

Emergency Preparedness

The event in Florida on Feb 14th reminds us, yet again, of how precious our children are, and how important their safety is. Since moving up to this campus on the hill, we have continued to improve our emergency planning and our drills. As I've noted before, we are part of the "Town of Brattleboro and Brattleboro Schools Emergency Response Plan". We meet regularly with first responders, and do emergency drills (of several types) at least monthly. We had one scheduled for this week, coincidentally, and we all (teachers, administrators and students) had a sense of seriousness and a strong desire to be as prepared as possible. The drill went very smoothly, and I sensed that teachers felt a bit of relief seeing again that they could quickly get their students to safety. Ellie discovered that she can keep all the toddlers very quiet by feeding them in the dark. The Lower Elementary students had more of a sense of urgency about the drill and were speculating about ways to be even more safe. Middle School had a parent visitor arrive during the drill. He came over to the main building after noting that "the Middle School is locked and the students are nowhere in sight." That was the idea, and we will keep looking for ways to improve. Some things we've added to our security measures that you all as parents might notice is to post and consistently implement:

- All visitors sign-in at the front desk
- Visitor name tags provided for any non-staff folks who will be in the halls unaccompanied during school hours
- Using the phone service at 211 to communicate with parents in an emergency. This service provides a conduit for communication in such circumstances and would be a first line of communication with parents.

A group of heads of school from throughout the Pioneer Valley have written a letter that is being sent to government representatives. I am one of the co-signers of [this letter](#).

Many student groups are participating in marches to advocate for gun control. At this point, we do not have an organized group of students participating in an outside event, but the Middle School is expressing their feelings on this topic as part of their performance to be presented next Thursday and Friday (March 8th and 9th) at 7 p.m. Please join us to share in their expression of their learning and feelings from the year.

If you have any questions or comments about our emergency procedures, please reach out to [Tamara](#).

March 2, 2018