



EMANUEL SCHOOL



Connecting the Emanuel School Community

Connecting with Grandparents & Friends

December 2020

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From the Development Office

I hope this latest newsletter finds you and your family well and safe.

As the world continues to change and we have learnt to adapt to a new way of being, we truly know that Australia is the "lucky country". We look forward to the day when you can return to our beautiful campus and share in

face-to-face activities with your grandchildren at School. In the meantime, we hope you and your families remain positive as life returns to some form of "normal", the new normal, whatever that will be.

We traditionally fill this end-of-year issue with lots of photos from our annual Primary Grandparents and Friends Day which usually coincides with Rosh Hashanah but alas that was not to be this year. We hope to run the event next year but of course must wait patiently in the meantime until we know more about what events we can hold in 2021. The world does not stop because of coronavirus – yes, it is different and with all that is going on, we all have to learn to do things differently. Thank goodness for technology like Zoom, FaceTime, WhatsApp and the other digital communications, which have allowed us to stay connected to loved ones who do not live with us, as well as others in our extended community.

Project Heritage this year for our Year 6 students and their Living Historians was something quite different to other years. The students have in previous years met face-to-face to interview their Living Historians. Nothing, not even COVID-19 was going to stop this very important project taking place in 2020. Eight of our nine Historians are Emanuel grandparents – Susie Danos, Peter Endrey-Walder, Vera Goldberg, Litz Lemberg, Dr Anne Sarzin, Miryam Wise, Gwen Zeller and Gabriel Zipser, whilst Eva Engel although not one of our grandparents, is an Emanuel friend and has been a regular at this event for a number of years. We thank all our Living Historians for sharing their stories about survival, courage and resilience with our students. Read details about this year's event on page 5.

As 2020 comes to a close, we remember loved ones in our Emanuel community we have lost during the year and wish their families Long Life. One person we fondly remember is Yetta (known to us all as Netty) Grant Z"L. A mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she was a volunteer at Emanuel School from 1983 when the School was established and has contributed until recent times.

Netty and her late husband Sid were avid supporters of our School over the years. Netty volunteered in our School library for 30 plus years and both she and Sid were interviewed for Project Heritage about their former lives in England where



Netty Grant with Ginnette Cameron-Gardner and Norman Stein

Inside this Issue...

From the Development Office	1
Gesher: Community Connections	2
From the Principal's Desk	3
Kornmehl Pre-school	4
Jewish Studies Department	5
Parent & Friends Association	7
Parent Safety Group (PSG)	7
Capital Appeal 2021	8



Emanuel School is a member of the JCA family of Organisations



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20 Stanley Street Randwick NSW 2031
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EMANUEL SCHOOL Where the Individual Excels

From the Development Office (continued)

they founded the Bromley Progressive Synagogue in South London before their move to Sydney. We helped celebrate Netty's 90th birthday in 2011 and at our Volunteers Assembly in 2017 Netty was named and honoured as one of four exceptional volunteers for her many years of helping in our School library. In September 2018 we celebrated her 97th birthday during one of her volunteering sessions in the Primary Library. Living at Montefiore Home, Randwick, after she moved from the family home in Maroubra, she continued to look forward to her weekly visits to our library and her great sense of humour and sharp wit will be sorely missed. Netty's son Jeff Grant says "Both my parents, of whom I am immensely proud, understood the meaning of tikkun olam, and did their best to achieve it". She passed away on 7 November, 2020 aged 99. May her memory be for a blessing.

We wish Mazal Tov to Ariel Berger (Class of 2020) whose HSC Major Artwork, *A Family Lunch* will be included in this year's Virtual ArtExpress Exhibition. This is an outstanding achievement.

