

Radio Announcer: [00:04](#) Welcome to "Prep Talk," the emergency management podcast. Find out what you need to know about preparedness. Get all the latest tips from experts in the field and learn what to do before the next disaster strikes. From the Emergency Management Department in the city that never sleeps here are your hosts: Omar Bourne and Allison Pennisi.

Omar Bourne: [00:26](#) Hello everyone. Thank you for listening. I'm Omar Bourne.

Katie James: [00:29](#) And I'm Katie James.

Omar Bourne: [00:30](#) And you are listeners. And, as always, we thank you for joining us.

Katie James: [00:35](#) We want you to come back as often as you can. So feel free to add Prep Talk to your favorite RSS feed. You can also follow us on social media, on our Twitter @nycEmergencygmt, Facebook, or Instagram.

Omar Bourne: [00:48](#) That's right. Katie, on this episode we are talking about emergency preparedness education. Now back in 2015, New York City Emergency Management introduced Ready Girl, the City's emergency preparedness superhero to engage New York City students about preparing for emergencies. And what better co-host than Ready Girl herself who's here, Katie James, to talk to us about Emergency Preparedness Education.

Katie James: [01:15](#) Thank you Omar. Thank you for having me. Ready Girl is a really fun initiative that we created as a way to help increase our outreach efforts to educate children on emergency preparedness and is a part of our Ready New York program. And we coordinate with schools all throughout the city. We go to elementary schools and middle schools and we teach kids all about preparedness. And it's one of our initiatives between New York City Emergency Management and the Department of Education.

Omar Bourne: [01:40](#) And each year New York City Emergency Management and the Department of Education present the Ready School of the Year award to the principal, staff, and students who have exemplified outstanding emergency preparedness.

Katie James: [01:55](#) So on this episode we are speaking to the principal and students who won this years award along with the liaison between the emergency management and the education department.

Omar Bourne: [02:03](#) But before we dive in, you know what time it is. It is time for the latest hot topics in the Emergency Management Field.

Radio Announcer: [02:14](#) Here's your "Prep Talk" situation report.

Katie James: [02:19](#) This is a situation report. Let's get started.

Omar Bourne: [02:22](#) So our first story comes from US News and World Report. Now I have good news and I have bad news. The good news? My favorite season, Summer, is quickly approaching. Now the bad news? Newer research has shown that there will be more compound heat waves as the planet warms. Now Jane Wilson Baldwin who authored the study says that "compound heat waves means that you may see multiple back-to-back heat waves, or possibly individual extremely hot days, separated by short cooler breaks." So for example, you may get five days of extremely hot weather followed by two days of cool weather, and then another three days of extremely hot weather. Heat waves and droughts currently pegged as a direct cause of roughly 20% of natural disasters in the continental US.

Omar Bourne: [03:21](#) More than any other single natural cause. So? Remember the best way to beat the heat is by using air conditioning or by going to a cool, air conditioned place like a mall, movie theater, or a supermarket. Here in New York City we open up cooling centers during heat emergencies. You should also remember to drink lots of water, wear loose, light, clothing, and check on your neighbors. Especially vulnerable populations like the elderly or people with chronic diseases. Katie we want everyone to be able to beat the heat this summer in a safe way.

Katie James: [04:03](#) Absolutely Omar and those are great tips on how to beat the heat. In other news, a new set of Metrocards will pay tribute to those who worked at Ground Zero after the September 11th terrorist attacks. The cards are being released in honor of the May 30th dedication of the 9/11 Memorial Glade which will honor all of those who are sick or who have died from a 9/11 related illness. 250,000 Metrocards with four different images will be available at 10 different subway stations. The individuals on the card include two firefighters from Florida. One who helped recover bodies of FDNY and Port Authority authorities and one with his canine Marley. A firefighter from San Francisco and a former NYPD officer. The Memorial Glade will be open after a dedication ceremony on May 30th. So if you're in the New York area be sure to check it out.

Omar Bourne: [04:51](#) Thank you very much Katie. An inspiring story. We have one more for you. May 19th through 25th is the 45th annual

National EMS week. National EMS Week brings together local communities and medical personal to honor the dedication of EMS practitioners. Katie do you know which president established National EMS week?

Katie James: [05:19](#)

I think it was President Gerald Ford in 1974.

Omar Bourne: [05:23](#)

It was and you know that because you have the script in front of you.

Katie James: [05:27](#)

[crosstalk 00:05:27] was 45 years ago.

