



EMANUEL SCHOOL

Grandparents & Friends

NEWS

July 2014

Tammuz 5774

Vol 6 Issue 1

from the **Development Office**



Welcome to the first 2014 edition of our **Grandparents and Friends** newsletter, which we hope you enjoy reading. We look forward to hearing your news!

Gesher, our Community Connections, which links our School with the wider Emanuel community, including you, our grandparents and friends, really has come of age under the leadership of Chair and Board member, Daniel Knoll. Earlier this year, we held our first *Gesher* Nine and Dine golf day, which was attended by parents, alumni and grandparents. It was a great opportunity to play nine holes of golf and then partake in a scrumptious dinner, meeting new friends and catching up with old ones. We are planning another golf event for Thursday 13 November, so stay tuned!

After 14 years at the School, our Primary School Principal Gabriel Pallo retired at the end of Term 2. Please see page 10 for an interview with him.

Unfortunately, we will not be holding our annual Primary Grandparents and Friends Day this year due to the current new building works, but we can't wait for it to be completed so we can show off our new facilities at next year's Grandparents and Friends Day. The second edition of our Emanuel Business Boost Directory was released recently, so please check it out for business contacts within our own School community. You can find it on the School website, www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au under "News".

Second generation and going strong

It is so exciting to know that 20 Emanuel alumni, including three from our first ever Year 12 graduating year, the Class of 1989, are now parents of children at our School. Janice (Narunsky) Christie (Class of 1989), our first Head Madricha has two children here. Her son Declan is in Year K, having spent the past two years at Kornmehl Centre Pre-school and step-daughter Jade has just started in Year 9; Katie (Levenson) Narunsky (Class of 1989) has her three children at the School – Madison in Year K, Jake in Year 4 and Alexa in Year 7, whilst Claudia Maman (Class of 1989) has her son, Ethan De Melo in Year 6.

Emanuel School has come of age with 32 second-generation Emanuel students at the School ranging from those in Kornmehl Centre Pre-school to Year 9. It was their grandparents, some of whom will be reading this newsletter now, who chose our wonderful School to educate their own children and now those children are parents here!



Nikki Michel and Lisa Strous



Sam Butt

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Emanuel School is a member of the JCA family of Organisations



EMANUEL SCHOOL

20 Stanley Street Randwick NSW 2031
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Five of the children are currently enrolled at Kornmehl Pre-school, including first cousins Jemma Michel and Kayla Strous whose mums, twins Nikki Michel and Lisa Strous, are from the Class of 1995. Jemma's brother Koby is now in Year 1. Their grandfather, Eddie Ross was President of the School Board from 1998 to 2000. Our youngest alumni parent, Ari Shammay, was Head Madrich and Dux of 2002. His older son Isaac is now in his second year at Kornmehl.

Also just enrolled in Year K is Emma Butt, whose Mum, Sam (Finger), is from the Class of 1998. Emma's grandfather, Michael Finger was on the Founding Board of the School (see Schmooze on page 11).

Our March of the Living (MOTL) program received a generous donation from B'nai B'rith Sydney Masada Unit to honour the occasion of Harry Cromer's 100th birthday. This money will go towards a scholarship over the next four years, supporting deserving Year 11 students to go on MOTL, a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Poland and Israel. Harry, whose name appears on our original Founders board, and his wife Terry and their sons Peter and Tom visited the School with other members of the Unit and Co-President, Henry Krug OAM, presented Emanuel Principal Anne Hastings with the cheque. A world-wide organisation, through its membership base and network of volunteer supporters, B'nai B'rith, with its watchwords of Benevolence, Fellowship and Harmony, is involved in a wide

range of activities in the areas of human rights and anti-discrimination, promoting inter-ethnic and inter-religious understanding, social justice, community welfare, youth and young adults, senior citizens' housing,

education and health, and support for the State of Israel. Far from being concerned only with the Jewish community, most of these projects reach out into the wider world for the benefit of all Australians and New Zealanders. Many of our grandparents are members of B'nai B'rith and over the years, our School has developed a longstanding association with this organisation through, for example, debating competitions and community programs such as Courage to Care.

I wonder how many grandparents have seen the "Founders of Emanuel School" board in our Administration Building? Come and have a look next time you visit the School. I am sure you will recognise names of many families still associated with the School today – perhaps even your own!

