



SPANZ

SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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President

Graham Young, Principal, Tauranga Boys' College

April 13th 2006

President Comment 10



Dear Colleagues

A little bit of light relief as you tidy the desk for the Easter Break. In case you missed it, I was interested to read Joe Bennett's advice on 'how to placate an outraged parent' Herald Saturday March 11th ... From the Principal's Inray ... and Joe Bennett's fictitious reply ...

Dear Excuse for a Principal, it runs, or rather gallops, frothing at the bit as it careers across the Simpsons-logo notepaper, I am not one of those parents who are always complaining, indeed I deliberately refrain from writing to you more than once an hour.

But I have to tell you that I attended your school swimming sports last week in order to support my daughter Tartiana in the demanding 10-Metre Shallow-End Everyone's-a-Winner Freestyle event, a competition for which she had been in training for several minutes on the internet. I came home shocked and appalled. Not only had I observed for myself the poolside presence of several male perverts whom I believe you jocularly refer to as teachers, but I also couldn't help noticing that the one holding a stop-watch was looking directly at Tarty in her swimming costume as she approached the conclusion of this gruelling event. In my daughter's own words afterwards, it was "like, yuk". If you wish to confirm these details feel free to apply for an interview with my daughter as soon as she returns from counselling. She'll be the one attending swimming lessons in a burka. Are you going to do something about this, or do I sue?

*Warm regards
Sue.*

Dear Sue

*Here at the Columbar School of Parody we are committed to Maximising Student Outcomes and providing a Safe Learning Environment, as those capital letters clearly show. On receipt of your complaint I summoned an ad hoc meeting of the School Governance Committee consisting of myself, Baz and the school motto. It was unanimously resolved to revise the protocol with regard to the teacher-student interface. Copies of the revised protocol will be delivered to all school waste bins via staff pigeonholes. Meanwhile we will be continuing with our policy of introducing information technology into all classrooms, with a view to equipping students with the skill base essential for a rapidly developing world. If your daughter cares to call on me in my office, I will happily give her a copy of the revised protocol. I am confident you can locate in your household a literate adult to read it to her. Meanwhile please convey my congratulations to Tarty on her triumphant performance in her NCEA Health Studies Piercing Assignment. Sincerely
Augustus Fagan, PhD.*

It is remarkable how, by stretching the truth, some of our stresses can evaporate into good humour. The moral of the story – don't take everything too seriously. Laugh a little. Cry a little. Relax a little. Have a very happy Easter break and God bless.

Graham Young
President