



SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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30th April 2009

President's Comment 11

Dear Colleagues

I trust you had at least a partial rest over the holidays, including some quality time with family and friends.

President Peter is gallivanting over the globe, surfboard in one hand and laptop in the other, as he begins a well earned sabbatical.

Education Amendment Bill 2009

It is pleasing that the Minister of Education, Ann Tolley, has listened to reason and removed from the Bill, the requirement to police vet all 'unsupervised access to children by adults'. The risks are very small compared to the cost and inconvenience to schools. It is also a matter which can be left to the judgment of the principal and Board without the need for compulsion.

The data swapping between the NZ Teacher's Council and Payroll will enable the NZTC to identify teachers working without a current practicing certificate or authorization. It may lead to the teacher and/ or school being prosecuted up to maximum fine of \$5000. Apparently there are estimated to be between 3000 and 10,000 teachers in this position. It would be timely for principals to check their systems to ensure all teachers are registered and hold practicing certificates.

Swine Flu

The unfortunate event involving Rangitoto students and Swine Flu is a reminder to us all how quickly a pandemic might eventuate in New Zealand and within our school communities.

Rangitoto College is to be commended for its swift action and willingness to share information to benefit us all.

In closing, "the only known cure for Swine Flu has been found to be the liberal application of oinkment".

Kind regards

Patrick Walsh
SPANZ Vice President

ps. The AsiaNZ Foundation has asked SPANZ to mention the following opportunities for principals

1. Wellington Principals' Forum May 14th 8am-3pm.
2. Singapore Principals' Forum – two spaces available for Principals who have registered for the ICP Convention. The forum is a three day add-on (Thursday evening – Sunday lunch time). An opportunity for principals to learn more about the Singapore Education System/meet Principals/Visit Schools/Discuss Issues with Singapore Ministry people and visit the National Institute of Education.
For further information about either of these events Email: vlee@asianz.org.nz or phone 04 471 2320