Sonia Newell – Development Officer



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Grandparents and Friends of Emanuel School,

This year began with the excitement of the removal of our D-Block demountable building and the start of the construction of the new four-level, multi-purpose building. All the planning and preparation that had been done at the end of 2013 and over the holidays ensured that we were ready for the reduced space and the whole School got used to working around the closed off area very quickly. At the time of writing, the excavation is still underway and we are looking forward to seeing the building emerge from the depths of the hole. The progress of the building is being 'supervised' from the balconies of the Brender-Moss by some of our very interested students and staff.



This term we were very pleased to take delivery of our new bus, a result of the fund-raising efforts of the Parents & Friends over the past two years. This 25-seater will be a very convenient way of moving groups of our students around, for excursions, sporting events and other activities.

EActive began this year in the High School and there is a wide range of activities on offer for students outside school hours, such as the usual representative sports (touch, basketball, tennis, soccer, futsal etc), along with the more recreational activities such as paddle

boarding, surfing, kayaking, parkour and yoga. EActive has been very popular since its inception, with close to 300 activities chosen by students each term. We are also working on increasing the sporting and activity options for our Primary School students, and have installed a running track at the School, along the inside of the Avoca Street fence, as another facility that students can use to help them keep fit.

Visitors to our School will notice our new sculptures next to 'Waxman Drive'. The statues represent our reason for being here, our students. There is a tall young man who is close to the end of his school education, representing an Emanuel School graduate, and a young girl who is still in Primary School, representing a student who is on the journey towards adulthood. Dressed in school uniform they hold a *havdallah* candle and a *Kiddush* cup, parts of the *Havdallah* ceremony that marks the end of *Shabbat* and the start of the new week. All together our new sculptures symbolise our hope and faith in the next generation of young people who are the future of Australia and the Jewish people. We are very grateful to well-known local sculptors Gillie and Marc, and to Ms Greta Silvers, for their very generous donations to make our new sculptures a reality.



Along with all this excitement and novelty, we continue to focus on our students' learning as the most important part of what we do as a school. I hope that you are all well and happy and that we see you at the School in the near future at one of the many opportunities there are to see the product of your grandchildren's learning.

Best wishes

Anne Hastings, Principal

GESHER Community Connections

The *Gesher* Committee continues to look at ways to build bridges to ALL *Gesher* members (alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents and friends, past staff, and anyone else with an interest in the School). We have already held some very successful events this year, including our inaugural Golf Day (Nine and Dine) at Bonnie Doon in February. We are planning another golf day for Thursday 13 November, and hope to see more grandparents and friends play in this next event.

We are also focusing on communal events as a means to raise the School's profile, build community links and potentially raise funds for charity. To this end, we have entered a team for this year's City2Surf on Sunday 10 August and monies raised will go to Jewish House, which provides 24/7 crisis support. Your own children and grandchildren may be participating in this event as part of our Emanuel School Community team. We hope to see many of you on the day, cheering our team on to the finish line or maybe even running!

Many of our Grandparents and Friends volunteer here at school for a variety of activities with the students, such as reading groups and library work, and we thank you for your participation and help.

We look forward to your continued involvement with our Emanuel School Community, whether it be as a volunteer, or to watch your grandchildren perform in the various musical and drama presentations, or at other school events scheduled throughout the year.

Daniel Knoll,
Gesher Committee Chairperson

Helping our Community

Members of our School Community, including grandparents and alumni, were involved in promoting many varied and worthy organisations at the *Yom Ha'atzmaut* celebrations held at Randwick Racecourse in May. 66 years of Israel's Independence is certainly something to celebrate!

Tracy-Lee Shneier and Cara Black, both alumni from the Class of 2006 were helping to spread the word about The Gift of Life Australia, whose mission is to raise awareness about the life-saving potential of Stem Cell, Bone Marrow and Cord Blood transplants and to increase the representation of Jewish people on the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry. One of our very own Emanuel grandparents, Shula Endrey-Walder OAM (grandmother of Sasha Novy, Year K and Oliver Novy, Year 1), is the founder of this amazing organization here in Australia. Emanuel School has another connection with this life-saving program through Fred Swaab, grandfather of four current Emanuel students – Olivia Kawalsky, Year K and Georgia Kawalsky, Year 2, and Sam Levi, Year 1 and Joel Levi, Year 4. Fred was diagnosed in late October 2010 with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, and in March 2011, had a successful bone marrow transplant, the donor for which was found in America through the Gift of Life register.

