



Just an FYI –

We learned this morning of a report of a cougar crossing Chain Lake Road several blocks north of the school. Cougars are usually nocturnal animals and do not generally interact with people. Wildlife officials report cougars usually eat small animals such as rodents. As a precaution we kept students close to school buildings today and staff members were extra vigilant keeping an eye on the perimeter of our campus.

While there seems to be little threat to us, we thought this would be a good time to remind families to talk to your children about what to do if they ever come in contact with wildlife:

- Stop, don't run. Pick up small children so they will not run.
- Stay calm and avoid direct eye contact.
- Never approach the animal but do not take your eyes off the animal or turn your back.
- If you cannot safely move away, try to appear larger than the animal. Do not crouch down or try to hide.
- If the animal displays aggressive behavior, shout, clap your hands, wave your arms or throw rocks.

Please tell your child to be alert for any wildlife while waiting for the bus, walking home from bus stops or out in the backyard playing. It is always best to have children walk in pairs or as a group, regardless of wildlife. **It is also important to discourage students from walking or cutting through wooded areas to get to school or home.**

The state Department of Fish and Wildlife has a great website at www.wdfw.wa.gov where families can learn more. To report wildlife encounters to this state agency call 425.775.1311 during regular business hours or call 911 after hours or on weekends.

