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Sent: Friday, 8 September 2017 8:30 AM
To: GUMDALENEWSLETTER@DISCUSSIONS.EQ.EDU.AU
Subject: [GUMDALENEWSLETTER] Message from the Principal - Online Saftey

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Message from the Principal

Dear Parents

The safety of our students is paramount and this responsibility includes management of online behaviour.

Unfortunately in the past week we have had an incident of inappropriate online behaviour by some of our students and so I remind all families of the following:

Inappropriate online behaviour occurs when technology such as email, mobile phones, chat rooms and social networking sites, are used to send or post abusive, threatening, humiliating or harassing messages or misrepresent an individual or a group.

Our school is committed to addressing inappropriate online behaviour in any form.

The Department of Education and Training protects students from inappropriate websites through special filtering software that will block certain sites. When used safely, some of these sites offer opportunities to learn and communicate, however when used inappropriately they can become hurtful and dangerous places.

If students use websites or technology inappropriately outside of school hours the school can and will in certain circumstances, take disciplinary action with serious matters referred to police. Along with the risk of committing a criminal offence, students and parents should understand that, once inappropriate material (illegal or not) is published online through computers or mobile phone services, it may exist online forever regardless of any law enforcement action which may or may not be taken. Regardless of its legality, the persistence of such images and text may cause students embarrassment or other difficulties later in life. A recommended approach is for you to discuss online behaviour with

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your child and highlight the importance of appropriate online behaviour.

If your child is of a suitable age to be connected to any social networking site, reviewing their 'friends list' may help you manage their safety and reduce the risk of them associating with inappropriate contacts.

To assist you, provided below are websites containing advice and resources:

<http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>
<http://www.kidshelp.com.au/>

Please remember, as a parent or caregiver you play an important role in helping your children have safe and positive experiences online.

Regards

Phil Savill

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