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SUPERINTENDENT

Jodee Brentlinger

October 1, 2021

Dear Solana Beach Families,

October is Safety Awareness Month. Here at the Solana Beach School District we are committed to keeping your children safe and secure. So October is an important time for us to work together to review safety procedures at school, in the community, and in the home -- to keep children and families safe.

Here are some important safety topics and resources to serve as a guide to help keep your families safe. I encourage families to take some time to review and discuss this information together.

Bike and E-Bike Safety

Families are often out walking and biking around the community, and many of our students ride their bikes to school. Although we encourage students to adopt an active and healthy lifestyle, it is vital that children understand bike safety and practice the rules of the road. And, when biking, ebiking, skateboarding, or riding a scooter, helmets are a must. Here are some more safety tips: [Kids and Bicycle Safety](#)

Wildfires and Home Fire Safety

Fire Prevention Week is October 3-9. October is often the time when heat settles in and the Santa Ana winds pick up, causing the smallest spark to explode our dry brush into flames. California has seen historically devastating wildfires over the last few years, so it is important to be prepared for the threat of a fire. If you are in a potential wildfire area, be sure to clear the brush around your home and make an emergency evacuation plan. Also, all of us should be sure to have working smoke alarms in our homes. And remember to change the batteries at the end of Daylight Savings Time on November 7. Here are some further resources to protect your home and families: [Ready for Wildfire: Home Fire Prevention Week \(FPW\)](#)

Red Ribbon Week

October 23 to 31 is National Red Ribbon Week. Our schools will be taking part in activities that promote safe and drug-free schools. This is a good time for parents to talk with their children about making healthy decisions and about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. This year's Red Ribbon Week theme is ***Drug Free Looks Like Me***. Learn more about Red Ribbon Week here: [Red Ribbon Campaign](#)

The Great ShakeOut

Be prepared for an earthquake. The Great ShakeOut Day is October 21 this year. Each of our schools will be holding an earthquake/evacuation drill on this day. Please see communication

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from your child's school for details. This event serves as a reminder to update your emergency plans and supplies, and to make sure your home and belongings are secure to prevent earthquake damage and injuries. Great ShakeOut earthquake drills give us an opportunity to practice how to be safer during earthquakes: "[Drop, Cover and Hold On.](#)" Take a look at these Seven Steps to prepare for an earthquake: [Welcome to Earthquake Country!](#)

Gun safety

Every year there are needless injuries and deaths from gun accidents. It is important that families know about and follow the legal requirements for storing firearms safely at home. California law mandates that, in all homes where children live or might reasonably be expected to enter, firearms must be stored safely. (Penal Code Section 25100.) To avoid criminal penalties, gun owners must keep their firearms in locked containers or secured with a locking device that renders the firearms inoperable. Abiding by the law and keeping firearms securely stored prevents children from accidentally accessing the firearm and causing harm to themselves or others. If you wish to learn more about firearms and ways to stay safe, you can visit [endfamilyfire.org](#) or [everytown.org](#) for more information. [Firearm Safety | State of California](#)

Cyber Safety

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The Internet has become a useful and necessary part of our lives, but it also presents a multitude of safety concerns for all of us -- especially for our children. It is important for parents to be aware of the potential dangers to children associated with internet usage, and to have on-going family discussions about the safe and effective use of technology.

Some children have been the victims of cyber-bullying, whether on social media or through texts or emails. All kids need to be taught to avoid such mean or dangerous behaviors. Families are strongly recommended to monitor their child(ren)'s use of computer applications, especially any that might expose them to sexual predators. Online parental control options make it possible for parents to protect their children from inappropriate websites and to place limitations on video games and "screen time." Children need to understand how to protect their passwords, their locations, and their personal information in the cyber world. They also should be taught about the correct use of cell phones and the appropriate uses of social media. Here are some suggestions and resources to protect your children online: [Protecting Kids Online | FTC Consumer Information](#)

As always, thank you for your continued partnership to keep children safe, during the month of October, and always.

Sincerely,

Jodee Brentlinger, Superintendent

Next Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, October 14, 2021, 6:30 p.m.



A Spanish translation prepared by District staff will soon be available on our website.

La traducción al español estará disponible próximamente en nuestro sitio web.

A Chinese translation prepared by District staff will soon be available on our website.

我们即将在学区网站上提供中文的翻译版本