

March 8, 2017

Dear Parents:

As you are probably aware, due to the extremely high winds today, the Lakewood Early Childhood Center suffered roof damage. All students were safely and orderly moved using the “tornado drill” format which is a familiar process to them. The west wing of the building was completely emptied and staff quickly executed using the tornado drill that is in place. Students were moved to the east side of the building where there was no damage or potential of harm. The fire department was on site in short order and it was determined that students were to be evacuated to a secondary location. We were also fortunate to have 15 administrator and directors 30 seconds away in a Cabinet meeting. Students were promptly transported to Lakewood High School Auditorium. We dismissed those students from the auditorium in a secure, orderly fashion. Afternoon preschool and GSRP classes were cancelled, and **classes at Lakewood Early Childhood Center will be cancelled for tomorrow, March 9, 2017.**

In events such as this, one is quickly reminded of the awesome responsibility school educators have each day to the students entrusted to our care. Today our teachers, principals, bus drivers, food service personnel, administrators, and support staff were prepared to lead and handle the situation. Because Lakewood staff and students rehearse emergency situations on a consistent basis, they know what to do and how to respond in these situations. Even in the absence of internet and phone service, we were able to provide quick, clear communications to get accurate information about the situation to parents.

I want to express the magnitude of my thankfulness to the Lakewood Public Schools staff and our parents. I am deeply grateful to a well-trained community of people who are committed to making student safety our top priority. I am also deeply appreciative to the Woodland Fire Department for assisting us with the situation and keeping our precious students safe.

I will be writing tomorrow with an update on this building.

With gratitude,



Randall J. Fleenor  
Superintendent of Schools

