

Newsletter

‘Supporting parents as they lead their children in spiritual growth and educational excellence by teaching and living Biblical truths.’



322 Sawyers Arms Road
CHRISTCHURCH
Phone (03) 359 3595
Principal: Mrs Jill Garrett

Tuesday, 18 November 2008

“Come and listen; let me tell
you what He has done for me.”

Psalm 66.16

“Walk as children of light”

From the Principal's Heart

Friends are important to us aren't they?
They certainly were to Jesus. He had a strange assortment of them.

One friend of Jesus, Zachaeus, was the richest and most hated man in the community. The people of the day put tax collectors in the same category as thieves, murderers and prostitutes. As head tax collector, Zachaeus used his position to make himself rich. He was a small man and he climbed into a tree to see Jesus passing by. When He came along Jesus looked up into the tree and He called Zachaeus by name. "Come down," He said. "I'm going to your house for tea." Jesus behaved in this unexpected way because He was thinking not of Himself nor of His reputation but of the other person's need.

There was 'the woman of the night,' brought to Jesus to be punished. She's not named in the Bible but the Pharisees were using her to try to trap Jesus into saying the wrong thing. And what did Jesus do? He bent down and started to write on the ground with His finger. When His accusers kept on questioning Him, Jesus straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be first to throw a stone at her." Those who heard started to go away until only Jesus was left with the woman. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

Peter was one of the closest friends of Jesus. He was a fisherman. It was Peter who walked on water with Jesus, lived beside Jesus during His ministry, went to the Garden of Gethsemane with Him, even cut off an ear of a soldier when they took Jesus away to be crucified. Peter was also the one who let Jesus down when He needed him most. He said he didn't even know who Jesus was when He was before the High Priest. Yet Jesus forgave him and because Peter was forgiven it made him even stronger and more determined in loving and serving Jesus. Peter became a mighty leader for Jesus Christ and he led many people to believe in Him.

As Christians, striving to live like Jesus, we're likely to have a wide range of friends too. That's the way God wants it to be. He asks us to be like the light in a dark world. If we're living out our Christianity it won't be long before our friends start asking personal questions like "How come you do that?", "You're the first person I've met who thinks that," "Don't you get bored in church?" All of these are perfect opportunities to share our faith. Don't be afraid. Our own story of how God has worked in our lives is the most powerful tool we have. We could give our friends a list from the Bible of all the right reasons to believe in Jesus and they'd try to give us 10 arguments back. But if we tell them about a life-changing personal experience of a Friend who is closer than a brother, it's hard to ignore, and almost impossible to argue against. Every testimony is the record of a miracle. Let's be honest and open. Let's talk about Jesus, our living Saviour and Friend.

"You are people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

School News

Alert! Alert! It has just come to my attention that there are only 12 Year 7 & 8 children going on School Camp. This does not make the camp viable and will cost the school which will need to make up the deficit. This is late notice and you have my sincerest apologies but we're opening up the camp to Year 6 students. The cost is \$120 and the camp is Monday, November 24 – Wednesday November 26. All camp money will need to be paid by Friday. The children have my strictest instructions not to put you under any pressure!!!! The Year 6 students have been given further information with this newsletter. The cost to parents who are attending is \$78.

School payments: Sorry to harp on about this but there is a **considerable** amount of money outstanding. Please contact the office if you want to direct credit it to our bank account. We would ask that you settle any accounts before the end of the year.

Scooters, Skateboards/Rollerblades: Children who ride scooters, skateboards and roller blades to school are to be aware that our Behaviour Improvement Policy says: *Bikes, skateboards, scooters, roller blades etc will not be ridden in the school grounds.* **Children who continue to play with their skateboards, roller blades etc at lunchtimes, playtimes and after school (in the school grounds) will have them confiscated.**

Likewise, correct school uniform is a requirement of this school. The variations appearing around the school are incredible. Please make sure your children are dressed correctly when they come to school and when they leave. Other arrangements are made on occasions for PE.

Our Car Park - Please continue to use our new car park for parking and for drop off, instead of the Papanui Club. Have you seen it. It's stunning. Praise Godand the CCSA proprietors.

Coffee Morning – On Friday at 9:00 am we will have a get together of any parents who would like to get to know some of the other folk and find out more about how we do things at Emmanuel Christian School.

