



EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Newsletter

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

Wednesday 9th December, 2009

Tena koutou te whanau. Hello to the family.

Last newsletter for 2009!

Thank you for your support at the Production last night. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. This story came to me from my Rotary Inner Wheel friends in Invercargill. It seems very timely considering the theme of the show, "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas."

Teach the children...

Late one Christmas Eve, I sank back, tired but content, into my easy chair. The kids were in bed, the gifts were wrapped, the milk and cookies waited by the fireplace for Santa. As I sat back admiring the tree with its decorations, it wasn't long before the tiny twinkling tree lights lulled me to sleep.

I don't know how long I slept, but all of a sudden I knew I wasn't alone. I opened my eyes, and you can imagine my surprise when I saw Santa Claus himself standing next to my Christmas tree. He looked sad and disappointed, and there were tears in his eyes.

"Santa, what's wrong?" I asked, "Why are you crying?"

"It's the children," Santa replied sadly.

"But Santa, the children love you," I said.

"Oh, I know they love me, and they love the gifts I bring them," Santa said, "But the children of today seem to have somehow missed out on the true spirit of Christmas. It's not their fault. It's just that the adults. Many of them not having been taught themselves, have forgotten to teach the children."

"Teach them what?" I asked.

Santa's kind old face became soft, more gentle. His eyes began to shine with something more than tears. He spoke softly. "Teach the children the true meaning of Christmas. Teach them that the part of Christmas we can see, hear, and touch is much more than meets the eye. Teach them the symbolism behind the customs and traditions of Christmas. Teach them what it is they truly represent."

Santa reached into his bag and pulled out a tiny Christmas tree and set it on my mantle. "Teach them about the Christmas tree. Green is the second colour of Christmas. The stately evergreen, with its unchanging colour, represents the hope of eternal life in Jesus. Its needles point heavenward as a reminder that mankind's thoughts should turn heavenward as well."

Next Santa pulled out a shiny star and placed it at the top of the small tree. "The star was the heavenly sign of promise. God promised a Savior for the world and the star was the sign of the fulfilment of that promise on the night that Jesus Christ was born. Teach the children that God always fulfils His promises, and that wise men still seek Him."

"Red," said Santa, "Is the first colour of Christmas." "He pulled forth a red ornament for the tiny tree. Red is deep, intense, vivid. It is the colour of the life-giving blood that flows through our veins. It is the symbol of God's greatest gift. Teach the children that Christ gave his life and shed his blood for them that they might have eternal life. When they see the colour red, it should remind them of that most wonderful gift."

Santa found a silver bell in his pack and placed it on the tree. "Just as lost sheep are guided to safety by the sound of the bell, it continues to ring today for all to be guided to the fold. Teach the children to follow the true Shepherd, who gave His life for the sheep."

Santa placed a candle on the mantle and lit it. The soft glow from its one tiny flame brightened the room. "The glow of the candle represents how people can show their thanks for the gift of God's Son that Christmas Eve long ago. Teach the children to follow in Christ's footsteps...to go about doing good. Teach them to let their light so shine before people that all may see it and glorify God. This is what is symbolized when the twinkle lights shine on the tree like hundreds of bright, shining candles, each of them representing one of God's precious children, their light shining for all to see."

Again Santa reached into his bag for a tiny red and white striped cane. As he hung it on the tree he spoke softly. "The candy cane is white to symbolize the virgin birth and sinless nature of Jesus, and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock the foundation of the church, and the firmness of God's promises. The candy cane is in the form of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus, who came to earth. It also represents the Good Shepherd's crook, which He uses to reach down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like all sheep, have gone astray. The original candy cane had three small red stripes, which are the stripes of the scourging Jesus received by which we are healed, and a large red stripe that represents the shed blood of Jesus, so that we can have the promise of eternal life.

Santa brought out a beautiful wreath made of fresh, fragrant greenery tied with a bright red bow. "The bow reminds us of the bond of perfection, which is love. It tells the story of good will towards all and its colour reminds us of Christ's sacrifice. The wreath's shape is symbolic, representing eternity and the eternal nature of Christ's love. It's a circle, without beginning and without end.

Teach the children these things

I asked, "But where does that leave you, Santa?"

The tears gone now from his eyes, a smile broke over Santa's face. "Why bless you," he laughed, "I'm only a symbol myself. I represent the spirit of family fun and the joy of giving and receiving. If the children are taught these other things, there is no danger that I'll ever be forgotten."

"I think I'm beginning to understand."

"That's why I came," said Santa. "You're an adult. If you don't teach the children these things, who will?"

Mufti day: Friday 11th last day of school. Please bring a **gold coin donation** to go toward our **World Vision** sponsored child. We, as a school, have made the commitment to sponsor a child. His name is Mamane, he turns 8 at the end of December and lives with his mother, father, two sisters and three brothers in Niger. Your gold coin donation each mufti day is important in our ongoing commitment to this young boy. We still have \$120 outstanding this year. Thank you for being part of our support team.

Flat Wanted: Our new teacher arriving from Australia is looking for a flat to share. If you know someone who is looking for a flatmate please contact me. If you hear of something over the holidays please leave a message on the school phone.

Before School Care: Any parents wishing to use this service in 2010 are asked to contact Vicki 323 6671 so that we can decide if it is still needed next year.

