



EMANUEL SCHOOL

# Grandparents & Friends

# NEWS

December 2017

Kislev 5778

Vol 9 Issue 2



## from the **Development Office**

I hope this latest newsletter finds you and your family well. As we approach the end of another year, we say goodbye to Anne Hastings as she retires, and we welcome Andrew Watt who takes over the reins as our new School Principal next year. We wish Anne all the best for the next chapter in her life, and thank her for her leadership over the past 8 years.

It certainly has been a busy year. Close to 300 visitors came to School on 15 September to celebrate our annual Primary Grandparents and Friends Day. This is always such a special time with the opportunity for our visitors to watch and listen to Years K – 6 students as they perform and sing for the audience and then go to the classrooms where together grandparents and the children shared time making meaningful Rosh Hashanah-related crafts. See photos on page 9.

On the first day of each school term, we hold a Staff Development Day for all staff. As reported by our Principal Anne Hastings "we were very privileged to be able to hear Dr Jordan Nguyen as our guest speaker for our Staff Development Day on 9 October. The day focused on using ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) to enhance learning. Jordan has been on ABC Catalyst, showing how he has helped a 13-year-old boy with severe cerebral palsy fulfil his lifelong dream of driving a car. Jordan led a team who developed the technology whereby the boy could steer the car with movements of his eyes. Jordan also showed us

some of the advances in virtual reality, which are having great success in helping quadriplegics bear their weight and learn to walk again. It was an inspiring morning, seeing Jordan's passion, enthusiasm and never-give-up approach to finding technological solutions for helping people with disabilities. He had many thought-provoking quotes, such as: 'Today we are seeing the fastest rate of change that has ever existed ... and the slowest rate of change that will ever exist in the future'."

At our most recent Staff Development Day, we also honoured staff members who have attained 5, 10, 15, 20 or 25 years



Tina Greenhill with Anne Hastings



Sandy Lipworth

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Emanuel School is a member of the JCA family of Organisations



EMANUEL SCHOOL

20 Stanley Street Randwick NSW 2031  
www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

EMANUEL SCHOOL Where the Individual Excels

## from the **Development Office** (continued)

of service to Emanuel School. We congratulate and sincerely thank the following teachers and support staff members for their commitment to our School and students over the years:

5 YEARS	Kobi Bloom, Holly Dillon, David Gwilliam, Simon Hamilton, Alice Henry, Sarah Jenkins, Heather Marshall, Jillian McCormick, Claire Pech, Genevieve Radnan, Diana Springford, Kim Woolf
10 YEARS	Santiago Alfaro, Daniel Burley, Andrew Delany, Natanya Milner
15 YEARS	David Bartlett, Peter Cummins, Marlene Einfeld, Lynn Joffe, Allison Lee, Alexandra Levy, Christine Rogers, Kim Slender, Lisa Starkey
20 YEARS	Tina Greenhill
25 YEARS	Sandy Lipworth



Each week grandparents, including Agnes Seeman, Susan Sweller, Denis Broit, Leah Bouganin and Martin Tabachnik, volunteer to take Reading Groups with children in Years K to 2, whilst others have accompanied teachers and students on excursions. We have even had grandparents participate in history lessons! Justice Stephen Rothman AM brought his judge's robe and wig to show Year K students. These are such special times for our students and their visitors!

We are truly grateful to those grandparents who have joined our Parent Safety Group (PSG).

Here is some information about this vital program that was sent out recently to new families starting at Emanuel School next year. We hope more of you, our grandparents and friends, will also get involved in 2018, particularly to assist with the afternoon shift, 2.45-3.45pm...



A key feature of Emanuel School is its community spirit and the willingness of parents to be involved. The School, in co-ordination with the Jewish Board of Deputies' Communal Security Group (CSG), has implemented a Parents' Safety Awareness program. Similar programs are in place at all other Jewish day schools. Our current global community exists under a heightened threat risk and our Emanuel community is keen to be more vigilant during these current times.



This Emanuel Parent Safety Group (PSG), comprised of parents and grandparents, provides additional eyes and ears around the school perimeter during drop-off and pick-up times. Those parents you see patrolling the periphery of the School every morning and afternoon play a significant role in assuring the safety of all our children and of our School. The importance of this service cannot be understated and cannot be duplicated by paid security guards. The presence of multiple people around the perimeter of the School during these busy times provides a deterrent against any potential threat. Since all school families benefit from having this service, it is expected that all Emanuel families should contribute to this program. The more people who can assist, the fewer shifts each person has to undertake.

