



EMANUEL SCHOOL

Grandparents' NEWS

December 2011

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Vol 3 Issue 2

Welcome to the latest edition of Emanuel School's Grandparents newsletter, which now also includes a contribution from Kornmehl Centre Emanuel Pre-school – we hope you enjoy reading it.

We thank all our grandparent volunteers for their assistance throughout the year and look forward to their help again next year. We have had a fantastic year, with our best ever attendance at our Year K to 12 Grandparents and Friends Day on Tuesday 23 August – more than 400 very special visitors spent the morning with their grandchildren and young “grand” friends. (See more photos on page 4 of this newsletter).



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EMANUEL SCHOOL

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

EMANUEL SCHOOL Where the Individual Excels



From the Principal's Office

Dear Grandparents and Friends of Emanuel School

This year has been one of change and consolidation, my second year in this wonderful community as Principal. We shine as a school through our students, and through the valued members of the community who hold our students dear. Along with all of the singing, music making, debating, playing sport, public speaking, classroom learning and range of activities that our students have undertaken this year, there is a number of special programs of which we are particularly proud.

One initiative this year has been to enhance the authenticity of our education in and appreciation of Aboriginal heritage. We have developed a relationship, through an Eco-guide based in the Northern Territory, with a remote Aboriginal school at Jilkminggan. September and October of this year saw two groups of our students and teachers fly to Darwin to immerse themselves in Aboriginal culture and the

landscape of the far north, and to visit the Jilkminggan students. As David Whitcombe, one of the teachers who led a group on tour, said: 'The educational magic occurred the next morning when we returned to Jilkminggan School. We split into three groups and shadowed local indigenous students for four hours in their classrooms. Hour by hour the students opened up to the Emanuel students as they literally worked together on maths, english, art and craft, games, dancing and story telling.'

Martin Seligman, who is one of the founders of positive education, says that the most effective way to build a life where one flourishes is through being purposeful and meaningful. This is established when one moves out of their comfort zone and works for the good of others. Emanuel students have a very strong sense of community service and this year we have been further increasing their opportunities to make a difference in their community. All Year 9 students participated in a community service program, where one afternoon per week they went to different venues to help out. Our students regularly work with the Eastern Respite group, helping with the disabled children, and other groups go to Our Big Kitchen each week and Montefiore Home to assist there.

I hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and keeping in touch with Emanuel School. Best wishes for the holiday period.

Anne Hastings, Principal

P&F JOB VACANCY IN 2012

Our School Second Hand Uniform/Lost Property Shop is seeking volunteers to help run the shop next year.....if you have some time to spare and would like to help, please contact Sonia on 8383 7350.

Message from Kornmehl Centre Emanuel Pre-school

Every year at Kornmehl we celebrate Grandparents Day by inviting all the grandparents and special friends to visit us for a morning and spend time with their grandchildren. The children prepare a concert of all their favourite songs and confidently and excitedly perform for their special visitors.

The Seashells (3 year old group) performed at the Pre-school, delighting our appreciative audience with all their songs, rhymes and dancing. Some of these include *Five Cheeky Monkeys*, *Five Round Challot*, and *Naughty Mr Crocodile*.

The Dolphins and Starfish (4-5 year old group) worked collaboratively to perform on the stage in The Aron Kleinlehrer Performing Arts Centre (PAC). They are always so proud to be up on a real stage. Wearing their Kornmehl T-shirts they sing confidently, play musical instruments and even dance. Some of their favourite songs include *Catch a Falling Star*, *Mi Cuerpo*, *There's a Little Wheel Turning in my Heart*, *Od Avo Shalom*, *Bim Bam*, *Alice* and many more.

After the concerts, our special visitors joined us for a delicious morning tea in the Pre-school. They looked at all the beautiful art work on the walls and derive much pleasure and *nachas* from this time spent together.

We see this partnership with all Kornmehl grandparents as a vital part of our program, where we constantly strive towards working in partnerships with families and the community. As part of our community involvement, we take the children to visit the residents and regular patrons of the Burger Centre and Montefiore Home. The children sing and dance for them and it is heart-warming to see how our young children lift the spirits of the audience. The appreciative audience clap and sing along and enjoy interacting with the children after the performance. Our Kornmehl children astound us with their maturity and ability to chat freely with the residents and to truly make a difference in their lives.

We look forward to sharing these special times together again next year and being part of this exciting newsletter.

Terry Aizen, Director



Message from the Parents & Friends

This last semester of 2011 has been incredibly busy for Emanuel's P&F. Not only have we been involved in the usual events including our Fathers' Day stall and Fathers' Day breakfast, meeting the new Year K parents for 2012 and organising presents for the teachers but this year we have instigated three new events as well.

