

## Principal's Update



### DEVELOPING PRIDE FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

Over the course of the year staff have become increasingly distressed about the state of the yard and in particular the rubbish that is being left around the student locker areas. I speak with students at the start of each term about the need for us collectively to maintain a neat and tidy environment. I emphasise that it is one way we can show our respect for the wonderful facilities the school provides and the pride they have being a student of Golden Grove High School. Whilst the yard begins each term in pristine shape it deteriorates quickly and action needs to be taken.

The problem is not a lack of bins as there are ample throughout the school. We also have different coloured bins for the different types of waste:

- **Blue** – for recycling paper and cardboard
- **Red** – for waste that will go to landfill
- **Yellow** – for 10 cent drink containers
- **Green** – for food scraps and other organic waste

The Environmental Action Team (EAT) actively promotes how each bin is to be used at every opportunity so the problem is not lack of student awareness. Sadly, it seems our students are either too lazy to use the bins provided or they simply do not care and think that someone else will clean up after them. We know there are many students who always use the bins correctly and we thank them for taking this stance, however there are clearly many others who are not doing the right thing.

Our response has been to take strong action to promote a change in student behaviour and attitude. We are calling whole school yard clean ups just before lunch begins on days when the yard is judged to be unacceptable at the end of recess. Students move out with their subject teacher and clean an allocated area of the yard. We are determined to continue this action until we see a positive change in behaviour.

We are hoping our families will also provide their support to this initiative. In the same way that you expect your children to maintain a clean bedroom and to help with household chores can you please emphasise the need for these behaviours to extend to their school? Perhaps you could also reflect on the food packaging students are bringing to school. Are there opportunities to make greater use of reusable containers so we can reduce the amount of disposable food packaging brought to school?

If you have any thoughts or ideas about how we might achieve a sustainable improvement in our yard cleanliness please send them through to me via the school info email address: [dl.1834.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.1834.info@schools.sa.edu.au)

Peter Kuss  
Principal



Some of Miss Carrington's Year 8 students, who have cleaned up a section of our grounds which was littered with rubbish which has blown in and around new shrubs.

