

Emergency Preparedness

We have several types of emergency drills as part of our school safety and emergency preparedness program. You may hear your children talk about these events, and we wanted to share a bit about what we do.

1. We have **monthly fire drills**. A VERY LOUD alarm goes off in the school buildings and the children and staff evacuate with each class going to specific meeting places outside for attendance taking. During the lovely spring and fall weather these are nice diversions to the outside. During the winter, the environment can be more challenging. At times they occur when some students are already outside. We have had a couple of fire drills this year and they have gone very well, with a quick evacuation time.
2. We conduct **"shelter-in-place" drills**. We had this year's first practice of this drill by program this week. Each program goes to a set place inside the building to shelter in preparation for an emergency. We discussed this in age appropriate ways: the toddlers played a "quiet game", the Children's House played "sardines" and the Elementary and Middle School followed teacher instructions precisely and quickly. All went well.

We are part of the "Town of Brattleboro and Brattleboro Schools Emergency Response Plan". We have coordinated with local officials and emergency responders to ensure that they know our campus and community well and will be able to assist efficiently in an emergency situation, including evacuation, should the need arise.

October 21, 2016