

2017 Senior Unit Class Handbook



IMMANUEL
Gawler

LOCAL • GLOBAL • CONNECTED

A primary school of the Lutheran Church

Mrs Angie Eckermann

Mr Ben Jones

Mr Jared Semmler

1) Senior Unit Staff

Throughout the year different staff will be involved in the learning journeys of senior students. Joining the home class teachers of Angie Eckermann, Ben Jones and Jared Semmler will be Dwayne Hueppauff, Mayumi Wong, Andrew Boesch, Daryl Trigg, Julian Helbig and Janine Panagiotou.

2) How can you support your child at home and school?

Independence and responsibility are key factors for success within the Senior Unit. We focus on improving both organisational and social independence so students are set up for the future. To assist your child we ask that you respect their social space and provide opportunities for them to organise themselves.

Learning to read is one of the first big steps at school. There is an excitement about it, a challenge and it is wonderful to see confidence blooming! To help develop this good life time habit, here are some ideas to help children turn into avid readers!!!

- a) Find a quiet place to sit comfortably together away from distractions and read to them every day. It is the best way to develop a love of reading. Read every day yourself and let the children see you enjoying it. (Easier said than done, with busy lives these days.)
- b) Talk with your children every day. Good talkers usually become good readers and writers.
- c) Praise your child's reading efforts and let them share with other willing listeners such as Grandparents, and make it a 50/50 split with your partner. Children need to model themselves on both parents and fathers play an important role in encouraging sons to read.
- d) Use the story and pictures to help your child guess new words. Ask "What do you think it could be?" Use first letter sounds to help give an idea. If possible model sounding out a word for your child to guess. They will often be able to blend the sounds you make to form the word, before they are able to do this task independently. Then go on with the story. If on a second reading he/she cannot remember the word, tell them again and if they can remember – great! Praise!
- e) Discuss the story afterwards, using: When? Why? What? And What if? Discuss the favourite and least favourite parts. This helps to develop comprehension.
- f) Don't compare one child's reading progress with another's. Remember each learns to crawl, walk and talk at different times. It is the same with reading. Remain positive and end reading times with a warm hug and a few words of praise for the effort given.

It is also important children have a good night's sleep. This is "brain" time and a well-rested child will perform better at school and at home.

Helping your child prepare for their school day is important. Making sure they have everything they will require: recess, lunch, brain food (optional), drink bottle, diary and their hat.

Every day your child requires the best start possible. This begins with arriving to school on time. By ensuring your child is punctual to school will enable them to be prepared for the day ahead. Many children feel anxious and worried if they arrive late.

3) Fitness & Physical Education:

Fitness will take place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for all students. It is expected that students will wear their sports uniform on these days and wear their formal uniforms on all other days.

4) International Baccalaureate-Primary Year Programme

Immanuel Lutheran School is an IB World School using the Primary Years Programme. Each teacher is currently planning, teaching and assessing within these guidelines. The Australian Curriculum and South Australia Curriculum Standards and Accountability Framework sit alongside the Primary Years Programme.

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) is a non-profit educational foundation, motivated by its mission, focused on the student.

The IB does not own or manage any schools. Instead, it works with schools around the world (both state and privately funded) that share their commitment to international education.

Authorisation to become an IB World School is an intensive process that typically takes two or more years and includes site visits by an IB team.

A regular process of evaluation is undertaken by schools that have been authorised. For information please visit <http://www.ibo.org/pyp/>

The curriculum is organised under six broad themes and teachers plan and teach one unit under each theme each year.

5) Homework

Homework provides an important opportunity for students, supported by parents/caregivers to consolidate skills taught at school.

The table below briefly shows the content of homework at year 6/7 and an expected time guide for the entire week.

Year Level	Homework Content	Minutes per Week
Year 6/7	Reading, spelling, mathematics and some optional Unit of Inquiry	120 minutes

6) Assembly time:

Assemblies will happen during weeks 4 and 8 on Monday afternoons at 2:45am. Stay tuned looking at our blog and or the school website for when the Senior Unit classes are presenting. During assembly we will sing the National Anthem and have a year level sharing time. Parents are most welcome and encouraged to attend.

