Dear Parents / Caregivers

At North Bundaberg State High School we take our responsibility to maintain the health and safety of our students and staff very seriously. This responsibility includes considering issues related to behaviours online.

Behaviours in the online environment can cover a broad range of issues including online privacy and information protection, good and bad manners, digital citizenship and knowing how to get help to deal with online issues.

As you may be aware, comments posted online about people and organisations may impact permanently on their digital reputation. This includes teachers, other staff and students and the school. There can be very real negative consequences from online posts – relationships between school staff, students and parents can be permanently changed for the worse.

Facebook and other social networking sites are generally not private communities and, depending on an individual’s security settings, comments can be read by many people and remain online indefinitely.

If you or your child are posting information online about the school, staff or students, I ask that you consider the ramifications of these comments on the school and any individuals in the school community concerned. As a rule of thumb:

- Public discussion is most effective when it is conducted in a polite and respectful manner;
- Before posting, consider whether those people you are posting about want information, including photos and comments regarding them and their children, posted on Facebook or on other sites. Perhaps ask them before you do it;
- Rather than airing complaints or grievances in a public forum like Facebook, come and talk to the school first about how to resolve your concerns;
- Remember that as a parent you have a responsibility to supervise and regulate your own children’s online activities at home and their impact on the reputation and privacy of others.

For further information on managing cybersafety, please go to http://education.qld.gov.au/studentervices/behaviour/qsaav/info-parents.html

If you have any concerns and would like to discuss further I invite you to make an appointment with me.

Ross Robertson
Principal
North Bundaberg State high School