The PSG commitment is currently only two shifts per term during the morning drop-off or afternoon pick-up and if every family contributed, the commitment would be even less.

There are no specific skills required and all training is provided. The PSG would appreciate it if you could volunteer your time 7:30-8:30am or 2:45-3:45pm.

To register for the PSG, please email [esadmin@sydpsg.com](mailto:esadmin@sydpsg.com) with your details and let them know your preferred week days and time slots. A member of the PSG Committee will be in touch to provide further details and make arrangements for training.

If you have missed seeing past newsletters, they can all be viewed at: [www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au/Gesher](http://www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au/Gesher)

I also encourage you to have a look at the Alumni newsletters using this same link. Here you will read about some of the amazing achievements of our graduates.

We love to hear your news and share it with other members of our community. Please feel free to contact me at [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)

**Sonia Newell, Development Officer**



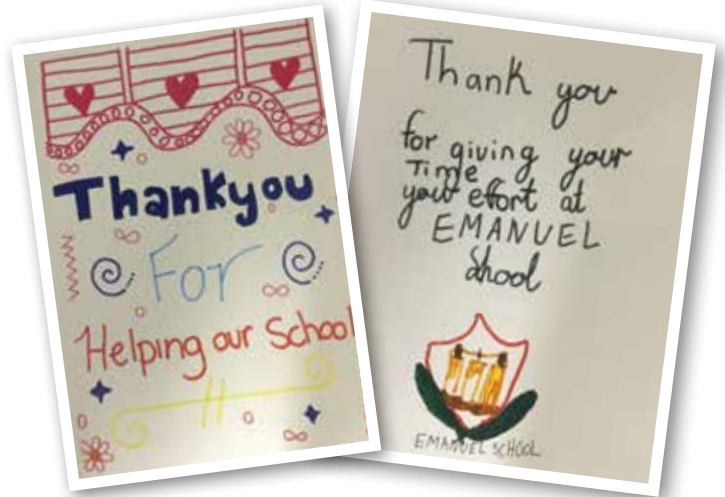


## From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to our second Grandparents' Newsletter of 2017, and my final opportunity to write to you as part of our regular communications with grandparents. You make up such an important part of our community and I have been grateful for the welcoming and friendly way in which you have interacted with me and for your very supportive connection to our School.

This year we have been very pleased to have instigated the Grandparents' committee, an offshoot of Gesher. From the success of their first event, it looks like this initiative is going to provide many opportunities for grandparents to be engaged with the School. One of the comments that has been made through this committee is that there are times when grandparents don't know whether they are welcome to attend the various events held at the School. Grandparents are very welcome to attend events that showcase the children, such as soirees, musical evenings, prize presentations, carnivals etc. We will endeavour to specifically mention that grandparents are welcome to attend when we are advertising such events.

I hope you enjoyed the Grandparents' Day last term. Your grandchildren certainly enjoyed having you here and showing you some of their learning. We are always looking to improve our events and would welcome any feedback that participants have for this purpose. We certainly know that our campus is not an easy place to move around for those who struggle with stairs and hills, and are working to make our events here more accessible by increasing the internal transport options. Hopefully things will be easier by the next Grandparents' Day!



In closing I wish you many years of close, mutually beneficial connections with Emanuel School and thank you so much for the support you have given me and the School over the past 8 years. I have every confidence that this wonderful School will continue to go from strength to strength under the leadership of the new Principal, Andrew Watt, along with the Executive team and staff. It is a very special place to be and it has been a privilege to have been able to have an influential role in the education of our young people as they move from childhood to the exemplary graduates we see leaving our School at the end of Year 12.

Best wishes

**Anne Hastings, Principal**

**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 or [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)**



*Connecting the Emanuel School Community*

As a regular reader of this newsletter, you know by now, that "Gesher" is the Hebrew word for "bridge" and Gesher for our School is all about "community". We are the link between School, our grandparents and friends, our past students and our past parents. We are in fact, the link to anyone with an interest in our School. We are very excited about the newly formed Grandparents Committee and it was great to hear about their well-attended first event on 27 August, where UIA Shaliach Adi Gefen-Adler spoke about Jerusalem, Islam and the Temple Mount. We look forward to hearing about the events this committee has planned for 2018. We truly appreciate all the help and support you, our grandparents and friends, provide to our wonderful School. Some of you attended our recent Volunteers' Assembly where we formally thanked parents and grandparents

who have so kindly volunteered their time during 2017 to help us in so many different ways. We hope you will continue to support us next year and beyond.

