Safety Assembly
March 5, 2018

Words from Dr. Geiger

Today is an important start to an ongoing conversation about safety, and I grateful that you made it a priority to join in on this conversation tonight. In addition to welcoming you here tonight, I want to thank you for all the expressions of support you have shared with us as we have managed many challenges this school year. Your presence here and your questions are all expressions of your investment in our school. We are blessed to have such an engaged P.K. Yonge community.

We are coming together to discuss specific things we can ALL do to maintain and enhance our students’ safety and the safety of our campus. Immediately after the tragedy in South Florida, our University of Florida Police Department partners and I began planning two conversations – one with the students and one with you all, their families – to share as much as we can about our efforts focused on school safety and how our school community can contribute to those efforts.

We can assure you that there IS a safety plan in place. We revisit this plan before each school year begins, throughout each school year, and after each school year. We are constantly improving our plan based on what we learn and what we observe. In order for the plan to be effective, it cannot be shared publicly.

In the last two weeks we have made some definite plans for changes to our campus. Some of them you will see as they are implemented. Some of them we will talk about tonight. Safety is about all of us. And that’s what we will be talking about – ways that we all can help keep our campus safe.

In considering the questions that were submitted ahead of tonight, our goal is for you to leave with the following three assurances:

1. P.K. Yonge has a detailed safety plan that is continually revisited in collaboration with our UPD partners and other university advisors.
2. P.K. Yonge makes every effort to share information with families to the extent that we can while maintaining confidentiality and professionalism.
3. There are actions that you and your children can take to support P.K. Yonge’s school safety efforts.

We will begin with a presentation by our University Police Department partners. Without further ado, please welcome Sergeant Peck and Captain Holcomb.
A Safe Blue Wave

Working together for a safe campus

Individually we are one drop, But together we are a powerful wave.
~Ryunosuke Satoro

Overview

• The safety and security of P.K. Yonge is everyone’s responsibility
• See Something, Say Something
• See Something: What to look and listen for
• Say Something: What do you do?
• GATORSAFE App
• Student Presentations
• Questions and Answers
University of Florida Police Department

- Available 24 / 7 – 365
- (352) 392-1111 or 911
- www.police.ufl.edu
- 85 sworn state officers
- Triple Accredited (State, Nationally & Internationally)
- Full range of services
  - Criminal Investigations
  - K9 unit
  - Traffic unit (Motorcycles & Bicycles)
  - Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT)
  - Community Services Division
  - Special Events
  - Training Division
  - Dispatch
  - Public Information Officers
  - Victim Advocates

If you SEE something, SAY something

PK Yonge students are encouraged to download the GatorSafe app, which can be downloaded for free on the Apple App Store or Google Play. Students can use the app to file police reports, submit tips anonymously, and access emergency contact information. For emergencies or immediate threat, call 911 or tell an adult.

Did you SEE something wrong on campus or at a school event? Then SAY something to local authorities to make it right. Report suspicious activity, Call UF Police at (352) 392-1111 or use the GATORSAFE app.

Learn more at www.police.ufl.edu
What should we look for?

**WARNING**

**Immediately call 911 or tell an adult**

- Any visible weapon on campus—guns and knives
- Any statement about someone being in possession of a weapon on campus
- Any statement that a person is going to injure or kill someone else
- Any suspicious person or unauthorized person on or near campus
- An unattended package or bag with wires sticking out or a strong and unusual odor

Photograph by David Moynahan/National Geographic

- Any online post by someone indicating they are going to kill anyone and they have picture of themselves with a weapon
- Anything that is life threatening

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What should we look for?

**Tell an adult or immediately call 352-392-1111**

- Online pic or post of student with a weapon
- Online post by student threatening to injure or kill a student or themselves but no visible weapons
- Unattended package or bag that seems out of place
- Suspicious activity
- Someone in possession of alcohol or drugs on campus

- Bullying and the person’s safety may be in danger
What should we look for?

