

School Safety Update

The Methacton School District continues to commit to fostering the safest possible learning environment for our students. Maintaining up-to-date emergency procedures, conducting training and drills and researching best practices are several areas in which the Methacton has renewed efforts.

To that end, Methacton's Coordinator of District Services, Janeen Marzewski has secured a \$49,975 COPS Secure Our Schools grant. The grant, a joint effort with the Lower Providence Township Police Department, will be used to help fund the purchase of bus cameras, digital radios and a repeater that will be utilized by the School Resource Officer (SRO), school administrators, staff members, emergency response team and the Lower Providence Township Police Department. The digital radios and repeater will assist with effective communication to plan and respond to incidents in the schools.

A \$2,500 grant was also secured for the purchase of 50 "Go Kits" from the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Preparedness. Go Kits are a self-contained and portable stockpile of emergency supplies, placed in a backpack and left in a readily accessible but secure location so that it is ready to "go."

This school year, analysts from SafePlans also conducted comprehensive assessments of three Methacton schools; Arcola Intermediate School, Skyview and the high school. The findings from these assessments serve as the backbone of all risk assessment reports.

The analysts will conduct a safety inspection of the building's interior, perimeter and grounds, assessing area hazards. The process will also include a comprehensive review of the District's emergency response manual and procedures, staff and student training, health practices and school climate.

The assessment is designed to provide a "snapshot" of a facility's security level at the time of the assessment. The scores associated with each site's physical security risk assessment reflect the analysts' observations during the assessment and may not be indicative of the site's typical security posture.