

# School incident sparks rumors

## Staff report

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Ruston police said rumors that a child was kidnapped from Hillcrest Elementary School on Thursday are unfounded.

RPD Capt. Kevin Peden said police did, however, respond to an incident at the school at 11 a.m. Thursday. Peden said the principal, Patrice Hay, called Ruston police when a student's father came to the school to check out the student.

"The child's mother, from the beginning of the school

year, has been taking the child to school," Peden said. "(Thursday), the father and the step-mother wanted to check the boy out of school and the principal, knowing only the mother, was reluctant to allow that."

Peden said the father and his wife were referred to the Lincoln Parish School Board. By the time the couple had returned to Hillcrest, Peden said, the child had been checked out by his mother.

"Officers explained to the man that since the child's

mother has been picking the child up all year, he should understand why the principal was reluctant to let him check out the child," Peden said.

Police report the father left the premises peaceably. But, a rumor began circulating that a child had been kidnapped, and Peden said it is false.

Lincoln Parish Schools Superintendent Danny Bell and Hay both said it was a minor incident handled according to district guidelines with a priority on student safety.