

November 9, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Over the last two weeks, there have been at least two incidents in Bergen County towns of fifth and sixth grade age girls being approached by a dangerous stranger. One incident occurred in Allendale and another in Montvale. In each case, a white male driver approximately 30 years old approached the girls in a black SUV or "Suburban" type vehicle. The driver offered the girls large sums of money in exchange for unspeakable acts.

To my knowledge, there have not been any incidents in Oradell, but I do ask that you take a moment to discuss the topic with your child in an age appropriate manner as you see fit. I have also asked our faculty to discuss the topic of strangers and how to deal with them in class. If you would like some "talking points" in speaking with your child, the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office has a "links" section with valuable information. One link to "Missing and Exploited Children" offers concrete suggestions for parents. Another excellent source of information is on the website for the Illinois Early Learning Project (illinoisearlylearning.org) under the "Tips Sheets" section. The tip sheet "Teaching Children to Avoid Stranger Danger" has several excellent links at the bottom of the page including "Personal Safety For Children" which I highly recommend.

Over the next four days, our Oradell students will be outside playing and walking about town. Today would be the perfect day to address the issue of stranger safety with your child.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Very truly yours,

Mr. William Scott Ryan, Principal

WSR:ES

c: Dr. Maria Nuccetelli, Superintendent
Mr. Thomas Santagato, Director of Special Services
Mr. John Norton, Assistant Principal
OPS Faculty
Oradell Police Department
Mrs. Jane Kiernan, P.T.A. President