

Judge Sylvania Woods Elementary School

3000 Church Street, Glenarden, Maryland 20706

Telephone 301.925.2840 • Facsimile • 301.925.2844

www1.pgcps.org/judgesylvaniawoods/

Michelle Williams
Principal
Donna Smith
Assistant Principal

Kathleen Mobley
CSEP Coordinator

February 10, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians of the Judge Sylvania Woods School Community

This is a very difficult time for Judge Sylvania Woods Elementary School and the entire district. Like many of you, I am stunned and saddened by recent allegations.

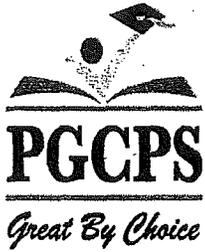
We are dedicating all of the resources available in the district to assist in stabilizing Judge Sylvania Woods Elementary School. We will continue to fully cooperate with law enforcement in this investigation and will review our policies and procedures to foster a safe environment for all students and staff.

Attached is a resource guide that may be helpful to you. It provides information on how to connect with professionals in our community to get help if you need it. We will also continue to keep you informed of developments in the investigation and any next steps as they become available. Please continue to send your child to school and as always if you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out to me at ceo@pgcps.org or the leadership at your school.

Together we will get through this difficult time for the benefit of all of the children of Prince George's County.

Tigers On The Prowl for Excellence





Judge Sylvania Woods Elementary School

3000 Church Street, Glenarden, Maryland 20706

Telephone 301.925.2840 • Facsimile • 301.925.2844

www1.pgcps.org/judgesylvaniawoods/

Michelle Williams
Principal
Donna Smith
Assistant Principal

Kathleen Mobley
CSEP Coordinator

10 de Febrero de 2016

Queridos Padres y Apoderados de la Comunidad de Escuela de Judge Sylvania Woods

Este es un tiempo muy difícil para la Escuela de Judge Sylvania Woods y el distrito entero. Como muchos de ustedes, yo soy aturdido y entristecido por acusaciones recientes.

Dedicamos todos los recursos disponibles en el distrito para asistir en la Escuela de Judge Sylvania Woods. Seguiremos cooperando totalmente con la aplicación de la ley en esta investigación y examinaremos nuestras políticas y procedimientos para crear un ambiente seguro para todos los estudiantes y personal.

Adjunto es una guía de recurso que puede ser provechosa a usted. Esto proporciona la información en cómo unirse con profesionales en nuestra comunidad para conseguir la ayuda si usted lo necesita. También vamos a seguir para mantenerle informado del desarrollo en la investigación y cualquier siguiente paso cuando ellos se hacen disponibles. Por favor siga enviando su niño a la escuela y como siempre, si tiene alguna pregunta no dude en acercarse a mí a ceo@pgcps.org o el liderazgo de su escuela.

Juntos pasaremos este tiempo difícil a beneficio de todos los niños del Condado del Prince George.

Tigers On The Prowl for Excellence



How Can I Protect My Child From Sexual Abuse?

Sexual abuse can happen to children of any race, socioeconomic group, religion, or culture. There is no foolproof way to protect children from sexual abuse, but there are steps you can take to reduce this risk. If something happens to your child, remember that the perpetrator is to blame—not you and especially not the child. Below you'll find some precautions you can take to help protect the children in your life.

If your child is in immediate danger, don't hesitate to call 911. If you aren't sure of the situation but you suspect the child is being harmed, you can take steps to gauge the situation and put an end to the abuse.

Be involved in the child's life.

Being actively involved in a child's life can make warning signs of child sexual abuse more obvious and help the child feel more comfortable coming to you if something isn't right. If you see or hear something that causes concern, you can take action to protect your child.

- **Show interest in their day-to-day lives.** Ask them what they did during the day and who they did it with. Who did they sit with at lunchtime? What games did they play after school? Did they enjoy themselves?
- **Get to know the people in your child's life.** Know who your child is spending time with, including other children and adults. Ask your child about the kids they go to school with, the parents of their friends, and other people they may encounter, such as teammates or coaches. Talk about these people openly and ask questions so that your child can feel comfortable doing the same.
- **Choose caregivers carefully.** Whether it's a babysitter, a new school, or an afterschool activity, be diligent about screening caregivers for your child.
- **Talk about the media.** Incidents of sexual violence are frequently covered by the news and portrayed in television shows. Ask your child questions about this coverage to start a conversation. Questions like, "Have you ever heard of this happening before?" or "What would you do if you were in this situation?" can signal to your child that these are important issues that they can talk about with you. Learn more about talking to your kids about sexual abuse.
- **Know the warning signs.** Become familiar with the warning signs of child sexual abuse, and notice any changes with your child, no matter how small. Whether it's happening to your child or a child you know, you have the potential to make a big difference in that person's life by stepping in.

For more, see: <https://www.rainn.org/get-information/sexual-assault-prevention/protecting-a-child-from-sexual-assault>

(Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, 2016)

Online Resources

Abuse Indicators – Prince George’s County Child, Adult and Family Services

<http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/SocialServices/Services/CAFS/CPS/Pages/Abuse-Indicators.aspx>

How Can I Protect My Child From Sexual Assault?

<https://www.rainn.org/get-information/sexual-assault-prevention/protecting-a-child-from-sexual-assault>

Preventing Child Abuse Resources - National Sexual Violence Resource Center

<http://www.nsvrc.org/projects/child-sexual-assault-prevention/preventing-child-sexual-abuse-resources>

National Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-4-A-Child or 1-800-422-4453

Local Counseling Resources

<p>Child Protective Services 925 Brightseat Road Landover, MD 20785 301.909.2450 Fax 301.909.2200 (To report suspected abuse/neglect)</p>
<p>Prince George’s Hospital Center – Sexual Assault Center 3001 Hospital Drive Cheverly, MD 20785 301.618.3158 Hotline 301.618.3154 Fax 301.618.2881 http://www.dimensionshealth.org/website/c/pghc (For information and referrals)</p>
<p>List of Prince George’s County Mental Health Providers</p> <p>http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/Health/Resources/Documents/behavioral%20health%20providers_newest%286%29.pdf</p>