Notify an adult, use Silent Witness, or call 352-392-1111

- Concern about another student’s dramatic change in behavior or emotional state
- Talk about a fight or heated argument
- Cyber-bullying or bullying where person is not in physical danger
- Another student talking about inappropriate things or illegal activities such as hazing, gang activity, drug use
- When another student enters or leaves campus at an odd time or by an odd means

Bullying and Cyber-Bullying

Bullying means systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees. It is further defined as unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by a student or adult, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual’s school performance or participation; and may involve but is not limited to:

1. Teasing
2. Social Exclusion
3. Threat
4. Intimidation
5. Stalking
6. Physical violence
7. Theft
8. Sexual, religious, or racial harassment
9. Public humiliation
10. Destruction of property
Bullying and Cyber-Bullying

**Harassment** means any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that:

1. Places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property
2. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s educational performance, opportunities, or benefits
3. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school

**Cyberstalking** as defined in s. 784.048(1)(d), F.S., means to engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no legitimate purpose.


Bullying, Cyber-Bullying (Cyber-Stalking), and Harassment are all violations of P.K. Yonge Code of Student Conduct and could result in expulsion.

It may also be considered a crime and could result in your arrest, fines, and jail time.

Applies to both students and employees of P.K. Yonge.
Emergency Blue Phones

• Automatically connects you to police dispatch who will know your location

• Phone locations are found by using the online campus map and selecting the "campus safety" feature at www.campusmap.ufl.edu

• Two Blue Phones located on P.K. Campus:
  • Front of P.K. Performing Arts Center
  • East of Building J, next to Football Field

• For Emergency Use Only - Violations can result in school discipline and criminal charges

P.K. Yonge Blue Phone Locations
What to tell 911 or Dispatchers

• Always tell them your location first.
• 911 calls are answered by the Alachua County Combined Communication Center; Calls to 352-392-1111 are answered by UFPD Dispatchers.
• Is it in progress or when it occurred?
• Does someone have a weapon?
• Is anyone injured?
• Remain calm and answer all their questions; stay on the line if it is safe to do so.
• Operator may ask the same question multiple times to make sure they are getting the correct information.
• Misuse of the 911 system can result in criminal charges.

GATORSAFE Mobile Safety App

Download for free

• Monitor crime on & around campus
• Information on Alcohol and Drug Safety
• Trigger the Mobile BlueLight to simultaneously send your location and call UFPD
• Chat with UFPD dispatch or 911 to report crime (even anonymously). You can also send pictures and video about suspicious incidents or crimes.
• Use the Personal Safety Toolbox which contains a Flashlight, Loud Alarm, Ability to Send Your Location and Much More.
• Take Action Guidance is a guide to what actions to take in an emergency or for an alert at UF
• Knowingly reporting false information can result in school discipline, as well as, criminal charges
Emergency Preparedness

• In the event of an emergency, whether a natural or man-made occurrence, UF & UFPD have preparedness plans in place.
• Notifications are in the form of GatorSafe App notifications, social media, and speakers inside & outside of UF buildings on main campus.
• P.K. Yonge staff and administrators monitor UF Alerts for events that could potentially impact P.K. Yonge. P.K. Yonge will then take appropriate action (Lock Down if necessary).
• Majority of alerts are for main UF campus.

Conclusion

• Remember if something happens to you, it is not your fault, and it is okay to tell someone or report it.
• We must all work together to keep our campus and community safe.
• Spreading rumors, especially on social media, causes more issues by potentially spreading false or inaccurate information.
• Spreading rumors or false information about another student could be considered bullying or even stalking.
• If you SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

Working together, we will keep the Blue Wave safe.
Did you SEE something wrong on campus or at a school event?

Then SAY something to local authorities to make it right.

Report suspicious activity.
Call UF Police at 352-392-1111
or use the GATORSAFE app
learn more at www.police.ufl.edu

UFPD on Social Media

www.police.ufl.edu

YouTube  UF Public Safety

twitter

Instagram  @UFPublicSafety

facebook
Samuel J. Ray – Student Body President – Class of 2018

Often in life it seems that it is far easier to alienate yourself from that which is different—to bury yourself in a coffin of familiarity rather than to allow beliefs, opinions, or ideas that run counter to our own to filter through. To scapegoat that which is foreign, and point fingers at that which is different from oneself. No one is completely innocent of doing this, it’s a universal human trait, but that doesn’t make it acceptable.

