25th September 2014

Dear Parents / Caregivers of Year 5 & 6 students

Re: Planning for 2015 Senior Unit

Next year your child will be in the Senior Unit where they will be part of an innovative experience that provides opportunity for excellent preparation for secondary school. Although the younger year levels will be moving to single year levels in each class, the strengths of the Senior Unit program will be retained. This was pointed out at the time of the decision through our newsletter but I would now like to provide further clarification.

This means that the learning opportunities that are ideal for adolescents and often part of middle school settings, will be provided here at Immanuel.

In this context students will be extended through their learning opportunities in terms of accessing the level of content to challenge their learning and achievement goals. Students may well be working on secondary school outcomes if they have the capacity to do so and take up the challenges as offered. Students will be inspired and led toward doing and being their best.

There will be 3 home classes, each in the low to middle 20’s. In each home class there will be mixed year levels with a focus on pastoral care, goal setting and mentoring. The home class teacher will oversee the learning program of the student and be the point of contact. Devotions will take place in the home group too with relationships and personal development key areas.

Throughout the week and the year there will be a range of learning opportunities that includes grouping differently as discerned by the staff as most appropriate for what is being covered. In the Senior Unit this has been the case for a number of years and the children thrive in this setting.

Differentiation opportunities will occur based on a range of indicators such as readiness and interest, with some units of inquiry being mixed year levels and some not. Students get to know the 3 teachers well and there are also leadership teachers involved in the unit experience.

(cont.)
Students also have access to 1:1 ICT for their learning through either iPads or notebook computers and the great wireless network allows them to be used across the school for any number of creative purposes.

Our Senior Unit students are all treated as leaders in the school as they strive to meet our high expectations. Immanuel’s graduates achieve great success and the school regularly receives positive feedback from the secondary schools they attend.

In summary the Senior Unit is a learning environment designed to inspire and support the academic, personal, social and spiritual development of young adolescents.

I conclude by inviting you to the Year 7 Exhibition to experience part of the breadth and depth of what is achieved.

When: Wednesday 22\textsuperscript{nd} October at 7.00pm
Where: Beginning under the shelter

Yours sincerely

SUE DE BIASI
PRINCIPAL