

21 October 2016

## SPECIAL NEWS LETTER

### PRIZEGIVINGS

We are all looking forward to our students' prizegivings. It is my pleasure to invite you and your families and whanau to attend:

The **Sports and Cultural Prizegiving** on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October at **7:00pm** in the school hall.

Twelve days later in the hall we will be holding the **Senior Academic Prizegiving** on 8<sup>th</sup> November at **6:00pm**. Note school will be closing **early** (1:30 pm) on this day.

### PLEASE MONITOR STUDENT'S SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

Of concern over the last week or so are a series of inappropriate social media sites which have sprung up involving students. I am seeking parents and whanau support to carefully monitor what social media sites their children are using and to discuss with them what is appropriate online behaviour. The government Internet safety organisation **Netsafe** <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/> has recommendations about best practice.

These social media sites are using photos and images without consent and frequently there are hurtful, offensive and untrue statements being made anonymously on them.

We immediately contacted the Police and **Netsafe for assistance. Their response has been slow. Our repeated and direct contact with Facebook** has been absolutely unproductive and they will not close the sites down.

We have shared with all students and staff on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> information about the law as it relates to offensive digital material and the consequences for offenders. Tutor teachers have talked with students about sensible behaviour around their involvement in social media and the consequences of illegal behaviour.

Yesterday the school enlisted the assistance of a private IT consultant from an international company to help us to identify the perpetrators. It should be noted that students have not had access to Facebook through the school Wi-Fi system for several months.

We have identified some students who have been involved in some offensive and harmful on-line forums. They have been disciplined and will be involved in restorative conversations when they return to school. We are sharing all evidence we have identified with the Police.

In term two I shared with all students the care they need to take with their digital profiles and their online activity, including social media sites, at an assembly. I will be doing so again this coming week.

Our counsellors have been active in supporting students who have been victims of the cyber bullying. If you have concerns about your children's digital footprint or if they have been the victim of cyber bullying please contact the Police, Constable Niwha Jones, ph. 0211923546 or email [niwha.jones@police.govt.nz](mailto:niwha.jones@police.govt.nz) or **Netsafe**. <https://www.netsafe.org.nz/>, phone toll free 0508 638 723, or email [queries@netsafe.org.nz](mailto:queries@netsafe.org.nz).

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Kia Ora



Clive Hamill  
Principal

HEI AWHINA HEI MAHI



To Serve and To Work

**MELVILLE  
HIGH SCHOOL**

6 Collins Road  
Private Bag 3107  
Hamilton  
New Zealand  
Tel: 07 843 4529  
Extension 803  
Fax: 07 843 1596

e-mail:

[principal@melville-  
high.school.nz](mailto:principal@melville-high.school.nz)

**PRINCIPAL:  
CLIVE HAMILL**