



Georges Vanier Elementary

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Dear Parents/Guardians;

This morning two coyotes were spotted on school grounds. We immediately notified Safe Schools and placed our school on a *Hold & Secure*.

A *Hold & Secure* is used if there is a security concern in the neighborhood and involves everyone remaining inside the school as exterior doors are secured. Access to the school is restricted as no one may enter or exit the building.

We have reported this sighting to the Conservation Officer Service (COS) and we continue to supervise the children when they are outdoors. We have closed both gates leading to the forest area to ensure safety throughout the day.

We also wanted to share guidance from WildSafeBC (www.wildsafebc.com) and remind you to remain vigilant and cautious when outside.

If a coyote approaches you:

- make yourself look as large as possible - if sitting, stand for example.
- Wave your arms and throw objects at the coyote.
- Shout at the coyote in a loud aggressive voice.
- If the coyote continues to approach don't run or turn your back. Continue to exaggerate the above gestures and slowly move to safety.

We have had reports that families may be feeding coyotes on weekends when walking in the forest area attached to our school grounds. This is a great opportunity to have conversations with your children about the dangers of feeding coyotes.

We will continue to monitor the situation and share additional information if it becomes available.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. McBride (Principal) at 604-596-1030).

Sincerely,

Mrs Lianne McBride
Principal