

Dear Winter Lakes Elementary Families, Staff, and Students,

As we enter the fall season, we are reminded of the importance of being prepared for emergencies and natural disasters. In alignment with Governor Tina Kotek's recent proclamations addressing statewide emergencies—including droughts and floods—and her call for increased community resilience, Winter Lakes Elementary is committed to ensuring the safety and preparedness of our school community. We will never conduct an unannounced Lockdown Drill. We may have local fire fighters and law enforcement deliver brief presentations to our school community.

Governor Kotek's leadership has emphasized the need for proactive planning and coordinated response efforts across Oregon. In support of this initiative, our school is participating in two key events this October:

1. The Great Oregon ShakeOut – October 16, 2025

At 10:16 a.m., Winter Lakes Elementary will join millions of people across the state in the **Great Oregon ShakeOut**, a statewide earthquake drill. This event is a vital opportunity for students and staff to practice “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” and review our earthquake response procedures. Earthquakes can happen without warning, and this drill helps us prepare to respond quickly and safely.

2. Lockdown Drill – October 20, 2025

On **Monday, October 20**, our school will conduct a **Lockdown Drill** to practice procedures in the event of a security threat. This drill is part of our comprehensive emergency response plan and is designed to ensure that students and staff know how to stay safe during a lockdown situation. Teachers will prepare students in advance to minimize anxiety and ensure understanding.

We conduct a routine Fire Drill once per month.

Emergency Preparedness and Awareness

We encourage families to take time this month to review your own emergency plans at home. Consider the following:

- Sign up for local alerts at ORAlert.gov
- Prepare a family emergency kit

- Discuss evacuation routes and communication plans
- Stay informed about local hazards such as earthquakes, floods, and wildfires

Our school works closely with the **Oregon Department of Emergency Management** and local agencies to stay updated on best practices and ensure our protocols meet state standards.

Working Together for Safety

Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility. By practicing drills, staying informed, and working together, we can build a safer and more resilient school community. If you have any questions or concerns about our emergency procedures, please don't hesitate to contact the school office: 541-396-2414

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in keeping Winter Lakes Elementary safe.

Best,

Tanya Sinko

Principal

Winter Lakes Elementary School