Gesher: Community Connections

All face-to-face events we had planned for our School community this year had to be cancelled due to social isolation/restriction rulings. Instead, we held a number of online events including a Trivia Night for our current families as well as our Gesher Guest Speaker Online Series, where we interviewed some of our alumni to an audience on Zoom. We have to date interviewed three alumni:

- Hannah Beder (Class of 2012) who is now working as a Creative Technologist at a tech education company called Creatable. It is a recent move from the straight and narrow Software Engineering path since leaving university and allows her to combine her passion for programming, technology, creativity, and education, with projects based in software, mechatronics, robotics and electrical engineering. Hannah won the 2020 NSW Young Woman of the Year for the work she has done to promote helping young women and STEM.
[Click here to watch Hannah's interview.](#)
- Mitch Burnie (Class of 2011), Manager Adamama Farm, the first Jewish Urban Farm in Australia. This is the link to his interview. After spending three months in Connecticut last year learning appropriate skills, Mitch returned to Sydney to establish Adamama Farm at White City, Paddington, where they run working bees, a pickling co-op, a compost collection and celebrations of Jewish festivals as well as take bookings for private workshops/classes and tours for school and community groups on all sorts of topics around sustainable living, growing food and Jewish content: www.shalom.edu.au
- Ben Wilhelm (Class of 2008), the inspiring founder of Remember September and his efforts to raise awareness and funds for education and research into finding a cure for pancreatic cancer: www.rememberseptember.org.au
[Click here to watch his interview by fellow alumnus and close friend Jonathan \(Jonno\) Baker.](#)

We plan to continue our online speaker series next year and hope you will join us for some of these sessions.

We are all about connecting the Emanuel Community, so please be in touch if you have news and photos to share by emailing me at snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au. Don't forget to keep us updated if you have moved and/or changed your email. We know there are many of our grandparents for whom we do not have any contact details at all, so if they are friends of yours, please ask them to get in touch too, as I'm sure they would also like to know about what is happening at their grandchildren's school.

If you did not receive the last newsletter from July 2020, you can see it and all past Grandparents & Friends newsletters at: www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au/Gesher

Until we can meet in person again with our grandparents and friends here at School, please stay safe and enjoy time with your loved ones be that in person or via digital technology, and we hope you have a relaxing summer break.

Sonia Newell,
Development Officer – Alumni & Community Relations





From the Principal's Desk

As we near the end of the final term of what has been a radically different and challenging year, there is much that we can reflect on, in terms of the impact of COVID-19 on our School community. Our response to adversity, as educational leaders, teachers,

parents, grandparents and students, tells us much about what we value and hold dear.

Whilst the long-term educational and wellbeing outcomes are yet to be known, many key takeaways have emerged over the past nine months:

- With limited parental access to our campus, plans for our celebratory, milestone events were modified to online events, with limited live (student/staff) audience. Nevertheless, each event has provided a personal touch, and online access has proved to be convenient to many, with viewings occurring both at home and at work. Several families enjoyed events from overseas locations – a first!
- With extended infection control restrictions around our assemblies, Shabbat celebrations, sport, music, camps and excursions, our creativity and adaptability has been sparked. For example, in-school camps, with links to online speakers and

virtual events, have offered an alternative program that has still been attractive to and engaging for our students.

- The constant barrage of negative news around the impact of COVID-19 has impacted the morale of our community, often generating both fear and uncertainty. The introduction of 'mood lifters,' such as dress down days each Friday, online activities and competitions, student-led cross-stage events, community service activities and student choice of music for our period bells, are all examples of engaging and maintaining student agency.

- The experience of almost a term of remote learning opened up a range of new possibilities around the application of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) across our pedagogical practices. During this period, our teachers received a wealth of professional development on online teaching, learning and assessment, much of which will remain relevant when restrictions are lifted. Our eyes were opened to how Zoom, software and data analytics can be used within both the virtual and live classroom.



It is my hope that there will come a time when our community can look back on the COVID-19 experience as a time of personal growth and renewed appreciation for the many blessings that we enjoy.

Andrew Watt, Principal

Social Media @ Emanuel

The School has produced a number of amazing online videos showcasing our students and many aspects of School-life, especially as a way to stay connected with our community during lockdown. Since you haven't been able to visit us on campus this year, we thought you may enjoy this **quick tour of the School**.



