



# CARMEL

## ADVENTIST COLLEGE

Dear Year 9 Parents & Guardians,

Greeting to you from our Year 9 Aspire team. This year, our homeroom team is made up of Adam Di Rosso, Amitha Narlapati, Luke Duncan and Vanessa Fernandez. Other teachers and supporting staff will also play a significant role in supporting your child through the Aspire Programme, all of which are listed below.

We would like to outline some key information about our Year 9 Aspire Program and answer any questions you may have. Some upcoming dates have been provided below for you to add to your calendars. You will also find a link & QR code to a Microsoft Form to ask any questions that will be answered at the Calling to Adulthood Ceremony in Week five. Further information about this ceremony will be sent home soon.

### **What is The Aspire Program?**

The Aspire Program aims to inspire and challenge students to grow, learn and develop into more responsible, respectable and resilient young adults. This is achieved through challenges, hands on learning and outside the traditional classroom walls where possible.

### **Why do we have The Aspire Program?**

“Research shows that during adolescence, students are experiencing profound physical, social, emotional and intellectual developmental changes. While added responsibility and expectation can assist learning and growth, it is at Year 9 when feelings of dissatisfaction and disengagement peak and levels of resilience are at their lowest”. (Understanding Year 9 Students Forum Report, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development: State Government Victoria)

The research shows that around 15 years of age, there are specific declines in fitness, initiative and enterprise, memory and imagination, skill and care, self-discipline and compassion.

### **Who is a part of The Aspire Program?**

The school-based part of The Aspire program is made up of the Year 9 Homeroom team; Adam Di Rosso, Amitha Narlapati, Luke Duncan and Vanessa Fernandez. Other core Year 9 teachers and supporting staff members are Suresh Narlapati, Carolyn Frisby, Brad Flynn, Miranda Leijser and Shannon Smoker.

Parents and Guardians make up the home-based part of The Aspire Program. We couldn't do this program without your support and encouragement.

The role of mentors is an important part of this program. Students have a specific activity in their Challenge Passport that relates to this. Students will be receiving these Challenge Passports on Friday this week.

### **How do we run The Aspire Program?**

Students will be provided the opportunity to:

- Intensive off-campus, community-based learning experiences
- Learning environments that support students to engage with real problems that require complex solutions
- Experience adult-like roles and responsibilities
- Participate in special events and programs that are of a substantial interest and/or challenge to them
- Celebrate and be recognised for their contributions, efforts and achievement

All the above is achieved through our various camps, excursions and events which include:

- Calling to Adulthood Ceremony
- Hiking and Camping the Cape to Cape
- Urban Learning Days (Parliament House, Army Museum of WA, etc)
- The Rite Journey
- Albany Service Trip
- Mornington Mystery Challenge Camp
- Celebration Dinner

### **Key Dates**

#### *Term 1*

Calling to Adulthood Ceremony – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February (Parent AND Student event)

Half day hike and team building day – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February

Full day hike – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March

Overnight hike – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Cape to Cape – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April

#### *Term 2*

Urban Learning Day #1 – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May

Urban Learning Day #2 – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May

Urban Learning Day #3 – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June

#### *Term 3*

Urban Learning Day #4 – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August

Mornington Mystery Challenge Camp – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September (Boys),

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September (Girls)

#### *Term 4*

Albany STORM CO trip – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November

My Purpose Presentations – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November to Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November (Parent AND Student event)

Celebration Dinner – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November (Parent AND Student event)

### **Homeroom Plan**

This year, Year 9 students will be learning and worshipping in a variety of ways. Where possible, we will be following the plan outlined below.

Monday – Building healthy, respectful relationships

Tuesday – Student worship / About me presentations

Wednesday – Student worship / About me presentations

Thursday – Staff worship / Thankful Thursdays

Friday – Journaling & reflection

### **Have a question?**

Please click the link below or scan the QR code to submit any general questions you may have. All questions will be answered at the Calling to Adulthood Ceremony.

<https://forms.office.com/r/SDCdheCing>

For any student specific questions, please email [adam.dirosso@cac.wa.edu.au](mailto:adam.dirosso@cac.wa.edu.au)

PS. Please keep an eye on your inbox for an invitation letter for the Calling to Adulthood Ceremony.

Kind Regards,

Year 9 Aspire Team

Adam Di Rosso, Amitha Narlapati, Luke Duncan & Vanessa Fernandez

## Year 9 Aspire Program Parent Questions

