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Dear Colleagues

If your school is a member of New Zealand Schools' Trustees Association you would have received an email memorandum earlier this week informing of a special audit of Secondary and Composite schools' Principals' remuneration for 2009.

The objectives of the audit are to ensure that concurrence requirements are met where applicable and that the board is compliant with PAYE and FBT obligations. Although the normal school auditing process looks into such matters to assure that Ministry guidelines are met, the fact that the office of the Auditor General has called for a special audit suggests that a separate report will be issued. It is interesting to note that this exercise only relates to secondary and composite schools and that it also has the support of the Ministry of Education – read into this what you will.

The key message is, I suppose, to ensure that you and your board comply with all concurrence/reimbursement/tax requirements and if you have any doubt then feel free to contact our Executive Manager (Ros) for guidance.

Last week was winter tournament week and thousands of students throughout the country enjoyed the opportunity to compete against schools from outside their area in a series of well-organised, highly competitive tournaments. Congratulations must go to the various tournament organisers, coaches, managers, parent helpers, match officials and, of course, the eventual winners. Co-curricular programmes in our Secondary Schools are extensive (and expensive!), enjoyed by many and provide a wonderful vehicle to instill key values in our students that help them become better people. Very importantly, programmes in sport and the performing arts are well supported by Principals and although time consuming it is a very important part of the work we do in promoting a positive school culture. If your school team won a tournament last week – congratulations and enjoy the sun while it shines.



Peter Gall
President