for the age-old question "Why be Jewish?".

## 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 fill out the form below or send an email to Sonia Newell at [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto: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



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