



RUSH-HENRIETTA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monica B. Leary Elementary School

September 2018

Leary Pride

Jennifer Tomalty, Principal

Dear Leary family,

We welcome you to another great year of learning! We hope that, whether you are new or returning, this year will bring lots of growth for your child and a strong partnership between home and school.

One of our most important shared responsibilities is school safety. Some ways we ask for your help are as follows:

- Please familiarize yourself with the district’s Code of Conduct. This document guides the behavior of students, staff members, and visitors to our campus. Visit <https://www.rhnet.org/codeofconduct> to read more.
- Observe school rules about parking.
- Please don’t pull into the parent drop-off loop until it is time to drop your child off. If you are early, please park your car and wait with your child until it is drop-off time. Then you may either walk them to the entrance, or pull through the drop-off loop. We ask this because when cars line up in the loop in advance of drop-off, traffic backs up onto East Henrietta Road, creating unsafe conditions for cars and buses.
- Drive carefully through our parking lots, watching for students, families, and staff.
- Come to school prepared to show photo identification.
- Please don’t hold exterior doors open to allow others who are unknown to you to enter.
- Please promptly return the confidential blue forms and be sure to keep the office updated should there be any changes in your contact information.

Throughout the month of September, one of our most important priorities is teaching children about safety and holding safety drills. Some of these drills are “talk-through” drills so children know what to expect. For example, before a “lock-down” drill is held, this drill is explained to children. Other drills, such as the fire drills we all remember from school, are reviewed then practiced. Here is a chart that shows the minimum frequency of our drills, and some of the language we use to talk about them with children.

Evacuation Drill	Minimum of 8 per year *Required by New York State	Used to evacuate students and staff from the building “This is what we would do if there were a fire in our school to keep you safe.”
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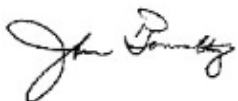
Lockdown Drill	Minimum of 4 per year *Required by New York State	Used to secure school building and grounds during incidents that pose an immediate threat in or around the school "If there were a dangerous situation or person in or around our school, this is what we would do to keep you safe."
Lockout Drill	Minimum of 1 per year	Used to secure school building and grounds during incidents that pose an imminent concern outside of the school "If there were a dangerous animal or disturbance outside our school, this is what we would do to keep you safe."
Hold-in-Place Drill	Minimum of 1 per year	Used to limit movement of students and staff while dealing with short-term emergencies "If we had a medical emergency and needed to help someone, this is how we would keep everyone safe."
Shelter-in-Place Drill	Minimum of 1 per year	Used to shelter students and staff inside the building "If there were a weather emergency, this is what we would do to keep you safe."
Early Dismissal Drill	Minimum of 1 per year *Required by New York State	Used to remove students from the building and grounds at a time other than normal dismissal "If we had to leave school because of an emergency, this is what we would do to keep you safe."

Our goal is to keep our students safe throughout the year, and that is why we practice a wide variety of safety drills across the year and at different times of day. This year, we have two district-wide safety weeks scheduled, where the whole district practices how we would respond to a number of emergency situations. The first of these weeks is October 1-5; the other is planned for the week of March 18.

We are so excited to have our school filled with students once again, and look forward to an exceptional year together! Please don't hesitate to be in touch with your child's teacher or me if there is any way we can assist your child. I can be reached at jtomalty@rhnet.org or 359-5460.

Please mark your calendars for our ice cream social, scheduled for Friday, September 28, and for our Grades 1-3 Open House, scheduled for Wednesday, October 3! Looking forward to seeing you!

Warmly,



Jenn Tomalty, Principal



LITERACY AT LEARY

By: Karen Tabor
Literacy Coach

WELCOME BACK!!

10 Things You Can Do to Raise a Reader

1. **Read from day one.** Start a reading routine in those very first days with a newborn. Even very young babies respond to the warmth of a lap and the soothing sound of a book being read aloud.
2. **Share books every day.** Read with your child every day, even after he becomes an independent reader.
3. **Reread favorites.** Most children love to hear their favorite stories over and over again. Rereading books provides an opportunity to hear or see something that may have been missed the first time, and provides another chance to hear a favorite part.
4. **Send positive messages about the joys of literacy.** Your own interest and excitement about books will be contagious!
5. **Visit the library early and often.** Public libraries are great resources for books, helpful advice about authors and illustrators, story times, and more. Make visiting the library part of your family's routine.
6. **Find the reading and writing in everyday things.** Take the time to show your child ways that adults use reading and writing every day. Grocery lists, notes to the teacher, maps, and cooking all involve important reading and writing skills.
7. **Give your reader something to think and talk about.** There are many different types of books available to readers. Vary the types of books you check out from the library, and seek out new subjects that give you and your reader something to think and talk about.
8. **Talk, talk, talk.** A child's vocabulary grows through rich conversations with others. No matter your child's age, narrate what you're doing, talk in full sentences, and sprinkle your conversations with interesting words.
9. **Know your stuff.** Parents don't need to be reading specialists, but it is important to understand the basics about learning to read.
10. **Speak up if something doesn't feel right.** Parents are often the first ones to recognize a problem. If you have concerns about your child's development, speak with your child's teacher and your pediatrician. It's never too early to check in with an expert.

Look for new books and authors that your child may enjoy.

Organize an area dedicated to reading and writing tools, including paper and writing utensils

Visit the library for story time and book recommendations

Encourage your child to talk about what he's read

Talk to your child, and sprinkle interesting words into your conversation.

Offer a variety of books to read.

Read with your child every day.

Expand your home library to include magazines and nonfiction

Ask questions if you're concerned about your child's development.

Decide to raise a reader!

Student Note

Parents, please feel free to make copies of the sample notes below to send in with your child should he/she need to take a different bus home, be dismissed early, or be picked up either by a parent or someone else. By using this note, you are assuring that the office gets the correct information and your child goes to the correct destination.

***Please limit bus passes to childcare situations.**

***ID is required for all student pick-ups.**

Date: _____ Student's Name: _____

Teacher: _____

_____ Will be taking the bus to: _____
(address)

_____ Will be picked up at: _____ Reason: _____
(time)

_____ Will be picked up at dismissal (2:00pm)

_____ Is late due to: _____

_____ Other: _____

Signature Parent/Guardian _____

Student Note

Date: _____ Student's Name: _____

Teacher: _____

_____ Will be taking the bus to: _____
(address)

_____ Will be picked up at: _____ Reason: _____
(time)

_____ Will be picked up at dismissal (2:00pm)

_____ Is late due to: _____

_____ Other: _____

Signature Parent/Guardian _____



SEPTEMBER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Labor Day No school	4 A Day 	5 B Day	6 C Day	7 D Day	8
9 Grandparents Day	10 A Day	11 B Day	12 C Day PTO Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	13 D Day	14 A Day	15
16	17 B Day	18 C Day	19 D Day	20 A Day	21 B Day	22
23 Fall Begins	24 C Day	25 D Day	26 A Day	27 B Day	28 C Day	29
30						