MERICI COLLEGE WELCOMES PENRITH CITY COUNCIL AND SYDNEY SCHOOLS FOR SUSTAINABILITY TALKS

Winners of the 2012 National Keep Australia Beautiful Sustainable Cities Awards, Penrith City Council, visited Merici College on Tuesday 21 May 2013 to exchange information on the development and implementation of sustainable practices in schools.

At the 2012 National Awards, the Penrith City Council was awarded several prestigious awards including NSW Overall Sustainable Council, National Young Legends Award and National Resource Recovery and Waste Management Award. Merici College was nationally recognised by Keep Australia Beautiful for its impressive integration of sustainable practice in the school and received a Commendation Award for its Initiatives in Youth Engagement.

As part of their Young Legends Award the Penrith City Council received $1000 in prize money which was used to fund Council members and students from Colyton High School, Jamison High, Kingswood High, Nepean Christian School, Penrith High and the University of Western Sydney to visit Merici College to discuss the sustainable strategies and programs they have implemented.

The visiting group toured recycling stations, drinking fountains, the Hospitality kitchen, the College’s glasshouse, solar panels, Kitchen Garden, canteen and restaurant. Merici staff and students spoke about the use of bore water, water conserving green keeping for the care of the oval, the indigenous garden, the rain water system, water and energy monitoring, the production system for the garden, composting, the chickens and the produce. At the conclusion of the tour all the visitors and Merici Sustainability teachers and students enjoyed a delicious two course meal in the College’s restaurant.

The school students were given the opportunity to learn more about Merici’s successful programs:

- The Environmental Sustainability Team which is an extra-curricular group that students can be involved in;
- A Sustainability Elective as part of Science;
- The Health Promotion Program and healthy eating canteen;
- The Trades Training Centre; and
- The Black Mountain School Mentoring Program.

The Merici College school community would like to thank the Penrith City Council for organising such a worthwhile excursion and for supporting the development of sustainability strategies in school environments.

Dr Ann Cleary
Acting Principal, Merici College

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