

Jennings School

Tony Vuolo • Principal

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November 15, 2013

Dear Jennings Families:

The safety and security of the students and staff of Jennings Elementary School are very important to us. Our Emergency Protocols include procedures for many different types of events. On Monday, November 18, 2013 we will be conducting a Lockdown Drill. The drill will take place from approximately 2:15-2:35. We ask that parents please refrain from coming to or contacting the school during that window of time. There has been discussion at both the building and district level regarding the timing of this year's drill. We clearly have taken into consideration the sensitivity to the recent events in Newtown. It is for this reason we are choosing to conduct the drill prior to the 1 year anniversary of that tragic day.

Similar to a fire drill, a Lockdown Drill is designed to ensure student and staff safety in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency situation. Unlike a fire drill, a Lockdown Drill, at times, is designed to have students and staff members remain in the building in a safe and supervised location. All staff members have received safety training from both the Fairfield Police Department and the Fairfield Fire Department on a wide range of emergency procedures, including facility Lockdown.

The staff has also discussed the developmentally appropriate language to use with each grade level as they prepare them for the drill. Please feel confident that the staff will be closely monitoring the student reaction and will support any needs that arise. We would ask that you reach out to the school if you are sensing any of the children struggling with the concept of this drill.

Our Lockdown Drill will last approximately 20 minutes. During this exercise, students will learn to respond to faculty direction in a calm and orderly manner. As always, we will evaluate the process and student reaction in order to make any improvements that are warranted. Before the drill, your child's teacher will present an explanation and specific instructions. The description provided to students will assure them that Lockdown Drills, like fire drills, are a part of the standard safety procedures of the school.

We are confident that practicing our emergency procedures will further enhance the safety of our school community. Additionally, the town has responded in helping to educate and guide our schools. We have had meetings with town officials, including police and fire departments. There are environmental reviews being conducted as well as short and long term security measures being proposed and put in place. The Town of Fairfield is committed to the safety of our schools.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tony Vuolo,
Principal
Jennings Elementary School