

SANTA FE ISD

SAFETY MATTERS

Santa Fe ISD Safe and Secure Schools Update

November 16, 2018

We want to thank you, our wonderful parents, for your partnership and support in helping our students and staff to restore a positive learning environment in our schools. This culture of safety and respect helps students to feel more connected to the school, their classmates and teachers. Building trusting relationships also helps students feel empowered to come forward and share concerns and problems with a trusted adult. In previous editions of [Safety Matters](#), we've shared some of the examples of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support programs put in place in our schools this year.

In looking forward to the Thanksgiving Break (November 19-23), we sincerely wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving. And, we hope you and your family will get some much needed and much-deserved rest, as well as enjoy some time off.

As we continue to have conversations with and support our children, we wanted to share some online resources that are important to restoring a sense of safety in the aftermath of traumatic experiences that include:

1. [Helping Children Cope After a School Shooting](#)
2. [Restoring a Sense of Safety in the Aftermath of a Mass Shooting: Tips for Parents and Professionals](#)
3. [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#)
4. [Age-Related Reactions to a Traumatic Event](#)
5. [Tips for Helping Students Recovering from Traumatic Events](#)

Safety is our highest priority, and we continue to work diligently to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for our students and staff. Last summer, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Secret Service published "An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence," and one of the steps to violence prevention is to create and promote safe school climates. The guide said, "A crucial component of preventing targeted violence at schools relies on developing positive school climates built on a culture of safety, respect, trust and social and emotional support."

TRIBE University continues for the spring semester of the 2018-19 school year (January 2019 – April 2019)

In keeping the lines of communication open with our stakeholders, the District established this program to encourage parents, business leaders and our community to take an active role in our District and decision-making. Currently, approximately twenty-eight (28) parents and community members are pre-registered in TRIBE University (TRIBE "U"). Sessions are held throughout the year. Enrollment is open to any parent, business leader, and/or community member within Santa Fe ISD. On January 16, Tribe "U" will feature a session on School District Finance and Legislative Priorities that will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. On November 14, participants were presented an update on safety from SFISD Chief of Police, Walter Braun and toured the high school to witness first-hand the safety measures that have been implemented since the start of school. If you were unable to make this meeting, please [click here](#) for a video tour which

provides a recap of the evening. For more information including registration, session dates and topics, please visit our website at www.sfid.org.

The Resiliency Center is open except for Thursday, Thanksgiving Day (11/22) and Friday (11/23)

We are grateful for the counselors at our schools and also for the Resiliency Center that provides free long-term services at no cost to Santa Fe community members and is open to serve the Santa Fe community. The Center's caring professionals provide a safe and supportive healing environment dedicated to everyone affected by the May 18 events. As a referral hub, the Center works with partner agencies that provide spiritual care referrals, training, advocacy, legal aid, equine therapy, recreational therapy, and more. The Resiliency Center is open daily except for designated holidays such as Thanksgiving, and for more information, contact the center directly at 409-218-7129 or email the Director, Carol Gaylord, at cgaylord@ci.santa-fe.tx.us.

Community Health Fair will be held at the Resiliency Center on December 8 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. The Community Health Fair will feature a blood drive; blood pressure, glucose and vision screening; aromatherapy, art and music therapy, message therapy, and tapping therapy; and other community health resources.

Questions?

Please submit any questions you may have to the Santa Fe Strong Interactive Web Portal at: santafeupdates.com/contact-us

The strength of Santa Fe ISD lies in the people we employ and the people we serve. Thank you for all that you do, and we wish you and your family a very safe and Happy Thanksgiving!

United, we are Santa Fe Strong!