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February 11, 2010

Dear Parents,

District 158 was informed of an **attempted** child abduction by a stranger that occurred near a Crystal Lake school yesterday. We have been in contact with the local police departments and have been assured there is no immediate cause for alarm. We are providing the following information from the McHenry County Sheriff's Department to you only as a precautionary measure.

On 2/10/10 between 8:35 and 8:47 a.m., an unknown male approached a nine year old female who was walking to school. The offender asked the victim if she wanted a ride to school. When the victim said no, the offender told her to get into the car. The victim then ran into her school which was yards away.

The victim described the unknown male as being approximately 30-40 years of age, having tan skin and dark brown hair. The victim stated that the unknown male was clean shaven and did not wear glasses or any other jewelry.

The victim described the unknown male's vehicle as being gold in color, four doors with a round body style. When shown photos of vehicles, the victim picked out a Volkswagen Passat with a silver color stripe on the side of the vehicle. However, the victim was not positive on her identification. No license plate information was obtained.

Fortunately in this incident, the abductor was unsuccessful in his attempt, and the child was not harmed. We encourage you to take this opportunity to remind your child about "stranger danger" precautions and keeping themselves safe. A few reminders to consider:

- Teach your children not to talk with strangers.
- Don't approach a motor vehicle of someone they do not know.
- Set up a code word with your child to use in the event of an emergency. Your child should know the code word and understand its importance. Your child should be prepared to respond to anyone who knows the code word. Make the word meaningful to your family so a real stranger would not be able to figure it out.
- If a stranger does approach your child, tell them to remember the license plate number of the motor vehicle and to report this information to you immediately. Don't assume it was nothing and discount what your child has to tell you.
- Call your local police and report any suspicious activity. Please also call the District 158 Tip Line at 847-659-INFO (4636).

Please know that the safety of all our children is our number one priority.