The first new event was an excursion for families to see the show *Mary Poppins*. In fact we chose this musical because one of our students, Ben Langsam was 'Michael' in this production. It was such a hit that we have organised to see *Annie* next year.

Every year in Term 4, the school raises money through an "a-thon". To coincide with this event, two weeks of health-related activities were organised, culminating in a cross country running event. During this fortnight the children participated in yoga,

Pilates and relaxation classes, laughter and meditation sessions, healthy eating and much, much more. It was wonderful not only to see how much the children learnt but how enthusiastically this "a-thon" was received throughout the whole community.

Our final new initiative was the inaugural school camping trip. In the second last weekend of November, over 110 parents and children camped at Cataract Scout Camp site for two nights. There was a communal Shabbat service on the Friday night, watersides, obstacle courses, and campfires, marshmallows to toast and songs and stories to tell. This was an amazingly successful event and we are now busy planning our next trip in March 2012.

At the start of 2011 our main objective was to enhance the feeling of community within the school and this semester we really achieved this goal!

The P&F wishes you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer break and we look forward to an exciting 2012.

Andy Bromberger, on behalf of the P&F Committee.

Would you like to join the Emanuel School Grandparents Club?

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

Update from the Board

- Enrolments remain strong and look promising for 2012.
- Together with the Principal Anne Hastings and her Executive, we have developed our go forward strategic plan which we have shared with our parent body.
- We have recently completed a Parent Survey and, with Mrs Hastings and the Executive, are currently analysing the resultant statistics/information.
- Our students continue to shine in multiple domains.
- We continue to support the enhancement of learning and teaching programs.
- We have endorsed the creation of new learning experiences for our students including the recent inaugural trip to an Aboriginal community in the Northern Territory. We hope to find a donor to help enlarge the program in 2013 so that some of their students can join us at Emanuel just as we visited them.
- We are enthused about the year ahead.

Year 2 Pathways

Year 2 students, parents and grandparents recently attended a special Primary School Torah Service and ceremony to present each Year 2 student with his or her own *Siddur*, to be used during weekly prayers. Each child composed his or her own prayer of thanksgiving and parents wrote their own special prayer for their child, both of which are incorporated in the *siddur*.



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

Grandparents and Friends Day

Sam Koslowski, Head Madrich gave this inspiring speech at Grandparents and Friends Day

To be honest, grandparents are just like parents, except grand! Sorry, couldn't resist. Grandmothers, grandfathers and special friends of Emanuel School it is my honour and pleasure to welcome you to Emanuel's Grandparents Day 2011. My name is Sam Koslowski, and I am the Head Madrich. A famous person once said "Children are nothing but the products of the after-school snacks, warm hugs, wise words, forgiving eyes and reassuring attitudes radiated by their grandparents." Actually, I must admit, that isn't an actual quote – in fact, I just made it up. However, I think the quote touches on something very special that only a grandparent can provide – simply being there unconditionally. The pure fact of you all being here today, taking such an interest in the education of your grandchildren is a testament to how much you mean to your grandkids, and what your grandkids mean to you. Now what I thought I would do is have a look at education today, and what might have changed since you were at school.

Let's start by what is different. The biggie first up – technology. The mighty computer, or smartboard, or phone or calculator. Especially here at Emanuel, a tech-savvy school if ever I saw one, our classes are dominated by technological influences. Have a look at my day today for instance. In my legal studies class I will be asked to get out 'my notes and my textbook', only to open up my laptop – whose name is "OJ" because it acts so stupid sometimes

– and simply open up both those documents. In maths, my teacher will show us working for a problem on the smart board, and then send us a digital image of his handwritten notes for us to refer to later. In ancient history we can take a virtual tour through the Colosseum, in English we investigate the deep theories of existentialist literature through a simple search. We organise entire barbeques for charity in an hour through ordering everything online, and not only that, but correspond with the charities we raise money for afterwards to see what difference we have made.

There are some downsides to the amount of technology. OJ has a habit of losing work when I most need it, deciding it needs a rest when I need it to be the most awake, and costs a fair bit of cash. I often question whether we can find the balance between having technology as the fantastic educational aid it can be, and not having it dominate our education. It stands as a testament to the strength of writing with a pen and paper that in preparing for our Year 11 final exams next week, a good chunk – if not the majority – of my year is handwriting their notes. There is still something special about writing down that quote, equation or fact that etches it into your memory more than a typed word, and I would not be surprised if we see a technological backlash in the near future, and a move from software back slowly towards hardware.

I think we are in a period of educational limbo – there is such discovery occurring that we must accept the inevitable; any growth requires a temporary loss of security. The bottom line is this: No number of digital textbooks, virtual tours or existential Google searches can replace a fantastic teacher, of whom we have so many here at this School.