7) Worship and Praise:

Beginning on Friday mornings at 9:00am. These are led by classes, parish pastors, special guests and teachers. Parents are most welcome.

8) Library Borrowing:

Students will have an opportunity to borrow reading materials from our school library. Students are expected to borrow appropriate materials for their reading level and also borrow a range of non-fiction and fiction texts. Class silent reading times are scheduled each week. Books can be borrowed for a period of two weeks at a time. If a book is not finished in that time, we are more than happy to re-loan it during a library session. If a book is not returned after two weeks, your child may be issued a late notice. The Senior Unit will also have a personal library this year for students to use and all books from that will be marked with a green sticker saying 'Senior Unit Library'.

9) School Banking:

Banking takes place every Tuesday morning. Your child can place their bankbook containing funds into the class message box, which will be taken to the office for processing. Bankbooks are reliably handed back the following day for students to take home. If you wish to open a Lutheran Lay People's League (LLL) account, please see Jenny in the front office.

10) Meetings with the teacher

If you wish to talk with the teacher about issues concerning your child, please book ahead to ensure issues can be resolved effectively. Yard duties, staff commitments and lessons may restrict immediate resolutions. Minor issues and concerns can be discussed before school with Angie, Ben and Jared or feel free to email us. If you would like to meet with other specialist teachers, please book a time with Jenny in the front office.

11) Camp

Camp will be held on the 22nd to the 25th of May. We will be looking at having a fantastic time at Wirraway, where students will, amongst other things, participate in horse riding and challenge activities. We will leave at 9am from Immanuel on Monday and return by 3:30pm Wednesday.

12) Notes Going Home:

From time to time, there will be circulars, permission slips for various events and newsletters sent home. Where a signature is required, it would be greatly appreciated if they can be returned promptly.

Instead of Monday updates, the Senior Unit uses a blog that has information about terms dates and assignments. It also gives an insight into what is going on generally in the classrooms. The address for the blog is - <http://theseniorunit2017.blogspot.com.au/>

13) Uniform:

Senior students are often regarded as students who have the potential to set a high standard for all students with regard to behaviour, attitude and wearing the school's uniform with pride. We would like to strongly encourage parents to talk openly with their child about wearing their uniform well. Main areas that generally draw attention are: wearing the correct footwear, socks, jewellery, make up (not permitted) and hair ties (school colours). Please refer to the parent hand book for further clarification on these items. Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly named.

14) Personal Hygiene

You can all see how quickly growth and development occurs by observing your children at home. Imagine a room full of energetic but rapidly changing bodies. It can be come more than a little unpleasant. This would be the perfect opportunity for you to have a chat at home about your child's changing needs and developing sensitivity towards others. In this way positive life skills are established. Good body and foot deodorants assist in positive self-image and prevent potentially embarrassing moments.

15) Spelling

Spelling will have a greater focus on understanding how the English language works and less on just giving words. A list of words will be chosen each week to focus on the spelling sound.

16) Stationery

Writing materials distributed in student book packs have been selected specifically for classroom use. Gel pens are not to be brought to school due to their distractive properties. Handwriting is to be completed with blue pen or HB pencil only, red pen for margins, titles & dates only.

17) Class Carer

As we grow as a community, it is important that we are vigilant in maintaining a welcoming, inclusive and supportive school environment. Further information regarding this role can be obtained from the 'Carer's Handbook'. Please let your child's class teacher know if you are interested in supporting our school through the class carer program.

18) Leadership Model for Senior Students:

In 2017 we continue to encourage our senior students to make positive contributions to our school community. While our previous model of leaders has proven to be successful, Immanuel would like to tap into an even wider range of God-given gifts and talents within our senior student body and share the responsibility of student contribution to school life more fairly. This will happen during regular sittings of Parliament and students having different roles.

19) Breakfast Club

In the Senior Unit we offer a time after school for students to come in and work on homework or to get ahead on assignments. This also gives them a moment outside of classroom time to access technology that they may not have at home. This year, Breakfast Club will be on a Thursday afternoon from 3:35 until 4:00.