



October 26, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am sending this letter in response to an incident that took place earlier this week. As you may be aware, on Tuesday after school, there was an altercation between two dogs on the school property. I would like to stress that this situation was unforeseen. It is being taken seriously and appropriate follow up is happening.

Since Tuesday afternoon, there have been some rumours and social media activity stemming from this incident. Sometimes people tend to type without thought of consequence when they forward text messages or post comments on Facebook. Misinformation spreads quickly. Not only is this unhelpful, it can also be very hurtful.

As such, I would ask that you please refrain from taking sides, gossiping about this situation, or vilifying anyone involved. I would also ask that any social media activity associated with this matter cease. It is not only divisive to our school community; it compromises the investigation and resolution of this incident.

Dogs are an important part of life for many families and are included in day-to-day activities. This is very apparent by the number of families who walk their dogs to/from school every day. Currently we do allow families to do this, and with everyone's help, it's something we can continue to allow. When bringing your dog to school please ensure you continue to keep the following in mind:

- dogs **must be leashed** and "under full control" and supervision of their owner (*an adult*) at all times
 - *if your dog jumps on people, you don't have control*
 - *if your dog interferes with other dogs or people, you don't have control*
 - *if you are distracted, looking away or not paying attention, you don't have control*
 - *if your dog is left in the care of your child, you don't have control*
- the crowded, noisy nature of morning drop-off and afternoon pick up can be stressful for dogs
- not everyone is a dog lover (some children and adults are quite fearful)
- the importance of closely monitoring your dog's proximity to other dogs so as to ensure that their behaviour does not become aggressive, or unruly in a crowded situation

Thank you for your cooperation and support in this situation.

Sincerely,


E Greenhalgh
Principal/Directrice