



Media Release – For immediate release
September 16 2009

Tauhei School Achieves SunSmart Accreditation

Tauhei School in Morrinsville has become SunSmart accredited just in time for summer under a programme run by the Cancer Society.

Catriona Findlay, Waikato/Bay of Plenty Cancer Society skin cancer prevention coordinator, says the effort the school has put in to ensure they are proactive in the prevention of skin cancer is “wonderful”.

“New Zealand has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world and it is widely recognised that over exposure to the sun and harmful UV rays play a significant role in this. This programme encourages SunSmart behaviour among schools, to reduce children’s exposure to ultraviolet radiation and their risk of skin cancer.”

Undercover Cody, the cool SunSmart turtle, will visit Tauhei School this Thursday to perform, and Catriona will present the school with three free shade trees, rewards for achieving SunSmart accreditation.

To achieve accreditation, schools need to implement a SunSmart policy during terms one and four that encourages SunSmart behaviours such as wearing broad brimmed hats, clothing and sunscreen and seeking shade during peak UV hours of 10am to 4pm.

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.

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

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“For many families sun protection may be an important component when selecting a school that ensures their child’s general safety.”

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.

“All primary and intermediate schools throughout the country can apply to become accredited.”

The accreditation process is designed to be undertaken on-line through the SunSmart schools website with assistance from a school’s local Cancer Society.

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

Ends

Please note:

Tauhei School will be having an Undercover Cody performance on Thursday September 17 at 9:30am – media welcome.

For further information, please contact:

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Editor’s Note:

The Waikato/Bay of Plenty Division of the Cancer Society of New Zealand Inc is a non-profit organisation that receives no direct financial support from the Government. We are funded by bequests and donations from the public as well as fundraising activities.

We are committed to minimising the impact of cancer in our communities by providing:

- Quality support services for people affected by cancer
- Education to promote early detection and help reduce the risk of cancer
- Free information and resources on cancer
- Support for research into the causes, prevention, detection and treatment of cancer

