



Somerville Rise Primary School
Blacks Camp Road, Somerville, Victoria

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Principal: Mrs. Nicky Fammartino



20th March, 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

You may be aware that recently, one of our students was frightened when he saw an unknown man shortly after school without a shirt with a scruffy appearance. Fortunately, our students remained safe, and a report was made to Victoria Police.

A subsequent report and investigation by Victoria Police has indicated there are no ongoing concerns about this incident at this time. Surveillance of the school after hours will continue as a precautionary measure.

The safety of our students is always our number one priority, and this is an opportune time reinforce the following safety messages to your children:

- Always walk directly to and from school, and avoiding making stops or side trips along the way
- Avoid walking alone, whether it's with parents or friends always try to walk in a group
- Be alert – earphones and headphones can reduce a person's awareness considerably
- If there is anything that makes them feel uncomfortable in any way, they should leave the area and report any concerns to a responsible adult
- Avoid talking to strangers – they should walk away from anyone they do not know and tell a responsible adult what happened
- Avoid getting into cars, even if they think they know the person, unless you have told them someone known to them will pick them up
- If you are approached by someone to get into their car and only if you can get it safely, try to photograph or remember the number plate of any vehicle, to report to police

These conversations can help ensure that students feel safe and are confident to handle a difficult situation if it arises.

I also encourage you to speak to your children and encourage them report any concerns going to and from school or anything suspicious to you, the school and the police. You can contact your local police station to report an incident to Victoria Police (only use 000 in an emergency) or 1800 333 000 to reach Crime Stoppers.

To get the latest community safety information from police, visit Victoria Police on Facebook

www.facebook.com/victoriapolice, Twitter www.twitter.com/VictoriaPolice or online at vicpolicenews.com.au.

There are a number of freely available resources to assist discussing safety with children such as; Raising Children Network - Child Safety and Parentline Victoria – ph 13 22 89.

If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me at school – my door is always open.

Yours sincerely,

Nicole Fammartino
PRINCIPAL

LEARNING TOGETHER