



# ***KEEPING OUR KIDS SAFE!***

Welcome to the first edition of 'Keeping Our Kids Safe'. This is Fort McMurray Public School District's quarterly newsletter to keep you informed about how District staff, students and volunteers are involved in all aspects of safety in our schools.

The aim of this newsletter is to provide an update on specifics for example, Hour Zero, our emergency preparedness program together with anything topical that may arise during the course of the school year.



## **Hour Zero Overview**

Schools are widely considered to be some of the safest places in our communities. However, in reality, an emergency can occur anywhere at any time. The safety of our students and staff will always be our first priority. As a school emergency could require the involvement of numerous agencies, FMPSD has developed an Emergency Response Plan which works in conjunction with other local emergency plans. The plans are reviewed annually to incorporate any changes to the building or

staff.

## **Protocols**

Standardized protocols and procedures provide a basis for our response but our response is tailored to the specifics of the incident. Students with guidance from their teachers practice drills regularly throughout the school year so that if an incident occurs, they know what is expected of them.

For security reasons, certain elements of our emergency planning are not published but you can access our website to learn more about the protocols being practiced at all FMPSD schools. The link to this can be found under the Health and Safety section of our website. <http://fmpsdschools.ca/Health%20and%20Safety.php>

## **Fire Inspections**

FMPSD Operations & Maintenance team have been working closely with Brad Twidale, RMWB Fire Prevention Officer on the 2015 round of fire inspections. The inspections are very thorough and check out our Fire Safety Reports, Emergency Lighting, Fire Extinguishers, means of escape and fire doors etc. We are delighted that all of our schools are fully compliant with the very high standards of our Fire Prevention team and look forward to working with them again next year.

## Walk like a penguin!



Alberta Health Services recently launched their advice to stay upright during the inevitable thaw and freeze coming up within the next few weeks. Follow the link to the website [www.penguinwalk.ca](http://www.penguinwalk.ca) and watch a video on how to avoid slips, trips and falls on ice and have a giggle at the same time!

Do the Penguin Walk!

- Bend slightly and walk flat footed
- Point your feet out slightly like a penguin
- Keep your centre of gravity over your feet as much as possible
- Watch where you are stepping
- Take shorter, shuffle-like steps
- Keep your arms at your sides (not in your pockets!)
- Concentrate on keeping your balance
- Go S-L-O-W-L-Y



## School Bus Safety

A quick reminder about what you should do when driving near a school bus. Slow down and stop when you see the school bus has activated the flashing red lights. Remember you must stop whether you are approaching the bus from the front or following one, allowing 20 metres (65 feet) between your vehicle and the bus. It is only safe to proceed once all children have safely crossed an intersection or roadway, and the bus has pulled in its arm, shut off the flashing red lights and resumed on its journey.

If you have any suggestions for future topics to be included in Keeping Our Kids Safe or would like to discuss any safety issue, please contact Stacey Houston, Operations Coordinator & District Safety Coordinator by emailing [stacey.houston@fmps.ab.ca](mailto:stacey.houston@fmps.ab.ca) or 780 792 5655.

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