

The RPDA (Richmond District Parents Association) is asking all PACS for support in our pursuit for a district wide Emergency Preparedness supplies plan. The School District has a duty to provide adequate equipment and resources for Richmond schools. Our current situation is concerning, and needs to be addressed. We need the government to also provide funding and ensure Emergency Preparedness is on the School Board budget moving forward, especially given our unique seismic issues with the schools in Richmond.

The current practice of fundraising for emergency supplies is not consistent in each school. Some schools have many supplies, and some do not have many at all. These supplies should not be dependent on whether the PAC makes this a fundraising priority. Parents should not be asked to take on the financial burden of acquiring emergency supplies for their school. Emergency preparedness in a publically funded building is not a PAC's responsibility to take on to ensure the safety of our children.

Our goal would be that all schools will have a Standardized Plan including an E-Can (outdoor storage container) where emergency supplies are located outside the main building. Currently supplies are stored inside schools and may be in multiple locations without easy access. All children should have equal access to Classroom Emergency Backpacks (provides 72 hours food & water). We encourage PACs to become aware of their current emergency preparedness plan for your school and what supplies are on hand. Please inquire with Administration and ask what support your PAC can offer to organize these supplies. We need the District to make this a top priority and reinstate into their budget money for emergency equipment and resources for a consistent and equal plan amongst all schools in Richmond. This would be the most effective, efficient, way to mitigate damage from an earthquake, and prepare schools and district staff for any emergency. PACs should not shoulder this responsibility nor have to fundraise in order to obtain Emergency Supplies for government funded schools.

We ask that you send this letter to the Minister of Education, Rob Fleming and to your School Board Trustee and your MLA.

rob.fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca

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Thank you,

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