



"Together We Learn"

School District No. 23
(Central Okanagan)

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Media Information

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Distribute to: News Media, Trustees, Partner Groups, Administrators, District Sites

Kelowna Student Missing Overnight in Banff National Park is Safe

A 16-year-old Okanagan Mission Secondary School student who was reported missing late on Tuesday, September 25 in Banff National Park was found today at 12:50pm by park wardens. The student is healthy and uninjured.

The student is one of 116 students participating in the school's annual Lake O'Hare trip. He was in a group of eight students and two chaperons camping near Twin Lakes. The chaperon contacted Parks Canada late Tuesday to alert them that a boy was missing from the camp area.

On Tuesday, just before the student went missing, this group was in an area southwest of the junction between Highway 93 and the Trans Canada, near Twin Lakes. It can be reached by two trails: the first departs from the Vista Lake viewpoint on Highway 93 and the other begins at Altrude Creek just off the Trans Canada Highway. The temperature in the area, which is at an elevation of 605m, dropped to approximately 0 degrees last night. A Parks Canada search of the area this morning found the boy relatively close to the camp and unharmed.

Okanagan Mission Secondary School has been offering Grade 12 students the opportunity to participate in hiking trips since the late 1970's. In the past three decades, there have been no serious incidents. This trip is voluntary and is the highlight of the year for many Grade 12 students. The group is scheduled to return to Kelowna this weekend.

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