



VICTORIA
CONFEDERATION
OF
PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS
556 BOLESKINE ROAD, VICTORIA, BC V8Z 1E8
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VCPAC Emergency Preparedness Working Group

April 21, 2017

We are looking for parents to help advocate the need for the Provincial Government to allocate adequate new funding for disaster mitigation for School Districts. Currently, the expectation is that PACs will help acquire and organize the emergency supplies for their school. PACs can spend anywhere between \$500-\$1000/year replenishing the perishable emergency supplies for their school. However, not all PACs support fundraising equally, therefore not all schools have the funds required to purchase and maintain the additional emergency equipment.

Standardizing the emergency supplies and procedures for schools is essential in ensuring that every school has the required emergency equipment and resources available to keep students safe until they can be reunited with their families. To help identify the needs of our schools, VCPAC sent out a survey to all PACs requesting the status of the schools current emergency supplies. Recently, a similar survey was sent to school administrators by the District. Feedback is an essential element to moving this forward, so please take the time to review the current inventory at your school.

The Greater Victoria School District is currently reviewing all school emergency plans, and is working towards standardizing the student and parent reunification process. In October, Lécole Quadra School trialed the District reunification procedures during a Controlled Student Release Exercise held in conjunction with the Great BC ShakeOut Exercise. In January, one elementary school in each of the five municipalities that fall within SD61 boundaries, was selected to conduct a Controlled Student



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Release Exercise and complete a Reunification Training Cycle. The Reunification Training Cycle consists of school staff training, parent education, and a Controlled Student Release Exercise.

VCPAC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (cont.)

Student and parent reunification is one of the most important aspects in school emergency planning and will be utilized after any emergency, or catastrophic disaster. The same dangers posed to our children will still exist after an emergency situation, and it is then that our children are most vulnerable to the risk of being displaced from their families. To mitigate this risk, schools must establish a safe area for students to reunite with their parents, while the parents themselves must be familiar with the procedures and the plan for their school.

Next year, the District will continue to conduct Controlled Student Release Exercises at elementary schools in SD61, as well as review the release procedures for middle and high school students.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions on emergency preparedness,

Marketa Lund

VCPAC Executive Director, and Emergency Preparedness Rep

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