

Dear ISO Families,

As the first Semester has concluded, we launch into our Third Quarter. In Quarter 3 our Lower School Teachers will be using the Second Step Child Protection unit as part of the Health and Wellness focus of our curriculum. This program helps ensure our school to be a safe and supportive place where everyone can learn.

During the Child Protection Unit, our students will learn three types of skills:

- **Personal Safety:** Students will learn important safety rules such as safety with sharp objects, fire, or when riding in vehicles or on bicycles. They will also learn ways to help them decide if something is safe or not.
- **Touching Safety:** Students will learn about safe, unsafe, and unwanted touches and rules about touching private body parts. They'll also learn to say no to unsafe or unwanted touches and how to tell a grown-up if someone breaks rules about touching private body parts.
- **Assertiveness:** These lessons will also give students a chance to practice asking a grown-up for help, telling a grown-up about an unsafe situation, and being assertive to get out of unsafe situations.

Students will be learning about personal anatomy, and, when appropriate during the lessons, will be using the following terminology: bottom, breast, vagina, penis.

Please take some time to talk with your child about what they are learning about during Health and Wellness. Your child might bring home simple, fun activities called Home Links that will help you understand what he or she is learning about safety at school and which will give your child another chance to practice safety skills.

For our Upper schoolers, this year we are innovating a new approach with a **Development Day** (DD) on mental health, sexuality, and substance abuse. This will be conducted in the same spirit as educating students on ways to stay safe and empowering them to make informed choices for their well-being. These topics will be addressed in the format of a half-day in February.

To keep your students safe and protected, everyone at school needs to be involved. All of our teachers both in lower and upper school have discussed:

- How to recognize and report suspected child sexual abuse.
- How to respond to and support children who have been abused or who are facing challenges.

- How to use strategies that promote a safe and supportive climate for learning.

If you have any questions about the programs we will be using for both Lower and Upper Schools, please feel free to contact me or our principals, Mr. Horton and Mr. Jex. We will be happy to share the resources we are using and to discuss any questions you might have.

Thank you for your continued support,

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