**Connaught Street Elementary School**

 **184 Connaught Street Phone: 506-453-5404**

 **Fredericton, NB E3B 2A9 E-mail: ingrid.warris@nbed.nb.ca**

**Principal:** Barb Corbett **Vice-Principal:** Cheryl Storey **Administrative Assistant:** Ingrid Warris

September 2020,

Dear Parents/Guardians,

At Connaught Street school, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each and every 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 three convenient methods:

 Please note that you have to sign up with an email address that we have on file.

1. Using your **mobile device**, download and install the free SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>). 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**, https//go.schollmessenger.com. 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 1-833-294-4838** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

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

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.

**Starting Monday, September 21, 2020**, please report absences in advance using SafeArrival instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school.

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,

Barb Corbett

Principal