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank Sonia Newell, our Development Officer, for all her hard work throughout the year, assisting the new Grandparents Committee, the P&F and other aspects of School-life and community connections. Sonia and the whole committee did an amazing job organising our very special Primary Grandparents and Friends Day on 15 September. Our Community Connections page in Ma Nishma each week, features items of interest concerning a wide variety of members of our School community. Sonia's bi-annual Grandparents and Friends newsletters, as well as our Alumni newsletters, continue to showcase the wonderful life of our School and of our graduates. I encourage you to check out the Alumni newsletters too, and read about some of the amazing achievements of our alumni and their abundance of news. We love to hear your news too and would like to share it with other members of our community, so please send it to: [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)

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



## Message from **Kornmehl Centre** Emanuel Pre-school

In August we held our much anticipated Kornmehl Grandparents Day Concerts. We see this important day as a very special time to come together with the children's grandparents and deepen our connections with them. The older groups performed on the stage in the Performing Arts Centre (PAC) at Emanuel School, whilst the younger group delighted their appreciative audience with a relaxed informal concert down in the Pre-school. The children took pride in sharing all their special songs with their loved ones. The songs all had beautiful words and conveyed messages of love and caring for each other and for the environment. The enthusiasm and energy of the children could be felt in the room. The pleasure that our special visitors felt was evident in the smiles on their faces and the lovely time they spent together with their grandchildren.

Relationships with grandparents are things we treasure and value deeply at Kornmehl. How lucky we are to see many of the children's grandparents on a daily basis. Kornmehl grandparents have been



### **A NOTE TO REMEMBER**

If you have mobility problems and would like to come to the School for an event, please contact the organiser and they will endeavour to provide easy access.



## Kornmehl Centre Emanuel Pre-school (continued)

involved this year in many different ways. Some have come with us to Bush School, others have come in to bake and cook, some to read or share stories about their culture and history and some just to play and enjoy time together.

Now that I have become a grandparent to two very energetic and delightful boys, I can look from the other side and realise that these years together with our grandchildren are to be treasured forever. Time is precious and we need to make the most of each minute spent together before they grow up and head out into the big wide world. It is a great privilege to be able to engage and connect with our Kornmehl Grandparents so deeply and meaningfully.

***Terry Aizen, Director***





# From the Jewish Studies Department

Highlights from some of the events held over the past few months:

## Year 6 students' Project Heritage – 8 September

This was a magnificent showcase of student learning at its best. The children interviewed their Living Historians and spent the term preparing biographies, poems and a range of other resources to form the basis of their presentations. They learnt so much about world and Jewish history, values and traditions. These presentations were such special tributes to the historians and their connections with the children. Thank you to the Year 6 children, class teachers, Music, Art and Jewish Studies Teachers for bringing this project to life. Our historians this year were Liliane Cahn, Alex Fischl, Judith Gyenes, Yvonne Halas, Heather Joffe, Alice Loeb, Vera Rowland, Susan Speiser and Anne Winter.





# From the **Jewish Studies Department** (continued)

## **Primary Grandparents and Friends Day, celebrating Kabbalat Shabbat and Rosh Hashanah – 15 September**

This event is always a highlight in our calendar and it is heart-warming to see the children share Shabbat and Rosh Hashanah-themed activities with their special visitors. It was a beautiful way to end the week and begin our Rosh Hashanah celebrations. This was a huge success, with the MPH being full to capacity with loving grandparents and friends. The children loved having their grandparents with them in their classrooms and all the grandparents and friends enjoyed the presentations, songs and classroom visits immensely. Huge thanks go to Primary School Head of Hebrew Hagit Bar-On, Primary School Head of Jewish Life Adam Carpenter, Stacey Rosenfeld and Sonia Newell for their superb organisation of the morning. Thanks also to all of the Primary teachers for organising and running engaging lessons in the classrooms and for hosting such large groups of visitors so effectively.

**Natanya Milner,**  
**Head of Primary School**



Photo by Ofer Levy



Photo by Ofer Levy



Photo by Ofer Levy



Photo by Ofer Levy

## **Shorashim (Roots)**

The Shorashim presentations by our Year 7 students in the presence of their peers and their families made such an amazing evening. Parents and grandparents assembled to learn how their children and grandchildren, our Emanuel students, recognised and celebrated their family's past, while appreciating how it would firmly root them in the future.

