



Media Release – For immediate release
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Special Tree Planting Ceremony For SunSmart School

Glenholme School in Rotorua will be hosting a special tree planting ceremony on Friday in recognition of their efforts in achieving the Cancer Society's SunSmart School Accreditation.

Judy Gould, Waikato/Bay of Plenty Cancer Society Chief Executive, says the Waikato/Bay of Plenty region is leading the way in terms of the number of schools who have achieved accreditation.

“This is a wonderful response and clearly demonstrates that schools in our region understand the importance of being SunSmart to reduce children's risk of developing skin cancer.”

To achieve accreditation, schools need to implement a SunSmart policy during terms one and four that encourages SunSmart behaviours such as wearing broad brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hats, clothing and sunscreen and seeking shade during peak UV hours of 11am - 4pm during terms 1 and 4

It also includes creating a SunSmart environment that promotes the provision and use of shade as well as rescheduling outdoor activities outside peak UV times.

Curriculum content on how to be SunSmart is also part of the accreditation programme which is reviewed every three years.

Mrs Gould says the accreditation process recognises the efforts a school is making to implement a comprehensive sun protection policy.

The programme was developed in Australia over a decade ago and has been shown to be the most effective. It is recommended by the World Health Organisation as the “Gold Standard” schools' sun protection programme.

The accreditation process is designed to be undertaken on-line through the SunSmart schools website with assistance from the Cancer Society. The website provides schools with SunSmart information, curriculum materials and draft policy information.

More ...

Schools attaining accreditation are sponsored with three shade trees, sunscreen and a special offer of bucket hats for a limited time.

“We have a number of schools who will be using the winter months to work through their accreditation in preparation for the summer terms. The accreditation process makes it so much easier for a school to be confident in the knowledge they are using the correct strategies to protect their students and staff from the sun.”

The latest Waikato and Bay of Plenty schools to have achieved SunSmart Accreditation are:

- Hamilton North School
- Hikutaia Primary
- Kuranui Primary
- Ohura Valley Primary
- Silverdale Normal
- Tokoroa Central School
- Whitehall School
- St Mary's Tauranga)
- St Joseph's (Opotiki)
- Matata School
- TKKM Ki Te Hurunga
- Lynmore Primary
- Nukuhou Primary
- Waitoa School
- Glenholme School
- Taupo Primary
- Whakamaru Primary
- Upper Atiamuri School

For more information, please visit: www.sunsmartschools.co.nz.

Ends

Please note:

Glenholme School will be hosting their tree planting ceremony on Friday 22nd May at 11am – media welcome

For further information, please contact:

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