Omar Bourne: [05:29](#)

Ah. Yes. Yes. Yes. No. That is correct. President Gerald Ford established a week back in 1974. This year some of the themes of the week include EMS education, Stop The Bleed, and EMS for children, which is a great one. And I love the fact that we're really getting children involved in all types of emergency preparedness activities.

Katie James: [05:54](#)

Yeah. Its great. All different levels of preparedness.

Omar Bourne: [05:57](#)

Wonderful. That is our situation report. Up next we have two special guests who are going to talk to us about the Ready School of the Year award here in New York City, but before we get into that here is a special PSA from New York City Emergency Management and the Ad Council.

Advertisement: [06:20](#)

When is the best time to talk to your family about staying in touch during a disaster? When hurricane winds are gusting? When flood waters reach your door? Or a blizzard blocks all the roads? Or is the best time perhaps today? During a disaster you may not be able to stay in touch with your family or friends as easily as you think. Make your emergency plan today. Go to NYC.gov/readyNY or call 311. Don't wait. Communicate. Brought to you by New York City Emergency Management and the Ad Council.

Radio Announcer: [06:52](#)

You're listening to "Prep Talk," the emergency management podcast.

Omar Bourne: [06:57](#)

You are listening to "Prep Talk" and we are back. That public service announcement was brought to us by New York City Emergency Management and the Ad Council. As we've mentioned we have some special guests here to talk about Emergency Preparedness Education. Joining us are Philip Carollo, Principal of PS56 The Louis DeSario School, and Keith Grossman. He is the director of emergency management at the

New York City Department of Education. Thank you both for being here.

- Philip Carollo: [07:29](#) My pleasure.
- Keith Grossman: [07:30](#) Thanks for having us.
- Katie James: [07:31](#) Principal Carollo, congratulations to you and PS56 for receiving the award. How did the school prepare for today's ceremony?
- Philip Carollo: [07:38](#) Well, first we celebrated. And to tell you the truth we took it as an opportunity to review, again, safety practices. We met with our building response team. Obviously we celebrated our efforts and then we did a few drills. And then our guidance counselor and the teachers made some posters. We developed a skit with our theater office team and they performed on stage different types of emergencies and what to do to be prepared in the event of an emergency. So really we took it as a celebration and a learning opportunity to improve our safety preparedness.
- Omar Bourne: [08:19](#) It was a comprehensive Katie. I mean-
- Katie James: [08:22](#) Yeah. It was fantastic.
- Omar Bourne: [08:23](#) It was great. How did the students react when they found out that they were selected school of the year.
- Philip Carollo: [08:30](#) Well, they thought that we're going to be famous.
- Katie James: [08:33](#) They are.
- Philip Carollo: [08:33](#) Yeah. And they were very happy. I believe the overwhelming emotion was kind of pride.
- Omar Bourne: [08:40](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Philip Carollo: [08:40](#) So it was unifying. Kids were high-fiving, and screaming, and telling their parents at dismissal when we had told them. That they couldn't wait to tell their parents that they won this award.
- Katie James: [08:53](#) That's wonderful. And we do this award in collaboration with Department of Education. Keith, can you tell us about your role as an Emergency Management Director at the Department of Education?
- Keith Grossman: [09:03](#) Yeah. Sure. I'm the director of emergency management here at the New York City Department of Ed. My team is responsible for

coordinating, response responses, all of the agency-wide planning resources, hazard mitigation, and some resiliency projects for the agency. And we do that across 40 different divisions, 1.1 million students, 1800 schools, 9000 buses, and geographically across the five boroughs. Also, we work with New York City Emergency Management on planning, response, logistics in the citywide picture. And last, but not least, we work with them on coordination of the Ready Schools program.

- Katie James: [09:43](#) That's fantastic. And being prepared and having school prepared is such an important part of what we do at New York City Emergency Management. So Principal Carollo, back to you. Could you share with us a bit about how you prepare your school as the principal?
- Philip Carollo: [09:56](#) Sure. Well, safety is really everyone's concern and responsibility.
- Omar Bourne: [10:01](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Philip Carollo: [10:01](#) And it's really 24/7. So it doesn't go away. So I feel like the word "prepare" is almost inadequate in the sense that it's really being alert to your surroundings and it's a day-to-day basis and it starts right in the morning with arrival. We have volunteers who help our students get out of the vehicles at stop and drop. Crossing guards are on the corners every day. We have one point of entry to make sure kids are getting in the right spot, right locale. We have the borough Safety Director John Grossadonio who visits our school frequently and he also monitors our point of entry/point of dismissal. We practice our GRP, our building response team. We do our fire drills. We do our lockdown drills. We do our shelter in's. We do our Code Blue. Although we are not perfect, we have a growth mindset that we constantly review our practices.
- Philip Carollo: [10:52](#) So after each drill our team convenes and we go over what we missed, what we can improve upon in the event of an emergency, but I do stress ... I do a weekly call to my parents on Sunday nights to tell them the upcoming events and I usually end it with, "Please obey all traffic and driving regulations around the school." Because we have many students coming in, in a short period of time, using the crosswalk. It's really a community effort.
- Katie James: [11:23](#) That's wonderful. And one of the statements that was made today by the superintendent, he said that safety is everyone's job. And it seems like your school really embodies that message.