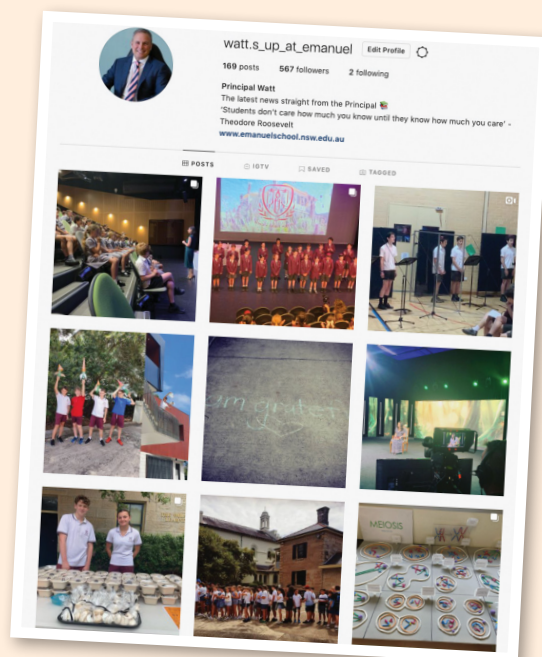
Instagram

We recently launched our first Instagram page – [watt.s_up_at_emanuel](https://www.instagram.com/watt.s_up_at_emanuel), where the latest news around our campus is posted to members of the Emanuel School Community. It provides an opportunity for special moments in the life of Emanuel School, big or small, to be shared on a regular basis. The Principal and the Marketing and Communications team will be on the lookout for breaking news, interesting activities, personal interest stories and special moments, across our Kornmehl, Primary School and High School. Please join the page for access to regular highlights of life at Emanuel School. We request that for safety reasons, please ensure that your Instagram page is 'private'.



Emanuel Shuk

This is the place to swap, sell, buy and advertise pre-loved and new items, holiday homes and cars...in fact anything that is of value (actual or perceived) can be advertised here. If you have a business, you are welcome to tell us what you do, but please make it interesting and a special offer for the Emanuel community is always a bonus! There are rules to posting – please check out the pinned post for these. Here is the link to join: www.facebook.com/groups/Emanuelshuk/





Message from Kornmehl Centre Emanuel Pre-school

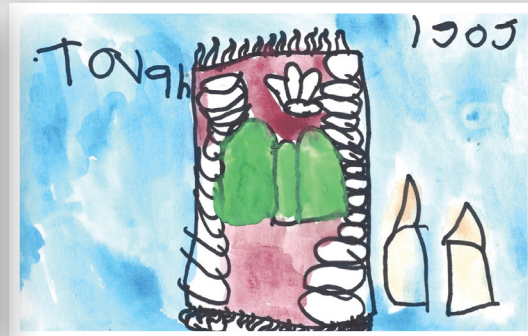
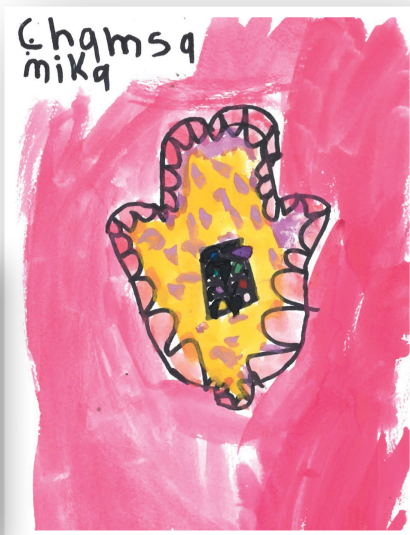
Hello, to all our wonderful Kornmehl grandparents.

