Hello Parents,

What happens if "The Big One" happens while the children are at school?

We will be sending our reminders about the May 4th Emergency Release Drill but the district-wide event is coming! Our school community will practice our emergency release procedures. In short, we need to pretend that a large scale earthquake has occurred and parents (or their authorized designate) will pick up their child. This drill will involve students, staff and parents.

Roughly, it will look like this:

We will simulate a natural disaster on the afternoon of May 4th. The exact time has not been determined but it will likely be around 2pm.

Parents (or their designate) will come to the school as quickly as possible. We will be in the garden and parents will follow the release procedure to pick up their child. We want to practice a safe and orderly release so parents will report to the table outside the fence to collect their child.

A more detailed plan will be sent to you in the following weeks.

Parents (or their designate) will need to come to the school and pick up their child. There will be release process that we will use to ensure that children are handed off to the proper adult. Any children remaining will be dismissed at the regular dismissal time of 3pm.

This is an important reminder to keep your emergency contact information up to date.

So what can you do to prepare?

1. Make sure the school has your updated contact information. Parents should have verified this information already. Please let us know of any changes.

2. If you cannot come to the school early on May 4th, please communicate this with your emergency contact. This is a good time to review the process with your friends.

3. Make sure your child knows who the emergency contacts are so he/she can anticipate who may pick them up in an emergency.

4. Review your child's medical needs, if any. Does the school have the proper medication for your child in the event of an emergency and he/she cannot be picked up right away?

5. Make sure you know the name of your child's teacher and the division number! Make sure your emergency contact has this information!

6. Although not directly connected with the school emergency drill, this is a good time to review your own family's emergency preparedness. I have provided a few links below.

<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx>

<https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrcs/pblctns/yprprdnssgd/yprprdnssgd-eng.pdf>

<http://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/emergencies-and-disasters-in-canada/for-home-and-family>

<https://products.redcross.ca/product/459/canadian-red-cross-disaster-preparedness-kit>

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/build-an-emergency-kit>

Thank you!