**Principal’s message**

We are currently having an audit of our school buildings. The purpose of this is to clearly show the location of any asbestos that is in our building materials. Each entry point has a blue sticker to ensure the message is clearly communicated to enable the appropriate precautions to be used by anyone undertaking work here. This is a state government approach which is being completed across the state.

**ICT** - Last Tuesday we had the opportunity to listen to a representative from EduNet talk with both parents and staff about a new laptop that they are selling. As a school we need to replace our current ICT devices but we do not have sufficient funding to enable this. So for 2016 and into the future we are proposing the following solutions to this issue:

**Later Years students**—Bring Your Own Device which will need to have the capacity to meet the demands of school subjects.

**Years 7-10**—We strongly encourage each student to purchase their own laptop. They can use this instead of the netbooks that are currently in use but are not as effective now as they were when first purchased. They are worth about $750 which, over four years, is about $200 a year, which is about $50 a term, which over a ten week term is a dollar a day. When we looked at finance to support a payment plan all the companies we looked at had a very high real rate of interest and do not want to do that. We are aware of the costs associated with children and so would be happy to work with families that will see them purchase the laptop when it suits them, ie, maybe at tax return time or giving it to a student as a gift at either Christmas or birthday.

**Year 3-6**—We will purchase a trolley of laptops for each of the rooms, which will be at school all the time. To allow this to happen we will need parent assistance with this.

**Prep-2**—We would like the students new into the school to purchase an iPad at the end of term one or at some stage which is manageable. This device would be used by the student and be a resource that will be within them beyond Year 2.

At the meeting on Tuesday night we had a number of parents who thought the solution above had merit, and that in an ideal world we would have the resource to better manage this issue; however we don’t, and we must ensure that our students are set up to be the best they can be.

Please contact me so we are able to work through any challenges that this solution may present.

Robert Boucher
Suggestions for addressing children and young peoples’ responses in relation to traumatic events such as the terrorist attacks in Paris.

Advice for Parents

* It is wise for you to monitor your child’s exposure to television coverage, print media and social media.

* Some children and young people will want to talk about the tragic events and try to make sense of what they have both seen and heard.

* Other children will avoid any discussion around the events and will be reassured by routine and normality.

* Remember the importance of routine, sleep, exercise and healthy eating.

There is a range of things you can do to assist your child during events such as this, including:

* Acknowledge that the event was distressing
* Reassure children that they are safe
* Look for signs of distress (e.g. some children/young people might be scared)
* Normalise responses - typical response will range from anger to general upset or sadness
* Maintain a normal routine - keeping the structure at home or at school in place
* Allow children to express feelings as they arise
* Telling stories about how people manage during difficult times can be helpful.
* Separate fact from fiction e.g. children may express fears about unrelated events.
* Plan relaxing activities before bed – talk your child through a gentle relaxation, this might include using soothing music and talking them through relaxing tension in their body or simply reading something to them that induces relaxation (i.e. a favourite book).
* Speak in hopeful terms – children and young people will often take their cues from their parents’ reactions; if you are honest, calm, compassionate and open they will be much more able to trust that they will be okay.
* Always remember the value of doing something with children that they like to do such as playing, exercising, being outdoors - have a time during your day to share time with your child.

HCEYAG
A reminder about the Early Years Public Meeting tonight at the Omeo Hall 7.00 to 8.30pm.
This is a great chance to find out what is happening with the Early Years plan and new centre.

Book Club
Please have your book club orders handed into the office at Flagstaff Campus by Friday 20th November. Mrs G will be sending the order off at lunchtime.

Trivia Night and Auction
On the 28th of November at the Albion Hotel there will be a Trivia Night. The Trivia Night starts at 7pm. All funds raised go towards the Tour De Cure Foundation, riding to cure cancer. David Hall is riding in the Tour De Cure team next year and has committed to raise a significant amount of money as part of this. Come along and help out. Tables of 6-8 and $10 per person. The night will end with an auction with a good amount of items on offer. Meals will be served at the hotel from 5pm for those who wish to eat first. It will be a great fun night and going towards a great cause – a cancer free world.