We are disappointed that we have not been able to invite you into our Pre-school this year due to COVID-19. We have missed having lovely chats with you all, as well as inviting you into our rooms to share in a part of your grandchild's day. As you all know, we were not able to hold our annual Grandparents Day visits in Term 3. However, we hope you all received the lovely Shabbat drawings that your grandchild made for you. We hope you all also got to watch the lovely Shabbat video we sent to you. We hope it brightened your days, especially if you were stuck at home during the lockdown period. These were also shared with the elderly residents and visitors to the Burger Centre and Montefiore Home, Randwick. It was a small way we could connect with our wider community and bring our special Shabbat to others. We received a heart-warming response from them. "Thank you so much for facilitating the Shabbat recording and drawings for our residents. The residents were delighted to watch the video and it really put a smile on their face. Please thank the students at The Kornmehl Centre Emanuel Pre-school for brightening up our residents' day."

During this past term and a half, it has been lovely seeing many of you return to do drop-off and pick-up at the door. We enjoy these moments to connect and hope that the new year will bring increasing opportunities for you to join your grandchildren as they learn and grow.

We have been taking the children down to Centennial Park for Bush School since 2013. This outdoor nature experience has become a permanent part of the Kornmehl Philosophy. We were lucky that in Term 3, we were able to resume our Bush School visits. This lifted all our spirits and the children and educators were overjoyed to finally be able to step outside the Pre-school gate and return to our beautiful, natural outdoor classroom.

We always knew the benefits of Bush School, but now more than ever, those have become even clearer. The joy, wonder, awe and excitement that each visit brings, is invaluable. The space is familiar, and the children's confidence grows with each visit. We climb trees, search for bugs, notice the changes in the flora from winter, spring to summer and delight in noticing just the smallest of details.



Message from Kornmehl Centre Emanuel Pre-school (continued)

Joining us on this journey has been a most passionate, knowledgeable and committed volunteer – Susan Sweller. Susan, first started her visits with us to Bush School when her two grandsons were in the Pre-school. However, they have now moved onto Emanuel School, and for the past four years, Susan has maintained her connection with the Pre-school by accompanying us to all our Bush School visits. We feel so grateful to have someone as knowledgeable as her join us. Susan used to be a guide at the Australian Museum and a biology teacher. So, her knowledge of fauna and flora is exceptional, and it feels like we have our own private tour guide. Not to mention the fact that the children love her and all fight over who is going to hold her hand on the walk down and back from Bush School. Susan comes to each visit with her resource and information books. She instantly looks up something we have found and shares this information with us. She is in charge of looking for bugs and worms and mostly you can see her digging in the dirt with a group of interested children gathered closely around.

Thank you Susan, for the incredible expertise, caring and love for nature that you bring to our Bush School visits. We are indebted to you forever and feel so lucky to have you join us each visit.

We look forward to hopefully seeing our grandparents on campus next year but of course we have to wait for notification that this can start up again. In the meantime, stay safe and have a good summer break.

Terry Aizen,

Kornmehl Centre Emanuel Pre-school Director



From the Jewish Studies Department

Project Heritage

This report was written by Year 6 student Jessica Hart and was published in Ma Nishma on 30 October 2020:

During Term 3, Year 6 participated in a unique individual and collaborative learning project called Project Heritage. Project Heritage brings together students with elders in our community, to learn about their lives, our past and to connect with our Jewish heritage. As a group we heard many interesting personal stories and insights from the nine Living Historians who are grandparents and friends in the Emanuel School community.

Last term, we conducted three interviews with our Historians on Zoom. Each Historian told their personal stories, answered our questions and shared their wisdom and outlook on life. It was fascinating to learn about a time when I wasn't there and the hardships our ancestors have experienced. I am the granddaughter of Litzi Lemberg, who was my group's Historian. It felt important to be hearing my own grandmother's story in detail that I'd never heard before. I learnt so many new things about her life and the world before I was born. I am so glad and proud that she participated in Project Heritage.