We would love to hear your Emanuel Community connections stories, so if you have some news you would like to share, please send it to snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au



GIFT OF LIFE AUSTRALIA

SAVE A LIFE

The Australian Jewish Community is invited to save a life:

Four Jewish Leukaemia patients aged 2, 6, 15 and 61 years are dying.

A matching blood stem cell or bone marrow transfusion can save their lives.

If you are healthy, 18-45 yrs, 50+ kg, neither pregnant nor feeding, **YOU** may be their only match and hope.

Ways to be tested and registered:

- **Sydney** testing on Sundays at Wolper Jewish Hospital Woollahra by appointment only. Completing the Red Cross/ABMDR medical questionnaire and giving a 2 teaspoon blood sample.
info@giftoflifeaustralia.org.au Shula 0414 780 444
- **Melbourne** testing by appointment
info@giftoflifeaustralia.org.au Yehuda 0425 724 314
ABMDR Victoria 03 9694 0101. Donating blood at Caulfield Blood Bank Donor Centre.
- **Anytime** at any RED CROSS BLOOD DONOR CENTRE while donating blood. Special forms and test tubes are needed so pre bookings are necessary.

www.donateblood.com.au www.abmdr.org.au

Mums-to-be can donate their umbilical cord blood which is ordinarily thrown out, to help save a child.

http://www.abmdr.org.au/cord_home.php

www.giftoflifeaustralia.org.au

Message from the Parents & Friends

We hit the ground running as 2014 started, and can barely believe that half the year has gone. The focus for the P&F remains the continual building and promoting of that strong community spirit which remains synonymous within our beautiful School and we do this through a combination of events and fundraising activities, inviting parents and grandparents to join us wherever and whenever they can.

This year started with the handover of some \$80,000 to the School for the purchase of the School Bus.

These funds were raised through the hard work of our dedicated team of volunteers from the Uniform Shop to the Mums, Dads and Grandparents who have helped us with each and every one of our events. This is a milestone for the School being our very first School Bus, so on behalf of the P&F we hope that the students will really benefit from this wonderful resource.

In terms of events, our year always starts playing host to Emanuel staff to welcome them back with a hearty lunch at the commencement of the school year. This lunch is becoming a long-standing tradition and is very much appreciated by all the teaching and support staff at the School.

We enjoyed hosting "Cookies & Kisses" as we helped to welcome the parents and grandparents of our new Year K students, who started at Emanuel this year, and shared in what is both a special and huge milestone for the children and parents alike as they begin their school journey.



Some 45 parents, children and even some pets enjoyed a wonderful weekend of camping at our fifth P&F camping trip in March organised by stalwart parent Laurie Smith. As has now become tradition, the weekend kicked off with a communal Friday night *Kiddush* followed by two days of fun, laughter and a lot of marshmallow toasting. The next trip is organised for this coming November.

Hot on the heels of these events came Purim. This year we extended the event, utilising the outdoor area with special activities carefully planned to suit different age groups. Whilst the Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH) was filled with music



and dance, we also had loom banding, face painting and drawing competitions outdoors, where fun sporting activities kept everyone entertained. This is not to forget the hotdogs and *Hamentaschen*, fluoro accessories and the vibrant costumes which seem to get bigger and better each year. Our thanks go to Eileen Goldberg, our Purim Co-Ordinator.

The long anticipated performance of the *Lion King* was enjoyed by around 250 of us descending on the Capitol Theatre on a very wet

Sunday in April. The weather however, didn't dampen the spirit of this truly amazing show, with our event meticulously planned by Lena Fridgant and Dina Cohn. Thanks go also to Michael Nebenzahl who organised great tickets for us to enjoy.

Pesach is always a hectic time and the most resource-intensive initiative the P&F undertakes, and this year was no different.

In order to make each *seder* unique, we are reliant on the generous support of the parent and grandparent community who helped set up, prepare tables, serve pots and pots of *matzo* ball soup and who earnestly assisted with the cleanup and other tasks. It's a special family time for everyone and, although a tremendous amount of work, it is always very much appreciated and thoroughly enjoyed by all, so all the more worthwhile.



