

November 28, 2018

Dear Students and Families,

As described at the training session and past emails, St. Ann's has consulted with members from the Stoughton School District and the Stoughton Police Department to help educate and prepare your child(ren) in the unfortunate circumstance of an active threat within the parish or school. Specifically, St. Ann's has adopted the A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) response, and in August, Officer Carson Hoeper from the Stoughton Police Department performed an active shooter training session for parish and school staff. Through the guidance of Officer Hoeper, a certified A.L.I.C.E. trainer, our employees acquired the appropriate actions and protocols to help students and staff maintain a safe environment, should such a threat become a reality.

We are now ready to begin educating our students on these same protocols, presented in an age-appropriate, non-threatening format. Having students prepared with the proper response to an active threat will help better ensure their safety and survival. In addition, while no one can predict the outcome of any tragic event, A.L.I.C.E. provides the knowledge to empower students and staff with survival options and enable them to feel safer in their learning environment.

As part of the Department of Justice's requirements, we will be conducting a very controlled walkthrough drill of an Active Threat on Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Prior to this date, all teachers will be presenting age appropriate lessons that include the following:

- An overview of the A.L.I.C.E. program and active threats.
- A short video and/or storybook followed by classroom discussion and questions.
- Brief lessons on active threats or unwelcome strangers and how we properly respond to them.
- Teacher-led action plans and classroom protocols for responding to active threats, primarily focusing on the first two letters of the A.L.I.C.E. acronym, Alert and Lockdown.

Please be advised that classroom discussions may increase emotional reactions from your child. As partners in educating your children, we ask that you please talk to them during the lessons, including before AND after the training about the serious nature of active threats and what they learned and how they feel. Our first message to our students will be to assure them that they are SAFE at school and to emphasize that what they are learning is not to scare them but, rather, to help them be better prepared should there ever be an emergency. Finally, please be assured that students will not be exposed to inappropriate scenarios or images of violence.

I invite anyone interested in hearing more about the A.L.I.C.E. training as well as the guided drill we will be running to attend a meeting on Thursday, December 6, 2018, in Healy Hall at 6:30 p.m. You will have the opportunity to ask questions as well as learn more about the long-term plan to include additional drills in 2019.

If you should have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

*Kara J. Roisum*

Principal, St. Ann's School