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Sunshine Hills - Emergency Preparedness Full Release Drill on Thursday, November 9

In previous years the *Emergency Release* drill has been primarily centred around an earthquake scenario, however other circumstances may occur at the school that require parents to pick up their students in a formalized, controlled release. The process of controlled release is called **reunification**.

To align with international standards, the school district is changing the terminology from *Emergency Release* to **Student Reunification** and has selected Sunshine Hills as the pilot school to test the updated student reunification process.

The one notable change that parents/caregivers/emergency release contacts will encounter in the upcoming drill is that they will be asked to fill out a Reunification Card for each student they are picking up.

Once you arrive onsite, parents/caregivers/emergency release contacts can expect:

- A greeter will hand the parent/caregiver/emergency release contact a Reunification Card and help them understand the process.
- The parent/caregiver/emergency release contact completes the card and brings it to the Check-In Area where they should line up based on the student's last name. This procedure allows parents/caregivers/emergency release contacts to self-sort during check-in, streamlining the process.
- The parent/caregiver/emergency release contact's identification is verified at the check-in table. The card is then split in two, with the parent/caregiver/emergency release contact given the bottom portion of the card.
- The parent/caregiver/emergency release contact brings the card to the Parent Reunification Area and hands it to a runner.
- The runner retrieves the student from the Secured Student Assembly Area **which will be the gym this year not the upper field** and delivers them to the parent/caregiver/emergency release contact.
- Parents/caregivers/emergency release contacts are asked to leave the area as soon as they have been reunited with all their children.
- If you or your Emergency Release contact cannot pick your child up, please notify your child's teacher and the office.

In an emergency, we recognize that parents/caregivers will be anxious to be reunited with their child as soon as possible. However, the school district must ensure that your child is released to a safe person, so we encourage you to be patient during this process.

Thursday's event will be the first simulation of this sort at our school and we hope it will provide valuable insight into how the process and flow works. We are keen to gather your feedback on the process and will be sharing a short survey with you following the event.

Many thanks in advance for your support.

