

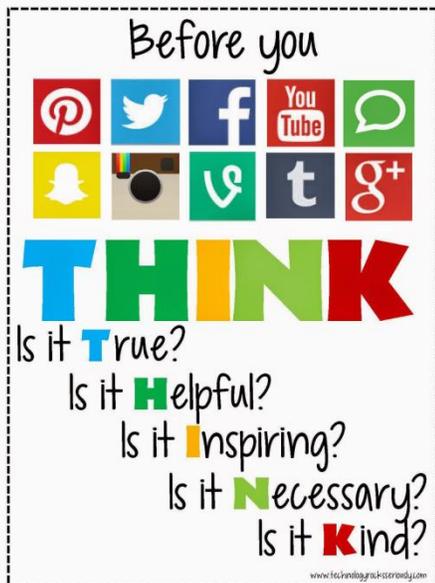
# RAUMATI BEACH SCHOOL

30 March 2017

Dear Parents & Guardians,

## TEAM KAPITI - WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE ONLINE

During last week, we met with our Team Kapiti students to discuss their online behaviour and how they can keep themselves and others safe. We outlined their responsibilities, reminded them of our school procedures and how the law relates to their online choices. We have uploaded a copy of the slideshow to our Facebook page, and your child will be able to talk you through it. Your child can also find this on our Team Google Classroom. Mike Farrelly attended a second meeting, held with year 8s to address some specific online interaction that has caused us concern.



Dealing with issues that relate to out-of-school online use has already taken up a significant amount of teacher time this year. We have worked to ensure that all students are informed and aware of the consequences related to any online misuse. We will always work alongside you and your child to resolve any concerns, however, our staff are increasingly frustrated by the significant time consumed in resolving issues relating to outside-school online usage, beyond our control.

We need your support at home, to be the “brakes” on your child in monitoring and moderating their online usage. Although they have a large degree of technological capability, unfortunately it is not matched by their maturity or brain development. **If you choose to allow your child access to online platforms/social media, it is**

**essential that you, as their parents provide the supervision, guidance and restrictions that they need.** We ask that you:

- Check when your child is online. We know that many “chats” occur beyond 10pm.
- Ensure that your child is in a public area when using their device. We know of “chats” that referred to parents being present/absent which dictated their chat content. Make bedrooms a device-free zone to give your child a safe space.
- Ensure that you have access to your child's applications and passwords so that you can check their content.
- Take action to restrict your child's usage as often they cannot wisely make these decisions. Your child may appear mature or confident but this can mask an inability to manage their “chats” positively.
- Empower your child to shut down or leave worrying conversations, or to block unkind users. Our talks with students indicate that they can feel trapped in these online “chats”. We have guided students to talk with you about any concerning material.

- Be aware of age limits: most of our students are "under age" in terms of social media regulations. This makes you responsible for their content. Access to many of these sites are blocked at school.
- Contact us to seek support, and allow us to follow School procedures in investigating/resolving issues. You can also contact the Police to seek guidance on cyber-bullying.
- Model responsible and respectful online communication.
- Join us for our NETSAFE sessions in term two (more info to come).

We are not advocating a ban on devices or online communication; many students enjoy this connectedness, and with the guidance of their school and family, can interact with respect and responsibility.

Regards,

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Wendy Keating  
**TEAM LEADER (TEAM KAPITI)**

Mike Farrelly  
**PRINCIPAL**