



Reflection on 2011

The objective of schools is to educate, and education can be distinguished from academic performance in that there is an expectation that profound, significant and prolonged change has taken place.

The vision statement for Community Engagement, prepared by my predecessor, states “The spirit of responsible citizenship is firmly embedded in the ethos of the school and manifests itself through actions and activities of the entire school.” This year I have felt there has been progress, in this educational venture, but it has been on an individual and small-group level, rather than as a school wide phenomenon, with the singular exception of “Smiley’s Run” (see below).

There is a great deal to be done. The school motto suggests that continuing with difficult tasks is very much part of the Andrean character. The challenge is one of changing mindsets about privilege and poverty, about roles people fulfill at school and in the wider society and about how to use the resources available to us. I am grateful for the guidance of the Director of Development, Marketing and Community Engagement, Mrs Angie Marriner, the Headmaster, Mr Paul Edey and the Business Manager, Mr Gavin Shone.



The **Academic Extension programme** ran to a very successful conclusion, particularly for the Grades 6s and 7s, many of whom this opportunity gave access to possible entry to St Andrew’s, DSG, Kingswood, Victoria Girls, Graeme College, PJ Olivier and Mary Waters. The programme is designed to be aspirational and includes aspects of “soft-skills” such as interview techniques, scholarship and bursary applications, and operating in unfamiliar and demanding academic territory. Rhodes University Community Engagement will be picking up the Grade 11s of 2011 in their academic mentoring programme in 2012. The programme could not have run without Kayleigh Spurway and Mu Mwanje, both final year BBSci students at Rhodes University who tutored Maths; Mrs Cobbing, Mr Thiye and Mr Pienaar who tutored Physical Science; Mrs R Griffiths and Mrs S Price-Smith, both volunteers from our broader community, who assisted with reading and English; and a large team of pupils from DSG, Victoria Girls and St Andrew’s who tutored maths, and also provided much nurturing support. I’d like to single out the role played by my daughter, Katherine Barnard, not only in organizing volunteers, but also in recruiting friends to keep this programme running throughout both the state school and St Andrew’s August holidays.

Inspirational Andreans

We encounter remarkable people. This term two individuals from the Andrean community reflect some of the values we try to instill.

Mr Rob Campbell (Mullins1978) is the Medical Director of the Aurora Hospital which specializes in the rehabilitation of patients with spinal injuries. Amongst his patients is the mum of a boy currently at College. She was injured in a motor accident and has been under his care for some time. She has never been able to visit the school, meet any of her son’s

teachers, or be part of his school life. Rob organized, co-ordinated and managed a visit to the school involving himself, an ambulance driver and two specialist nurses, so that this mum could visit the school during Balloon Week. When I met him on that day he was battling to get a wheelchair hoist to co-operate, greasy hands, and in misty rain starting to sift down - ever an Andrian not allowing difficulties to dismay.

Mr Nick Hops (Espinoza 2009) is a feisty young man. He has faced cancer, and all kinds of trials and tribulations in his young life. In response to his good health, he has reacted in a remarkable way. He has decided to cycle the Cape Epic in a team with his father, to raise funds for the Red Cross Children's Hospital, where he received his treatment. Nick has a blog in which he movingly describes his journey, and on which anyone can contribute to his fundraising campaign. Details can be attained from: <http://ridingfortheredcross.yolasite.com/my-story.php> Nick's story is moving, his positive attitude and can-do approach is something to which we can all aspire.

Smiley's Run



Several months ago a group of Grade 11 boys on the President's Award Committee had planned to complete a fundraising 24 hour relay run. On hearing the news of the tragic death of Stuart van Oldenburgh, they decided to run the event in his honour. For many of us, it became more than just a run, fund-raiser or a school event. Mrs Jacobs wrote her story as follows:

"On my way back from Chapel, I met Matt Kroon who encouraged me to go and pop in where they had the Walk/Run for Smiley. Because I taught Smiley, I decided to go and walk ONE lap.

It was very hot at the time I arrived there. The boys told me I can walk a lap and stop – no problem as long as I pay them the R10!!!! That was my goal: A lap for Smiley. I enjoyed it so much that I decided to do a second and before I started with the third lap, I asked one of the boys how old Smiley would have been on the Saturday. The answer: 15! Well, there I got my answer. I will do FIFTEEN laps for Smiley– people who know me well, know that I will not SKRIK for a challenge – I am a true Andrian: I skrik vir niks! Being a Mathematics teacher, the number also appeals to me. I did the Walk on my own and had lots of time to reflect. On the eighth round, (it was very hot) I felt that it was an impossible mission, but pulled myself together. I remembered reading Lewis Pugh's (The Polar Bear) Autobiography where he said that when he swam in the ice-cold water, he put flags down and every flag was for a very special person in his life.

I decided to continue the walk, but I needed Lewis's flags. I started to reflect on my life. In 1997, different wheelchairs were being discussed with me. There was no hope: it appeared I would continue life in a wheelchair. The SAC boys, my family and my strong mind kept me walking!

My first flag (Round 9) was for all the Rheumatoid Sufferers in the World. Round 10 was for the development of medication and the HOPE and BELIEF that ALL treatment will be available for the rich and poor in the world. Round 11 was for all the SAC Boys who I dearly love and respect-they played a huge role in my life and kept me going! Round 12 was for all my Friends who supported me through all these years (22 years!). Round 13 was for Connor – my grandchild and other grandchildren to come. With his birth, I just pulled myself together and decided I want to grow old and see him and my other grandchildren, growing up and hopefully attending SAC and DSG one day. Round 14 was for my family who are always there to support me – Leon, Lizel, JP, Richard and Victoria– without them, I could not do it! Their dedication is absolutely amazing – the LOVE, SUPPORT, LAUGHTER and many times a strong word to pull myself together! Round 15 was a THANKSGIVING Round – Thank you that I could carry on, getting my treatment and staying POSITIVE and always WALK with a SMILE. God knows why He gave me this cross to carry – I will find out one day! The Walk for Smiley became a Personal Journey which I enjoyed so much and hope to do every year!"



Connections

There have been so many wonderful activities that have taken place and these include Mr Ferreira taking the Good Shepherd Grade 7 learners with the President's Award boys for an overnight hike and camp at Table Farm, to the 24 hour relay run organized by the Grade 11s of the President's Award Committee and the winter sleepout (in association with the SCA) - all of which have led to a greater sense of connection with our community. As I write this, the cadet detachment is forming up in the area outside Kettlewell to participate in the Remembrance Day parade on Church Square. Sounds of the parade ground signal connections being made with both the broader community and our past as a school. I have appreciated the support of members of our broader community, parents, colleagues, boys and friends.



I wrote earlier this year of the importance of small conversations. Many of those have led to great educational opportunities. *Deo Gratius.*

Warm regards

Tim Barnard