

Communiqué

Dear Parent

I would like to bring to your attention two matters.

Letter to *The Australian*

A letter was printed in *The Australian* on Wednesday, February 27, 2002. In the letter a former student alleged he was sexually abused over 30 years ago while at Hutchins. As this matter occurred many years prior to my coming to Hutchins, matters such as these are dealt with by the Board of Management and do not fall within my sphere of responsibility.

The School has procedures in place and a policy for dealing with all forms of harassment, including sexual harassment.

Meningococcal

I have received updated advice regarding our practices for ensuring music instrument mouthpieces are washed correctly. Mouthpieces should not be shared without cleaning. They should be washed thoroughly in tepid, soapy water, rinsed and dried. The Music Staff will ensure these precautions are taken.

Drinking Fountains should have a guard on them to ensure that students' saliva cannot be exchanged. I have contacted the Health Department on a number of occasions this week to have them come and look at our fountains to advise us as to whether they are happy with the current fountains. I will replace those that are not.

I am pleased that our two boys who were hospitalized are, on latest reports, doing well. There is no evidence that the Hutchins environment was a contributing factor.

Bill Toppin
Principal

28/2/02