



ST. LORENZO RUIZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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Dear parents and guardians,

Spring is a most welcome time of year—especially this year. We can start to shed heavy jackets and mittens, walk more, and scooters, bikes and skateboards are out in full force. With that in mind, I remind drivers to take a little extra care in school zones and residential streets to keep children safe.

It's also a good time to reinforce safety tips with your children. There are two important messages that parents and guardians should discuss with your children: do not speak to strangers and report suspicious behavior. Please reinforce the following:

- Ensure your children are aware of their surroundings at all times.
- Remind them never to talk to strangers.
- Remind them to tell a teacher or adult at their school if they see anyone or anything on their way to and from school, or on the playground, that concerns them (i.e. a car following them; a strange adult talking to them).

Tips for Kids

- **Say no** if someone you don't know asks you to go anywhere with them, no matter what they say.
- **Say no** if a stranger asks you to get into their car or walk with them.
- **Step well back** if a stranger stops you to ask for directions. Make sure you are at least a grown-up's arm's length away from the person in the car, so you can get away if you need to.
- **Work out** the best route to school or other places you go to often. Check your route with a parent/guardian and then stick with this route everyday.
- If you get a feeling like "I don't like this; something feels wrong," make sure you tell someone. It's never silly to feel a bit scared. **Always trust your instincts.** It's the best way we know to spot danger before danger can hurt you. Stay Alert and Stay Safe!

If you have any questions please feel free to give us a call at 306-659-7950.

François Rivard
Principal, St. Lorenzo Ruiz