

# St. Matthew Catholic School



"Let your light so shine  
before all that they may  
see your good works."  
MATT 5:16

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April 19, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We want to thank you for your patience and understanding with regard to yesterday's incident. Student safety is one of our top priorities. Whenever something occurs which jeopardizes student safety, we treat the incident very seriously. Please know that we will communicate information to you as we receive it from the RCMP.

Further to the information shared with parents, the RCMP released a media report late last night.

**Rocky Mountain House, Alberta** – On 2018-04-18 at 14:08 pm, Rocky Mountain House RCMP were dispatched to a call of an unknown teenaged male carrying a long barrel firearm near St. Matthew Catholic School who then appeared to have entered the school. The school was contacted by police and were placed on lock down. RCMP members attended immediately and cleared the school, determining the school and occupants were safe and unharmed. The report indicated RCMP completed extensive patrols of the area, completed neighbourhood enquires and exhausted all avenues of investigation. Through corroboration between the RCMP and the staff of St. Matthew School the school was deemed safe and the lock down at the school was lifted. The RCMP do not believe the safety of the school or surrounding community is at any risk.

If any additional information is known by the public regarding this event please contact the Rocky Mountain House RCMP detachment at (403)845-2882. The RCMP encourage the public to continue to report suspicious behaviour in their community to the RCMP.

We have posted it on our website for you, this is the most updated information we have available.

There are many speculations and different stories which are circulating as a result of the incident yesterday. Please note we are sharing any and all information as it comes to us. If there are any questions or concerns please call the school.

Unfortunately, due to the timing of the all clear by the RCMP, we were unable to debrief with our students since they were let out to catch busses and meet with their parents. Mr. Oszczewski and myself went around to debrief with all students today.

As a school community we know this affects people in different ways. We ask you to take extra care in observing your child over the next few days. Should your child exhibit signs of stress or anxiety, please contact the school or our school counsellor. As always, I am available to be contacted or set up a meeting if you have further questions.

God bless,

Teresa Johnson  
Principal



*Inspired by Christ to teach, model and instil spiritual, academic and athletic excellence.*

