



Mrs. Diane Steele, Principal

Ms. B. Bahd, Vice-Principal

October 19, 2017

Dear Parents:

Earthquake Preparedness at Ferris

Today Ferris School had one of our school-wide Earthquake Drills (2 a year). This was also the BC Shakeout Drill day in BC.

Please check out <https://www.shakeoutbc.ca> for information about Earthquake Preparedness.

AT SCHOOL:

During a drill students and staff drop cover and hold, counting for 60 seconds (this helps focus and calm everyone) and gives time for the shaking to stop. Once the shaking stops, staff direct students to get dressed fully, gather backpacks and follow them outside to the assembly area. During a real earthquake there may be obstructions, so staff lead the way to find a safe exit. Everyone assembles at the back of the school, and staff send information to school office staff regarding anyone who is unaccounted for. In the case of a real earthquake staff have signs saying OK and HELP to put on the windows facing outside to help emergency responders and helpers assist.

Most drills end after everyone is outside and accounted for. We are planning a longer full scale earthquake drill in the Spring where parents will be asked to come to the school and sign their children out--just as we would do in the case of the real thing--more about that later.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES in the case of a real earthquake:

1. **Does the school have updated contact information including who is allowed to pick up your child in the case of an earthquake?—this is important!**
2. **Everyday**--Ensure your child is dressed to keep warm and dry. As the weather turns, this becomes increasingly important. (A rolled up raincoat in the bottom of the backpack is a good idea in all weather.)
3. **DO NOT PHONE THE SCHOOL**--you will tie up the lines for emergency responders and we will not be able to answer as we will be caring for the students.
4. Walk to the school if possible to pick up your child, or park and walk in...prepare for some debris to be on roads...take your time, be safe.
5. We have some supplies, first aid, shelter, water...and staff will keep children until the **designated person**—on the verification form, comes to pick them up. There will be a **reception centre set up for parents to go to with their child to check out. NEVER take your child without checking them out.**
6. Tell your older children: If an earthquake happens on the way to or from school they should drop, cover and hold. If your child is old enough and walks alone and is on the way to school when an earthquake happens they should go to the school (Parents might have already gone to work). If they are on the way home, they should go home. This way, they are where they are expected to be.
7. Should you have any questions about Earthquake preparedness that you'd like administrators to address please contact the school office.
8. Parents are invited to check out the Shake Out for great information about earthquake preparation at home: <https://www.shakeoutbc.ca>

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