



## Prince Philip French Immersion Public School

3112 Dorchester Rd. ■ Niagara Falls, ON ■ L2J 2Z7 ■ 905-356-0521 ■ princephilip.dsbn.org

November 14, 2018

Dear Prince Philip parent/guardian:

At District School Board of Niagara, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each day.

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure, we are introducing **a new, more efficient** student absence reporting system called **SafeArrival**. This new system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, make it easy for you to report your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

With **SafeArrival**, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
2. Use the SafeArrival website, at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
3. Call the toll-free number 1-866-606-5567 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.

SafeArrival app will have a number of benefits for both parents and staff. It is quick, convenient and will allow you to report daily absences as well as schedule future absences for your children for medical appointments and other important events in your lives. Using SafeArrival, you will be able to update your contact information easily, should it change. SafeArrival will also reduce the amount of staff time dedicated to tracking student absences, allowing them to spend more time supporting students.

In addition, we will use the **SchoolMessenger Communicate** automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

If you report your child's absence in advance using the SafeArrival toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

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If you have not provided us with an email address, you may do so by contacting the school secretary by calling 905-356-0521 prior to November 19, 2018. After that date, you will be able to set up your account by visiting the Safe Arrival site via the Report Absence button which will be available on our school website.

Starting **Monday, November 19, 2018**, please report absences in advance using SafeArrival instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school.

Starting **Monday, November 19, 2018**, staff will begin using the SafeArrival notifications to let you know if your student is absent (when you haven't reported the absence in advance).

If you have children attending other schools, please continue to report absences using the existing procedures for those schools.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we implement this new system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. Tisi".

Lynn Tisi  
Principal