

Report 1



Constable Reeves was dispatched to Woodlands Junior High School to take a victim statement and investigate the alleged cyber-bullying claim. The following is an interview with Sangita Mistry and her Principal, Mr. Richards.

Constable Reeves: So you claim your iPhone 5 has been stolen by someone else to send inappropriate messages?

Sangita Mistry: Yes. I think it may have been taken from Southwood Rec Centre last night. I didn't realize my phone was missing until this morning - by which point none of my friends weren't talking to me and I'm a laughing stock - apparently photos of me have been circulated too.

Constable Reeves: Why didn't you report the fact your phone was missing as soon as you realized it? The sooner a report is made, the better chance we have of preventing the risk of cyber-bullying, theft of personal information or people using your data.

Sangita Mistry: I know - I should have told somebody sooner, but I was afraid I'd get into trouble as the iPhone was a birthday gift from my parents. I thought I might get grounded.

Constable Reeves: I see. Remember this advice for the future please. I'd like to talk about your privacy settings now - I presume you had the password function set on your phone so that only you have access to it? It is so important that you have full control of your phone when using it in a public place.

Sangita Mistry: Well, er, no...you see I was meaning to do it and I just didn't get around to it. I didn't think it mattered as I'm the only one who uses it.

Constable Reeves: I'm sure you now realize how important passwords are - if a phone is stolen and has no password, then anybody can access all of your data - from your Apps to your photos and from your text messages to email. You should also always back up your mobile device to an iCloud or computer - especially your photos as it is too risky to store so much personal information on your phone. Well, did you at least have the 'find iPhone' App set up? If so, then we can

activate it using another phone and try to locate it.

Principal Richards: No need Constable. I of course agree that everyone should set up this function, but luckily for Sangita, Science teacher Ms Fenton stumbled upon Sangita's phone at recess. Someone had dumped it in the bushes at the front of the school and it was the ringing that alerted her to it.

Constable Reeves: This is great. We can use it as evidence and will run a fingerprint analysis on the plastic casing. I notice there's a hair trapped in the casing too. We will hold this as police property for the time being. Now then - this attack caught you completely off guard? No-one's been bothering you?

Sangita Mistry: Well, not that I can think of - although Brodie Smith - one of the soccer players on the other team yesterday was a little off with me. We were winning the game you see and I don't think he liked it. But I don't think he'd stoop so low as to steal my phone, would he?

Constable Reeves: You'd be surprised. This gives us something to work on. Now I need to do a full analysis on the phone - look at its history as well as examining the other evidence - fingerprints, hair. What is this note tucked into the back of the case, Sangita?

Sangita Mistry: I don't know. I didn't write it. Perhaps whoever stole my phone hid it there?

Report 5



Interview with the principal.

Constable Reeves: Students are becoming increasingly bold using social media - without really understanding the consequences. Take the forwarding of photos without someone's permission for example.

Principal Richards: Yes, this is a worrying new trend. Students often don't understand that by forwarding on an image or photograph, they are endorsing it - which means they agree that the picture should be sent on and seen by other people. By simply clicking the 'forward' or 'share' button, then assuming the photo is either inappropriate or hurtful, they are equally as guilty as the person who sent the photo in the first place. This is what we call cyber-bullying.

Constable Reeves: Yes, and cyber-bullying, that is bullying someone online, can be a criminal offence for which there are consequences. Students could be suspended from school, or worse still, arrested. Students often don't realize that everything done online can be traced somehow - even things that have been deleted.

Principal Richards: Correct! Which is why all of the teachers here at Woodlands Junior High School are on high alert. I will set up an assembly to discuss all of this with the whole school. Students have to remember that any photo could be used for cyber-bullying purposes and to keep a careful eye on any of their online photos, or photos stored on mobile devices - would they be happy to see that image on the front page of a newspaper? Could the photo be embarrassing, inappropriate or against our school policy? These are all important points that they have to think about.

And if students ever feel they are being cyber-bullied, then there are simple steps they can follow: block the bully (if using social media), print it out, tell an adult and never delete the evidence. Students should never try to respond or communicate with with the bully directly.

Constable Reeves: Exactly! And students should always feel they can report anything like this to the Calgary Police Service. We are here to help.



Student Interview Summaries

Constable Reeves interviewed four students. Here is his summary.

BRODIE SMITH Maintains that he never made snide remarks towards Sangita at soccer practice and that she is just over-sensitive. He was mad that his team were losing the game - that's all.

MARCO ALBENNI Is best friends with Brodie Smith. He claims that he received a photo message from Sangita that was a photo of her making a funny face and not very flattering. He admitted that he forwarded the photo on as it was funny. He maintains that this case is nothing to do with him though.

SARA BROOKS Collaborates Sangita's story. i.e. that they were both together at soccer practice at Southwood Rec Centre and that she let Sangita borrow her cell-phone to call the rec centre to see if her iPhone had been handed in. She explained how Sangita was afraid to tell her parents as the phone had been a birthday gift and despite numerous reminders from her parents, Sangita had done nothing to protect it.

DEBBIE DOWNES Thought that Sangita was one of her best friends until she saw the hurtful comments that Sangita posted on Facebook. She is still too upset to talk to Sangita, but has printed out the newsfeed which has the comments on it - just in case it's required as evidence.