

NORTHSIDE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

memorandum

C O N F I D E N T I A L

TO: DVS & LEOE
 FROM: NEIL ROOKES
 DATE: 20th MARCH, 1987.
 SUBJECT: KEN SANDILANDS

An alleged incident was reported to me last night by Miss Abdelmesieh. It appears that three grade 5/6 girls from an art class were sent to collect a vacuum cleaner from the room in between Mr Sandilands' and Miss Andrew's rooms. They allege that Mr Sandilands had one of his female students seated on his knee and was touching her on the lower stomach area and on her legs.

Mrs Brown and myself interviewed each of the ^{three} Grade 5/6 girls on their own and discovered some inconsistencies in their account of what happened, but perceived an element of sincerity and concern.

Mrs Brown talked to the child involved who admitted to being on Mr Sandilands' knee but denied being touched apart from being cuddled. Apparently Mr Sandilands also encourages the children to express verbally their love for him by whispering such things as "Who do you love?" in their ears.

I understand that Mr Sandilands has been warned about his actions and that they can be misconstrued and has been specifically instructed not to touch the children. Another severe warning, probably in writing, would seem to be necessary - either generally or specifically about this alleged incident.

It is obvious to me that the potential damage to the school's reputation is immense if alleged incidents such as these are allowed to continue. If any future such incidents were able to be proved undeniably then I would have no hesitation at all to recommend instant suspension and dismissal.

It is a situation that will have to be monitored closely. I would welcome any further input on this long-standing situation with which I am only recently acquainted.

Yours in His service.

Neil.

NR:AB