That evening our students, in sharing the tales and journeys of family heirlooms, were, at the same time, relating the strength of family bonds, history and traditions. Our branches flourish where our roots remain strong. As we say of our people's traditions and our shared covenant, represented in our Torah, "It is a tree of life, to those who hold fast to it". We applaud our Year 7 students for their dedicated efforts in their מִשְׁרָשִׁים / Shorashim projects and their commitment to a future firmly rooted in a living past.

*(excerpt from a report by  
Rabbi Daniel Siegel in Ma  
Nishma)*





# P&F Report



Greetings from the Parents & Friends. We cannot believe that our first year in this role is almost over! What a busy and rewarding year it has been.

Last time we wrote an update for all of you we were planning our major fundraiser for the year, the Comedy for a Cause event, held in August. It was a night full of laughter and merriment! Our amazing Canteen opened to serve delicious food and everyone had a great time.

Our Father's Day Breakfast and Stalls were a fantastic morning. The School Canteen provided some of the beautiful food we had on offer and Biller Property supplied the Coffee Cart. We had hundreds of fathers and their kids come to our Superhero-themed breakfast and no one left hungry. Michelle Stockley and her team of Wonder-Parents manned the gift stalls with ease. Thank you so much to all of our spectacular volunteers!

Just before Rosh Hashanah, we were lucky enough to have three members of the Monday Morning Cooking Club (MMCC) come and demonstrate recipes from their new cookbook, "It's Always About the Food." It was an amazing evening with delicious food and great recipes! We were dreaming of ginger snaps for weeks afterwards.

This year we ran an online Auction and are so grateful to the Emanuel families who donated prizes. A special thank you goes to Emanuel Alumnus and current parent, Nikki Michel, for all her hard work in organising this.

We have had two camping trips this year, both organised by the fantastic Lindi Bloch. Lindi is an Emanuel Mum and a teacher at The Kommehl Pre-school. The Camping Trips are such an incredible way for Emanuel families to relax and bond outside of the School environment.

We have been so lucky this year to be supported by the amazing core members of our P&F committee, involved parents and grandparents and Emanuel School staff members. This School is a beautiful and nurturing community that we are proud to be a part of.

Thanks to all of you in the Emanuel Community for your support of the P&F this year and we look forward to more fun in 2018.

**Jen Opit and Ruby Berkovic, Co-Presidents of the P&F**





# Grandparents & friends day



Photo by Ofer Levy



Photo by Ofer Levy



Photo by Ofer Levy





# Grandparents Committee



On Sunday 27 August, we hosted the first Grandparent Committee event in the Angles Leadership and Learning Centre, with guest speaker Adi Gefen-Adler, UIA Shaliach. Adi is a tour guide by profession, a Captain Reserve in the IDF, married with two young daughters, and specialises in speaking about Israeli history and comparative theology. His chosen topic for this event was "Is Jerusalem Holy to Islam?" Adi had the audience mesmerised as he gave an in-depth history of Islam, as well as its emergence and the significance of its relationship to Jerusalem – all based on facts, not emotions or hear-say. The audience of around 40 people for this amazing session included not only grandparents but also current and past parents as well as other interested members of the wider community.

"Adi's talk was extremely informative and he was able to back up his comments with proof. He's a very nice and courteous young man and to give up so much of his valuable time for us, especially on a Sunday, was greatly appreciated." (Kathy Passman)

Grandparent John Sweller said "Adi gave a fascinating talk on the history of Islam and its relation to Jerusalem. He spoke with infectious vitality as he armed us with knowledge."

Co-presidents of this Committee, Tammy Keller and Kathy Passman, were very pleased with the success of the Adi Gefen-Adler afternoon and they look forward to holding some exciting events next year, including a walk through the newly renovated Sydney Jewish Museum early in the new year (Monday 5 March), and then a talk at the Montefiore Home in Randwick later in the year.

Kathy says "being a Co-president of this committee is such a rewarding role and I am so excited to share this role with Tammy. I would encourage grandparents who have some free time and ideas to join us in this venture and actively engage as part of our wonderful Emanuel School community."

If you would like to join this committee and/or have some ideas for future events, please get in touch:  
[snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)

Kathy and Tammy wish all grandparents and friends of the School a wonderful holiday, and look forward to 2018 with great enthusiasm for this new group.



## SAVE THE DATE



**MONDAY  
5 MARCH 2018**

**Morning visit to Sydney Jewish Museum,  
Darlinghurst, followed by lunch (optional)**

**Details out soon.**



Instead of the “Schmooze with a Grandparent” that usually appears in this newsletter, we wanted to share the following with you now...

