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Dear Parents/guardians:

The Anchorage School District has adopted a new strategy for lockdown procedures known as the A.L.I.C.E. Plan. A.L.I.C.E. is an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. Prior to the A.L.I.C.E. Plan, lockdown procedures involved the staff locking their doors, moving the students to a part of the room where they could not be seen, and quietly remaining until an "all clear" announcement was given. The A.L.I.C.E. Plan offers a different philosophy in light of recent school violent incidents. The philosophy of A.L.I.C.E. is to use technology and information in a way that staff and students can make informed decisions in a crisis, remove as many people as possible from the danger zone, and provide realistic training so that those involved in a crisis have a better chance of surviving.

The A.L.I.C.E. plan will be implemented at O'Malley in phases. The first practice drill will be implemented by the end of January. Teachers will provide direction to students on what action needs to be taken, it is very important students listen and follow the directions, this drill is not predicable like a fire drill or earthquake drill. Before the first practice drill is performed, classroom teachers and specialists will use a common set of guidelines and materials to address this topic and teach their classes the A.L.I.C.E. Plan. Students will learn vocabulary and have a series of lessons prior to the first practice drill. We will have a **parent meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** in the gym, to explain the process and the ALICE system. This presentation is not appropriate for students as teachers have not exposed them to ALICE content yet, and contains facts and statistics about the prior violent events at schools and universities around the country.

The first practice drill will be performed by the end of January will include an ALERT in the form of an announcement from the principal notifying everyone in the building of the location of the "danger zone. All classrooms will practice the new ALICE lockdown procedures and discuss alternate exits from the classroom, such as a window, but will not physically exit their classroom during the first practice drills. The principal will continue to INFORM the every one of any changes in the "danger zone". The COUNTER portion of the plan will be introduced in phases through out the school year. Classrooms not in the "danger zone" will practice the EVACUATE portion of the plan if hallways and exits are safe. Teachers will not know the location of the "danger zone" prior to the drill so they can practice developing a strategy that provides the safest outcome for their students. Therefore, it is **very important for the students to listen to the directions given by their teacher**, as the course of action during these drills will not always be the same and may change during the drill.

Younger students need constant reminders of safe practices in order for them to make good decisions related to their personal safety. Parents can prepare their child(ren) for the A.L.I.C.E. plan at home by talking about the following points:

- Be alert to possible unsafe situations.
- Self-confidence comes from trying things that are hard and getting better each time.
- There are many solutions and options when faced with a problem.
- When your child is prepared for difficult situations, they can make informed decisions and will have more self-control.
- Your child is smart and capable if they have the knowledge.
- Help your child identify and assess possible crisis situations.
- Have your child demonstrate the ability to get away from someone who has their hands on them.
- Have your child explain the different safety drills and what they mean.
- Help your child name where they need to go in case of evacuation. (Different for each classroom)
- Discuss the importance of following the teacher's directions without hesitation.

Details surrounding the next phase and additional drills will be communicated during the second half of the school year. Information regarding the A.L.I.C.E. plan can be found on the district website ([www.asdk12.org](http://www.asdk12.org)). ASD is using materials by Julia Cook called I'm Not Scared, I'm Prepared. Here is a link to the book on YouTube for you to preview. <https://youtu.be/95kVEHzRIIU>

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kelly Eagleton

Principal O'Malley Elementary

