



Dear Parent/s and Guardians,

As you may be aware, media reports have been posted over the past few days regarding a number of threats made towards schools. These threats have been made in the form of phone calls through to office staff and have included various Victorian State Schools. Our school **has not** been subjected to these hoaxes.

Last night at our Staff Meeting we focused on student wellbeing and discussed our action plans for students in our school with serious medical needs (such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, and severe allergies). We also discussed our evacuation plans. Teachers have talked to the children about "what to do in an emergency" which will be followed up with an emergency drill practice next week. This drill will follow the practices outlined within our school's Emergency Management Plan, which was reviewed last December and forwarded to the Department of Education and Training.

Emergency situations are normally unforeseen and can develop with unpredictability and speed and may be carefully planned or completely random. Fortunately, these types of situations are rare in Australia. Principals have received advice from authorities to continue to take any perceived threat to the school community seriously.

Where threatening situations have occurred overseas they are usually over within several minutes. What has also been learned from international experience is that these events don't follow a predictable pattern so it is not possible to establish a single set of response procedures. As Principal, I must carefully assess and seek police support in relation to threats made either directly or indirectly against students, parents, staff and school facilities.

In the face of any immediate danger, our well-informed staff will be led in the most appropriate course of action as an emergency unfolds. In most instances this will involve a "lockdown" or an evacuation (either on or off-site). An immediate response to any rapidly evolving situation is critical and all staff have been made aware of the procedures detailed in our school's Emergency Management Plan (EMP) and clearly understand their role in such an event.

I am confident that the authorities response to these hoaxes will be vigorous and that the perpetrators held accountable for their actions.

Finally, I wish to remind all parents and guardians to follow our 'sign in' procedures when collecting a child during school time or if assisting somewhere around the school.

Andrew Crossett  
Principal