RENEWAL AND TRANSFORMATION

Isn’t it great when something old gets renewed. Outside my office window today I can see our College grounds person, Mr Shannon Smoker, hard at work in one of our established gardens. He is removing old plants, trimming others and reworking the old garden plantings, as he renews this particular garden bed.

Each morning as I park my car I see more and more progress in the garden. At first it is hard to make out what is happening. Now I can clearly see where a new pedestrian walkway to Ashcroft Hall will go. I can see some old plantings that are now trimmed and are beginning a new, more shapely life. I can start to imagine where new plantings will go. Such progress on our College gardens is exciting to see.

Elsewhere on our estate one can also see some transformation. The level space for the planned student mall has enabled one to more easily visualize the space. Generous leveling of rubble and soil by a community member enables one to see the potential widening of road spaces.

Such renewal and transformation provides tangible evidence of the vibrant and dynamic nature of an institution like Carmel Adventist College. Less easy to see, but just as real is the renewal and transformation one sees in the lives of people associated with, and in, our College community. There are the external transformations and renewals one sees in hair cuts and adolescent growth spurts. But more meaningful are the internal transformations.

SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK - KEITH GRAY

Last week saw the first Week of Spiritual Emphasis for 2013. The guest speaker was Keith Gray who is an international speaker from Texas, USA. He was a fabulous speaker who was both entertaining and enlightening. His premise for the week was to get the students to focus on what they want in life and to ensure that nothing gets in the way in order to get there. His presentations used biblical stories to emphasise the main concepts. “In my 15 years of ministry, I have never seen a guy who can relate to students so well from a public forum”, says Derek McCutcheon, senior chaplain. “He told stories that many people have heard before but in such a new and refreshing way and had the attention and respect of the students the whole way!” Some students comments, “Thank-you for coming. Best week ever both entertaining and inspiring.” “You are by far the most inspiring person. You have a great personally, character and courage.” “Thank-you, I have absorbed so much over the past three days, I feel so much closer to God.”

Thanks Keith Gray for taking the time to come to Australia and challenge our students in the manner you did. We also had a student band provided music for the week and there were some great special items as well.

BAPTISM

It is exciting to be able to share the great news that a number of our students have recently committed their lives to God and demonstrated this by being baptised. As a College community we can rejoice with a former student Monica Rakich (2012 graduate) who was baptised the week before Easter along with our Head Girl, Jasmine Hunter (Year 12). On the same day Dezarea Narrier (Year 8) was also baptised. On the Easter Weekend, Hannah Weinman (Year 9) committed her life to Jesus by also being baptised. We congratulate these students on their decision and support them in their journey of maturing Christian growth they are now undertaking.

After 3 years in the College I daily see the effects of transformative changes. Students who are maturing, who have different attitudes and behaviors because of positive choices; because of good peer choices; and because of real application of effort. Above all else deep transformations and renewals occur because of significant encounters. Daily encounters with committed teachers, on-going secure encounters with loving parents, and deepening encounters with God.

During the last few weeks a significant number of our students have had significant encounters, decisions, and milestones in their Christian journey. As a College community, we are not bystanders to these developments. They impact us and help color the tapestry of our College community. We also are part of the tapestry. As the lives in the tapestry of our College are renewed and transformed lets take the time to pause, reflect, admire and above all acknowledge the craftman and artist who is the one who transforms and renews – God, our Creator and Re-Creator, as He renews and transforms us each new day.
QUALITY TIME AND PROMPT COMMUNICATION
Occasionally there are events or issues of concern to students, or for you as parents. In such cases it is appreciated if there is prompt communication with the College. Speedy communication enables a timely investigation or intervention as required. Such issues are more easily resolved before they escalate or become major obstacles. Often some students will try to cope with a specific issue or interaction by themselves, withholding sharing information until more significant or intolerable episode occurs. Parents are encouraged to spend quality time with their children, providing relationship and opportunity for sharing of, and support for concerns.

