Kids learn how to protect peers

Child protection in a world of cyber bullies and internet creep is not as simple as the message, don’t talk to strangers.

With Child Protection Week happening this week, Good Shepherd Lutheran College has tackled one of life’s hardest concerns – safeguarding our youngsters – in a range of thought-provoking ways.

One dramatic way to showcase the problem was Year 9 students staging the play, Burnt, by playwright Stephen Davis, which tells the story of Simon, who is consistently bullied by a school mate.

“As well as being performed to fellow students, the drama will be seen by a capacity audience of community agencies and school staff from across the Coast as part of a free professional information day hosted by the Sunshine Coast Regional Child Protection Week committee at Maroochydore.”

The college has also arranged for internet-safety expert Brett Lee to workshop with middle and senior students about the dangers of cyber bullying and ways to enhance their personal cyber safety.

Good Shepherd student counsellor Beryl Morrall is encouraging the community to become involved.

“Child protection really is everybody’s business,” Ms Morrall said.

“We owe it to the younger members of our community to be informed and equipped to allow them to safely navigate their way into adulthood.”

A parents evening has been arranged for tomorrow night with United Synergies at 6pm in the college chapel.

Key speaker Andrew Zanos will share with parents his 28 years of experience with teenagers as a clinical therapist and mental-health practitioner.

Bookings are essential.

Email: morralb@gsc.qld.edu.au or phone the college on 5455 8600.

There will also be visits to the school from the college’s Adopt a Cop and many other planned activities combined to deliver this essential message to all ages.