



February 17, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This year, Elk Island Catholic Schools has implemented a software monitoring program designed to help keep students safe. The monitoring program is called *GoGuardian Beacon* and is designed as a suicide prevention tool. We have set up the *GoGuardian Beacon* to detect when a student searches, creates, views or interacts with online content that could be related to suicide or self-harm. When something of this nature is detected, designated school staff members receive an email alert notifying them of the student and the specific actions the student did that prompted the alert. School staff will respond accordingly to each alert. Often, it will result in a phone call to parents or guardians letting them know about the alert that was generated. Additionally, through conversations, the school team will determine what other follow-up might be needed for supporting the student.

Using the *GoGuardian Beacon* monitoring system provides another layer of support for keeping our students safe and providing essential care for them. It is important to recognize that the *GoGuardian Beacon* software cannot detect every possible situation when a student might be suicidal. However, it is an effective way to grow in our awareness of which students may need extra support.

It is important for you to know that *GoGuardian Beacon* operates when a student is logged into his/her school-managed account on a chromebook. The program does not monitor what students do on their own personal devices, even if they are logged into their school account. We want to assure you that your child's privacy is important to our school division and any information collected by *GoGuardian Beacon* is only shared with designated staff and is *not* put into PowerSchool or PASI (the database that houses all student records).

We know that parents, guardians and school staff all play a vital role in each student's support network. We appreciate your support of division as we implement the *GoGuardian Beacon* monitoring system. If you have questions or concerns about it, please reach out to a member of our school's administration team at 587-744-0750.

Sincerely,

Steve Tymko, Principal
St. Andre Bessette Catholic School