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West Islip Public Schools
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RICHARD A. SIMON
Superintendent of Schools

January 18, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians:

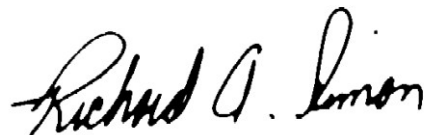
The West Islip School District was recently informed of an incident involving a late model, gold-colored, four-door sedan at the intersection of Jean Road and Higbie Drive. An overweight man, approximately in his fifties, was driving the vehicle and stopped his car to speak with an 8th grade male student who was walking toward his bus stop. After offering the young man a ride to school, the student refused and continued walking to his bus stop, at which time the car drove away. The Suffolk County Police have been notified and a report has been filed.

Considering the seriousness of this incident and the obvious need to continually promote safety in and around our schools, please take the time to reinforce the following safety guidelines with your children:

- √ *Never leave young children unattended at bus stops. Neighbors should take turns attending to students during the morning pick-up and afternoon drop-offs.*
- √ *Encourage children to walk together to and from school, if transportation is unavailable.*
- √ *Remind children to never talk to or be lured by strangers, whether in a vehicle or on foot. Children should be instructed to be very cautious of seemingly harmless propositions made by strangers in order to attract their attention.*
- √ *Encourage children to be mindful of their surroundings at all times, especially when they are alone.*
- √ *Observe and make note of any suspicious or unknown vehicles or individuals seen in the community.*
- √ *Inform police immediately if suspicious individuals or vehicles are seen in the community, especially prior to and after school hours.*
- √ *Encourage children to inform trusted adults of any situation or incident that made them feel uncomfortable.*
- √ *Always think and react in a manner that promotes safety in the school community.*

While it is certainly inappropriate to foster a sense of insecurity for our children, it is imperative that we provide them with the information and support needed to handle any potentially dangerous situation. Following and reinforcing the guidelines set forth will help promote a safer community for all.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Simon

RAS:JLK
C:Board of Education