For you all here today, this is undoubtedly something that has stayed the same. A good teacher has always, and will always, bridge the gaps of educational reform and progress. I am

sure you all have that one teacher who stands out in your memory as changing your life, or placing you on a path that you followed all the way. At the end of the day, the strongest memory you have of school relates to people. I daresay this is the case for you when you were at school, and that it will be the case when my grandchildren attend school.

In all honesty, I think the school environment has not changed that much. I just think that society has. We still send little notes to that girl we like, or have discussions with our friends about what we are going to do after we leave school, or tease each other over the one question in the test that we really shouldn't have gotten wrong, but did. And this is the joy of school; a timeless, cross-generational atmosphere of collective learning that I feel will not change.

Grandparents of Emanuel School, I have one request as I conclude my speech: keep being as important and supportive as you are. Grandchildren are the crowning glory of grandparents, and you should all be very proud of your grandkids – the Emanuel community is only a community because of that family feeling. I suspect that feeling comes directly from the unconditional love, kindness, patience, humour, comfort and lessons in life that we are using Grandparents Day to say thank you for.



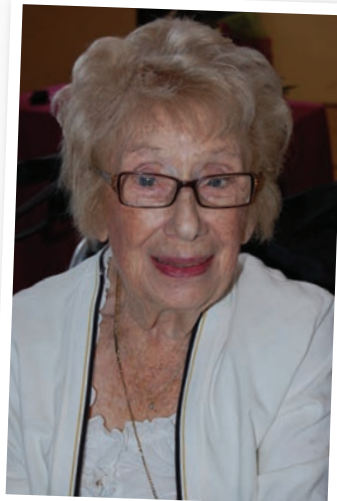
2011 Visitors to Emanuel School



Schmooze...

This month our *Schmooze* is a little different – we have not highlighted a current grandparent but instead, have chosen to focus on one of our amazing older volunteers, Netty Grant.

Netty celebrated her 90th birthday on 12 September 2011 and at our recent Volunteers Assembly, where we thanked all our wonderful volunteers, we made special mention of Netty's long-term contribution to Emanuel School and of her milestone birthday, presenting her with a special bouquet.



We feel privileged to have had such a long association with both Netty and her late husband Sid Grant. Netty has voluntarily worked for the School since its inception and can still be seen every Thursday working in the Library. She used to help by doing circulation and shelving of books and she now does accessioning of books for us.

Netty and Sid always enjoyed working for the School. Board members of Temple Emanuel, they were a part of the school community from its beginnings, from when it started on 2 February 1983 under Rabbi Brian Fox at Temple Emanuel, Woollahra where the Years K-6 School used to be based, through the move of Years 3-7 to Watsons Bay, and they were also involved in the development of the School at its present location in Randwick, where it opened in 1985.

In our Project Heritage collection we have details of their former lives in England. Sid and Netty who married on 29 December 1940, founded the Bromley Progressive Synagogue in South London, which is still flourishing. Sid was Vice-President of the Synagogue, President of the London Chamber of Commerce, and Chairman of the London Area of the Council of the National Chamber of Trade. We have a copy of the photo of the Ark that Sid built, and of the Bromley Synagogue, which the congregation purchased, and a copy of the invitation Netty and Sid received to go to tea with the Queen Mother.

Netty's son, Jeff Grant says "Netty is very honoured to have the tribute to her published in *Ma Nishma*, and now in this newsletter, being very proud of 'her' students of Emanuel. She is delighted that she can still be of service to the School. Both my parents, of whom I am immensely proud, understood the meaning of *tikkun olam* and did, and Netty still does, their best to achieve it".

Project Heritage Presentations 2011

The Year 6 Project Heritage unit of work is the largest project the students complete in their Primary School years. The students interview Living Historians and then write a three-part biography. They also complete other pieces of work such as a family tree, poetry, art work and much more. The project culminates with a moving, yet wonderfully entertaining set of presentations. This year, each group had their own unique way of honouring their Living Historian and the results were incredible.

We were blessed with a fascinating group of Living Historians this year, originating from many parts of the globe including Hungary, Poland, China, Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands and more.

This year a pilot program was trialed, where two groups used iPads to video the interviews. The end result was two wonderful video presentations which complemented the other oral presentations beautifully. Two musical items by the students were also highlights of the event.

The way the students tirelessly dedicated themselves to this project was a credit to all. Each one of them deserves a hearty *Maza/ Tov*.

We wish to warmly thank each of the Living Historians 2011 for sharing their lives with us: Ronald Coppel, Helen Miller, Lilian Elliott, Eva Feher, Dan Moalem, Henry Mendelson, Adrian Van As, Egon Sonnenschein and Stephen Baruch.



Stay in touch with the Emanuel School Grandparents Club

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

We thank our Grandparents and Special Friends for their time and support in helping make Emanuel School such a special place and we look forward to your continuing assistance.

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



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