

## PRIORITY: Keeping Our Students Safe

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** - This morning we had an attempted abduction of one of our students on the way to school in the community of Jasper. The student was able to escape without physical harm and quickly reported the incident. Local RCMP are currently investigating the situation.

We have asked our students and staff to be alert to any activities which may lend themselves to similar situations in their communities. This incident serves as a reminder to us that our students must take extra care while away from home, and particularly when travelling to and from school. Students are encouraged to not walk or wait alone while enroute to school or at bus stops. We also reminded students this morning about the importance of being aware of your surroundings at all times, always practice good safety habits and know where to go for help if needed. **When it comes to safety, there are no short cuts.**

We encourage families to take the time to go over these safety reminders with your child:

- To and From School - Travel with a friend, sister, brother or a group of friends; whether you are walking, riding your bike or waiting at the bus stop.
- Catching a Ride - Never accept a ride from a stranger. If a stranger offers you a ride, say no, and run away. Then tell your parents or your teacher about it.
- Being Followed - Get away as quickly as you can. Go to someone's house you know, or run to other people, or just run away. If it is a car following you, turn around fast and go in the opposite direction. Don't go into isolated areas like back lanes; stay out in the open where others can see and help you.
- Someone Makes You Uncomfortable - Never leave school with someone who makes you feel uncomfortable. Trust your instincts and tell your parents or your teacher about it.
- False Family Emergency - A stranger says there is a family emergency or your dog is hurt and you must go with them – never go without first asking your parents or teacher.
- Checking In - Always check in with your parents when you arrive home or when you arrive at a friend's house. Get your friends to do the same with their parents.

We sincerely appreciate everyone's assistance in assuring the continued safety of our students and staff.

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