FOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. Frank Bellomo, Principal Ms. Batko, Assistant Principal Mrs. Kathy Ahonen, Secretary Mrs. Mary Casango, Clerk

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Dear Fox Parents/Guardians,

Keeping our students and staff safe is a top priority at Chippewa Valley Schools. By law, we are required to do 10 safety drills a year: 5 fire, 2 severe weather, and 3 lockdown. Our lockdown drills are designed to protect against an intruder in the building. We are using current research to tell us the best ways to protect our students. Our staff has been trained on active shooter scenarios and the concepts of avoid, deny, and defend.

Lesson plans were developed so our students and staff can practice a variety of lockdown and evacuation drills in the event of an emergency. These drills now look different than what we have done in the past. In some instances, instead of locking down, students may be asked to evacuate. We want parents to know these plans have been carefully developed for all grade levels and will be shared in a thoughtful, sensitive manner that is age-appropriate even for our youngest learners.

At the elementary level, our lesson plans and vocabulary will follow the book **I'm Not Scared...I'm Prepared**. The book is written for teacher use with elementary students and uses terms that are easily understood by children, such as describing a dangerous person as a wolf that needs to be avoided. We will also reinforce the concepts of stop, look, and listen. You can view a video of this book at <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKRS7shr3qs</u>.

Parents, you may hear from your child that we are practicing these important drills at school. Please join us in reassuring them that schools are safe places to be and that there is an entire team of dedicated, trained adults that work hard every day to make sure they are safe. If you have any questions about these practice drills please don't hesitate to contact our staff.

Talk to your child about the importance of reporting any situation that makes them feel uncomfortable. Remind them to talk to you, a teacher, an administrator or another trusted adult. By working together, we can continue to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and community.

Sincerely, Frank Bellomo Principal

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