

November 25, 2021

Dear Vanderhoof Parents,

As you are likely aware, there was an active shooter incident earlier this afternoon in Vanderhoof. Some of our schools heard the gunshots and immediately went into lockdown as they have practiced. We understand that the incident occurred within the community of Vanderhoof and not in the immediate vicinity of any of our schools.

Our emergency planning for schools was followed and schools remained either in 'lockdown' or 'shelter in place' until we confirmed with the RCMP around 1:30 that the suspect was in custody and we could lift those measures.

These types of incidents are frightening and shocking to all of us and we are especially concerned about the possible impact on our students. We will post some links on our social media and district website of resources for parents to consider when talking with their children about what occurred today. In chatting to schools this afternoon, teachers used this afternoon to help debrief students which was important given that tomorrow is a professional development day.

Like all of us, students may react in various ways and along differing timelines to today's incident. Please reach out to your child's teacher or school principal if you would like a referral to our district counselling staff.

I want to thank all of our staff that responded so professionally this afternoon to provide the care and protection of our students.

Sincerely,

Manu Madhok
Superintendent of Schools