



Lakewood School District #306

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"In Partnership for Quality Education"

11-10-14

Dear Key Communicators,

As I reflect on the past couple weeks, I find myself grateful to be a member of the Lakewood School Community. We are a caring and thoughtful community, willing to open our hearts to our neighbors in their time of need. I am especially proud of our students and their willingness to think not only about themselves, but of others. They have demonstrated this thoughtfulness and compassion in so many ways that when I hear comments about how the youth of today don't care, I want to say, "Come to Lakewood and you will find a school community that not only cares, but acts!" Thank you, both students and staff, for all you have done to help soften the anguish that many in our area feel at this time.

In light of recent circumstances, we have begun to reevaluate our emergency preparedness. We currently have monthly drills that cover the spectrum of possible mishaps/disasters that could occur. The drills we run are:

- Fire Drills
- Earthquake Drills
- Shelter in Place (in case there is an accident involving noxious fumes)
- Lockdown (when someone unwanted is on one of our campuses)

To ensure that we are providing the most protection possible for our students, we have asked the Snohomish County Sheriff's office to partner with us as we take a critical look at our safety procedures. We have accomplished the first step by meeting with Snohomish County Sheriff's Deputy Bud McCurry, our school resource officer, who will help with this endeavor. Deputy McCurry was one of the first officers on the campus at Marysville-Pilchuck during their crisis, and he will be an invaluable asset in assisting us as we move forward.

Under the direction of the district's Director of HR & Learning Support Services, Priscilla Brady, and with the assistance of Deputy McCurry, the District Safety Committee will conduct a thorough review of current practices, and then recommend possible changes to our emergency management procedures. I feel good about our current procedures, but I am always willing to modify and improve as we learn new tactics and lessons from real-life situations. As part of the process we will hold a community forum to discuss the progress of the plan. After the forum we will make any final changes necessary and have a draft ready to share at our district open house, March 17, 2015. My hope is to have this forum early this winter, so stay tuned.

The following link, [A Tip Sheet for Parents](#), is from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and includes tips and resources for keeping young people safe in our rapidly changing digital world.

I will also be forming a Superintendent Advisory Council, in which we will discuss this and other district-level issues. The meeting schedule has not yet been set, but I encourage you to contact me if this is something you might enjoy. I can be reached at mmack@lwsd.wednet.edu or 360.652.4500.

In closing, I would like to reiterate what a wonderful community Lakewood is. We take our responsibility to provide a safe and inspiring environment for our students seriously. I pledge to do all I can to help provide this atmosphere and ask you to stay connected to your student and community as well. Please listen, ask questions, and contact us if you have any suggestions or concerns. Together we can create the place we all want for our students – a safe, stimulating, and nurturing learning environment.

Best regards,

Mike

Michael P. Mack, PhD | Superintendent
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