With little time to rest, Mother's Day appeared before us with some 320 Mothers, Grandmothers and students gathering in the MPH for a delicious breakfast, put together by a group of dads and grandfathers under the guidance of Liane Fletcher, our Breakfast Co-Ordinator. Each year we try to change the menu a little but still manage to run out of the ever popular *Coco Pops* which we promise to purchase more of for Father's Day! The "guess the

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

smarties in the jar” competition was also a winner with one happy little boy going home with 1420 smarties to enjoy and hopefully share with friends.

The children also enjoyed our Mother’s Day stall this year, where they purchased some beautiful tea towels, which have proved to be very successful gifts.

A special thank you goes to Hazel Gordon and her team of *Mitzvah* Meal cooks who prepare some wonderful meals for our community members, and also to Sara Landa and the amazing



team who manage the uniform shop three days a week. There are so many areas that the P&F are responsible for and that some of you may not be aware of, like those just mentioned and also our *Challah* distribution thanks to Michelle Tracton. We welcome grandparents to join us on the P&F – the more the merrier.

As the year rolls on, we have much planned for the rest of 2014 with another Camping Trip, Father’s Day and our major fundraiser for the year, our Trivia Night scheduled for 30 August.

We thank you for your continued support of the P&F and we look forward to seeing you at one of our many events.

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



Emanuel Congratulates

At the JCA event on 1 June, Garry Davis (grandfather of Eliora, Year 1 and Aaron Glass, Year 4) received the Shofar Award for outstanding Service to the Jewish Community of NSW/ACT. Apart from chairing the Emanuel School Foundation, Garry has previously



worked on JCA’s Investment Committee and also served on the Board of Emanuel Synagogue. He is a former president of NSW Board of Progressive Jewish Education.

One of the other recipients of an award that night, Louis Platus, also has an association with our School. His wife Susie’s grandson Harry Greenberg, is in Year 1 at Emanuel School. Louis, a Maccabi life patron, was recognised for over 40 years of service to Maccabi with the “Hal Goldstein Lifetime Achievement Award”.

Professor Michael Levy, father of Yoni Levy (Class of 1999), Adina Levy (Class of 2003) and Ben Levy (currently in Year 10), received an AM in the recent Queen’s birthday awards, for “significant service to medicine in the field of public health as a clinician, academic and educator.” Michael received his award exactly 20 years after his late father, Gerry Levy, a luminary of the Sydney Jewish Community, received the same distinction.

Order of Australia

Mrs Helena (Lena) Goldstein, aged 95, mother of two and grandmother of six, including alumnus Ben Goldstein (Class of 2010) was recently awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to the community, and to the Sydney Jewish Museum.

Lena spoke to J-Wire of her early days in Sydney. She said: “After leaving the war ravaged Warsaw in 1949 where life was still dangerous for Jews, I was amazed when friends told me to visit the Domain where speakers were standing on soap boxes talking about anything and everything. It was truly an amazing experience to discover this freedom.”

At the age of 21, Lena found herself in a tiny Jewish ghetto with 450,000 others in Warsaw, Poland in 1939, and was one of just 35,000 who were forced into that ghetto that survived World War II. Her parents were taken to concentration camps and never seen again, and both her brothers and their families were killed throughout the war.

Lena started working as a volunteer at the Sydney Jewish Museum eight years ago. She still lectures at the Museum because she made a pact with one of her brothers – to make sure the horrors of World War II were not forgotten.

The Emanuel School Community congratulates Lena on her award and her dedicated work at the Museum.



Message from Kornmehl Centre Emanuel Pre-school



Grandparents are special

This year in particular has been a year of exceptional involvement from grandparents within our Kornmehl community. Grandparents are evident and available in every aspect of our daily life.

The incredible part for us as educators is that we have daily contact with the grandparents in our Pre-school and get to know them personally. They are an integral part of life at Kornmehl.

From first thing in the morning to last thing in the afternoon, we see grandparents arriving and leaving with their special grandchildren.

This year in particular we have had a number of grandparents volunteer their services in many other capacities. We had grandparents assist with walking to and from Centennial Park for our Bush School program. We have grandparents coming in to bake for various functions, to share their knowledge and expertise with the children about topics of interest as well as to read a beautiful story to the group.

Building relationships and collaborating with families and extended families are strong foci for us at Kornmehl and ones that we emphasise strongly and value deeply.

