**Sample principal’s letter to parents re: Bully Stoppers: *Being Cool Online***

Dear Parent/Carer,

We know that students achieve their best at school in safe and supportive environments, where they are free from bullying and disruptive behavior.

At our school we put a big emphasis on making sure we provide a great environment for our students, including one that is free from bullying.

Bullying is a serious issue for all of us. We know that it can happen anywhere, anytime, and can have devastating consequences. We also know that with the rise of social media, cyberbullying is an increasingly important issue. Where bullying was once confined to the playground, it can now occur online at any time of the day or night. Cyberbullying is just as harmful as face-to-face bullying, and online actions can have real life consequences.

The best way to tackle bullying and cyberbullying is for schools, students and parents to work together.

Our school is supporting the Victorian Government’s Bully Stoppers campaign – which has just launched a new series of tools and resources for parents and students to support students in preventing cyberbullying and how to practice *Netiquette*. Available from 10 February, students in years 3 – 12 are encouraged to participate in an online quiz hosted on the Bully Stoppers website, where they will learn more about how to be good net citizens and go into the draw to win an iPad as well as other prizes for our school.

These resources, called *Bully Stoppers: Being Cool Online*, are available on the Bully Stoppers website, at [www.education.vic.gov.au/bullystoppers](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/bullystoppers)

I encourage you to learn more by visiting the website and sharing the commitment to stop bullying and cyberbullying in our school and local community.

Yours sincerely,

<Principal>