## Embracing Difference in the Sukkah



Emanuel School recently welcomed refugees as guests to its sukkah, along with students, parents and teachers.

The School's sukkah was truly representative of a global community, with participants coming from Afghanistan, Canada, Chad, Chile, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, Romania, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, South Africa, and the United States, as well as Australia.

Year 12 student Tomer Belkin's welcoming words:

“Let me start off by saying... happy Sukkot, chag sameach. For a quick little tid bit, Sukkot is one of the 3 pilgrimage festivals. Sitting in the sukkah, according to the biblical explanation, commemorates the 40 years the Israelites lived in sukkot in the desert (for the most part, during their travels, they probably lived in tents, but at oases, a sukkah would be a welcome resting place). It also signifies the end of the harvest season during which time Jews would live out in their fields, in booths/sukkot, to better harvest their field and reap its bounty. One of the ideas behind Sukkot is the idea of impermanence. Staying in a sukkah for a week reminds us of the impermanence our ancestors felt in their desert wanderings. But it also reminds us of the moving we are constantly doing, physically and spiritually. This holiday serves to remind us of the importance of experiences, positive and negative, in our ultimate journeys. It reminds us that our material possessions, whilst to some extent important and necessary, are temporary. We should take solace in the relationships we make, and the things we feel, because there will come a time when we may no longer have what we do now. I may, for example, never see this chair again, but I know that there will be another time when I will be happy, or sad, or scared, or confused. Throughout our lives, our physical placement in the world will change, so let's enjoy the now, let's enjoy this wonderful dinner, each other's presence. Let's laugh, think, connect and feel not as two groups of strangers, but as one, collective, group of people.”

“You defined the sukkah as a place of refuge and protection and it was indeed a kind and beautiful gesture,” said Asif, a Hazara refugee from Afghanistan. “We laughed, we sang and we shared your food under the sukkah. To see people from different cultural and religious backgrounds under one roof sharing such a beautiful moment is not something we see every day in a lot of countries, but we can make it possible. I wish one day all humankind will come together and live in peace.”

Emanuel Year 12 student Sara Bortz agreed: “The Refugee Sukkah dinner has broadened my awareness that difference is not something to be feared, but is rather to be embraced.”

Traditionally the sukkah has been a place of refuge and a means of providing a sense of belonging for those who might feel marginalised, Emanuel School Head of Jewish Life, Rabbi Danny Siegel said. “Our guests appreciated the fragility of life as represented by the sukkah in which they were sitting. In embracing others within our sukkah, we felt embraced as well.”

After sharing personal stories, challenges and journeys over dinner, guests joined together in singing and playing instruments, led by Philip Feinstein of the Music for Refugees Project.

With English as the common language, among the many other languages represented were: Arabic, Croatian, Dari, English, Farsi, French, Hazaragi, Hebrew, Italian, Sinhala, Somali, Spanish, Tamil, Thai, and Urdu.

Former Emanuel parent Anna Buch, co-founder of Supporting Asylum Seekers Sydney, paid tribute to the School. “Thank you for including all of us in the lovely Sukkot dinner under the sukkah at Emanuel School. It was such a lovely opportunity to all be together from all walks of life and different cultural backgrounds. It is because of this diversity that I found the evening so warm and inclusive. I was particularly struck by the notion that the majority of our friends come from Muslim backgrounds and that for most of them the thought of being in a Jewish school surrounded by Jewish people is quite confronting and, according to their upbringings, frightening. However, as the night progressed, the babies were passed around, the singing continued along with such talented instrumentalists so that the differences between us just melted away and we were left with an interesting and genuine group of people happy to share stories and enjoying each other's company. It was an incredible accomplishment on the part of the School, the wonderful students and the outstanding teaching staff. A special thanks to Emanuel which remains steadfast in its beliefs and consistent efforts to encourage diversity and the human element. Well done everyone and may Emanuel School continue on this path with their open minds and hearts.”



## EMANUEL SCHOOL FOUNDATION

The Emanuel School Foundation aims to ensure that any Jewish child has the opportunity to learn and grow at our School by providing academic scholarships and bursaries for children from families that cannot afford a Jewish Day School education.

YOU are the foundation of our Foundation.

Through your financial support we will be able to continue to help students reach their full potential.

To support our Foundation, please contact the School's Business Manager Jillian McCormick 8383 7333 or email [jmccormick@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:jmccormick@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)

All donations to the Emanuel School Foundation are tax deductible.

**Charles Aronson, Chairman**



## 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.



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