As Quality Area 6 in the National Quality Standard – Collaborative Partnerships with Families and communities states “Effective relationships between educators and families are fundamental to the quality of education and care that children receive.”

Grandparents join us during the year as well for birthday celebrations, *Shabbat*, *Purim* parades and just this term our special Grandparents Day concerts. This is a very special time to sing, dance and celebrate the important role grandparents play in the lives of their grandchildren. Grandparents bring a special element of love and caring to our Pre-school and we celebrate this role they play by enjoying this special time together.

We also enjoy taking the children during the year to visit the residents of The Burger Centre. The children sing, dance and entertain the appreciative audience, who delight in seeing young faces and sing along to many of our familiar tunes.

This highlights the strong collaboration and commitment we encourage and foster at Kornmehl with all our families – parents and grandparents.

Nothing gives us greater pleasure than seeing the delight on a child’s face when their grandparent arrives to collect them or take them on an excursion, or comes in to bake a honey cake for *Rosh Hashanah*. What better way to continue with our strong Jewish traditions than through the eyes and wisdom of our wonderful grandparents?

We thank you for all your support, help and contributions to our Pre-school program.

Terry Aizen, Director



Grandparents and Friends Day at Kornmehl Centre Emanuel Pre-school

Dear Terry,
 It was just delightful to hear the children in their presentation on Wednesday and yesterday (seashells and dolphins) and we wanted to thank you and all the staff for all your hard work. The morning tea was also lovely and it was so enjoyable to be there to see all the children and their progression. Thank you once again Terry.
 With regards,
 Doreen & Barry Isenberg



Dear Terry and staff,
 We enjoyed the concert and appreciate all the hard work put into organising it all. We would like to thank you all so very much for your wonderful hospitality shown to all the grandparents yesterday. The kids had such fun and were so excited to present the show to us. It is so heart-warming to see all the children so happy and comfortable at school. We look forward to joining you again at "Bush Camp" and any other time you may need volunteers.
 With warm regards
 Linda and Sol Caganoff



Thank you Terry and all the teachers.
 Eddie and I really enjoyed today's concert. It is a very special relationship between grandchildren and grandparents and it was lovely to hear them sing such beautiful messages in their many songs and to see them so happy and confident on stage.
 Kind regards,
 Leora Ross



From the Jewish Studies Department

Year K Pathways: acts of creation

Our Year K students and their families experienced their first Pathways ceremony on 14 February, which celebrated and welcomed the students to 'big' school. The students' families joined us for a special Year K-2 *Kabbalat Shabbat* ceremony. The theme was *Birkat Banim*, the blessing of the children by their parents, which is part of the Friday night *Shabbat* table ritual. In preparation, the Year K students traced their hands, and this was then given to their parents to write a special blessing for their child. The hand picture was then framed and the parents presented it during the Pathways ceremony. It was inspiring to read the blessings that parents wrote to their children and the pride and joy on the students' faces upon receiving their special blessing from their parents. Our Year 9 Design & Technology students baked delicious *Aleph-Bet* shortbread biscuits for the Year K students to symbolise the sweet taste of Jewish learning which they have started to experience at Emanuel School. Our Pathways ceremonies are important milestones and also include a *siddur* presentation in Year 2, *Tanakh* presentation in Year 4 and a *Shabbat* graduation ceremony in Year 6.

In early April students from Kornmehl to Year 12 celebrated *Pesach*. This is a taste of what went on...

Years K-2 Seder

Hundreds of guests joined the children from Kornmehl and the Year K-2 students for their seder. Year 2 students acted out the Maggid section of the *Haggadah*, Kornmehl jumped as frogs, Year 1 worked hard as slaves and Year K sang about the ten plagues to the tune of 'La Coocaracha'.

Years 3 and 4 Seder

This was conducted in Hebrew by the Year 4 students, with all participants contributing to the experience. Student 'rabbis' explained the four sons, Year 3 girls performed a Spring Dance and the Year 3 boys a Hip Hop Halachma. Myles Cohn performed a *Pesach* song he wrote to the theme song of 'Frozen'.



Years 5 and 6 Seder

Students read through the *Haggadah*, sang songs with great *ruach* (spirit) and ate the ritual foods. Quiz questions with chocolate frog rewards and chocolate *matzah* for dessert made for a tasty *Pesach* experience.

