

NORTH ISLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

"Our central focus is to enable all learners to fulfill their potential"

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Principal:
Mr. J. Dixon
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Mr. D. Abbot

June 9, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In an attempt to ensure safety for our students and community, please be advised there have been cougar sightings around Port McNeill recently.

The Conservation Office at the Ministry of Environment recommends these points with children and cougars:

- **Stay calm and keep the cougar in view. Pick up children immediately - children frighten easily, the noise and movements they make could provoke an attack. Back away slowly, ensuring that the animal has a clear avenue of escape. Make yourself look as large as possible. Keep the cougar in front of you at all times.**
- **Never run or turn your back on a cougar. Sudden movement may provoke an attack.**
- **If a cougar shows interest or follows you, respond aggressively. Maintain eye contact with the cougar, show your teeth and make loud noise. Arm yourself with rocks or sticks as weapons. Crouch down as little as possible when bending down to pick up things off of the ground.**
- **If a cougar attacks, fight back. Convince the cougar you are a threat and not prey. Use anything you can as a weapon. Focus your attack on the cougar's face and eyes.**
- **Cougars seem to be attracted to children, possibly because of their high-pitched voices, small size and erratic movements; these character traits may make it difficult for cougars to identify children as humans and not prey.**
- **Children playing outdoors should play in groups. Children shouldn't be left unsupervised**
- **Make sure children are home before dusk and stay indoors until after dawn - the period of time that cougars are most active.**

Should you like more information, please see the link below:

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife_human_interaction/docs/cougars.html#children

Students and staff at North Island Secondary School have been reminded to walk in large groups when returning home and avoid wooded areas.

Sincerely,



Jay Dixon
Principal
North Island Secondary School