

## ***Please Read: Important Child Safety Tips from the Peru Police Department and Peru Public Schools***

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

We work very hard to make sure your children are safe at school, just as we hope you do to make certain they are safe at home. Remember that there is no substitution for direct parental supervision, particularly for younger children. To help protect all children in our community, listed below are two websites that offer you the opportunity to be aware of the names and addresses of registered sex offenders. These are also listed at **www.perued.net**. Please contact us with any concerns.

**www.familywatchdog.us**

**www.isp.state.il.us/sor**

Following are some tips that will also help children stay safe if they are walking or riding their bike to or from school, walking to or from bus stops, or just playing outside. Please talk to your children about these safety tips and what to do if they are ever encountered by a stranger.

- Take the same route to and from school and make sure your parents know your route in case your parents or the police need to look for you.
- If someone or something causes you to deviate from this route, let your parents know, as well as the school. This could be because of a suspicious person, dog, bullies, or something that makes you feel uncomfortable.
- If you carry a cell phone, keep it in your hand so you can press and hold down the "9" key to call 911 in an emergency. The cell phone can also be used as an impact weapon to strike an assailant in the nose/forehead area, or on the wrist to release a grasp long enough to get away.
- Carry your book bag so it can easily slip off of your shoulders so you can get away in the event someone grabs it.
- As you are running away, yell loudly to attract attention. Run to a house where you see lights on or a car in the driveway. Pound on the door and scream until you get someone's attention.
- Do not try to hide in garages, bushes, or behind fences. If possible, stay in the open and yell loudly to attract attention.
- If walking alone at night, carry a flashlight and wear reflective or light colored clothing.
- If you are grabbed, yell, kick, punch, bite, or do whatever you have to get away. Keep running and do not look back.
- Never approach a car that you do not know the occupants. Never accept a ride from someone you do not know, even if they say it is okay.
- Be aware of your surroundings. If you have your iPod playing loudly or are not paying attention, you may not hear traffic or someone else yelling for help.
- If something, or someone, makes you feel uncomfortable or uneasy, tell an adult. After you get away, try to remember what the person looks like, including clothing, hair, height, weight, or a vehicle description and license plate number.
- Never go anywhere after school that makes you late coming home without notifying your parents.
- If possible, walk with a friend or two. There is more safety in numbers.

**Mark R. Cross, Superintendent**

**Douglas P. Bernabei, Chief of Police**