



# Maitland High School

Successful Teachers, Successful Students, Successful School

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Education  
Public Schools

27 June 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

On Tuesday afternoon, 26 June 2018, one of our students was followed by a man, in the vicinity of High Street, East Maitland. You may be aware of the report in the Maitland Mercury today, detailing that two similar incidents, involving students from another school in the area, have been reported to police.

The Maitland Mercury reported that “a man in a purple sedan pulled up alongside her while she was walking on Victoria Street near Guide Lane about 7.45am. She said the man told her he would drive her to school because it was too cold to walk and that it was warm in his car... The teenager made it to school safely where she reported what happened to a teacher...Then at 7.50am, a man driving a blue Hyundai stopped next to an 11-year-old girl waiting at a bus stop on High Street, East Maitland and wound the window down. When another girl arrived at the bus stop and stood next to girl, he drove off. In both incidents, the man was described to police as Caucasian, about 30 to 40 years old, with brown hair and an unshaven face.”

Today on Assembly, we spoke to all students and provided the important advice outlined below. Would you please discuss a safety plan with your child and reinforce these key points:

- Don't talk to strangers.
- Don't take anything from strangers.
- Don't go anywhere with someone you don't know.
- Stay more than an arm's reach from strangers. If you are approached by a stranger, seek help immediately.
- Trust your instincts, if you feel you are being followed or something is not right, seek help immediately.
- Use the buddy system, avoid walking anywhere alone.
- Review contact telephone numbers and home safety practices.
- When seeking help, always go to a trusted adult – teacher, coach, police officer, other parent, or older siblings.
- If a stranger ever grabs you, do everything you can to stop him or her from pulling you away. Drop to the ground, kick, hit, bite, and scream. Do whatever it takes to attract the attention of others who can help you. If someone is dragging you away, scream, “this is not my dad,” or “this is not my mum.”

Please report any suspicious activity to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or Maitland Police on 4934 0200 and please let the school know.

Kind regards,

Paula Graham

Principal

Maitland High School