

*From the principal's desk...*

Dear families:

I'm devoting my letter this week to safety. I'll discuss our regular safety drills, but I'd like to begin with internet safety.

Please look in your Friday Folders this week for a publication called "Net Cetera". This booklet is provided to us from the federal government, and I requested them because of some on-line incidents that I became aware of since the beginning of the school year involving our children. In one case, a female student was asked inappropriate questions on a National Geographic game web site; in another, a male student took pictures of his friend in a bathing suit and sent it to other friends. Both students are in upper elementary grades, and I'm concerned about the ubiquitous use of the internet by our children – and how unsafe behavior finds kids.

Please take the time to review this booklet at home, and consider implementing some of those recommendations. In general, have your computers at home in a common area, not in your kids' rooms. You need to know what your kids are doing and experiencing while on the internet.

As a part of our ongoing commitment to the safety of our students and staff at Douglass Elementary School, I'd like to make sure that you all are aware of a series of practice exercises we will complete next week as required by school district policy. The drills are fire drills, lockdown, and shelter-in-place. Each type of drill is explained below.

**Fire Drills..** The school will conduct a "fire drill" each month that school is in session. This is a Fire Code requirement as well as a requirement by the Boulder Valley School District. We want each student to understand and be aware of the importance of this drill and not be afraid when the fire alarm is sounded. By practicing they will know what to do and how to do it. This drill practice also ensures that our evacuation routes are clear and safe in the unlikely event of the need to clear the building.

**Lockdown.** The school will conduct one "Lockdown Drill" each semester of the school year. This type of drill will secure the school building and safely shelter all students, staff and visitors inside the building. The purpose of this drill is to keep the students safe from any danger outside or inside the building. During a "lockdown drill" all of the perimeter doors to the school building will be locked and will remain locked until the danger or issue outside or inside the building is removed. To enable everyone to remain safe, no one will be allowed to enter the building or leave the building until the authorities authorize such a release.

**Shelter-in-Place.** The "Shelter-in-Place" drill will be conducted 1 time a semester each school year. The purpose of this drill is to be prepared to move to a safe location within the building in case of severe weather or tornados.

Please remember that these safety practice drills are done to help maintain our schools as a safe place to learn and work. If you have any questions regarding any of these Safety Drills or other safety concerns, please contact me directly.

Another safety concern I'd like to address with you involves parking. Many families have begun dropping their children off and picking them up on Columbia Drive, the street on the east side of our campus. If you drop students off here, please be aware that there are zones where cars should not park or idle while you wait for your kids, and u-turns are extremely dangerous on such a narrow street with children crossing. We also do not supervise this area as we need to devote our attention to the main parking area. Thank you for helping us maintain safety before and after school as well.

Your principal,

Jon Wolfer