



# FOOTHILL ELEMENTARY

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December 17, 2012

Dear Foothill Patrons:

Our hearts and thoughts are with those who have lost so very much in the senseless tragedy that took place in Connecticut last Friday. As we try to make sense of this event in days and months ahead I wanted to take a moment to offer some thoughts of reassurance about the students who attend Foothill.

First, I want to underscore that our number one priority, as we educate your students, is their safety and security. We are doing all we can to ensure that our school is safe as we continue to teach and take care of your students. Currently, there are many safety precautions we have in place specifically aimed at protecting your children. These precautions are discussed and updated on a continual basis. In addition, emergency protocols are regularly practiced with faculty and students. Some of these precautions are as follows:

- All outside doors, except the main entrance are locked.
- Visitors must sign a check-in log in the office and wear ID badges.
- All employees must wear their ID badges.
- All students must be checked-in and out by a parent or other person listed on the emergency contact form.

Second, please know your students' emotional needs in this time of crisis are of equal importance to us. Many have asked what they can do to help our children make sense of this terrible event? Our district crisis professionals have shared the following in response to this question:

- Be honest with your student and provide information appropriate to their understanding.
- Allow them to express their feelings. It is normal for them to feel anxious and afraid.
- Assure them everything is going to be all right.

Know that our faculty has been trained on these very same techniques to ensure your student feels validated and safe at school.

Lastly, as we move forward I want to invite you to please share any ideas or concerns you may have about our school safety procedures. Please share these with our PTA President Kelli Brown, our School Community Council (members' names listed on our school website), or myself. These ideas are welcome as we look to continually improve our practice and increase our safety at Foothill.

Sincerely,

Dr Vallen Thomas Principal