FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

When the Christmas tunes start being heard in the shopping centres, we can be fairly confident that the end of a year is close by. And that is the reality. In just eleven days we have Carmel Secondary graduation day, and another school year has drawn to a close.

There has been a graduation at Carmel for more than a century now, and so this really is a ‘high’ celebration. For our graduating class, it marks the end of at least twelve years of primary and high school. No more bells. No more teachers expecting you to fulfil your obligations. Instead, whether the work place, TAFE or university, there is a requirement for personal responsibility.

Acceptance of responsibility is a concept that seems to be more and more lacking in our society. The blame game, the ‘It’s not my fault’ idea is prevalent everywhere. And, unfortunately, it’s not going to go away. One of the concepts Carmel attempts to pass on to students is that of being responsible for one’s actions. I would like to think that we succeed 100% of the time, but in reality, not so.

Many times we are inclined to think that the grass is greener elsewhere – other than where we happen to be. Just last week, when talking with our principal elect, Mr Nicholas Thomson, he mentioned that that the school he is currently principal of has a slightly different spin on this idea – ie, the grass is always greener where you water it! What a novel idea, and yet so true. So often, the more you invest yourself in a project or situation, the greater the return.

I would love to think, that in 2015 we all, as families and teachers, commit to making Carmel simply the best place to be.

SCHOOL NEWS

Meet Our New Principal Evening

Thank you to those families who were able to come along last Monday night to welcome our newly appointed principal, Mr Thomson and his wife Melissa. It was a great evening, and we are looking forward to 2015 when this new appointment begins.

We would also like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to Mr Ron Hiscox for stepping into the role of principal, at very short notice. The College has appreciated Ron’s leadership. His experience in administration and his wisdom during these months have been appreciated and we are very glad we don’t have to say good bye as Mr Hiscox will return to his previous role in 2015.

2015 Calendar

The College Calendar for 2015 has been finalised and is attached to this Newsletter.

Thank you

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Quality Adventist Schools (QAS) ‘Assessment and Reporting’ survey. The results are being used as planning begins for 2015 and will help to improve students leaning outcomes.

Pupil Free Day - this Friday

Parents please note, this coming Friday, December 5, there will be a pupil free day here at the high school and also at the primary school.

2015 Bus Forms - overdue!

We understand this time of year is busy but if you are planning on using the bus service in 2015, this does need to be dealt with ASAP!

Please find attached the new Application For School Bus Travel for 2015. Please complete it and return it to Reception at your earliest convenience to ensure your child/rens place on the bus.

Carmel Girls Win Basketball Competition

L-R Cassie, Shinane, Chaniece, Team Coach - Greg, Batavia, Jessie, Jean, Kathleen. Our girls from the boarding house had a magnificent win this week. Playing again this season at Ray Owen, last night they won their 3rd grand final.

While sitting at the top of the ladder all season, the game last night was very close with both teams taking turns at being in the lead throughout the game. Our girls triumphed though. Playing into overtime, in the last 30 seconds Jean scored the winning basket. We are very proud of them all with special congratulations to Shinane Umbagai for receiving the Fairest and Best trophy for the 2014 season.
**Graduation Details - Saturday, December 13**

**Sabbath morning:**
The Graduation Church Service featuring our Year 12 graduates will be at 11:00am on Saturday, 13 December, at Carmel College Church. All are welcome to attend the Bible Study groups beforehand for children and adults from 9:30-10:30am. Following the service there will be a basket lunch - please bring a plate to share.

**Sabbath afternoon:**
Around 1:45pm there will be a baptism of three of our Year 12 students which will take place at the Carmel Church.

**Sabbath evening:**
Our Year 12 Graduation and College Speech Night will be held in the gymnasium. Starting at 7.00pm, all students are expected to attend and be in full summer school uniform. We look forward to seeing you there.

**New CAC Church Pastor for 2015**
Carmel Adventist College SDA Church will have a new senior pastor for 2015 - Pr Edgar Reyes.

Edgar is also the senior pastor of the Swan Valley SDA Church. He and his wife Myra have had two daughters who have been students here - Melanie is graduating this year having served as one of the school captains. Edgar is looking forward to getting involved in the school community. Miranda Leisjer will continue in her role as chaplain for CAC and associate pastor at the College Church.

After six years at Carmel, Andrew Skeggs is moving to a full-time role at the State office of the SDA Church - the WA Conference. Andrew will be coaching churches in how to develop and grow. He and his family will have the College Church as his home base, and he is hoping to still run a Bible Study group at CAC.

