



Emmanuel Christian Community School Principal Pedro Cruz with Kindergarten students Freida Marol, Max Dragon, Annalisa Busan, Sterling Cruz and Cherry Lung Um at their new site.

New campus opens

Emmanuel Christian Community School's student body is set to grow to 412 students in 2017 – an increase of over a 160 students since receiving approval to build a new primary school campus in 2015.

For many years parents have been keen to see the School expand to secondary and the dream of a Kindergarten to Year 12 school has quickly taken shape with prompt approvals, successful applications, a land grant, funding and growth in the area.

Principal Pedro Cruz said that the school community is delighted with the prospect of

occupying its new campus, only 300 metres from the existing site in Girrawheen. The new campus will allow the school to expand from its current primary classes to Year 12 in 2020.

"We are thankful for the assistance and support from the Commonwealth Government grant and State Government low interest loan, all working together to result in our new primary school being established to support high school," Mr Cruz said.

Construction of Stage One was completed in November 2016 and the 2017 school year will begin with 180 students in the new Early Childhood Centre, with two Kindergarten classes, two Pre-Primary classes, two Year 1 classes and one Year 2 class.

"We have chosen 'Koorlangka Warbiny' as the

Noongar Aboriginal name for the Centre, meaning children at play," Mr Cruz said.

A ministry of Girrawheen Baptist Church, the School is located in a low socio-economic area in the northern suburbs of Perth with 42 staff and more than 75 percent of students originate from an English as a Second Language (ESL) background.

"Emmanuel has experienced all the highs and lows involved in accepting and catering for the needs of each wave of immigration to Australia as it has impacted directly on our school community," Mr Cruz explained.

"From the early 1980s with the arrival of Vietnamese children, then Burmese, followed by Romanian and South American children fleeing political persecution, up to the most recent arrivals from Africa."

"There are many schools in the same situation as we are – schools that make it their mission to serve those in disadvantage and believing education to be of fundamental importance in providing the means by which such disadvantaged families make a better place in the world for their children."

The new school campus can accommodate 490 students from Kindergarten to Year 6 and boasts innovative design and materials, environmental sustainability, and a nature playground. Work will begin on Stage Two, the administration and library resource building, in about April 2017.

"We give thanks to God for the vision and reality of our new school, for which we have prayed for many years," Mr Cruz concluded.