Omar Bourne: [11:31](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative). Very well said Katie. Keith, I want to turn to you. From your perspective, why is it important for schools to prepare kids for emergencies.

Keith Grossman: [11:41](#) Right. So like Principal Carollo said and I think we've all kind of alluded to throughout the day, is student safety is our top priority. So the more education we can give to our students about preparedness and about safety helps us to do our jobs at the 30,000 foot view. Kind of like from the central administration point.

Omar Bourne: [12:04](#) And New York City Emergency Management works really well with the Department of Education through the Ready For Kids program, Katie, to go out to the schools and teach the kids about preparedness. And then what happens is that the kids then take that home to their parents and teach them as well. And so you're really reaching families, and the community by starting at the lower level with the kids.

Katie James: [12:33](#) Yeah. Absolutely. And we really, as part of our Ready New York for Kids Program here at New York City Emergency Management we know that kids are that connection back home and kids are the ways that we can help encourage and incentivize parents to really take that preparedness effort. And if we're lucky, because we actually have two students here with us today from PS56. We have Madison and Ella and they're here to talk to us a little bit about their experience at school and especially what they learned today at the presentation. So Madison and Ella, what did you learn when Ready Girl visited your school back in March?

Madison: [13:06](#) One thing that I learned was to always have an ICE card ready and a ready bag in case of an emergency.

Ella: [13:11](#) I like to always be prepared in like what to do in case like an emergency ever happens.

Katie James: [13:17](#) That's awesome. That's wonderful.

Omar Bourne: [13:19](#) So kids, why do you think it is important for kids like you to be prepared before an emergency.

Madison: [13:25](#) If some other kids from other schools don't know like what to do during a fire teachers should like do more fire drills and like let them know in case a fire ... What would happen? Like all the bells would go off.

Omar Bourne: [13:37](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Ella: [13:37](#) Like we should have more assemblies to show like what to do.

Katie James: [13:41](#) That's great. That's wonderful and did you take some of your message home that you learned from your presentation?

Madison: [13:46](#) Yeah.

Katie James: [13:47](#) That's great. That's so wonderful. Well, we had so much fun coming to your school in March and teaching the whole school how to be prepared and coming back today to see another presentation. So we thank you all for your hard work and your effort. So Principal Carollo, how do you think you will continue to prepare your school community for different types of emergencies?

Philip Carollo: [14:04](#) So one thing that I recently added to our safety preparedness is sending out kids videos on safety. And the teachers are showing these in the classroom on their Promethean Boards. They're student friendly, they're animated, and they get to see what to do in an event of a different type of emergency. Whether it's weather related, whether it's a choking hazard. We taught everyone the international sign for choking as we had realized that not everyone knew that. So I think adding it into the classroom and using an audio/visual approach with the student is more engaging. So they can see it and hear it.

Katie James: [14:49](#) Right.

Philip Carollo: [14:49](#) So we reach all different types of learners that way and then making that connection back and bringing it back to the parent as well.

Katie James: [14:58](#) Yeah.

Philip Carollo: [14:58](#) That's why I'm really grateful that you guys did bring us go bags to bring home and ICE contact cards for the families to fill out. So that the parents and the school are on the same page.

Katie James: [15:13](#) And for our listeners, ICE stands for In Case of an Emergency. So we have these emergency reference cards that we give out to all the students and they're available for download actually on our website. You can visit NYC.gov/readynewyork. It's called Emergency Reference Cards. So the families can download them, and print them out, and fill out that important information, and they can leave them in their child's backpacks,

in their go bags. And making sure that everyone in the family has that In Case of an Emergency card.