High School Pesach Assembly

Emanuel School Deputy Principal Margaret Lowe and Senior Emanuel Synagogue Rabbi Jeffrey Kamins spoke about the responsibility and privilege of freedom, challenging students to reflect on the words of the *Haggadah*. A *Pesach*-themed 'Shpicks and Shpecks' game show entertained students, with Rashi House coming out on top.

Todah Rabah to the P&F and parent helpers who made the *sederim* possible.

Year 6 visit to the Sydney Jewish Museum

Before *Shavuot*, Year 6 students and their parents were invited to visit the Sydney Jewish Museum and the Anne Frank exhibition. This visit builds upon their Jewish Studies learning about how Jewish life in Europe was impacted by Nazism. The excursion began by listening to the testimony of a survivor, Leon Milch. Leon is an Emanuel grandparent and has been part of Project



Heritage. He was an engaging speaker who shared his story and who helped the students better understand some of the experiences of *Shoah*. "We had informative tour guides who led our groups around the museum and its exhibits" Mordechai Auerbach reflected. "Learning about how the Nazis taught antisemitism, racism and hatred in schools to children was shocking". Mikaela Fraser said "I learnt how Hitler came to power and used propaganda to brainwash people into thinking he was right". Visiting the Anne Frank exhibit gave students a better understanding of how the Frank family hid during the war and the details of Anne Frank's experiences.

From the Jewish Studies Department continued

Year 4 Pathways

On Thursday 19 June, parents and grandparents of the Year 4 students were invited to attend a special Primary School *Torah* Service and *Tanakh* presentation ceremony.

Each child's *Tanakh* had been lovingly decorated and personalised with family histories, stories, photographs and blessings in preparation for the ceremony. To symbolise the passing on of the *Torah* from generation to generation, three generations of the Hirst family were called to the *Torah*. Before giving their child the *Tanakh*, parents were led in the *birkat banim* – the blessing over the children. Both sides of Joshua Hirst's family have numerous intergeneration connections to Emanuel School, going back four generations. Josh's father David is an Emanuel alumnus, class of 1991, and his grandmother



Adrienne Hirst was a teacher at the school and involved in the school's Education Committee. Both sets of Josh's great grandparents, Mr and Mrs Ignacy Gryf and Arthur and Ruth Hirst, were founding benefactors of Emanuel School. It was a special moment to be able to acknowledge and honour this family with such deep connections to our School. After receiving their *Tanakh*, students recited the *Shechianu* prayer. This beautiful ceremony was followed by hugs, kisses and the singing of '*Siman tov u' mazal tov*'. The pride and delight expressed by the children and their families over the giving of the *Tanakh* was something very special to witness. Families shared a quiet moment at the end of the ceremony to read over and share the personalised messages and decorations with their child. Thank you to all the parents and family members who were able to attend the ceremony. and for the love and care put into personalising each *Tanakh*.

Mr Adam Carpenter, Acting Head of Jewish Life

Emanuel students visit the Northern Territory

Did you know that our School has over the past four years, developed a very strong relationship with an Aboriginal school in the Northern Territory? Around 170 of our students and parents have now undertaken visits to the NT and The Jilkminggan School. This program has allowed us to work towards building a long-term relationship of mutual understanding and friendship. There will be a full report in the end-of-year edition of this newsletter.



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

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

Interview with Gabriel Pallo

Many of our alumni were students here or at Vaucluse Public School during Gabriel's leadership and I feel honoured to interview him now as he approaches his retirement at the end of this School term, on 27 June.

You came to Emanuel School in 2001, as Head of Primary. Where did you work before that?

I was the Head of Primary at Masada College. Prior to that, I worked in the Public School system for close to 20 years at a number of different schools, the last one being Vaucluse Public School. I am saying that because one of the attractions in coming to Emanuel was the opportunity to touch base again with many of the families I knew from my days at Vaucluse.

What are your first memories of Emanuel School and the students?

I will never forget the then Principal taking me on a tour of the School and me thinking how terrible the conditions were in those days. Some of the classrooms looked really substandard. I could not work out why anyone would send their child to a school that looked so basic. Needless to say, my opinion quickly changed as I met the teachers and the students who made me feel so welcome. I also remember that dreadful looking mustard (camel apparently) looking uniform with the maroon blazer. Thank goodness that within a couple of years the uniform was radically changed. We now have a very smart looking uniform, particularly when students wear it properly.

