Good Afternoon:

The pending student-led protests, arising in the wake of the recent shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, have prompted many to ask how schools will respond and support students who wish to participate. Currently there are three nationally organized walkouts, two occurring on school days.

**Enough National School Walkout** on Wednesday, March 14 (one month anniversary of Parkland event) – Organizers of the popular Women’s March are calling for students to walk out of school for 17 minutes to protest the response of inaction and frustration with nothing beyond tweets of thoughts and prayers.

**March for Our Lives** on Saturday, March 24 – Largely focused in Washington D.C., this march was initiated by the Parkland survivors and has financial and personal backing from Oprah, Steven Spielberg, and more. Stated purpose is to demand that student lives and safety become a priority to end the epidemic of mass school shootings.

**National School Walkout Day** on Friday, April 20, 19th Anniversary of Columbine – Powered by Change.org, students are encouraged to make their voices heard, walk out of school at 10 a.m., wear orange, and protest online and in the community. This day has historically elicited copycat threats to the Columbine incident.

Terra Linda is a strong community that nourishes and celebrates our diversity, and promotes justice and respect for all students and staff. During any school walkout students will be supervised by site and district administrators, teachers, and campus security. While we do not condone students missing class, we do support their First Amendment rights to free speech and to assemble. As educators, we know that oftentimes the lessons and conversations with the greatest impact on students do not emanate from textbooks or lesson plans. This moment in time is an opportunity for us to provide guidance to students on how they can be civically engaged and politically aware in a safe and constructive way.

I also invite dialogue from students, staff, and parents to share concerns related to safety to create shared ownership of protecting our community together. We recently updated and revised our School Safety Plan which is posted on our website and can be accessed [here](#). This year we have already practiced emergency procedures, including drills with local law enforcement partners. This Friday, March 2\(^{nd}\) we have scheduled an additional earthquake drill at 10 AM during tutorial and we have arranged for a lockdown drill next Friday, March 9\(^{th}\) at 10 AM during tutorial.

Please contact me by email at [kdunlap@srcs.org](mailto:kdunlap@srcs.org) or phone 415-492-3101 if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Katy Dunlap, Principal