



Pamela Jasso <pjasso@scsdk8.org>

October is Safety Month

Pam Jasso <pjasso@scsdk8.org>
 Reply-To: pjasso@scsdk8.org
 To: heather_staff@scsdk8.org

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Principal's Bulletin

October 2018

October is Safety Month

Today will be participating in the **"Great California Shakeout"** earthquake drill. Our students will practice "Drop, cover, and hold on," and then evacuated to our assembly areas. We will then move into whole school assembly on the field, practicing what we'd do if the emergency didn't allow us to return to classrooms. Heather staff have been reviewing and updating our Heather Emergency Plan that describes our teams working together for our overall safety in an emergency.

We are utilizing protocols developed by the Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities in San Mateo County, called "The Big Five." **Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the Big Five Protocols by reading over the attached Big Five Parent Flyer.** If you want to dig a little deeper, take a look at the [Big Five Community Packet](#).

Our emergency plan includes communication with the district, parents and emergency services. Teachers are assigned to various emergency response roles, including student assembly leaders who stay and supervise students in grade level teams when other teachers are "deployed" to their duty. Our plan also includes entrance security, with staff at each our entrance and exit areas directing emergency response vehicles and personnel as well as parents, and it includes a student release protocol. Students will be released individually to parents or authorized guardians and adults at the student release station which parents will be informed of upon entering campus. Parents will be directed to park off site allowing for emergency vehicles to have priority. **It is critical that parents follow our student release protocol so we can make sure all students are safe and accounted for.**

In the event of a true emergency, the best thing you can do as a parent is to stay away from the school (and refrain from calling, keeping phone lines open for emergency personnel) until you are notified to come pick up your student. We understand that is extremely difficult but it's important for us to focus on students in an emergency. While keeping parents calm and informed is critical, student safety will be our highest priority and it's best if we can avoid anything that distracts from that.

None of us want to be involved in a real emergency, but practicing and being prepared will be key in keeping our kids and staff safe and reuniting with parents if the state of our building aren't useable. Please be assured, safety of our students is a top priority.

October 15 - 19 marks **California's Digital Citizenship Week**. Teachers have developed grade level plans to teach **digital safety and online citizenship**, learning how to use their devices safely, responsibly and respectfully.

Our school resource officers will be with us on Monday, October 29 presenting [Safety Tips for Safe Kids](#) at an all school assembly. Their presentation will cover 1.) calling for emergency help, 2.) bicycle, scooter and skateboard safety, 3.) stranger danger and 4.) safe Halloween practices. Deputy Tuipulotu, "Tui", is often on our campus, just checking in and offering support as needed.

With Halloween right around the corner, Heather is also supporting the [Teal Pumpkin Project](#), raising awareness for food allergies and promoting inclusion of all trick-or-treaters. Parents can go onto the [Teal Pumpkin Project site](#) and log your home as a "Teal Pumpkin" home so trick-o-treaters know where to go.

Heather students are also participating in classroom Safety Lessons with our school counselor Wendy Salazar, teaching **Second Step Child Protection Unit**. A parent letter was sent earlier in September with this information along with an activation key to review these lessons: <https://www.secondstep.org/>

Deputy Tui will also be a guest at next week's **School Site Council meeting, Thursday, October 25, 3:05** to discuss safety topics with parents and staff. All are invited.

We encourage parents to review these safety conversations with their own families. Discuss and model digital safety and responsible use of devices. Have a family plan in the event of an emergency, helping your children know the plan and know how to call 911 in their own homes. Have a safe and happy Halloween and let's be safe all through the year!

Sincerely,
Pam Jasso, Principal
pjasso@scsdk8.org

Dates to Remember

- Oct. 17, Great California Shake-out, SCSD Drill, 11:00 am
- Oct. 22, R.O.P.E.S. Information Night, 4th Grade, 6:00 am
- Oct. 25, School Site Council, 3:05 pm
- Oct. 31, Heather Halloween Parade, 8:45 am
- Nov. 7, Picture Make up Day
- Nov. 8, School Board Meeting, 6:45
- Nov. 9, Start of Parent / Teacher Conference Week, Minimum Days
- Nov. 9, SCEF Faculty and Friends Concert, St. Charles Church, 5pm
- Nov. 12, Veterans' Day, School Holiday
- Nov. 13-16 Parent / Teacher Conference Week, Minimum Days
- Nov. 13, SCSD TK / Kindergarten Information Night, CMS, 6:30
- Nov. 19-23, Thanksgiving Vacation

[back to top](#) ↑

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