In your 14 years as Head of Primary here, you have seen hundreds of students go from Year K through to High School, but one year group, the Class of 2013, is the one group you have seen complete their schooling here, from Year K to Year 12. Tell me about your memories of this cohort.....

I had the pleasure of teaching many of those students Maths when they were in Primary School. They were a very special group of children then and remained so over their High School years. Perhaps the thing that makes me the most proud in being associated with Emanuel is knowing that our graduates are such fine young men and women who will make a positive contribution to society. We all know that Emanuel delivers outstanding education when it comes to academic standards. But where we are really special is in the calibre of our students as they graduate. They are real *Mensches*.

Your late mother, Lilly Elliot, was, for a number of years, one of our Year 6 Project Heritage historians. Tell me about your mother and her connections with the School.

Mum knew how passionate I was about Emanuel and wanted to be actively involved in the life of our School. She volunteered her services three times as a Living Historian. Living in the middle of Bondi Junction, nothing gave her more pleasure than being approached by some of our students and feeling a genuine bond



with them. I remember mum being extremely upset whenever she felt that Emanuel was not featuring as prominently in the Jewish News as some of the other schools. She was such a supporter of our School.

What are your plans for retirement?

My wife and I plan to spend four months a year travelling overseas, primarily in Europe. We will use our apartment in Budapest as our base. I will play lots of golf, tennis, go to the gym (G-d knows I need to). I will also return to University to do some studies in political history. I will take cooking lessons and spend some time doing woodwork. I am not sure how I am going to fit it all in. I am even thinking of writing a book called "So you want to be a Principal". The last 18 years have certainly provided me with sufficient experiences and material to turn it into a very funny one.

Memories of other major events here at school.....

I have been so blessed to end my career at a school like Emanuel. It is a marvelous school and it is so gratifying that people have come to realize the special nature of what Emanuel offers. For me, there have been so many highlights; it is hard to pinpoint any in particular. However, the daily contact with the kids and the staff is something that I will always treasure. My most famous legacy is apparently the Pallo handshake. Silly really but it is nice to be remembered for something.

My motto has always been, "be passionate about your job, but don't ever take yourself too seriously".

Also, a good leader should never take credit for any achievements; the team should always take all the credit.

Schmooze with a Grandparent...

Michael Finger

Michael and Sue Finger's daughter Samantha (Sam) and son Adam were students at Emanuel School, finishing Year 12 in 1998 and 2000 respectively. Now, Sam's eldest daughter Emma, age 5, has started Year K here this year.

Michael was a member of the original Emanuel School Board, along with three other current grandparents at the School – Ralph Hirst, Aron Kleinlehrer and Brian Sherman AM. A photograph of this Foundation Board is on display in the Boardroom. Here are some of Michael's memories, including some stories about the early days of the School, much of which has remained unrecorded until today.

"As I was a recognised business person and owner of a successful real estate practice already in the mid 1980s, Owen Ratner, a lawyer and an Emanuel School Board member asked me if I would consider being on the Board of the School. After much consideration and discussion with my wife I agreed, even though at that time our children were not yet school-age. Eventually they did start at the School, which naturally gave me an incentive to help see the School grow. I remained on the Board during the course of my daughter and my son's education, and enjoyed every minute of it even though we experienced some tough economic times.

Naturally, without any funding it was a very scary scenario to start off, but everyone was extremely passionate and excited in particular, Temple Emanuel Rabbi Brian Fox was the driving force behind everyone. His continual encouragement and vision helped us all in gathering together as a united front to create the School and ultimately by chance, acquire the current site on which the School stands. It was an interesting episode leading up to the purchase of the site – International Grammar School had actually purchased the site from the Little Sisters of the Poor and unfortunately for them, their 10% deposit cheque presented for the purchase bounced. As a very active community we gathered together and accumulated the funds in a matter of hours! I and two other Board members attended the lawyer's office to exchange contracts and subsequently bought 75% of the site. The Little Sisters of the Poor still kept 25% at that stage.

I can still remember the days when we helped move furniture into the property and parents gathered in working bees to clean up and paint the classrooms. It was a fantastic feeling – we were one big family working in a united fashion to create the space for the kids. At that time the building was very old and run down and any parent who was thinking of taking their children to the School rather than to any of the more modern schools including Moriah, would have been seen as making a very bold move and one of complete trust.

