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Ms Christina Chilelli, Principal

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Dear Parents & Guardians,

Since the start of the year, teachers have been reviewing the school's Lockdown Procedures with the students. The goal in doing so is to educate the students so that they will be well prepared in the unlikely event of a lockdown. To this end, we will be having a lockdown drill on **Thursday, April 28th at approximately 10AM.** Since this is the first time many of our students experience a lockdown drill, it will NOT be a surprise to the students. In fact, I encourage you to talk to your child(ren) about their thoughts and feelings regarding the matter. (See guidelines below for guidance.) If you feel that your child(ren) may have a negative reaction to the drill, please advise your child's teacher.

Helpful Guidelines to Keep in Mind When Talking with Children about School Safety

For some children, even participation in a drill may cause some emotional distress, especially if it reminds them of a prior crisis event or if they otherwise are feeling vulnerable or anxious. As a parent, you are in the best position to help your child cope. Any conversation with a child must be developmentally appropriate.

- **Young children** need brief simple information that should be balanced with reassurance. This includes informing children that their school and home are safe (once these are secure) and that adults are available to protect them. Young children often gauge how threatening or serious an event is by adult reactions. This is why, for example, parents are encouraged not to get overly emotional when saying goodbye on the first day of school. Young children respond well to basic assurance by adults and simple examples of school safety, like reminding them the exterior doors are locked.
- **Upper elementary and early middle school children** may be more vocal in asking questions about whether they are truly safe and what is being done at their school. They may need assistance separating reality from fantasy. Parents can share relevant communication to ease their child's mind.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter,

C. Chilelli
Principal



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