

# **MESSAGE TO PARENTS THIS SUMMER**

As this unprecedented school year comes to an end, the Surrey RCMP would like to acknowledge the collective efforts of all our parents, teachers, support staff and administrators at Surrey Schools SD36. Your contributions have been key in helping our youth adapt through the pandemic and reach their potential this year.

With summer break upon us, we'd also like to remind parents, guardians and caregivers of some tips and resources to help you and your family to enjoy a safe and healthy summer.

## **ONLINE SAFETY**

Always monitor what your kids are up to on their devices to help prevent online exploitation by predators. How many apps is your child using? Are there messaging, chat or webcam features? Is there an ability for strangers to connect with them? Consider restricting app use to only apps that have special safety features for children such as parental monitoring capabilities or parental alert/notification functions triggered by the exchange of inappropriate content. See more resources and tips on preventing online child exploitation.

#### **DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Talk to your child about this risks associated with drug and alcohol use. We continue to see the threat of illicit drugs being mixed with fentanyl or carfentanyl, and just a small amount of these drugs can cause serious harm or death. Don't assume your child is not experimenting with illicit drugs or thinking about trying them. Keep an open dialogue and an eye on your child's activities, mood and friends. For more information, visit the <a href="Fraser">Fraser</a> Health Authority's website.

### COVID-19

COVID-19 restrictions are anticipated to ease over the summer months under <u>BC's restart plan</u>, however you should keep apprised of the <u>current public health orders</u> put in place by the Public Health Officer. Questions or concerns about non-compliance with public health orders can be directed to the <u>Surrey COVID-19 Compliance</u> and <u>Enforcement Team</u>.

## **YOUTH & FAMILY SUPPORT**

A number of our youth and family intervention programs will continue to run throughout the summer months. A full list of youth programs are available on our <u>website</u>.

• The <u>Surrey RCMP Parent Helpline</u> (604-599-7800) provides guidance for parents/guardians who believe their child is involved or at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity. Parents who call the helpline and leave a message stating their name, phone number, and concern will have their call returned within 24 hours between Monday and Friday. English, Punjabi and French staff will be available.





• The <u>Surrey RCMP Family & Youth Resource Support Team</u> (FYRST) works throughout the year with youth when they first start to exhibit signs of poor decision making and need to find attachment to other resources and supports. The program has the goal of enhancing resiliency in the youth and their families to be able to better cope with the risk factors they are facing. Referrals to FYRST are accepted from Surrey educators, community agencies, and the public by contacting 604-502-6498 or emailing <u>E\_Surrey\_FYRST@rcmp-grc.gc.ca</u>

As always, our police officers and support staff are always just a phone call away, 24 hours a day, through our non-emergency number at 604-599-0502. Wishing you and your families a healthy and safe summer.

Surrey RCMP