**Christmas at Carmel Church**
You are invited to celebrate Christmas at Carmel College Church!
Sat 20 Dec - 9:00am Christmas Breakfast followed by a Christmas service at 10:30am
Sun 21 Dec - 5:30pm Christmas Party: BYO tea followed by dessert, carols and Santa's visit.

**For Sale**
The following items are available for sale.
- Calculator Casio Class Pad II fx-CP400 – paid $220 each x 2
- Human Biology WACE study guide 2A 7 2B 2nd edition paid $42
Su-Ellen
0478624016
94533102

**Genius Hour Presentation Night - Mon, Dec 8**
Parents of all our Year 8 students. Please don't forget to keep Monday night, the 8th of December free.
We will begin at 6:10pm sharp which will allow you to put your food on the tables prior to our introductory welcome conducted by your children who will explain how the night will proceed and your part in this event.
As many of you are aware, due to your assistance with your child's project, they have been working hard towards presenting a topic that they are interested in. You should find at each station, a powerpoint, or video presentation, and an interactive display of some type. We will be asking you to vote for the top three student projects that you find to be of the highest excellence and those top three students will receive certificates to place in their portfolios.
We have also asked for you to bring a dish to share on the night so we can have dinner together while you peruse students' work. Tables will be provided to place your savoury dish on for everyone to share, we just ask that you bring enough food to share to cover the guests that you are bringing as we have many different sized families who will be attending on the night and we want to make sure that we have enough so you don't have to go home after our event and cook dinner.
Students have been working on the information they will present, on the delivery methods and on their style of presentation, so hopefully you will be presented with a high calibre of work from which you will learn a great deal as they have each chosen fantastically different topics.
I thank you for your support of this open styled learning approach we have been working on this term as it has allowed some wonderful creativity and imagination, which some students have found challenging, but I believe just as equally rewarding.
I am looking forward to you experiencing what your child has been working on all term and by creating this opportunity for your children to present their projects to you, it allows their learning to become ‘real’ and substantial through your support of this presentation night.
So a big thank you again for giving up your time at home throughout the term and on the night.
Mrs Lever

**2015 Changes to Student Tax File Numbers**
We have received notification that the Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31 December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.
The Australian Taxation Office, in partnership with Australia Post, is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN. Students can now apply for a TFN online, and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.
Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for ‘QC2724B’

**School Fees**
Thank you to those families who have finalised their school fees. It is school policy that reports and other school documentation may be with held if fees are not finalised or a suitable payment plan is not in place. Statements will be posted next week to those who still have fees outstanding. Please ensure you take the time to finalise your fees or communicate with Narelle Duncan on a Tuesday or Wednesday at the high school or anytime via email. Thank you.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Kalamunda Carols - December 14, Stirk Park 7.00 pm**
Carols by Candlelight will be happening again this year in Stirk Park, Kalamunda on Sunday 14 December 2014, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

**Road to Bethlehem - December 15, 16 & 17**
R2B is a free interactive drama based on the nativity story lasting for about 45 minutes. If you have not been to R2B, we encourage you to treat your family this year. Online ticketing is now available.
Jeanne de Arc - Year 8 Performance

Just a HUGE thank you from all involved in the performance, to those who came to support us with our production of Jeanne de Arc.

The students loved performing for an audience and without you it just couldn’t happened. I know that Tong, Gerald and Tia would like to say a big thank you also as they raised $150 thanks to your support and they wanted to say a special thank you to ‘Connor’s Mum’ for helping them to reach that $150 mark.

The Year 8 students had been rehearsing for the production for the past term and a half, and Monday night was an opportunity to finally perform all they had been rehearsing. We also had a great backstage, props and costume department who were great on the night and kept things going smoothly with all of our scene changes. We would also like to thank a few special people who without their assistance, the night just wouldn’t have been the same. So a HUGE thank you to Mrs Aviles who gave up her time to help with the costumes and props during rehearsals and on the night and who also fed everyone throughout this process. Also a HUGE thank you to Mr and Mrs Hughes who gave up their time (with about 3 hours notice) to come and do our sound for us on the night. A big thank you to Lorry for installing the lights with only half an hour to spare before our production. Also to Ryan who stayed and helped with sound, lighting and just about everything else a BIG BIG thank you. Last, but definitely not least, a HUGE thank you to the students who performed. You did a great job on the night, you should be proud of your efforts and of course to your parents for letting you do all those after school practices before final production. There were so many people who helped out along the way and on the night so thank you to; Bridie, Michael, Gerald, Dimitri, William, Leesha, Hope and Haylea for all you did behind the scenes - we couldn’t have done it without you guys.

Mrs Lever