

March 23, 2018

Dear Skinner Families,

It is our priority to keep you informed of incidents related to student safety. This letter is to let you know that we received notification about a report made through the Safe2Tell hotline last night. The report was that a Skinner student had made a threat against our school. Denver Police detectives and DPS Department of safety officers immediately went to the home of the named student. Law enforcement officers interviewed the student and family. Police assessed the home for weapons. The child was kept home from school today pending this investigation and threat appraisal. Police have determined that this was not a credible threat and that students are safe coming to school today.

We commend the students and families who contacted us directly. My team was able to get communication out immediately to our families to ensure that you were aware that police were addressing this situation. If your child hears a threat made against another student or the school, we want them to report it immediately to Safe2Tell at 877-542-7233, online at <https://safe2tell.org>, or the Denver Police Non-Emergency number at 720-913-2000. We also ask that they please email the administrative team or the preferred staff member listed on Skinner's website. **Please explain to your child that it is not helpful to post these concerns to social media as authorities do not see these reports and it creates panic for children and families. This is what happened last night.**

I would like to assure you that the safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. We take all threats to Skinner very seriously and members of law enforcement investigate each instance. Please note that, if police determine the reports are false, the person who made the false claim could face criminal charges. Please have conversations with your children regarding the implications for students if they make a false report to authorities and hotlines.

Today, we met as grade-level families to process this situation. We also discussed ways that we may improve on our efforts to keep each other safe. In these meetings, we shared the following statements from the child and mother named in this instance:

From the child: "No matter the new story, it's never the truth of the original. Details can be changed. I was in conflict with some students, but I never said what was posted on social media. We don't own a gun, and I don't even know how to get one. I got involved in a minor conflict that was not even mine to personally address. I should have gone to an adult for help. I know now to get an adult to support when conflict arises. The school is supporting me in helping to resolve this misunderstanding."

Mom: "I am truly sorry all of this happened to our community." Mom is working closely with school staff to restore the feeling of safety to our community as well as restore the safety for her son.

We wish everyone a safe and relaxing Spring Break. If your child does use social media, please continue to monitor their use to ensure that they are posting responsibly. We will see you April 3rd at 7:25 a.m. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michelle Koyama
PrincipalLindsay Young
Assistant PrincipalRussell Wooten
Principal ResidentJessica Hale
DeanJoshua Duran
Dean