

IMMEDIATE RELEASE – On June 13, 2019, a kindergarten student from Mary Bergeron Elementary School in Edson, left the school grounds without permission, before being safely returned shortly thereafter by a community member. The incident is under a full investigation by Grande Yellowhead, including a complete review of the school's, and the division's, safety measures.

"As soon as we became aware of the situation, our division began a full investigation," reassured Superintendent of Schools, C. Lewis. "I have personally reached out to the family to express my sincere apology on behalf of the division. We take the safety and well-being of all our children and staff very seriously as our families have put their trust into us taking care of their loved ones. Obviously, this should never have happened. The division will be doing a full safety audit of our current policies and procedures, to reinforce and strengthen them, if necessary, to ensure that it does not happen again."

Lewis continued. "Although this is an isolated incident, the safety of our students is always our number one priority."

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Grande Yellowhead stretches from Jasper National Park, east to Evansburg, and north to the Town of Grande Cache. The jurisdiction includes seventeen schools, five Learning Connection Centres, approximately 4,500 students, and 600 staff members. For more information contact: Nikki Gilks, Manager, Communications Services 780-723-4471 ext. 142 | nikkgilk@gypsd.ca