



Pathway to the Future

District Safety Committee Newsletter

Safety Committee 16/17 School Year Calendar

November 8, 2016 1:30 PM at
MOT Conference Room

December 6, 2016 1:30pm at
MOT Conference Room

January 3, 2016 1:30pm at
Cherrywood Elementary

February 7, 2017 1:30pm at
Sierramont Middle School

March 7, 2017 1:30pm at
Ruskin Elementary

April 4, 2017 1:30pm at
Piedmont Middle School

May 2, 2017 1:30pm at
BUSD District Office



Safety Committee Goals for the 2016-2017 School Year

- Develop a prioritized calendar for safety committee review and approval of State and Federal required safety trainings.
- Develop a prioritized calendar for safety committee review and approval of State and Federal required Safety Plans.
- Establish a Safety Committee Newsletter to enhance current Berryessa Union School District safety programs, which includes digital access to all staff.
- Develop a district wide standard for classroom door locking hardware for use during emergency lockdowns.



Safety Committee Participants:

Mayra Waller, Jill Tamashiro, Tina Choy, Virginia Pender, Kris Kamandulis, Gokcen Ceran, Eddie Luna, Jennie Vuong, Miguel Cruz (Chair) and Thomas Carroll (Co-Chair)



Safety Committee Digital Access

In an effort to further enhance the outreach and make available all safety resources, the BUSD Safety Committee, during this school year will begin to post all pertinent Safety Committee information online. This information can be located on the BUSD website under the Maintenance, Operations and Transportation Homepage Safety Subsection. Information posted will include meeting dates, meeting minutes, approved plans and newsletters. The goal behind the development of this digital access is to increase safety awareness, knowledge, interest and effectiveness of our BUSD safety program.

Comprehensive School Site Safety Plans (SB 187)

Since approximately late November all BUSD School sites having been working hard to update the annual requirement of certifying all SB 187 plans for the 2016-2017 school year. These plans are designed to be utilized as a school resource and guide for prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery planning and training as well as functioning as a plan for meeting the requirements for the annual safety plans process under California SB187, the Comprehensive School Safety Plan Act and the National Incident Management System. The plan is also designed, as a living document to be updated as necessary to meet site, district and community needs, forms or requirements. As a Safety Committee we are glad to report that district wide all plans have received approval from their site, safety committee, San Jose Police Department School Liaison Unit and BUSD board approval. Thank you all for your efforts to get this accomplished and make BUSD a safer place!

Injury Illness Prevention Plan (IIPP)

During the last month the BUSD Safety Committee in conjunction with the support of the BUSD Human Resources Department has also completed the review and approval of the Injury and Illness prevention plan with the objective of maintaining a safe and healthful work environment for all employees. This program is in compliance with California Labor Code and California Code of Regulations. The plan consists of various elements that include responsibility, compliance, communication, hazard assessment, hazard correction, accident/exposure investigation, training and instruction and recordkeeping. A hard copy of this plan is available at your school front office and on the BUSD website under the Maintenance, Operations and Transportation Homepage Safety Subsection.

School Decorations Safety

By Melissa Mayntz

Whether classroom decorations are being used to celebrate a holiday, showcase student achievement or reinforce a learning concept, proper school decorations safety is necessary to ensure that items intended to enhance the learning experience don't become hazardous for the students.

Why Teachers Decorate

Teachers decorate their classrooms for a variety of reasons. A bright bulletin board can increase student enthusiasm for a new unit, holiday themes can harness excitement for learning, and a generally fun, decorated classroom is one in which students will be more eager to learn. Decorations can be purely ornamental or they can be focused on units of study, but they must always be safe.

Decorating Hazards

Even well-intentioned decorations could pose serious risks to students if used incorrectly. Possible hazards from decorations include:

- **Fires:** Too much clutter on classroom or hallway walls can spread [fires](#) more quickly.
- **Poisoning:** Some decorations may be made with toxic substances and could be hazardous if young students were to unwittingly taste them.
- **Falls:** Items that are improperly secured may fall and injure students.
- **Trips:** A classroom cluttered with decorations has more trip hazards for unwary students.
- **Cuts:** Paper cuts are common from foil and paper decorations, while glass items could break into dangerous shards.
- **Distractions:** While distracting decorations aren't likely to cause injuries, students' grades can suffer because they can't focus on their lessons.

School Decorations Safety Tips

To minimize the risks of classroom decorations but still enjoy a fun, colorful atmosphere, teachers should put decorations up carefully and safely.

General Decorations

Tips applicable to all types of decorations include:

- Only use decorations in their intended fashion and read all display instructions before use.
- Do not block fire alarms, [emergency signs](#) or exits with decorations.
- Confine decorations to suitable spaces such as bulletin boards. Covering windows and ceilings with additional decorations increases the amount of combustible material in the classroom and increases fire risks.
- Never hang decorations from light fixtures, sprinkler heads, vents or radiators.
- Choose decorations with flame resistant coatings.
- Fasten flags, posters, papers and other decorations flat to the wall to minimize exposed edges that could cause cuts or increase fire risks.
- Fasten all items securely for their weight to reduce the risk that they may loosen and fall.
- When removing decorations, be sure to remove all strings, staples and other materials used to hold the decorations.
- Store decorations safely and out of reach of students.
- Do not allow students to climb on desks or other unsafe surfaces to help decorate.

Holiday Decorations

Most teachers, particularly in elementary schools, decorate for different holidays. While they are beautiful, holiday decorations pose extra risks that need additional school decorations safety precautions.

- If using twinkle lights, always check cords for [frays or bare wires](#). Fasten lights securely and do not permit dangling ends that could be choking risks.
- Do not leave lighted decorations on when not in the classroom, especially at night.
- Use only shatterproof, unbreakable decorative items.
- Avoid candy-like decorations that may be a tempting treat for younger students.
- Never use candles or any other decorations with exposed heating elements.
- Avoid fake snow for winter holiday decorations because it may irritate the lungs when sprayed and could pose a toxic hazard.

Additional Safe Learning Environment Tips

However a teacher chooses to decorate the classroom, there are other basic safety tips that can help make it a safe learning environment that students can enjoy without injury risks.

- Keep desks spaced evenly with enough walking room in aisles.
- Keep floors clear of debris and trip hazards.
- Be sure shelves and bulletin boards are securely fastened to the wall.
- Make sure all lighting fixtures operate properly for adequate illumination.
- Post safety information including courtesy rules, evacuation routes and other guidelines clearly.
- Every teacher should have a working telephone in case of emergencies.
- All classrooms should be equipped with first aid supplies.
- Teachers should be aware of basic first aid techniques as well as any special needs for their students, such as the use of an EpiPen for severe allergic reactions.

In Conclusion

Decorations are a fun and colorful part of any learning environment, and by following basic school decorations safety tips teachers and students can enjoy the beauty of different decorations while minimizing any potential hazards.

Mayntz, Melissa, *School Decorations Safety*. Retrieved from http://safety.lovetoknow.com/School_Decorations_Safety