At the end of October we celebrated the conclusion of our learning with a presentation ceremony and by launching the Project Heritage website, which contains a curated collection of each group's work – including artwork, creative writing, biographies and a biopic.

To all the historians who shared your words of wisdom this year, I thank you for the experience and all the time and thought you have put into this project. I'd also like to thank all of the teachers and mentors who put so much work into making this a memorable and educational project.

Thank you to everyone who helped give my peers and me this incredible opportunity to be involved in the community and to learn about our history and heritage.

Adam Carpenter, Head of Primary Jewish Life

Meet our Living Historians



Susie Danos



Peter Endrey-Walder



Eva Engel



Vera Goldberg



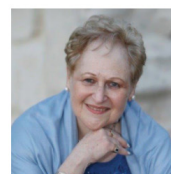
Litzi Lemberg



Dr Anne Sarzin



Miryam Wise



Gwen Zeller



Gabriel Zipser

From the Jewish Studies Department (continued)

Year 7 Shorashim

Thursday 5 November 2020 marked our very first online Shorashim evening, a moving example of the warmth and care of our Emanuel School community.

After a mammoth run of all 82 students creating online versions of their beautiful albums, recording their fascinating presentations, getting all of those successfully onto the Shorashim Google Site (which took Garry Case, Head of eLearning, hours of dedication and ingenuity to build) and dealing with some amusing teething problems, the evening was a huge success and greatly enjoyed by all – staff, students and families alike!

Heartfelt thanks to Garry Case, Ben Marshall, Year 7 Jewish Studies staff – Becky Goldberg and Gil Balfas – and of course, our wonderful Zoom Room host teachers, Rebecca Gaida, Ruth Harvey, Eytan Messiah, Remi Owen, Jenny Selinger and Jenny Udovich, who showed real care and flare for online engagement, for making the night such a success.

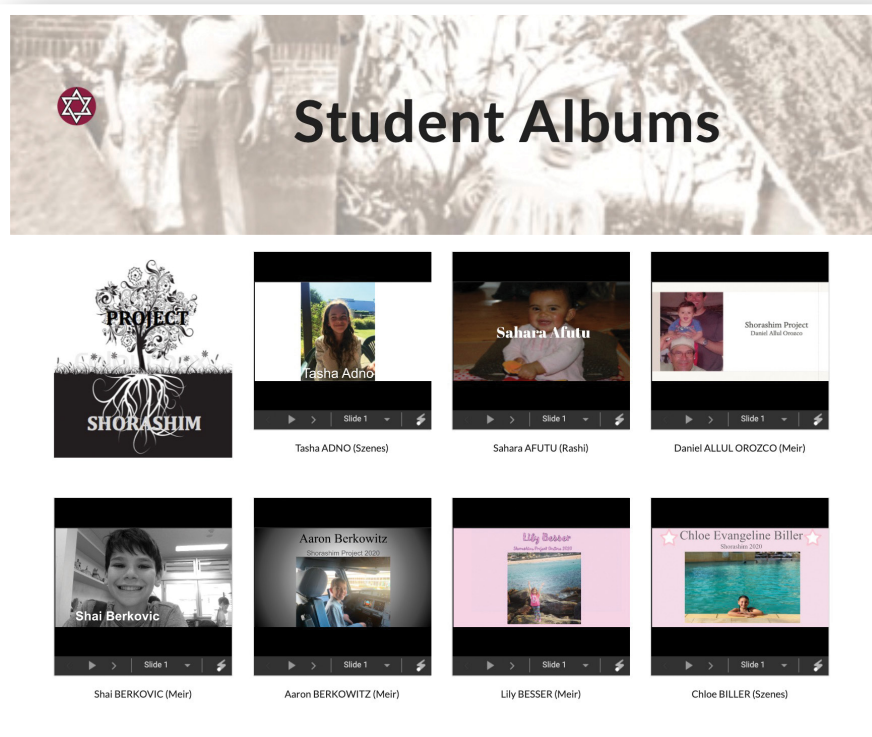
Thanks also for all the kind messages from parents and grandparents that flowed in after the event. This example reflects the essence of many of these lovely notes:

