



Jireh School Newsletter

24 August 2017

Dear Jireh Parents,

Mr Budler, Principal of Kingsway School delivered professional development to Jireh teachers on an issue that is close to his heart; Bullying. This professional development clearly defined the term **'bullying'** and some misconceptions that people have. Mr Budler explained that bullying takes place when;

- It is **deliberate**
- There is an **imbalance of power**
- It is often **systematic**
- It is **repetitive**
- It causes **harm**

There are some myths and misconceptions around Bullying, which the teachers were made aware of;

1. Bullying can be eradicated from a school with careful planning, effective leadership and dynamic programmes.

FALSE. It can be managed but never completely eradicated.

2. Being bullied is often a sign of a lack of resilience on the part of the victim.

FALSE. Dangerous myth because it suggests victims are to blame.

3. Teachers need to keep their eyes open, especially on duty, as they are the individuals most likely to spot incidents of bullying

FALSE. Teachers can be the last to spot incidents of bullying.

4. The victim is never to blame.

FALSE. Provocative victims can incite bullying

5. **Teachers know how to handle bullying. It's their job!**

FALSE. Being a teacher does not automatically make anyone an expert or able to identify bullies or victims.

6. Bullies are typically students of low intelligence from dysfunctional families who act alone.

FALSE. Bullies come in all shapes and sizes. Bullies rarely act alone.

While the word 'bully' does not appear in the Bible, the idea of treating others in a disrespectful way does. The Bible also tells people how to deal with bullies. When responding to a bullying situation, remember that the Bible instructs people to treat others with respect.

Matthew 22:39 says to love others as yourself **Romans advises, "If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone".** Matthew 5:9 says peacemakers will be blessed **Luke 6:28 says "Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you"**

When faced with someone talking bad about you, making fun of you, controlling or putting you down, do not seek revenge but respond in love. How you treat others reflects your relationship with God since He created and values everyone.

At the same time, if bullying is negatively affecting people, mentally, emotionally or physically, do not allow yourself to remain in danger and seek support from a trusted adult or authority figure. **If your child is being bullied, don't assume it will just go away.** It will help to role-play how your child can respond so that he/she feels prepared to face the bully. Keep the line of communication open with **your children and don't hesitate to contact the teacher, syndicate leader or myself to help resolve the issue.**

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Continued from front page

As a school we have policies, approaches and intervention programmes to address bullying. We will look to have Peace wise next Term as part of Inquiry to equip our students with the necessary skills to deal with conflicts and work towards reconciliation. The school encourages restorative practice and it has a zero tolerance towards bullying. Our focus is to provide a safe physical and emotional environment for all student.

The staff at Jireh School strive to ensure that it is a place where students feel safe, loved, supported and respected. Where the absence of fear allows students to speak up about things that trouble them and cause unhappiness. We respond promptly and take all cases reported very seriously. We are a community and when one hurts we all hurt and when one rejoices we all rejoice. The wellbeing of all our students is of utmost importance at every level.

Yours in partnership,
Maliah Tato.

PARENT MEETING

Please note that the next parents meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday 26th September**. A proposed Year 7/Year 8 programme will be presented and our new Deputy Principal, Vicki Morris will be introduced.

Term 3: 24 July to 29 September

- 1 September- PA Walkathon
- 3 September- Arataki Trip Year 5-6
- 14 September- Arataki Trip Year 3-5
- 15 September- Grandparents Day
- 25 September- Parent/Teacher Interviews
- 26 September- ACS Cross Country/ **7.30pm Parents Meeting**
- 29 September- MUFTI Day/
End of Term

School Office Hours:

Mondays to Fridays term time only:
8.30am—3.30pm.Ph: 09 836 6913 / 02108538662
Email: administration@jireh.school.nz

Parents Association

Fundraising update:
Reusable Bags \$3000
Earthwise \$284
Chicken madness lunch \$\$107.50
Cultural Dinner \$2050
This year we have purchased 11 new iPads for the school. \$1000 has been set aside this term to purchase Maori Resources and Technology.
Any input you would like to have as parents you are more than welcome to join us at our next meeting (date to be advised)
Thank you all for your support in our fundraising ventures this year and in advance for our next event, the walkathon.

Art Workshop
Budding artists at work....