As a College we are here to support you as parents, and to help students in the difficult maze that is life development. We have access to many support services and personnel. If you have any concerns, or your children wish to have a specific issue addressed, please do not hesitate to contact the College.

Coles Sports Vouchers
Last week, we received our Coles Sports for School order and it included the following items:
- Pop up soccer goals
- Coloured bibs and sashes
- 18 Wilson Tennis balls
- 4 basketball nets
- Batting Tee (Softball)
- Exercise dice
- Mini neoprene soccer ball
- Kingball Kit (including bibs)
- Set of Flexidomes (markers)
- Badminton Shuttles

Thank you for your support of this program. Every little bit counts and the more vouchers we get the better. Last year we gathered around 18,000 vouchers and this year we hope to smash that number and aim for 30,000!

FILM CLIP PRODUCTION
Each August the ministry of education is profiled in Seventh-day Adventist churches in Australia. This year Carmel Adventist College and our focus on service, specifically the 2012 Cambodia trip, may be featured in a video this August. A production film crew will be in our College on Friday 12th this month.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY
Our College recently undertook an external OHS audit. As a College we are proactive in seeking to ensure that our facilities, programs and equipment are safe. It is pleasing to see that the report notes the high standard of OHS compliance and awareness in the College. The auditor has supplied the College with some tools to aid the on-going process of maintaining and improving the standard of our regular internal OHS audits.

FORMAL TICKETS
Formal tickets need to be purchased no later than tomorrow 4th April. Tickets are $90.00 and available at reception.

FORMAL DINNER - FLOWERS
Corsages - $20.00
Matching Buttonholes - $ 8.00
Corsages can be made for shoulders or wrists. Orchids are beautiful and recommended, with available colours in white, pink, purple or lime green. Roses are also available. Flowers can be picked up at 32 Lakeside Drive, Helena valley. Kerry is a trained florist and works from home. For more information please contact Kerry - Ph: 92507083 or Email: kerryb-c@hotmail.com

TERM DATES
Please note the following term dates: Friday 19 April is the last day of this term. The first day of Term 2 is Tuesday 7 May.

NAPLAN
Each year Year 7 and year 9 students throughout Australia sit a series of national literacy and numeracy tests, known as NAPLAN tests. These tests will be sat by our Year 7 and 9 students from Tuesday 14 May to Thursday 16 May.

YEAR 10 CAMBODIA MISSION TRIP - SANITARIUM TRYATHALON VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
The Year 10 students would like to invite any willing volunteers to help out at the Sanitarium Tryathalon. Help us encourage our kids to get active! If our school can get a group together Sanitarium are willing to make a $25 donation per person to our school for our time and efforts on the day. Our volunteers receive an Event Volunteer T-Shirt and a hat to take home as a souvenir, and you will receive a full brief of your task prior to the event day so you can feel confident in the task ahead. To ensure you have a great start to the day we will also provide your group with a Sanitarium breakfast of Weet-Bix cereal, milk and honey in the Check In tent. You will also be provided with lunch and water bottle to take on course with you. It is a great team exercise, and can be a fun day contributing to your community, and learning new skills at the same time!

If you are able to help, please contact Mrs Hutchinson at Reception or email: marciab Hutchinson@adventist.org.au

SANITARIUM WEET-BIX TRYATHALON
The Weet-Bix TRYathlon is the biggest event of it’s kind in the world, every child participating wins a medal. This event has been running for 15 years and this year is no exception. Kids TRYathlon will take place on Sunday, 28th April. We encourage you to all go to www.weetbix.com.au where you can find out more, register and see the BUPA ‘get ready tips’. Alternatively you can collect a flyer from reception. Registration closes on Sunday, 14th April.

MEETING OF MUMS
Monday mornings, at about 9am straight after school drop off, is the time to meet other mums from both the Primary and High School. Meet us in Carmel Church Hall for interesting discussions, developing friendships, and enjoying great company. You even get a cuppa! We usually finish at about 11am, but feel free to leave earlier or stay later if you want. We would love you to come and join us. Contact Judy on 0402 325302 for more information.