21st Birthday Celebrations

You are invited to join us

Yes! Emmanuel Christian School is **21 years old**. We will celebrate this on November 21. There will be:

- Fantastic Friday: Birthday Party for current students
- 6:00pm – Opening/blessing of the ‘factory’ and car park.
Group photo of attendees
- 6:30pm: BBQ. Meat, bread etc provided but **please bring salads and drinks to share.**



Please pass the word around your friends, family and churches and keep the date free

Fantastic Friday: The birthday happens to also be our special Friday so we are offering the children the treat of wearing mufti to school. The children may like to dress as children of days long gone, if that is easily attainable, or they may come in their own mufti clothes. There will be a gold coin collection for our sponsored child.

The Fundraising Committee: Catering: You have made it possible to staff some of our fund raising catering events THANK YOU. There is one more opportunity to assist:

- ✚ **Saturday, December 13:** **TWO** more people required for this dynamic five person team - 5:00pm onwards..

Please phone Desiree 354 9650 or Georgette 354 2900, if you are able to lend a hand.



ECS calendar 2009 on sale from December 5th. Wonderful Christmas present idea.

Term 4 Calendar

Date	School Event
Friday November 21	Fantastic Friday – ECS 21st Birthday Party
Mon, Nov. 24 – Wed 26	School Camp for Years 6, 7 & 8
Thursday, November 27	Board of Trustees Meeting @ 7:30pm in the staffroom
December 2-4	Athletics Sports depending on weather
December 5	Rm 1&2 to St Christophers Christmas extravaganza
Monday, December 8	School Production at St Christophers @ 7:00 pm
Thursday, December 11	Last day of school – finishing at 1:00pm

Tuesday, February 3	Beginning of Term 1, 2009
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From the Board of Trustees

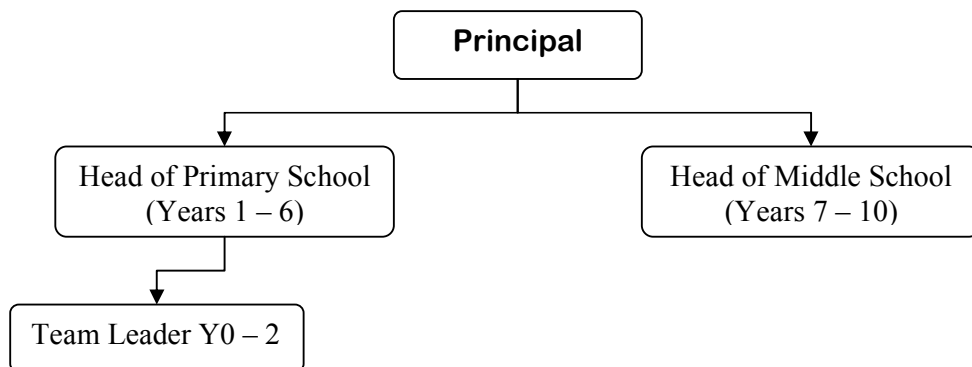
The Education Review Office visited our school in mid August. The board received a draft report which we considered and responded to in October, and the confirmed report has since been sent through. A summary of this report is enclosed with this newsletter, and the full report will be available online very soon at www.ero.govt.nz.

The report has given us much to be encouraged about and has also identified some steps we need to take to enhance what we do at Emmanuel. One of these steps is to build a strong management team. The board had already begun to look at this prior to ERO's visit and has continued to evaluate different management models in light of where we are at as a school currently, and where we want to go in the future.

It is timely to address this issue now for several reasons:

- As part of our vision, and as part of a network strategy developed by the Christian Schools in Christchurch, we plan to extend our roll up to Year 9 and 10 in the medium term. A key person is required to help prepare the school and community for this transition.
- There are two teaching vacancies to be advertised in the near future:
 - A fixed term relieving position in the Year 7/8 class expires at the end of the year.
 - In August we were granted a roll increase to 175 students. We will be entitled to a seventh teacher when our roll reaches approximately 150 students.

This is an exciting time for the school. After much prayer, thought, and discussion, the board has decided on the following management structure for Emmanuel. It is a structure which will lead us into the future and can be added to as the school grows and develops.



Mrs Thomas will fill the role of Head of Primary School. Our next two staffing appointments will be for the Head of Middle School and a Team Leader for the junior school. The board has agreed to fund a seventh teacher ahead of entitlement from the Ministry to enable the school to transition smoothly into the new structure with minimal disruption for the students.

Advertising will be done very shortly, but realistically, it may be necessary to continue with a fixed term reliever in the Year 7 & 8 class early next year until the position can be filled.

Please pray for the appointments process – that the Lord will direct the right people to apply and that the board will discern His leading in this.

Marrienne Reinders (Board Chairman)