

Dear families,

Last week, we had a community scare when we had a student approached by a parent late on Wednesday afternoon. My emails on Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2, provide the details of the incident and of the investigation of what happened. I again am grateful for our community's response. For example, at our PTO meeting on Wednesday, April 6, we discussed bringing a child safety program to school this fall to make sure that all of our kids are equipped with skills and an understanding of what to do should they find themselves in an unsafe situation. Stay tuned for that in the coming weeks.

I had already planned a school-wide "Safety Day" drill practice, where teachers and I will simulate emergency situations that would require the building to be locked down. We will spend approximately 30 minutes practicing a "lockout" response to a hypothetical situation in the community that doesn't directly threaten the school campus; followed by a "lockdown" response to a situation that would possibly threaten the school. Then we will do a tornado drill, and complete with a fire drill. The drills will be observed by Rocky Mountain Fire personnel, and the staff will debrief following the practice drills. All of these drills are part of my responsibility to provide a safe learning environment for students and staff, and are required by district policy. We try to make them as calm as possible without alarming children, but there will be a short interruption to learning while we practice.

On an even broader perspective, Boulder Valley School District will complete a two-year school safety project this spring and summer where each school campus is evaluated for safety and recommendations are made to both the district. We will perform "tabletop exercises" that simulate large-scale emergencies to ensure that our staff is prepared for the unexpected.

I want to extend one last invitation to a screening of "Race to Nowhere", a film that discusses the impacts of high-stakes testing on children. The event is Tuesday, April 12, at 7 p.m. at Louisville Middle School. I'll be leading a short discussion of the movie following the screening. Tickets are available online for \$10.00 by visiting <http://rtnlouisvillemsco.eventbrite.com/>; they will be \$15.00 at the door if any tickets remain.

Finally, a brief budget update. You may have seen some encouraging news from the state regarding the cut in spending for K-12 education. In February, we were informed of a proposed \$330 million cut statewide, which would translate to approximately \$12 million to the schools in Boulder Valley. This week, we learned that the cut to K-12 schools would be reduced to around \$250 million, as proposed and approved by the Joint Budget Committee. Legislation still needs to pass both the state House and Senate and be signed by the governor, but it appears that the pending harm to schools throughout the state will be lessened somewhat.

I jested in PTO this week that I don't want to appear to celebrate a \$250 million reduction in spending for education, but this change would bring an additional \$3 million to schools in Boulder. That's better news than we received in February, but still concerning. Unless something is addressed at the state level, we will continue having these conversations about budget cuts each year.

Once again, though, I can close with gratitude for our PTO for supporting our classrooms and to

the voters in Boulder Valley who approved additional revenue that will mitigate any harm to the district this year.

Thanks to all for supporting the best school in Boulder and in Colorado!

Your principal,

Jon Wolfer