I like to brag about us; about P.K. Yonge. Whenever we play a school in any sport, no matter how good they are, I’m always the first to send a text to their Student Body President and let them know that they’re about to hold an “L.” And while that doesn’t always work out as I’d hope, I always make sure that I do, because here at P.K., we’re just a little different from their high schools. Here, we can pretty much identify everyone in our class by face or name. We’ve got teachers who do handstands in class and others who sing to us about doing our ROPES, and students who are every bit as eccentric to match. See that’s what makes us special; what makes us unique is our sense of community—of family. And while family doesn’t always get along, and we most definitely don’t I’m sure we can agree, it’s important to bear in mind that family always looks out for one another. We respect our differences rather than letting them divide us, and we show love to one another rather than hatred. We’re always quick to condemn bullying, or treating others unfairly, so it’s about time that we put those words into action. If you know bullying is occurring, don’t stand idly by. Go to a teacher or administrator and let it be heard. Don’t empower wrongdoing with inaction, and you yourself can the effort to be inclusive rather than exclusive.

There’s a Jamaican proverb, roughly translated it is: “kindness is the hardest gift to give away; because it somehow always finds its way back to you.” Reach out to those around you with a little bit of kindness, and I’m sure it will be returned. Invite the kid who usually sits by himself at lunch to eat with you once, they’re probably a lot cooler than you’d think. Partner up with someone other than your best friend for an assignment in class. Smile at people as you walk by them in the halls, it’s a lot less awkward than half nodding at them anyway. You don’t have to wait a single moment before you can make the world, and our school, a better place. Begin today, so that we won’t have to regret tomorrow.

Thank you.
Emily Bloom – Class of 2019

Hey guys, I’m Emily and this is my third year at P.K. as a junior. Those of you that know me, probably know I’m terrified up here. I can do a play up here no problem, but I can’t act right now; this isn’t a scripted puppet on stage kind of set up. I’m here to talk to the student body.

I’m trying to reach out, sympathize, and realize everyone in here from all spectrums of cultures, races, and gender. And maybe an iridescent, white girl on stage isn’t the most reassuring, right? Who am I to stand up here and try to ‘suade you? Well, I am a student here at P.K. Yonge and the best friend of survivor at Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

The shooting that happened at Marjory Stoneman Douglas was one of the most vile and disgusting things that could ever happen in a high school. And along with the traumatized survivors who can’t stomach to leave their rooms, the students getting bulldozed down by politicians and adults who can’t condone change, and the 17 beautiful high schoolers that died for us to realize we are doing something totally wrong, one good thing has happened: this shooting has us woke. Administrators and teachers at schools around the country are doubling down on the students who are potential threats. They are double checking and triple checking student records, monitoring social media, and making sure they know their students. And what is our administration doing?

The very same thing. I and my friends were terrified that P.K. Yonge Developmental Research School would end up in the same history lesson, and I can say after marching my way up to Dr. Geiger’s office: our administration is looking out for us. Heck, they’re scared too. They have kids here, friends here, us here too. They don’t want to be the administration that missed something. But it’s not all about them. We are culpable for what happens at our school too. We create the culture of P.K. We have to resist the urge to hate. The thing about man is that we’re so polarized. It’s so easy for us to be them vs us, to turn into parties, into cults, and into hate. It’s more than reasonable to be scared right now, but what makes us truly human is understanding and empathy.

We can’t battle hate with hate. There are going to be people who hate us for our skin color, our beliefs, and our sexual orientation, but we won’t win by hating them back. Like our girl, Michelle Obama, said: “When they go low, we go high.” So yes, now that we are woke, we have to be careful that we aren’t paranoid.

Being woke does not mean we can choose hate first. Being woke means we keep our eyes open. Being woke means that we make sure no man or woman is left behind in the hole that is high school social life. Being woke means we love before we fear. Or else we’re just repeating history.
Alfredo Ortiz – Class of 2019

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak before you. You may already know that the impact of social media is this day and age is huge. It has served as a hub for, lacking a better word, revolution. Examples of this can be as positive as the #MeToo movement, but also as destructive as cases of systematic bullying that lead to terrible consequences. With the tragedy in Parkland, it is understandable that people are skeptical and afraid. It is understandable that people are resorting to online means as a way to express their fears. It is understandable that people want to protect themselves now more than ever. In our democracy, justice is blind to age, and so I salute the early involvement of the people across this country. For this very reason, it is also important to respect the opinions and differences of others.

However, it is important to be careful with what we get involved in. Like I said before, some movements can be destructive instead of constructive. This isn’t because the intention is bad, but because we may be acting out of fear. You should feel safe to go to school. You should feel safe about going to talk to the administration when you feel that you are afraid. When you feel cornered, or when you feel targeted, brushed aside, and intimidated, you should need to remember that the administration is here to help. They know what is best for both you and whoever else may be affected. What I would like to say is that the worse thing you can do to yourself and others is do nothing. Don’t be afraid to speak up.

