Principal’s Message
Dear Parents and Caregivers

STRANGER DANGER

With the school holidays starting in just 3 weeks’ time, I just wanted to send a timely reminder to families about Stranger Danger. Not a week goes by when I don’t get an e-mail from the North Metro Education Regional Office (NMERO) telling us or warning us of an incident or potential concerns regarding suspicious or threatening behaviour from a certain element in our society.

Below are five things to discuss with your child about Stranger Danger.

1. Who is a stranger?

Strangers are anyone that you don’t know. They may look like nice people, but if you don’t know them then that makes them a stranger. Strangers might even use your child’s name to trick them into thinking they know them, but if your child doesn’t actually know the person then they are still a stranger.

2. Explain to your child that “most strangers are good, but there are some bad strangers who might try to hurt you.”

Explain that “they might try to touch you in a way that is bad or they might try to take you away from your parents and hurt you. Again, most strangers aren’t like this, but it’s important to know what to do if you are approached by a stranger so that you can stay safe.”

Good strangers will usually approach a child only when a parent is around. Bad strangers, on the other hand, may approach children when they are alone or without their parent.

3. Teach your child NOT to go anywhere with strangers.

Bad strangers might try to get children to go into their car or go to a private location. Teach your children that they need yell, kick, and scream to get away from a stranger who tries to take them somewhere. Stay far away from their car and turn and run away (screaming) if possible. Make sure they know they will not get into trouble for doing this, since it’s exactly the opposite of what we usually teach our children about good manners.

4. Tell your children that bad strangers will make up lies to try to trick children into going with them.

They might use any of the following: “Your mum is sick and asked me to give you a ride,” “I need directions, can you help me,” “I’ve lost my puppy, can you look for him with me,” or “You’re so pretty, I’m a photographer and would like to take your picture for a magazine.” Teach your children never to fall for these tricks. Role-play with them about these scenarios and let them know that you would never send a stranger to get them in the event of an emergency. Another good tip is telling your kids that adults wouldn’t ask a child for help, they would ask another adult. So, if an adult is asking a child for help then that should be a signal to the child that they need to get away!
5. Teach your children who to look for and where to go if they are not with you and are approached by a stranger or get lost.

Get as far away from the stranger as quickly as possible and find a safe adult to get help. They can ask for help from another adult that that they know, a shopkeeper, policeman, teacher, neighbor, or another mum or dad with small children. Teach them your phone number so that they can always know how to reach you if they are separated from you.

Staff at WJPS are constantly discussing and practicing these strategies with your children, so please reinforce these messages at home.

Crosswalk Attendant

Please be aware that the crosswalk attendant on Marloo Rd (outside the senior school) will not be available in the afternoons for the rest of the year. The police will try to have someone available however that cannot be guaranteed.

School News

Kings Park Excursion

Yesterday, PP3, Kindy 3, 4, 5, and 6, went to Kings Park for a picnic. The children played at the Lotterywest Playground and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Mia Mia

Last Wednesday 26th November, Lennard Thorn and his grandson Will came out to Westminster Junior Primary to construct our ‘Mia Mia’s’. The Noongar meaning for ‘Mia Mia’ is house. There are two Mia Mia’s at WJPS, one situated in the Kindy and Pre-Primary area and the other one is situated in the Year 1 to 3 area. We would like to thank Lennard, Will and the students who helped in the construction.

School Board

School board members are currently being finalized. When we have a final list of members I will provide those names in a newsletter. One of the changes we would like to make is to have a school board combined with the senior school. When so many of our families are spread over both schools and decisions are made that will affect both schools, it makes sense to combine the school boards. I had an information session for parents on Wednesday this week to discuss this and other matters but if you were unable to make that meeting and you want to see me about any issues affecting the school please do not hesitate to organize a meeting.

Reports

Your child’s report will be coming home in week 10. Take the time to go through this report with your child and discuss their progress with them. While the report is fresh, it is a good time to talk about areas which are of concern and decide on strategies to make improvements for next year. If you have concerns that you need to discuss with the teacher, please make an appointment with them.

Thank you

Chris Flynn
Principal
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**Where Are They Now?**

Rachael Loo, 21 years of age, attended WJPS from 1997-2001. Rachael attended Balcatta SHS then worked for the WA Health Department in administration. Rachael’s love of travel has led her to places such as London, France, Morocco, Bali, South Korea and Japan where she currently is on a 1 year working holiday. Below is a photo of Rachael in Japan, in traditional Japanese dress. Rachael has learned to speak Japanese very quickly!
Kings Park Excursion Continued...

Suitcase Circus Incursion Room 2 & 3
Thursday 27th November 2014

Mia Mia Construction