Head lice: It has come to our attention that there are some cases of head lice in the school. This is the season that children's hair needs checking on a regular basis. Please be vigilant in inspection and treatment to reduce the chance of this nuisance condition spreading and recurring. Should you have ongoing problems please feel free to contact the Public Health Nurse, Anne Braid, on 383 6877 ext.99624 for further advice.

End of Year Events

Thursday, December 10: Final assembly at 9:00am, Room 3's Christmas presentation in the afternoon

Friday, December 11: Last day for the students. Student Reports will be issued

NB: Monday, December 14 will be a Teacher Only Day

Lost property: We have one small size (6 or 8) polar fleece missing – it is named. We also have one polar fleece Size 8 found with no name on the inside. Please check your child's clothing carefully to assist us in returning clothing to the right homes. You will find lost property displayed in a prominent place for you to look through and collect any items belonging to your family.

Operation Christmas Child: We have received a letter of thanks in which they say

"I would like to say thank you to everybody who contributed towards 9000 boxes that were collected in the South Island. These boxes will be sent to Fiji, Solomon Islands and Samoa for distribution. Many thanks to all the students of Emmanuel Christian School, their parents, and all staff members for the support given again this year and we look forward to this continuing. This Christmas as you are enjoying your celebrations, please think of the pleasure and happiness that many children will get from the gifts you have provided."

Term 4 Calendar

Date	School Event
Thurs, December 10	Final Assembly at 9:00am. Good-bye to teachers who are leaving Room 3's Christmas presentation in the afternoon
Friday, December 11	Last day for the students. Finishing at 1:00pm
Monday, Dec 14	Teacher Only Day
Monday, February 1	First day back at school for students in 2010

COMMUNITY NEWS

LIVING SPRINGS KIDS CAMP 24th - 29th January 2010 Age 8 - 12 years. Hugely reduce price of \$150 for 5 days!! Heaps of fun activities and adventures including rock climbing, kayaking, camp out, water games, farm park show along with the free time activities - monorail, swimming pool, flying fox, go-karts, mini-golf, trampolines, great food, great fun, cool leaders, lots of new friends, fun team games, daily auctions with rewards galore, a kids programme including puppets, crazy games, stories, drama, quiz games and more! For registration go to the website: www.livingsprings.co.nz and look under NEWS to download a form, or phone Mel on 03 3299788 ext 6.

OLYMPIA GYMNASTIC SPORTS January Holiday Programme 18-29 January, two sessions available 10-12pm, 1-3pm. Trampoline & General Gymnastics Classes. Enquiries and bookings Ph 344 6060 or email maria@olympia.org.nz

Christchurch City Libraries - From 18 December 2009 to 22 January 2010 runs a Summertime Reading Club. All children have to do is visit the library website to enter and download the reading log form. I am sure you know how important it is for children to keep reading between school terms.

Bubble Dome School Holiday workshop: Have you ever wondered how computer games and 3D movies like Shrek are made? Learn the latest in 3D Animation and Games Design on a Bubble Dome School Holiday workshop this January. Other Science, Inventions & Technology courses on offer at a venue near you. Ages 6-17 years. Tel: 0800 GET BUBBLE (438 282) or Email: info@bubbledome.co.nz or Visit: www.bubbledome.co.nz

Dental needs over the holidays:

The Community Dental Service is limited to the relief of acute pain only and will operate from 8:30am until 12:30pm from the Oral Health Centre, 16 Tuam Street, Christchurch for the following times.

Monday, 21st December – 24th December 2009 (excluding weekends)

Monday, 5th January – 29th January 2010 (excluding weekends)

Routine treatment will **not** be offered over the holidays and any accident related issues will be referred to Community Dentists as per usual practise.

Support the kids from Aorangi School: Sponsor a child to come on Camp

Aorangi School's future is under threat. Living Springs and Aorangi Staff want to give the children of Aorangi School a positive end to their school year. They want to create an unforgettable experience for them. They are holding a camp for all 88 children from Aorangi School at Living Springs. But, we need the support of the community to help make this happen. If you can help, payments to the Aorangi Camp Sponsorship Fund can be made as follows: Internet banking: Account details – 02-0842-0009837-002 please include your details. Cheque: Please make payable to – Living Springs Trust and post to Living Springs, 218 Bamfords Road, Allandale, RD1, Lyttelton 8971. All donations towards the camp will be gratefully accepted. Thank you.

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2

James Hay Theatre

Opening 13th February 2010

The CCT Production of "High School Musical 2 On Stage" - A musical based on the smash hit Disney Channel original movie.

Schools out and the Wildcats are diving into the fabulous world of Lava Springs Country Club. Sharpay vows to win Troy's heart this summer but will she be able to come between the East High basketball star and his true love Gabriella? Can Ryan find a new groove - on the baseball diamond!? Will the gang come together for the Midsummer Night's Talent Show?

Enjoy all the songs from the smash-hit movie including "What Time Is It", "You Are The Music In Me" and "Fabulous", as well as some awesome dancing and great music.

BOOK AT TICKETEK



322 Sawyers Arms Road
Christchurch.
Ph 359 3595
Principal: Mrs Jill Garrett

'Walk as children of light'

**God bless you
with a safe and happy holiday.**