The early days of running the School were very nerve-racking: funding, paying bills and the day-to-day events were very stressful. In fact I can clearly remember one evening at a Board meeting, we, the Board members, actually had to chip in to pay the salaries for the teachers for that particular month and when I reflect back on that now, it was very courageous for those involved. Now in hindsight, one could honestly say it was probably the best thing we ever did creating a school of learning and a special environment that lives today and was the home for my children growing up, and now my eldest granddaughter, who started Year K this year.

My role in those days was mainly to advise on the real estate matters, including the purchase and input into the building works, renovations, and issues that needed attending. I was also involved with the Finance Committee and that was in itself a very hairy time for the School as funds were very low and staffing and enrolments were not that high. However, somehow with the strength and energy of a very keen and passionate group of people we seemed to continue to gather the funds, keep the School rolling and enjoyed reasonable growth through tough times. There was an opportunity which we were offered to buy the last parcel of land on the southwestern corner for another \$350,000 from memory, completing the whole site and allowing the School to be autonomous.

the best thing we ever did creating a school of learning and a special environment that lives today

There were many very special occasions and landmarks during this growth period and the initiative and foresight of all those that were on the Board with me at the time were something to behold. They were very exciting times yet risky, and 'living on the edge' was something we got used to and enjoyed, but now the end result is just amazing. When I reflect upon those hard times, those meetings of wondering how we were going to meet the debt etc. have now faded into oblivion and it's very exciting and most fulfilling to look back on what we created in those days. Each and every one of the Board members had something to bring to the table, be it financial, intellectual, technical or visionary. As a result, the culmination of the intelligence and energy has bought us to the magnificent School that stands on the site today.

Since my youngest child, Adam left the School some 14 years ago, Emanuel has changed dramatically and the quality of education is up there with the best, the HSC results reflecting that especially over recent years. The current school grounds do not reflect anything like we had in the beginning, so it is very inspirational and most gratifying to visit the School and see what it is now offering. The one thing that has not changed at all is the family feel, the caring and understanding and the closeness of all the students and their families and their united goal in providing a home of education – Emanuel School is just the epitome of education. I am excited to see my eldest grandchild now attend the School and it is a real landmark for me. I am excited to see others in my family attend and grow, and continue to visit and enjoy the community that the School offers.

Some of the functions and events that were organised at the School over the years were exciting. There have been amazing openings that have been attended by people in high places within the country, including Prime Ministers and other dignitaries. It has been an exciting journey and I look forward to being involved in further activities and events at the School in years to come."



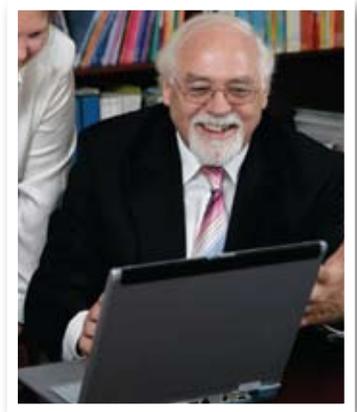
Bobba and Zaida Online

Grandparents, do you wish you could use a computer?
Wouldn't it be a relief if someone with lots of patience would sit down and explain all those terms without you feeling the generation gap?

We are considering running basic introductory courses on computers for those who would like to be cyberwise. We'd cover subjects like how to use a mouse and Microsoft software, set up an email account, send an email and even surf the web and read the newspaper online!

If you are interested in taking part, please call Michelle Favero on 8383 7330 to have a chat. You don't need your own computer to participate as we have fast and very reliable technology at school which we will use for the hands-on lessons.

Don't be shy, pick up the phone today and surprise the grandchildren!



Stay in touch with the Emanuel School Grandparents & Friends Club

Do you want to add or update your details on our Grandparents and Friends mailing list?
Please complete this form and return it to the School at the address below, or send an email to Sonia Newell at snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

Name

Current Postal Address

Telephone (mobile preferred)

Email

Grandchild(ren)

Name Year

Name Year

Name Year

Please return this form to:

Emanuel School Grandparents & Friends Club, Attention: Sonia Newell, PO Box 202 Randwick NSW 2031

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

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

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



Emanuel School is a member of the JCA family of Organisations



EMANUEL SCHOOL

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