3/2/2016

Dear Parents,

I write to you about threats which have been made to a range of Victorian and interstate schools. Since the lengthening list of schools affected now includes a number of schools from our area, I write to clarify how we would respond in similar circumstances.

At around midday yesterday, St Patrick’s Primary School, Pakenham, received an automated bomb threat message over the phone. The school activated their emergency procedures policy and evacuated to the Pakenham Secondary College. The Police were immediately notified and promptly came to the scene to investigate.

Over recent days, two different automated messages have been directed at numerous schools which indicate a threat to the children, one of these threats being a bomb threat. Each type of threat to students sees us enact a different response through our emergency management plan.

Staff have been briefed on our emergency management plans and to ensure our students know what to do in the event of a real threat our school will be practicing both Lockdown and Evacuation Procedures as outlined in our emergency procedures over the next week.

While we appreciate the angst that parents feel when you hear of these circumstances it is VITAL that you do not ring into school as during an emergency we need all lines of communication open to the emergency services. A communication tree is in place in the case that we would need to ring parents.

Yours sincerely,

Vicki Miles
Principal