September 15, 2015

Good Afternoon Marshall families! Welcome back to the 2015-16 school year. This is Principal Condee Wood with a few important announcements. This announcement will also be sent out via e-mail and phone.

Today we practiced our first lock-down drill. The Olympia School District has designated student safety as a top priority, and all schools are working to train students how to respond to a variety of emergencies. The protocols around an active shooter situation have been newly added to our list, and today was your student’s first encounter with language around what to do if we ever find ourselves in that horrible situation. I wanted to share with you the two directives we taught to students today.

First, if students or staff are in imminent danger and in close proximity to the threat, they are to Duck (this means just to duck down…it doesn’t mean to crawl under a desk), Assess the Situation, and then Run. They are to run in a zig-zag away from the threat and run as fast as they can without stopping until they are sure they are far away from the threat. They were instructed to go through doors…go through windows…whatever it takes to get away and safe.

Second, if students and staff are NOT in imminent danger…that is, they are NOT close to the threat, they are to Duck, Assess the Situation, and LOCKDOWN…according to the procedures we shared with them today.

The distinction between the two is very important. Research has shown that locking down works…it saves lives. The only time students and staff do not lock down is if they are very close to the actual threat.

To help students and staff learn more about how to respond to an active shooter, we have a district-sponsored presenter, Jesus Villahermosa, who is talking at every middle and high school, coming to present an assembly on September 28th. He will then have a presentation for parents at OHS on October 6 at 6:30 pm. It is important for our entire community to be prepared for this type of emergency and to know how to appropriately respond. I highly encourage you to discuss today’s lockdown with your child and to attend the presentation at Olympia High School on October 6th.

Finally, we will practice fire and earthquake drills with evacuations tomorrow and Thursday.

Next, please mark your calendars for Curriculum Night on September 29th! The evening starts in our cafeteria at 5:30 with a spaghetti dinner including spaghetti, salad, a breadstick, lemonade and ice cream for only $4.00 per person. If you haven’t had a chance to buy tickets yet, you can purchase tickets at the door. Otherwise, the program starts in our cafeteria at 6:00 pm. Please plan to carpool and arrive early as parking can be difficult. While your students are not prohibited from coming, this event is really tailored for parents.

We are starting a new ASB fundraiser this year in order to more adequately fund our ASB sports and activities. Look for an ASB fundraising packet to come home with your students on September 30th.