- Omar Bourne: [15:38](#) So Madison and Ella I want to come back to you for a little bit. What advice would you give to your friends and kids around the nation about the importance of emergency preparedness in schools?
- Madison: [15:57](#) Some advice that I would give them is to always like whenever you hear the bell like gather all your stuff and like-
- Ella: [16:04](#) And get out quick.
- Madison: [16:08](#) Like you come-
- Ella: [16:09](#) Yeah. Don't get nervous.
- Katie James: [16:12](#) That's great.
- Omar Bourne: [16:12](#) That's great advice.
- Katie James: [16:13](#) That's great.
- Omar Bourne: [16:14](#) Yeah.
- Katie James: [16:14](#) And that's why we practice plans, right?
- Ella: [16:15](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Katie James: [16:16](#) That's why you do fire drills at school and that's why you learn about evacuations, and where to go, and how to evacuate. And that's what's important and that you're always listening, and following directions from your teachers and from the executive staff as well.
- Ella: [16:27](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Omar Bourne: [16:30](#) Principal Carollo and Keith, what can schools across the nation do to better prepare before emergencies? What advice would you give to them?
- Keith Grossman: [16:41](#) So I think the important thing is to create a culture of safety and preparedness through training, and exercises, and drills. And it really starts at the top. It starts with principals like Principal Carollo who have created this culture here and have really pushed this message throughout the student body of safety and preparedness. As that goes across the hundreds of thousands of

principals across the country. If every principal did this we'd have a lot better prepared school system as a nation.

Omar Bourne: [17:13](#)

Well said.

Philip Carollo: [17:13](#)

Yeah. Yeah. Very well said. And I think that this is being open-minded, having a growth mindset as far as safety's concerned. Now, like I said, we're not perfect, but we're constantly reviewing our practices. And one thing that I'm super proud of is, you know the term, "If you see something, say something?"

Omar Bourne: [17:32](#)

Yes.

Philip Carollo: [17:33](#)

So our community is so involved that I get Facebook messages, emails, of ... And it could be something as little as there's a traffic light that's out or they find an object outside, an arrival that shouldn't be outside, and may be unsafe for children. And we really respond to that. So that's really important, as a leader, that I don't have all the answers and I certainly don't have all the information. So my parents, my staff, the BRT Team is constantly ... have an open line of communication. I'm approachable. So I would say to definitely be open and approachable to those things. Not get defensive, like what do you mean? Were we not doing that?

Omar Bourne: [18:22](#)

Right.

Philip Carollo: [18:23](#)

So that's really important as well. And we came across a situation with trying to put in either a four way stop sign or another traffic light in the area around the school and we hit a roadblock so we went to our elected officials.

Omar Bourne: [18:37](#)

Right.

Philip Carollo: [18:37](#)

So remember that it reaches outside of the school community as well.

Omar Bourne: [18:42](#)

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Philip Carollo: [18:43](#)

And basically don't stop. If you hit a roadblock, keep going. And if you think that something needs to be addressed voice your concern.

Omar Bourne: [18:53](#)

Keith.

Keith Grossman: [18:54](#)

Yeah. Absolutely. And I think on a system level something that you said made me want to add to that and build on that is two

eyes are better than one, four eyes are better than two. DOE is a tremendous system and I have an office of eight people responsible for this. So we would be nowhere without the help of the community, and the help of our agency partners, New York City Emergency Management, New York City Police Department, the Fire Department of New York. And I think that engaging those communities with the larger school community is a tremendous help. And if you can take one thing away I think it's two eyes are better than one and four eyes are better than zero. Right? And using those community resources that are available to you.

- Omar Bourne: [19:38](#) Yeah.
- Katie James: [19:39](#) It's a community effort.
- Omar Bourne: [19:41](#) It is a community effort. And Katie. Now Katie, for our listeners, is also Ready Girl who is the New York City emergency preparedness superhero. And I don't want to get ahead of myself so I'm going to let Katie speak to her role, but she goes around and she teaches kids about preparedness. The kids get excited. We have Ella and Madison here. They're going to talk about when they first met Ready Girl, but tell our listeners a little about Ready Girl, how you came about, and what you're doing in the schools across New York City. And then how other jurisdictions or other parts of the country can use this concept to help teach kids about preparedness.
- Katie James: [20:23](#) Thank you, Omar. Ready Girl was created back in 2015. I was going to schools all throughout the city and teaching kids about how to be prepared. And I wanted to increase our engagement and make the assemblies really fun. I remember being in school and wanting to have a fun assembly and so we decided it would be a really cool idea to create somewhat of a super hero character around emergency preparedness. So we launched her back in, as mentioned, 2015. So it's been several years now and we've been able to reach a ton of schools, talk to a ton of different children, and really encourage them and empower them to be prepared. We have Ready Girl stickers. We have our Ready Girl comic book featuring several Avengers characters, which is very fun. And is fun not only for the kids to get a comic book, but also to bring home and show their parents.
- Omar Bourne: [21:11](#) It's a very good read as well.
- Katie James: [21:14](#) Thank you.

