

HOLLY MEADOWS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

151 Mapleton Avenue, Barrie, Ontario, L4N 9N7
Telephone: (705)733-2633 Fax: (705)733-2496

Jane Hofmann
Principal

Kyla Kadlec
Vice-Principal

February 23, 2016

Dear Holly Meadows ES Families,

A group of students reported seeing someone they believed to be suspicious near the Cummings Drive area while walking home from school yesterday. The students acted appropriately and informed trusted adults. The Barrie Police Service investigation determined that there is no threat to public safety.

We feel that it is important that you are aware of this situation. You may want to take this opportunity to review safety procedures with your child.

Police provided the following safety guidelines:

- If your child walks to school or to the bus stop, try to arrange a walking buddy or group.
- If your child walks to school, make sure they go along main routes that are well-travelled, rather than taking shortcuts through deserted areas.
- Develop a "what if" game for your child to get them thinking about how they would respond if they felt threatened or afraid.
- Know who your child plays with and where they go. This includes keeping a list of their friend's addresses and phone numbers.
- Do not leave your child in unsupervised locations, such as cars, parks, public washrooms, arenas, malls and plazas, etc.
- Teach your children where and how to get help. Go with them on their regularly travelled routes and identify safe places to go for help.
- Teach your child to talk to you immediately when someone does anything that makes them feel strange or uncomfortable. Listen when your child is trying to tell you about something that bothers them and provide them with support and understanding.

It's important for you to know that the safety of our students is our top priority. If you have any questions or concerns, as always, please contact me at the school.

Sincerely,

Jane Hofmann
Principal

