



# Emmanuel Christian School

Shield of Faith Sword of the Spirit Eph 6:16.17

## Briefs

### Global hope

OVER the years Emmanuel Christian School has been involved in many programs to raise money in our community to help less fortunate children across the world. We will keep on helping those in need by supporting fundraisers like the 40 Hour Famine and Operation Christmas Child. We encourage you to help make a difference in children's lives across the globe.

**Chloe Burgess and Ashley Grubb**

### Send me a postcard

DURING May, a group of Grade 10 students ventured to the humid island of Fiji for 14 days of warm weather, sun, sand, but more importantly, community service. While in Fiji they all worked hard to build swings for a primary school in Nadi, paint a house and rebuild a kitchen. On the Coral Coast they built a second set of swings and began footings for a laundry.

When asked what they learnt during the trip they answered enthusiastically: "The culture of Fiji", "Teamwork", "Seeing how poor some Fijians are, and appreciating what we have", "Learning a new language", and "Going to work with a village community."

**Kate Walmsley and Alice Wanders**

### Amazing talent

CREATIVE arts play an essential and pivotal role in the education of students in our school. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 10 have the opportunity to express their creative skills subjects such as music, drama and art.

These skills are then showcased in events such as our Creative Arts Evening; a Drama Night for Grades 7-8; and an Art Exhibition for students from Grades 7-10.

**Sarah Mortyn and Alex Rootes**

### Play a success

OUR primary students recently held a production titled *Big Water Coming*, at the City Gate Convention Centre. With one astounding performance it was an enjoyable experience for all the students and teachers involved. It was a wonderful night of delightful entertainment.

**Lillie Mann and Bethany Edler**

# PROMOTING HEALTHY EATING

**KATHRYN McKILLOP and HEIDI SKEELS**

HAVING a healthy lifestyle has always been cherished among the Emmanuel Christian School community, and by planting a fruit and vegetable garden our school has pushed healthy living to the maximum level.

In 2006 the Grade 6 class parliament proposed a fruit and vegetable garden to help the community, students and their families.

Emmanuel has received positive feedback from parents and teachers who all say the new garden has influenced our next generation of healthy eaters in more ways than one.

Mrs Jacky Vander Niet, a school parent and the caretaker of the fruit and vegetable patch, tends the garden on a weekly basis, with a host of young enthusiasts who find the garden as a wonderful adventure involving strange new insects and plants.

Mrs Vander Niet believes children enjoy gardening as it gives them the opportunity to not only grow the plants,



**DIGGING IN:** Emmanuel Christian School students Isabelle Grubb, left, and Sarah Hoskinson, both 7, in the school garden.

but also grow their inner beliefs about nature and life.

Eager devotees Isabelle Grubb and Sarah Hoskinson, both aged seven, find it fun and exciting to grow food with their own hands. The garden has been such a success that Mrs Vander Niet and the team of students decided to enter the Red Cross Community Challenge — a program for people aged 8-25 making a difference by volunteering in events that benefit their local community.

Some students have been so enthusiastic they have even asked if they can start their own garden at home.

With all this in mind, the next generation at Emmanuel will hopefully be eating healthier and really will "grow up big and strong".

THIS *Mercury* School Page was produced by Emmanuel Christian School's Grade 8 English class, with thanks to all sponsors.

## Reading inspires future learning

**ADEN HANDASYDE and FRANCIS PASCAL**

A NEW reading program for students from kindergarten to Grade 10 started this year at Emmanuel Christian School.

Two of the school's staff members, librarian Mrs Wendy Fenton and English teacher Mrs Wendy Bowen, developed the idea to improve students' literacy throughout all areas.

Students read for the first 15 minutes of each school day.

Some of the primary children were surveyed for their opinions of the reading program, and all had a positive view.

Secondary student Tobias Long, of Grade 8, said: "The reading program is a great asset to the school, which helps the students to further their reading ability. It has helped me greatly



**FOCUSED:** Daily silent reading improves students' literacy throughout all areas.

throughout this year." The program has seen an increased demand for books and the school's library has only just managed with the current funds for books this year.

Mrs Bowen and Mrs Fenton

monitor the program by using checklists to see how many books children are reading. They also use journals for the primary children to check on what they are reading, what they think of the arrangement and also what they think of reading itself.

## Big-hearted teenagers enjoy hands-on program

A FANTASTIC new program called H<sub>2</sub>O has started at Emmanuel Christian School this year — it stands for Heads, Hearts and Hands On.

This was developed for the secondary section by principal Mr Simon Matthews and teacher Mr Owen Wilson after the Grade 10s returned from a Fiji mission trip last year.

Some of the projects H<sub>2</sub>O has completed this year include: painting the gate at Northern Suburbs Christian School, building a new performance stage in the Emmanuel Christian School library, and replacing all the work desks in the secondary

school. Mr Wilson said: "I guess it's taken the school deeper into the community and created greater respect for school property, for example work desks."

This program is a great tool for learning especially for those students who don't necessarily achieve academically. Because H<sub>2</sub>O is more hands-on, they use other gifts instead.

Mr Wilson and Mr Matthews hope the program will continue, possibly by having H<sub>2</sub>O days were students don't do schoolwork but help other people and the school community.



**SCHOOL PAGE PROGRAM** Ph: 6230 0736 <http://ink.news.com.au/mercury>

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