

Dear Bay Harbor Families,

I want to inform you of a safety “drill” we will be practicing at Bay Harbor. This drill is called an ALICE Drill and it is a safety and security drill in the event that we need to secure our building in a fast amount of time. I realize this is a sensitive and heavy topic to think about, however, we know that we need to teach our children how to be safe at all times. Whether that be at home, in school, or out in the community. In this day and age, I consider this a life skill. In the past we conducted Lockdown Drills. ALICE is an enhanced form of the Lockdown Drill that allows us to Evacuate and get to safety in a faster amount of time.

**ALICE stands for:**

**Alert:** Get the word out, use the PA to notify everyone of a dangerous someone. Call 911.

**Lockdown:** Learn how to barricade/tie down classroom doors and hide for a short period of time.

**Inform:** Continue to communicate via the PA system or other means.

**Counter:** Distract and confuse the dangerous someone (if they are close to you).

**Evacuate:** Get out of the building as quickly as possible and go to our Rally Point.

At some point next week, the teachers will be reading (or viewing) an age-appropriate book titled *I'm Not Scared...I'm Prepared* by Julia Cook to teach the students about the ALICE Drill. The book presents this type of safety drill in a non-threatening way. The students are the “sheep” the teacher is the “shepherd” and the dangerous someone is the “wolf”. The students learn about ALICE, the importance of each part, and how to evacuate the building in a safe and fast way. They are also taught ways to barricade the classroom door if necessary and how to distract the “wolf” if he/she is too close. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the book read aloud on youtube.

The steps of ALICE are not necessarily linear. The most important thing we will teach our students, in the event of a dangerous situation, is to evacuate and go to our designated Rally Point. As a side note, in an organized fire drill, we can have our entire school evacuated in under a minute.

We hope that you will discuss this with your child. As you may know, I am a parent as well as a principal and I truly feel our students are safer today than they ever were before because of ALICE! If you have any questions, please contact me at 662-8800.

Sincerely,

Tony Ebeling, Principal  
Bay Harbor Elementary School