



September 19, 2016

Dear Parents,

The safety of your child and all children in our school, as well as the safety of the staff, is our highest priority. In order to maintain a safe environment for our children, it is necessary that we practice our emergency and crisis response plans by having drills designed to rehearse our procedures. This year, we have already practiced three Fire Drills and will be conducting a Lock Down drill next week. The purpose of this drill is to keep the students safe from any danger outside or inside the building.

A building lockdown requires that all doors are locked, when the emergency allows and all movement in and out of the building is restricted. The types of emergencies that could require a school to lockdown are: the presence or possible presence of an intruder; a dangerous situation taking place in the vicinity of the school; a hazardous spill or other type of accident that could pose a threat to the safety of staff and students.

We will be participating in a lockdown drill on Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the second one later in the school year. An officer from the Lake County Sheriff's department may be observing our second drill to provide us with feedback. Lockdown drills can be a little scary, especially for younger students. Before the drill, teachers will talk to their classes and walk the students through the procedures. When speaking to students about lockdown drills, teachers will talk in general terms, stating that "just like we practice fire drills and have to leave the building, we also need to practice for emergencies that will keep us in the building." Talking about the drill with your children at home may also help alleviate unnecessary anxiety. We just ask that you maintain our approach as to not create more anxiety amongst students themselves. We specifically ask that, while here at school, students do not talk about violence in schools (guns/shooting) to maintain the innocence of the younger students.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Mrs. Echavez at 847-247-0035 ext. 202.

Sincerely,

The East Lake Academy Safety Committee