Friday 8th April 2011

Dear Parents

The NSW Health Department has alerted the NSW Department of Education to the outbreak of Measles that have recently occurred in high school students. I am asking for your assistance in helping the school prepare in the event that someone in the school develops the infection.

**NSW Health recommends that:**
Children should be fully immunised against measles. Two doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine are needed for full protection. The vaccine is free from GPs and is usually given at 12 months and at 4 years. If your child has not received two doses of MMR or you are not sure, please see your GP to get vaccinated.

*If parents are unsure whether their child has received two doses of MMR as scheduled, they should call Medicare Australia on 1800 653 809 or check with the child's general practitioner.*

**If measles is detected at our school:**
Children who are not immunised are at a risk of infection or may be incubating measles and outbreaks in schools can continue infecting other susceptible children. Therefore, it is recommended that immunised children stay home from school until the outbreak has been contained.

**Measles – background information.** Measles is a serious viral infection and spreads easily. The first symptoms are fever, tiredness, cough, runny nose, sore red eyes and feeling unwell. A few days later a rash appears. The rash starts on the face, spreads down to the body and lasts for 4 - 7 days. About a third of people with measles develop complications including ear infections, diarrhoea and pneumonia. About one in every 1000 develop encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).


Regards

[Signature]

Bronwyn Wilson
Principal