



Nov. 16, 2021

Dear Families,

We are writing to inform you of an event that occurred at school this morning. At about 9:30 a.m., a number of students at our school participated in a walkout. Media may have attended this event, and participating students may appear in news coverage. The event was peaceful and our school day continued as scheduled.

Students learning how to use their voice and identify and voice concerns is important. We value that voice, and we are proud of the students who spoke up and did so in a peaceful and respectful way.

We heard today, and have heard over the past while, that our community is struggling. In order to heal, we must come together to support our community.

I'd like to share some information on the process that school staff follow when a student reports or discloses an event or incident that threatens their well-being, impacts their safety, or disrupts their learning. Our primary goal is always to listen to students, work with them, and do what we can to support their safety.

When these disclosures happen, it's important that parents and guardians are notified to support the immediate health and safety of the student.

Following our [policies of progressive discipline](#) and ensuring safety for all involved, it's also important that all staff understand these processes. We will continue to reinforce our process.

It is critical that everyone in our community – staff, students, families and partners - work together to move forward and ensure that WCHS has a healthy, positive and respectful school culture and environment.

To that end, there are two key elements occurring in our school community that support the path forward.

- [The Consent Project, beginning Nov. 22.](#) in CALM classes
- Seeking to listen to and support work with the student-led Committee on the Status of Women and Girls

We encourage any students or families with immediate concerns, or who need to talk about other issues related to sexual harassment and assault, to connect with the following community organizations.

[Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse \(CCASA\)](#)

24-hour crisis line: 403-237-5888 or toll-free 1-877-237-5888

24-hour information and support.

Short term counseling (ages 12+).

[Calgary Counselling Centre](#)

Telephone: 403-691-5991 (business hours)

Long term sexual abuse counselling for individuals, families or couples.

[The Distress Center](#)

24-hour crisis line: 403-266-HELP (4357)

24-hour Information and support

Access to free counseling services for individuals, groups and families.

I am happy to respond to questions and concerns.

Thank you,

Carma Cornea

Principal