



SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

28 May 2010

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Please be aware of the following calendar events and School concerns:

Teacher Only Day Friday 4 June

The School will be closed for the day so that staff can work on planning the structure of Year 11 courses for 2011, and participate in Professional Development. This is Queen's Birthday weekend, so Monday is a holiday.

Traffic Issues

I am still concerned about the behaviour of some of our students as they leave the School at the end of the day, especially at both, the end of the new walkway, and at the round-about.

Please reinforce with your son or daughter the need for care when crossing the road.

They must be patient, not foolhardy.

Internet Safety

We have been concerned to hear about some students' unwise use of Facebook, BEBO or other social networking sites. Unfortunately, some young people may put themselves at risk by placing information or photographs on their Facebook pages which other people could use to hurt or embarrass them in some way. We are also concerned that some students may use these sites, or other technology like cellphones, to make nasty or threatening comments to, or about, others. This is a form of "cyberbullying".

Our recommendation is that parents and caregivers discuss the use of the internet and cellphones with their teenagers, and that they are aware of how young people are using these technologies.

There is a New Zealand organisation called NetSafe which provides information for parents and young people regarding internet safety and cyberbullying, and their website is excellent.

The web address is www.netsafe.org.nz

Maintaining a Safe Environment.

The school remains strongly committed to ensuring that it provides a safe environment for all students. Over recent weeks a number of activities have been planned and implemented to support this.

The Health Day held on Thursday 27 May, is the most recent example of this, where specialists talked to students about a range of issues including the dangers of the use of alcohol and drugs. The focus was personal safety and safe choices. Along with other Wanganui Secondary Schools, we plan to reinforce this message and are working with other agencies to promote student safety in our school.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Elizabeth Spooner
Deputy Principal