



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Chairperson: Milton Peach, B.A., B.A.(Ed)
C.E.O./Director of Education: Darrin Pike, B.Sc., B.Ed., M.Ed.

February 22, 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I would like to advise you that on Sunday, February 17, 2008, it was discovered that four laptop computers were stolen from the Eastern School District's Atlantic Place offices. The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) was notified immediately and they are currently investigating this incident as a Break, Entry and Theft. In the course of our internal investigation, it was learned that one of the stolen computers contained an electronic database that was used for bussing purposes. This information includes student names, MCP numbers, addresses, grade levels, phone numbers and names of parents/guardians. Your child's school is one of the schools affected by this theft.

We have consulted with various agencies such as the RNC, the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Office and the MCP Commission. The stolen computers are password protected, thus limiting the potential for unauthorized users to access this information. Additionally, we have been advised by the MCP Commission that access to individual medical records is not at risk. The RNC have also reported that laptop thefts are common and most often the hard drives from stolen computers are typically erased immediately before they are sold to hide the identity of the previous owner.

I want to assure parents that we are treating this theft and possible breach of private information very seriously and have taken immediate action with our landlord at Atlantic Place to strengthen our physical security measures. We are also implementing further security protocols to address the electronic storage of private information. Furthermore, we have requested that the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) conduct a review of our internal security measures and personal information handling practices.

It is our responsibility to ensure parents are aware of this theft and potential privacy breach. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact your school administrator or our Community Affairs Officer, Mr. Jamie Coady by phone: 757-4664 or by email: jamiécoady@esdnl.ca. If you have any concerns about the handling of your personal information, you can contact the OIPC directly at 729-6309 or toll-free 1-877-729-6309

Sincerely,

DARRIN PIKE
CEO/Director of Education