

# Newsletter

#### Issue 29 — Friday 6th October 2023

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#### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome back to Term 4!

There will be many highlights to look forward to. However, three stand out events will be:

- The completion of our Stage 1 building
- The celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- The commencement of our Stage 2 Technology Centre (Wood Tech and Automotive)

The main issue I wish to raise today is the recent release of the Report on the findings of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. Of the 222 recommendations, Point 7.14 asked for the Phasing Out of Specialist Schools by 2051. It was further stated that no new enrolments of students with disabilities in Specialist Schools should occur from the start of 2032.

It is noted that the six Commissioners were split 3-3 on this decision. In other words, three voted yes and three voted no.

One of the outstanding features of education in Victoria is that parents have choices as to where their son or daughters will best learn. Students need to be included in a program where they will develop their full potential. Inclusion is about being involved in excellent learning programs. It is not about being in one place.

Over the 50 years of Emerson School's existence, we have always supported learning programs in Primary and Secondary schools across all systems and sectors. Staff are constantly visiting our school to learn about our best practices and students are being referred to Emerson as the place where they will blossom and learn to stand on their own two feet.

The Royal Commission's recommendation that schools like Emerson should close is out of touch with the reality that parents and students want.

In the weeks ahead, our School Council will be asking parents to stand up and be counted on this important matter.

It should be noted that 46% of students with funded learning needs, attend Specialist Schools in Victoria. This is way above the national average of 9.2%. Victorian programs are highly regarded by our colleagues in other states and territories.

There are many select entry schools in Victoria to provide for academic advancement, sporting skills and artistic capabilities (music and dance). Students need to sit an exam to gain entry to these facilities.

Other parents pay very high fees to access high level curricular schools.

Students need to have a direct opportunity to go to Emerson School on an equal footing with those who gain entry to accelerated and select entry programs.

> John Mooney **Principal**

## **DIARY DATES 2023**

WEDNESDAY 18TH OCTOBER - Curriculum Day (NO SCHOOL) TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER - Last day of Term 4 for Students

## **VALUE OF THE FORTNIGHT**

We will continue our study of the value, Orderliness, next week.

Orderliness involves planning things so that they happen the way you would like them to instead of just leaving things up to good luck. It is about behaving in a way that helps wellbeing of others. When people practice orderliness, they get things done efficiently. They don't waste time or energy.

Dianne Wright Campus Principal, Middle School

#### **WELL DONE LENNON**

Lennon from JSF was given a wonderful opportunity by his support company What Ability to participate in being the Junior Mascot for the AFLW game on Saturday morning where Collingwood played Essendon before the AFL grand final.

Lennon was presented with a signed footy jumper by the Collingwood girls and then got to run out with them through the banner.

What a great experience!









### JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS - A DAY TRIP TO THE DESERT - A MUSICAL JOURNEY

Every week in Music JSE enjoy exploration time using tuned and non-tuned percussion instruments. JSE liked listening to 'desert' music so it was decided that we would pretend to go to the desert and play our instruments there. First, we practised our instruments. After we practised, we drafted our little story. Then we realised that we would need some camels to help on our journey.

Miss C and JSE were highly creative. They raided the costume cupboard and produced some fabulous costumes. Both JSE and their camel train looked super cute. After JSE had a few 'dress rehearsals' so that we all felt confident when presenting the story at Junior Assembly.

JSE were superstars of the desert, and we all had a lot of fun.

Margaret Orr Music Teacher

















## **SCHOOL HAT REMINDER**

Reminder to wear hats for Term 4.

It is compulsory for students to wear hats in Terms 1 & 4. We also strongly suggest sunscreen is applied and a water bottle is brought to school to keep hydrated.



## **SUBWAY ORDERS**

#### SUBWAY ORDERS ARE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS EACH WEEK ON A WEDNESDAY.

There are special Subway envelopes available at the office of either campus. Please fill in details with the correct money included and hand these to the Office any time before Tuesday 10.00am each week.



# **JUNIOR SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS**



## **SPORTS STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS**



