
STUDENTS AND PARENTS PRACTISE REUNIFICATION DRILL AFTER SHAKEOUT

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

VICTORIA, BC - Should the “Big One” occur on a school day, do you have a plan for reuniting with your children?

This Thursday at Quadra Elementary School, the province-wide Shakeout will occur at day end the entire school will participate in a student and parent reunification procedure.

This is the first time the Greater Victoria School District has practiced a reunification drill. It will be used to identify gaps and education needed for both students and families across all schools.

“A major earthquake will throw all typical pickup and drop off routines out the window, yet our schools have the same responsibility of ensuring our students are safe and supported, all accounted for, and released to an approved adult,” noted Piet Langstraat, Superintendent of Greater Victoria schools. “This reunification drill is intended to test and develop reunification systems that can be applied to all of our schools.”

The Shakeout and reunification drill will begin at 2 p.m. and conclude at 2:53 p.m. to coincide with the regular student dismissal time.

In preparing for this drill, students, staff and parents have been engaged. The five municipalities -Victoria, Saanich, Oak Bay, Esquimalt and View Royal- home to the 47 schools in the Greater Victoria School District have been invited to observe at Quadra Elementary to assist in refining procedures for future.

Additional emergency preparedness tips for parents:

- Families should have a household emergency preparedness kit including an alternate meeting spot and out of province emergency contacts.
- Talk to your kids about what happens during and AFTER an earthquake
- Be sure school forms are current with emergency contacts approved to pick-up your child
- Ask your school if they have a “comfort kit” program where you can provide comforting items for your child in the event of an earthquake, or prepare one for your child’s backpack (e.g. Ziploc filled with a family photo, granola bar, first aid, emergency contact info, comfort object like toy or activity)
- Prepare a household emergency preparedness kit together to identify the items needed after an earthquake.

-30-

For media inquiries, please contact:

Katie Hamilton, Community Engagement and Communications
Office: 250.475.4103 Mobile: 250.893.1062