



CARMEL

ADVENTIST COLLEGE

YEAR 9 ASPIRE PROGRAMME – **Calling to Adulthood Ceremony**

Date: Wednesday 26th February at 5:30pm (RSVP Friday 21st February)

Dear Year 9 Parents and Guardians,

This letter is to inform you of our **Calling to Adulthood Ceremony** and to warmly invite you to be a part of this very special Year 9 event. (For more info about The Rite Journey, and the importance of family and community involvement, please read the next page).

We ask that parents and students arrive at the school **by 5:20pm, for a 5:30pm start.**

Your involvement as a parent is an essential part of the ceremony, so please plan to stay for the duration of the event. After the Ceremony is finished, you're invited to share a meal together from 6:45-7:30pm.

WHAT TO BRING

For the Calling to Adulthood Ceremony there are a couple of things we would like you to have prepared:

1. **A letter of love for your child** that outlines:
 - a. What you appreciate about them
 - b. Some of your favourite parenting moments
 - c. A hope for them for the Year 9 Aspire Program this year
2. **Bring 3-5 items that reflect their childhood and put them in a concealed bag.** This could be an old teddy bear, a photo, a favourite book, a favourite toy, or any significant keep safe from their childhood. Try not to let your child see the items, as we will use this as part of a surprise in the Ceremony.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

When you arrive, come to the front lawn and bring your letter and the concealed bag with the 3-5 items. We will introduce and explain the **Year 9 Aspire Programme** and **The Rite Journey**, then you and your child can reflect on some childhood memories and the items in the bag.

After a few minutes we will walk to a nearby location for the next part of the ceremony. We will have two special activities to symbolise the 'calling to adulthood'. You'll then be invited to give your child the letter of love for them to read.

During the Ceremony there will be some time for interaction with others and also the opportunity to give your blessing to your child's teacher. We consider it an important part of this program that we have your blessing to be working with your child on their journey this year.

You are welcome to invite any mentors or significant adults (e.g. coach, youth group leader, grandparent etc.) that wish to be present at the ceremony. But we do ask at a minimum that both parents are present if possible. Please let the school know how many people will be coming when you RSVP.

We do ask that younger siblings do not attend so the night is kept a surprise for them if/when they are in Year 9.

SHHHHH.... KEEP IT A SECRET...

As we are hoping to keep some of these details a secret, we would ask that you **don't share this information with your child or leave the letter lying around where they may read it.**

Please **RSVP by Friday, 21st February** via the Microsoft Form link attached to this email. If you have any further questions, please email: adam.dirosso@cac.wa.edu.au

Kind regards,

Adam Di Rosso
Year 9 Aspire Team

Amitha Narlapati

Luke Duncan Vanessa Fernandez

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'd like to offer you a warm welcome to The Rite Journey, the innovative year-long program being offered by your child's school.

The Rite Journey has been created to complement your role as parents and carers in guiding your child into young adulthood. Young people yearn to prove that they are adults. Most traditional cultures have a carefully crafted process guided by elders that provides this experience. In the absence of this adolescents often take it upon themselves to create their own rites of passage, for example activities during schoolies' week.

As an experienced teacher and father of teenagers I have listened to many parents and colleagues despairing as to how to help their boys and girls make it through adolescence. There are significant challenges that many young people face in today's society. The dominance of media; changing nature of family structures; pressures of work life and the stretching out of the years which young people spend navigating their way to adulthood all have a price. Having worked with many parents over the years I am aware of the impact this can have on raising and relating to adolescents.

Learning to be an adult male or female in any society typically involves guidance, mentoring and a great many conversations. However, in our society today we very often see young people turning to peers, the media and the internet to source this knowledge and guidance. There has been a loss of human-connection and nurturing as screens dominate adolescents' lives in our technologically saturated world. During The Rite Journey students will have numerous conversations around what it is to be a respectful and responsible man or woman in our society. As your child journeys through the year, we hope that the discussions they are having at school may also stimulate conversation in your own homes.

Adolescents are best helped by community guidance and your school may encourage you to find a mentor for your child. Your child's mentor will serve as another adult role model of the same gender, and ideally an ongoing supportive and rewarding relationship can be formed.

A unique feature of The Rite Journey is the seven steps that form a contemporary Rite of Passage. The staff at your child's school have worked with me and The Rite Journey team to create a special, memorable series of events, aimed at honouring your child's transition into young adulthood. As parents and carers you will have the chance to be involved in some of these ceremonies. I wholeheartedly invite you to embrace this opportunity to celebrate and share this part of your child's journey.

Feedback from parents and carers and teachers across Australia and New Zealand has indicated that The Rite Journey has been a catalyst in positively transforming and supporting the transition into young adulthood.

I trust that you and your child find The Rite Journey a positive, rewarding and transformative process.

With warmth
Andrew Lines
The Rite Journey



A NOTE FROM STEVE BIDDULPH



Dear Mum or Dad of a teenager,

You may know that in 3 my books *Raising Boys*, *Raising Girls* and *The New Manhood*, I talk about how teenagers need to be actively taught how to be good adults, and that some kind of active process has to happen to get them across the line. That both definite teaching, and some kind of "rite of passage" help to bring home to them the honour, and responsibility of becoming an adult and how special that is. That thinking about what kind of man or woman you want to be, can really help when they are put in difficult or risky situations, as all young people are.

Teenagers have all the great things you have given them while growing up, but something is needed to bring that together and say "you are now beginning adulthood". It has to be something solid, spread out over time, and involve teachers and parents working together to make it meaningful. There's a lot to learn about being adult and making choices and being independent and not expecting mum and dad to look after you all your life.

We read in the papers every day about young people who haven't learned to value themselves, or other people, and messed up in some way, which can harm or even end their lives. They've been given adult freedoms without adult instruction. With boys especially, they sometimes simply remain boys in adult bodies, not a pretty sight.

The Rite Journey process is designed to help the shift to being grown up. It's well thought out, respectful, enjoyable, and has a special sense of awe about life, that kids respond really well to. Young people crave meaning and rituals in their life, and as a society we haven't provided this very well in the past. I recommend you check out any information sessions, ask questions, and get involved in this extra benefit that your school is offering.

Sincerely
Steve Biddulph
Psychologist and author.

Steve Biddulph is one of the world's best known parenting authors. His books, including *Secret of Happy Children*, *The New Manhood*, *Raising Boys* and *Raising Girls*, are in four million homes and 31 languages. They have influenced the way we look at childhood and especially the development of boys and men.

Some Recommended Reading

What's happening to our girls? and What's happening to our boys? by Maggie Hamilton
He'll Be Ok: Growing Gorgeous Boys into Good Men by Celia Lashlie
Raising Boys and Raising Girls by Steve Biddulph
Raising Sons and Raising Daughters by Don and Jeanne Elium
Growing Great Boys and Growing Great Girls by Ian Grant
A Blessing not a Curse by Jane Bennett
Queen Bees and Wannabes by Rosalind Wiseman