



Kinnikinnick Schools Get Help With Emergency Management

By: Smita Kalokhe / 13 News

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ROSCOE - When emergency hits information is critical. Now Kinnikinnick schools look to keep parents in the loop with a notification system.

The start up money comes from the Flamingo Fling. It's an annual dinner, but this time it served up some peace of mind for parents.

It was May 9, 2006 when Kinnikinnick Elementary was put on lock down after a bomb was found in the area. Back then the district didn't have a quick way to tell parents about the situation, but that will soon change.

"If there are any threats to the school and the school should have to notify parents, instead of parents calling in, this way they make one call and away it goes," says Lori Hanke, Flamingo Fling Foundation President.

The school messenger system will cost about \$5,000 dollars a year. But it will take \$6,500 to launch it. Tonight the Flamingo Fling Foundation handed the district a check to cover that expense.

"A lot of times when you're at work, you don't always get the opportunity to hear about a news break," Hanke says. "I just think it's a great way to keep the parents informed as to the safety of their children."

District board members have noticed success with similar systems at other schools and say it's long overdue. "We felt this is something we needed for our district," adds Glenn Heidenreich, Kinnikinnick School Board President. "We're a little behind in the times as far as technology."

The system goes into effect this fall and will send messages by phone calls, texts or email. The choice will most likely be up to the parent.