



Padua College Eagles

P.A.R.T.Y PROGRAM

A few weeks ago, a selection of senior students were sent to the Royal Brisbane Hospital to be a part of the P.A.R.T.Y Program, or the Prevention of Alcohol Risk-Related Trauma in Youth. We listened to the interesting stories from paramedics, trauma nurses, emergency doctors and a trauma doctor who specialises in facial reconstruction.

Many graphic images of face reconstructions and other severe injuries later we were taken outside to feel like what it would be like to be drunk with beer goggles and tried to walk in a line, throw and catch a ball and even finding a key and unlocking a lock. These were extremely challenging with lots of laughter and failed attempts.

After morning tea, we were taken around the Hospital into places where most of the public don't get to see and wouldn't want to see. We were taken to the trauma floor and we spoke to a boy who had been thrown from his bike in a crash and had a deadly bear claw scratch on his kidney from the impact. After we spoke to him we were taken to talk to Charmaine and her father. One night she decided at 1 am to go for a drive with her boyfriend. She was distracted by a text and was involved in an accident. After spending 2 months in intensive care, Charmaine has spent the last 2 years learning to talk, walk and eat again. Even the hardest boy there had a tear in his eye hearing the emotion from her father when he spoke.

We then learnt about a man named Matt who was in a Sand boarding accident and spent many years in the RBH. We saw his struggle and pain, even this made us feel even luckier with what we have. We then proceeded to the gym to feel what it would be like to be out of hospital but confined to a wheel chair or on crutches or in a neck halo or bed ridden.

Lastly before we left we spoke to the Australian Wheelchair rugby captain, Ryan Scott, who told us his heartbreaking story of how he was confined to a wheelchair. He was a bad child, doing drugs and drinking with people who were older than him. A lack of concentration by the driver took the car off the road and subsequently paralysed Ryan from the chest down. He began to look up to better people and this year through hard work he has been named the captain for the Australian squad. He has a gold medal from the London 2012 Olympics and a silver in Beijing.

The PARTY aims to show the unfortunate reality of car crashes from alcohol and what can happen in one bad decision. Matt is disabled for life, Charmaine is now in a wheelchair for life and Ryan is paralysed from the chest down. All because of stupid decisions because they wanted to fit in. They are trying to live a normal life but because of past decisions their lives will never be the same.

Be smart. Think before you drink, think twice before you drive.

Jack Fuller