Once again, thank you.
Students in middle and high school were asked to submit questions through their social studies classes prior to their assemblies. Questions received were organized into the nine questions/categories below and answered in consultation with the University of Florida Police Department.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. **Can teachers at P.K. carry guns?** [response dated March 5, 2018]
   No. Under current state law (790.115) and administrative code (FAC 2.001), the possession of a firearm on the UF and P.K. Yonge campuses is prohibited even for those with a concealed firearms permit; there are very limited exceptions, which includes law enforcement officers. Currently there is legislation being voted on and debated at the state level that would allow teachers to be armed, but schools (school districts) will have final say under most versions of the proposed legislation, and for P.K. Yonge this means the University of Florida Board of Trustees.

2. **What are some things that P.K. has done to facilities in the interest of safety?**
   Since fall of 2017, P.K. Yonge’s Director Dr. Hayes has been in conversation with the University, the University Police Department, and UF Facilities and Planning to design solutions that address access to our campus. When we have more information, we’ll share that with you.

   We also have two Emergency Blue Light Phones on campus and we are hoping to add two or three more blue phones to the campus.

   **Emergency Blue Light Phones**
   “When the button is activated/pushed or the receiver is lifted (depending on the model of Emergency Blue Light phone) the caller is immediately placed in contact with the UFPD Dispatch Center. In addition to providing voice contact with a police dispatcher, the dispatcher will also know the caller’s precise location. These Emergency Blue Light phones are for emergency use only.”

3. **What are things that can be done to make our buildings safer?**
   Keep doors locked on buildings/classrooms. If you notice that your classroom door is unlocked, please let your teacher know. When someone knocks on your classroom door, look out the window before opening the door. Approved visitors to our campus will be wearing a yellow visitor’s tag. If the person is not wearing a yellow tag or not carrying a P.K. Yonge ID badge, do not open the door and notify your teacher.

4. **What does our School Resource Officer (SRO) do? Is there always only one police officer on campus?**
   The SRO patrols our campus, stays visible, and helps to supervise students. The SRO is part of the Student and Family Services team that supports student well-being and safety. The SRO responds to and investigates all criminal reports made by faculty and/or students. The SRO works closely with P.K. Yonge’s administration to support students. The SRO communicates with parents of students as needed by phone or email. The SRO supports any student who is in crisis. During regular school hours, and many after-school events, there is typically at least one officer on campus. Additionally, the University of Florida Police Department increases patrols on campus throughout the day as needed and/or requested, and during peak times, such as special events, drop off, pick up, etc.
5. **What's the difference between a lockdown drill and a harmful person drill?**

There is basically no difference between the two drills. The most important thing for students to do during a lockdown drill is to follow the directions of the teacher/adult supervising them.

6. **How often should we practice drills? Have we practiced a lockdown this year?**

We are required to practice drills several times each year. We **have** practiced a lockdown this year. In January, we practiced a lockdown drill at the same time we conducted a campus search with the K9 unit.

7. **Can we know if lockdowns are real or fake? What about fire drills?**

No. In order for drills to be effective practice, we need to practice emergency drills as if they are real. Teachers, staff, and students will be told when lockdowns or fire alarms are a drill **after the drill is completed**. If the fire alarm or lockdown drill requires an extended amount of time, students will be notified if it is a drill.

8. **Are there plans to make our campus safer and make it less accessible?**

Yes! First, we will be building a secondary building which will be better equipped to limit access to our secondary campus and help strengthen our check-in system. School administration is working on changes to vehicle entrances and exits to our campus to make them easier to monitor. In addition, the See Something, Say Something/Safe Blue Wave safety campaign (shared during the safety assembly) provided suggestions for students to help make our campus safer.

9. **There are times when I don’t feel safe at school. How can you help me feel safer? What can I do to feel safer at school?**

If you are feeling unsafe for a particular reason at school, please make sure you let a teacher or administrator know. If there is something that needs to be handled by school administration, you need to let them know.

Please take time to check the validity of things that you hear or things that you see on social media and bring them to the attention of a teacher or administrator before you share them with friends - make sure you don’t get caught up in circulating rumors.

Remind your teachers to lock their doors, and check for ID badges before opening doors to people you don’t recognize.

Always talk to a teacher or administrator if you are feeling unsafe.