

11/29/18 RP Newsletter

Dear Families,

Please note that **next** Friday, December 7, students will be released at 1:15 p.m. There will be no 4 year old kindergarten on December 7.

Active Intruder Drills to Take Place in December

The safety and welfare of our staff and students are our highest priorities. Because of this importance, we practice drills in response to a variety of scenarios throughout the year. Based on experience and input from outside agencies, including law enforcement, the FBI, and the Office of Homeland Security, we make adjustments to our responses as deemed necessary. That is why the District has adopted a different strategy to respond to an active intruder on school grounds. We have adopted a response known as Avoid, Deny, Defend. Staff received training on this response last spring.

We are doing a number of things to train and prepare our students to implement this new strategy. A few weeks ago, our elementary teachers read a book called *I'M NOT SCARED...I'M PREPARED!* with their students and discussed plans of what to do if there is a "dangerous someone" in the building. Our 6-12 students are discussing the same concepts with designated building staff, and we will be completing announced drills at each school building beginning on December 13. As we continue to practice these drills throughout the year, staff may practice different strategies that lead to the safest outcome for their students. Therefore, it is very important for students to listen to the directions given by their teacher as the course of action during these drills will not always be the same.

We want our students and staff to feel safe at school. By practicing these types of drills, our students gain confidence in how to respond to a crisis. Our students benefit from reminders of safe practices in order for them to make good decisions regarding their personal safety. Parents can prepare their children by helping them understand the following objectives:

- While most people are good, there are people of all ages, color, and types that can be mean and may wish to harm them
- Self-confidence comes from trying things that are hard and getting better each time
- There are many solutions and options when faced with a problem
- When we are prepared for difficult situations, we can make informed decisions and will have more self-control
- Have your child explain the different safety drills we practice and how they respond to each drill
- Discuss the importance of following the teacher's directions without hesitation

Thank you for your help in making your child feel confident and safe. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the principal at your child's school.

Parents of 3 year olds, RBEL is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4.

Please view the attached information for more information on date and times.



Once again RP students and staff will be collecting pennies and non perishable food items starting Monday, December 3. Items will be donated to families in need. If your family would like to contribute, please get items to school by Monday, December 19. Thank you!

Raising Caring Kids: Building Strong Relationships Through Communication

From the beginning of life your child has been communicating with you. Communication with your child can be amazing. Do you remember seeing your child's first smile or celebrating your child's first word? Communication can be challenging, too. It doesn't feel quite as amazing when a child communicates by having a temper tantrum, rolling his eyes, or slamming a door. Naming emotions and showing your child examples of body language can help them understand how actions may express what someone is feeling or thinking.

