Dear Parents and Guardians of Rockwell Students:

Students and teachers review our emergency codes, security plans, and severe weather protocols throughout the school year. Fort Atkinson Staff have been trained in an Options Based Training to prepare them in case of an active intruder within the building. This learning prepares the staff to help facilitate the Safety Drill that all Fort Atkinson Schools practice.

**We will be holding a Safety *Drill* on Friday, December 10th at Rockwell Elementary School.**

Rockwell Elementary School has three drill codes that may warrant a lockdown at Rockwell:

*"Medical Emergency:"*  To be used in the event of a medical emergency requiring an emergency response team.

*"Lockdown:"* To be used to secure the building in the event of a non-emergency situation.

*"Active Intruder:"* To be used to secure the building if there is a violent or dangerous situation.

The idea of this Safety Drill is not to create fear or concern for students, but to test one way we have of securing our building if we did have an emergency.  It is important that each and every one of us feel safe at school.

The School District of Fort Atkinson continues to work with the Fort Atkinson Police Department and other agencies to update our procedures, protocols and actions in the event of an actual emergency.  As you can imagine, elaborate and detailed plans have been developed should the need ever arise.

While attention is often paid to what schools do after a tragic event, we have also worked hard to reaffirm with our students what we have in place as a school to prevent such an incident.  In addition to discussing and practicing our code procedures, Rockwell students learn that:

Student should report any suspicious people or incidents at school to an adult.

Students should report concerns to an adult at school regarding people from outside our school community who may have problems or have given a student reason to be concerned about their or their school's safety.

Rockwell Elementary School works hard to get to know students as individuals so there is better recognition of when students are struggling and provide them with the support they need.  Some of the ways we do this is:

* Pupil Services staff who support students with peer and other issues.
* Student support groups providing counseling and support to students with specific needs.
* Programming for students with exceptional needs (learning & behavior).
* Curriculum and other planned activities which address a variety of peer relation issues.
* We address each and every student issue that we know about.
* Talking to an adult is not tattling:
* The best thing a student can do is tell an adult as soon as possible if they hear, see, or know of a student or community member who is struggling.
* Helping a friend or schoolmate feel better by sharing information with an adult, is not gossiping or tattling, it’s showing concern for your peers and school.

Please know that our motive behind the drill is to convey a level of comfort among students in knowing that procedures are in place for their safety, rather than raising undue concern.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns.  We appreciate your efforts to help our school be the best it can be.

With appreciation of your partnership each and every day,

Jennifer Walden

Rockwell Elementary School Principal