



Penn Brook School

"Where Learning Takes Root"

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A.L.I.C.E. Training for Grade 4-6

At the end of November your child will receive information on A.L.I.C.E. from School Resource Officer Olshefsky. A.L.I.C.E. provides instruction on how to be proactive in the case of a threat from an intruder with a weapon in school. In the same way students learn to stay safe and evacuate in case of fire, A.L.I.C.E. is used to teach children what to do if there were a dangerous person with a weapon in the school.

A.L.I.C.E. stands for alert, lockdown, inform, counter, and evacuate and these words are used to teach students what to do. The most important part of A.L.I.C.E. is actually the "E," evacuate. Children are reminded to listen to the teacher and follow directions. In the event of imminent danger, evacuation is the first option that teachers will use if possible.

The PowerPoint that Officer Olshefsky will show your child can be found on the Penn Brook website. Officer Olshefsky will use the PowerPoint to convey important information and also to have a dialogue with your child about why we practice school drills (to keep everyone safe) and what they would likely hear in the event of an intruder in the school ("There is a dangerous person in the [where the person was seen]"), and what might happen (they will leave the school and will be told to run, or if they can't leave, they may be told to spread out in the room, make a lot of noise, or run around).

There is not one right thing to do, and the most important thing your child will be instructed to do is to listen to the teacher. Teachers have been trained and will make the best decision at the time as to what to do.

This can be a scary topic for children, but research shows that in the event of school violence, when A.L.I.C.E. procedures were used, lives were saved. Information will be factually conveyed to your child in developmentally appropriate language. Please reassure your child that it is highly unlikely there will ever be a dangerous person in the school, but it is important to be prepared.

Please visit our website to view the PowerPoint and contact your child's teacher or me with any questions.

Margaret C. Maher