Huge thanks and congratulations to you and the entire Jewish Studies team for such a special evening last night. It was a technological and logistical triumph, which we know required tremendous creativity and hard work on your part to pull it off. We felt completely immersed in the experience and fully enjoyed all the presentations and were touched by the amazing stories of the students' ancestors. Thanks again and kind regards, Alisa

We are so proud of all the Year 7 students who have learned so much about their heritage, honed many skills on the Shorashim journey and risen to meet this unusual challenge with energy and creativity. Mazal tov!

Below are the opening words from our Year 7 spokespeople: Benjamin Fram, Ashley Cohn and Jayden Segal. I couldn't have said it better myself:

Good evening Parents, Grandparents, Siblings and Students. As we cannot have parents and relatives at school at the moment, we are instead having this evening over Zoom. So, before we start, what is Shorashim? Shorashim in Hebrew comes from the word shorash, meaning root. We find that name to be so meaningful because Shorashim is about finding your Roots, celebrating your Roots and exploring your heritage.



Shorashim is all about acknowledging our Jewish heritage and showing that we are proud of that said heritage. For the past two and a half terms, all of us have been researching and discovering more about our family, ancestors and the roots that make up our family trees. This project is the biggest one of Year 7, we started the project just as quarantine started and have been working diligently ever since then.

Because we can't display all of our wonderfully decorated albums, each student has created our own unique online version of our albums, so that you can all view them from home. We have also made presentations and speeches so that we can tell you more about our projects, and give you insight into our family stories. All you parents will have written your own special prayer for your child/ren just for tonight. These prayers were made especially for the Year 7 students, as a little extra piece of the puzzle that is Shorashim. All students have created their own prayers as well, so it is almost like you have been a part of the project too!

We hope that you have a wonderful night and that you learn something new about your own family or other families. Thank you.

Mazal tov again for last year's finalists and grand finalist, Sienna Poswell, who received their medals from the United Israel Appeal earlier that week.

Daphna Levin-Kahn, Head of Jewish Studies High School

No matter where in the world you, our Emanuel Grandparents live, we hope you enjoy reading about some of the events that go on here at School. If you know of other grandparents who do not receive this newsletter and/or the weekly School newsletter Ma Nishma, please contact me and I will update our database accordingly. Please email updated contact details to: snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

Parent & Friends Association



Greetings and hello everyone. We can't believe the school year is almost over – what a crazy and different year it has been!

It hasn't been an easy year, but the Emanuel Community has been strong, connected and supportive as we have all adjusted to a year different to any other.

Most of our activities had to be cancelled from simple things like distributing challah each Friday, to our annual highlight events including the Camping Trips and the Mother's and Father's Day Breakfasts and Gift Stalls.

We were forced to get creative! For Father's Day, we couldn't celebrate in the usual way (Coco Pops and Coffee Carts) but we found a way to be connected, while apart. Emanuel families took photos of themselves on the day and sent them into us so we could make a special Father's Day at Emanuel celebration video.

Fostering connections and focusing on "friend-raising," rather than fundraising, became more important than ever. One important connection we fostered was with the King David School (KDS) in Melbourne. We wanted to reach out to them and send their students a message of support as they were in lockdown and home learning for months. We decided to do this to coincide with Rosh Hashanah. A box was sent to KDS with an envelope for every student from Years 2-6 including a card from one of our Year 2-6 Primary students as well as Rosh Hashanah-themed activities. Thank you to Justine Hofman for her facilitation of this amazing initiative. We hope the KDS students will write back to our kids and that this will lead to furthered connections.

We also had to learn to master the online event! In August, the P&F and Geshet Committees hosted the School's first-ever Online Family Trivia event. It was a fantastic way to get together with other Emanuel families from the comfort of our homes and have some fun. In October we held a Family Online Disco. Over 50 Emanuel families signed up and boogied with the always-entertaining DJ Dudu Guru. It was fantastic.

