OAKLANDS CENTRAL SCHOOL

Peter Craft – Principal

# Extreme Weather Policy

**Aim:**

This policy outlines the agreed upon procedures for caring for students at Oaklands Central School during extreme weather events. This policy reflects the Department of Education Work Health and Safety Procedures and Policy. This policy aims to ensure student and staff safety where necessary due to weather events.

**Rationale**

WHS requires schools to have policies in place to protect the health and safety of students and staff through risk assessment processes. Weather events such as extreme temperatures, thunderstorms, prolonged or heavy rain events or high wind events can cause identifiable increases in risk to students and staff. This is particularly so during breaks or during planned periods of physical activity. This policy is designed to mitigate those risks, reducing them to acceptable levels.

**Responsibility**

Principal:

The principal should

* Distribute this policy to all staff
* Provide effective training about handling extreme weather events to staff
* Monitor the implementation of the policy in the event of extreme weather as described in this policy.

School Staff should

* Be familiar with this policy
* Co-operate in implementing the procedures in this policy during extreme weather events
* Inform the principal when they become aware of extreme weather to aid in the implementation of the policy.

Procedures

The following procedures will be followed at Oaklands Central School:

**Heat Events**

* On days where the temperature exceeds 380  Celsius the following will be implemented:
	+ During breaks the Hall (with air conditioning on) will be opened to allow students to eat and sit quietly. The COLA will be closed for eating and play.
	+ During breaks students may sit quietly in the Hall or use the Library
	+ Primary students may play in shade areas in the back playground during 2nd half of lunch.
	+ If students are involved in physical activity for sport or PE, breaks must be taken every 15 minutes
	+ Student and staff must have access to cool water during breaks and breaks during physical activities. The water will be provided in a “Drink Cooler” by the school
	+ All students and staff must wear hats if they are in the sun. If possible the activity should be carried out in the shade. Sunscreen (SPF 30+) must be used if the students are in the sun for physical activity.
* On days where the temperature exceeds 420  Celsius the following will be implemented:
	+ During breaks the Hall (with air conditioning on) will be opened to allow students to eat and sit quietly. The COLA will be closed for eating and play.
	+ During breaks students may sit quietly in the Hall or use the Library or another classroom provided for student use.
	+ If students are involved in physical activity for sport or PE, the activity should be in the Hall or other appropriate classroom areas. [swimming is exempted from this provision]
	+ Student and staff must have access to cool water during breaks and breaks during physical activities. The water will be provided in a “Drink Cooler” by the school
	+ All students and staff must wear hats if they are in the sun. Sunscreen (SPF 30+) must be used if the students are in the sun for physical activity.

**Thunderstorms**

* In the event of a thunderstorm:
	+ If students are indoors, they should stay indoors.
	+ Outside classes should move back into classrooms or indoors.
	+ In the event of hail, move away from windows and, if the hail is severe, take shelter under desks until the thunderstorm has passed
	+ During breaks the Hall will be opened to allow students to eat and sit quietly. The COLA will be closed for eating and play. The back playground will be closed.
* The following guidelines inform implementation of the thunderstorm procedures:
	+ If the weather forecast is for possible thunderstorms/lightning remain vigilant for approaching storms and /or changing or rapidly deteriorating conditions.
	+ If you see lightning apply the “30 – 30 Rule” Count the time from seeing lightning to when accompanying thunder clap is heard, if less than 30 seconds (storm is less than 10 kms away) go immediately to a safer place. Wait 30 minutes after the last thunder clap before continuing play in an open area.
	+ Hearing thunder means that lightning is likely to be within striking range.
	+ In the event of thunderstorm/lightning where people’s welfare is deemed unsafe by the teacher in charge of the event or principal, the event should be suspended and theses procedures put in place.
	+ If conditions improve – remember the 30 – 30 rule and wait 30 minutes, outdoor activities may recommence.

**High Wind**

* In the event of a high winds:
	+ The principal will close the back playground area if there is a risk from falling branches from trees
	+ Teachers will not conduct outdoor activities under trees if the wind is in excess of 80 kmh

**Prolonged Rain Events or Forecast Heavy Rain**

* In the event of prolonged rain or forecast heavy rain that may cause flooding:
	+ The principal may
		- Close parts of the playground where students and staff may suffer slips and falls as the result of slippery surfaces
		- Cancel events and travel to events where flooding may cause a risk to students and staff

Reviewed 16/3/2017