Welcome Assembly - "We can make the change".

On Monday, the whole campus of 1,500 staff and students gathered in the sports hall to for the Welcome Assembly for 2014. During the assembly, each of the captains of the College, Middle School and Junior School spoke about current events and the year ahead.

Traditionally, it is at this assembly that the Middle School captains discuss the College theme and the 2014 captains, Danielle Di Stefano and Christian Dimopoulos, were very clear and articulate in the presentation of their speech, which follows:

"As most of you know, this year the College theme is "We Can Make The Change." At first Danielle and I thought, what changes are they talking about? There are so many different ways to interpret this theme, changes that are personal and affect only you, changes that affect the whole school, or changes that affect the whole world. The theme doesn’t mention what has to be changed, this is a good thing. It allows us the opportunity to determine what needs to be changed and how we can go about it. We can shape our own future if we can just build up the courage to make changes throughout our community and our lives. We can make changes to build new friendships, or even open our eyes to new choices and experiences. People tend to stick to one path and don’t venture off this path because they’re scared of change and what the outcome may be. But this is just fear holding them back. I know that change, for many, is a scary and daunting thing and it can take a while for someone to break out of this bubble of fear. However, if you can all build up that confidence and make a change throughout the College or even outside of school, you can benefit yourself and help the community grow even further.

You may not notice it, but you make many changes throughout the day and they are just small things. Maybe you decided you were going to be healthy this morning and ate Weet-Bix instead of Coco Pops, or maybe you decided to wake up a little earlier this morning to get organised in less of a rush. These little changes that you make throughout your day can influence your mood and your attitude in a positive way, which can also affect the people around you. They may even change their thoughts about you and think of you in a more positive way.

Many of you will be familiar with a Disney movie called ‘A Bug’s Life’. It’s about a little ant that believed it was time for change and did something about it with the help of the colony. Here is a quote from the movie which we believe ties into this theme well.

"ou let one ant stand up to us, and they all might stand up! Those 'puny little ants' outnumber us a hundred to one."

With all of us working together towards a common goal, We Can Make The Change.

If one person stands up for change they are called a leader. A leader cannot always achieve their goal on their own; they need others for encouragement, guidance and support. By working together everyone becomes a leader. We need you to all become leaders, because there are changes to be made.
Last year, our theme was ‘iRespect’ and it related to respecting our College and our community. This message of learning to respect our College was a very appropriate and influential theme, which we believe worked very well last year. In 2014, we are sure “We Can Make The Change” will prove to be a fitting theme and that lots of changes will occur.

2014 is the year of change and we, the leadership team, hope that you all make positive changes throughout the year. Please make yourself known to us throughout the year and let us know if we can help you in any way.

We hope that you will leave today thinking about the change that you like to make personally, within the Overnewton community, or even globally because We Can Make The Change.”

The College Theme for 2014 was also discussed at the Welcome Assembly at the Taylors Lakes Campus and in individual schools. There are many opportunities to make a change at an individual, class, school, campus or whole College level. I encourage all families to discuss this theme at home as an opportunity for improvement in academic, health or community service related areas.

Working Bee

I was unable to attend the recent working bee due to being at the Year 12 Leadership Camp, but I was delighted by the appearance of the campus to begin the term. It was a hot Saturday for parents but they achieved the basic needs of a campus which had significantly dried out over this summer. There was an enormous accumulation of leaf litter and plant damage to deal with and the parents completed these tasks very effectively.