We learned this year that it is possible to stay connected whilst physically separated.

It has certainly been a unique, and sometimes difficult year and we want to acknowledge the amazing core members of our P&F committee, involved parents and grandparents and Emanuel School staff members. The way the School has handled the pandemic has been amazing and we are so proud to be a part of this community.

We look forward to 2021 and hope we can all see each other face-to-face soon.

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



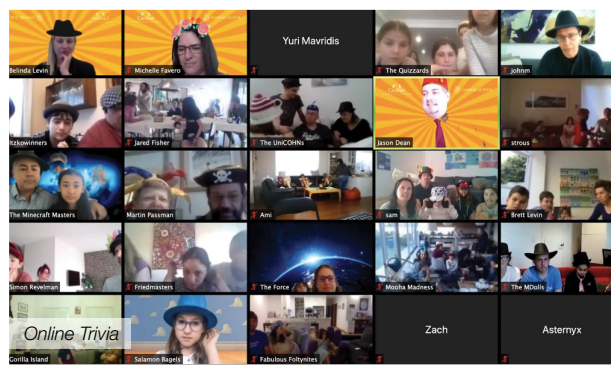
Stuffing envelopes for KDS



Stuffing envelopes for KDS



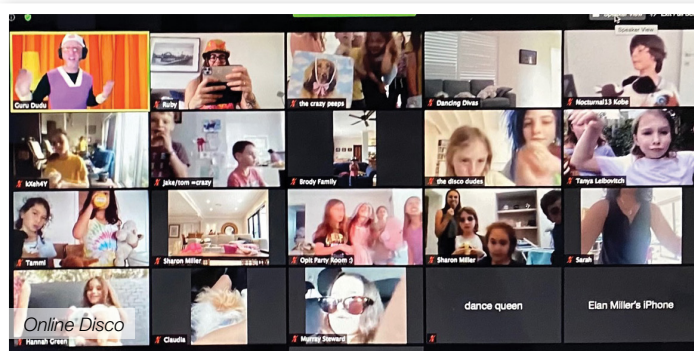
Online Trivia



Online Trivia



Online Disco



Online Disco

Parent Safety Group (PSG)

A huge "thank you" to the grandparents who are already members of our vital PSG. We encourage more of our able-bodied grandparents and friends to join up too. Please contact esadmin@sydpsg.com for more information on what is involved and how to be part of this very important team which helps keep our campus and students safe.

Emanuel School Capital Appeal 2021



Artist's impression of the redeveloped building

A building to create a brighter future

Emanuel School has received approval to redevelop an existing, outdated 1970s building to create a state-of-the-art learning centre, doubling the existing floorspace. The three levels of flexible learning space and a new purpose-built Imaginarium will further support the School's emphasis on innovation and design thinking.

Eight interconnecting classrooms will allow for increased flexibility, with breakout rooms for workshops and focused learning. Additional undercover areas will provide further opportunities for play during inclement weather.

The refurbished building will provide agile and flexible teaching and learning environments which will benefit from sustainable design elements and environmental controls including copious natural light and ventilation. In keeping with the School's emphasis on sustainability, the refurbishment will help reduce our environmental footprint and allow us to adaptively reuse and redevelop classrooms to benefit all.

Andrew Watt, Principal, was excited to share that the Development Approval has resulted in JCA awarding the 2021 Capital Appeal to Emanuel School. *"This project is not just about bricks and mortar – this is another step towards creating a school for the future, where the learning spaces support creativity, collaboration, project-based learning and design thinking. Our vision is to deliver programs that will develop skills and mindset that will future-proof our students for an ever-changing, complex and unpredictable world. This building will help create a bright future for the Emanuel School community."*

Stay in touch with the Emanuel School Grandparents & Friends Club

Do you want to add or update your details on our Grandparents and Friends mailing list?
Please send an email to Sonia Newell at snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

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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