

Emergency/Evacuation Plan Review

In light of recent events involving natural disasters, it is prudent of us to review our emergency and evacuation plans for our school in the event a natural disaster were to occur. Please read the following excerpts from your Parent Handbook about Fire Drills/Evacuation and our Natural Disaster Plan.

Fire Drills/ Evacuation

Fire drills are held each month. Children leave their classroom in an orderly fashion, under the supervision of teachers and walk briskly to designated areas approved by the Fire Department and Federal Protective Services (infants and toddlers will be wheeled by crib or buggy). We have three designated evacuation sites. Our site A is on the corner lawn on Mililani St. on the left side of the Keelikolani building. Our site B is located on the corner of Halekauwila St. and Punchbowl St. on the lawn. Site C is on the grassy area fronting the “300” sign on the corner of Punchbowl St. and Ala Moana Blvd. Our emergency plan provides for us to receive assistance from the Federal Building Security Staff. In the event our facility was to be damaged by fire and not habitable, we will care for your child in either designated meeting areas listed above and call for you to pick them up as soon as possible.

If there is a threat to the building that would require us to move farther away in order to be safe, our evacuation site D is at the Early Education Center (Seagull School), which is the City of Honolulu’s preschool facility. Seagull School is located at 1130 Alapai St. Once at the site we will call you to pick up your child.

Natural Disaster Plan

Tsunami Warning:

- If a **WARNING** is issued while school is in session, our teachers will escort the children to the 5th floor cafeteria where they will be fed and taken care of until parents can safely pick them up. You need not leave work or rush to school. If you are in or can get to a safe area close to where you work, it is recommended you remain in the safe area until the “all clear” is announced to avoid contributing to unnecessary traffic on roads and highways.
- If a **WARNING** is issued before school begins, classes will be canceled and the school will be closed.

Hurricane/Tropical Storm/Flood:

- Hurricane, tropical storm and flood watches are issued by the National Weather Service 36 hours prior to the arrival of storm effects. Hurricane, Tropical Storm and Flood **WARNINGS** are issued when they could affect Oahu in 24 hours or less. When a **WATCH** is issued, we will monitor the storm and/or flooding and make decisions to close the school before the issuance of a **WARNING**. The timing of the closure will generally coincide with the end of a normal school day and should not inconvenience you if you are at work. In the event that the school is flooded, we will evacuate to the 5th floor cafeteria where we will contact parents/guardians for pick up.

Earthquake:

- Should an earthquake of significant magnitude occur on Oahu, we can anticipate considerable damage to our roads and buildings. If your children are at school, you may not be able to get them even though you live close by. Please be assured that we will take care of the children until you can safely pick them up. As recommended by Oahu Civil Defense, we have made preparations to survive for up to 72 hours without outside assistance.
- We will conduct earthquake drills once each semester in conjunction with the sounding of the Civil Defense sirens. If indoors, we will stay indoors and take cover under the desks, tables, supported doorways, etc. If outdoors, we will stay outdoors and move to an open area, away from electrical lines and tall trees.

Thank you for reviewing our emergency and evacuation plan. Rainbow Schools plan to review our handbook and will make the necessary changes for the 2011-2012 Parent Handbook. The new changes will include what the protocol of when a natural disaster were to occur – what radio or television station to listen to or watch for updates regarding closure of our schools. Your support is greatly appreciated regarding this matter. Please don't hesitate to contact the director if you have any questions, concerns, and/or suggestions.