Omar Bourne: [21:14](#) Yeah.

Katie James: [21:14](#) I think it's a good story.

Omar Bourne: [21:14](#) Yeah.

Katie James: [21:16](#) About a hurricane in New York City. And having that level of engagement, talking to kids about something that's fun and engaging like superheroes really helps blend that message of being prepared. And my message to when I go to schools is that everyone can be an emergency preparedness superhero. Everyone can take the steps that they need to prepare themselves, to prepare their families in case of an emergency. And I think that's a message that can go outside of the five boroughs. It's something that we feel strongly about here in the city. She's from Queens. She's a local New York superhero, as many of the famous superheroes are from the great city of New York. We think that we can really share that message and spread it across the country.

Omar Bourne: [21:56](#) And you teamed up with the Avengers in your comic book.

Katie James: [22:00](#) Yes, we did. Yes, we did. So that was really fun. Spiderman is a good friend of Ready Girl.

Omar Bourne: [22:05](#) Yeah.

Katie James: [22:05](#) He was there from the beginning. Another Queens superhero. Doing that and really helping to make it something that is approachable, and engaging, and I think a lot of fun. So I have fun going to schools, and being Ready Girl, and encouraging people. I love to come back to schools and people remember Ready Girl and they recognize it. And seeing all the great message and how they've taken it. And in the room where we're here, there's a lot of posters.

Omar Bourne: [22:31](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Katie James: [22:31](#) And I want to call mention to that a lot of the students made posters for today's presentation and they had a lot of important information. Always be ready, steps to make an emergency preparedness kit, and every so often we'll see a few Ready Girl symbols and signs. And that's a really cool thing to see and I really enjoy that.

Omar Bourne: [22:50](#) So kids, you heard from Ready Girl. Now we want to hear from you. Take us back to the first time you met her and what that was like for you?

Madison: [23:01](#) So when I first met Ready Girl, I'm like, "Wow. There's a superhero in my school?"

Ella: [23:04](#) It was really cool. Yeah.

Madison: [23:04](#) Yeah.

Ella: [23:05](#) That's cool.

Madison: [23:09](#) I didn't know like what I was going to expect. And then like when she started talking I felt like that I'm going to go tell like my family about all this stuff.

Ella: [23:14](#) Yeah. And tell them like-

Madison: [23:16](#) How to be like safe in case of an emergency.

Ella: [23:18](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Katie James: [23:19](#) That's great. So you became your own superheroes. Your own preferred superheroes.

Ella: [23:23](#) Yeah.

Madison: [23:23](#) Yeah.

Katie James: [23:24](#) That's wonderful.

Philip Carollo: [23:25](#) I have to tell you it left an impact on them. As a matter of fact, the day you were here, when the students were dismissed, we were very active on social media and many parents thought of posting pictures of their children reading the Ready Girl comics.

Katie James: [23:44](#) Oh. That's great.

Philip Carollo: [23:46](#) And how much fun they were having at home. And I think that was brilliant. Whoever idea it was, Katie if it was your idea because-

Omar Bourne: [23:55](#) It was Katie's idea.

Philip Carollo: [23:56](#) It is so high interest to have superhero like that. And they couldn't wait to get home and share it with their parents. And I'm talking about kindergartners.

Katie James: [24:09](#) Yeah.

Philip Carollo: [24:09](#) Five year-olds coming. Some of them were four. Right? Going home and having that discussion around that. And it gave them the opportunity to talk about safety, preparedness, what to do in an emergency, what they learned in school. So really. Kudos. Thank you very much.

Katie James: [24:27](#) Thank you. I think one of the biggest surprises I had from when we started Ready Girl and launched the comic was how much parents enjoyed the comic book. I never realized that we were actually targeting that audience as well.

Omar Bourne: [24:38](#) Exactly.

Katie James: [24:38](#) And that's sort of the message, right? Is that we want to talk to kids to tell them to go home and tell their parents, but when I see-

Philip Carollo: [24:44](#) Is there a movie in the works maybe? Are you in "Endgame?" That's the question. [crosstalk 00:24:50].

Katie James: [24:53](#) Secrets. No secrets can be revealed, but that was something that I didn't expect, but I noticed so much when we go to even community fairs and I would see parents picking up the comic book and reading it to their kids and saying, "This is so neat. I love comic books." And that was definitely a unexpected surprise, but a very good one because that's how we're able to really target the people who we now need to be prepared and prepare their families.

Philip Carollo: [25:17](#) Well, thank you so much because really it hit home.

Katie James: [25:19](#) Thanks Principal Carollo.

Keith Grossman: [25:20](#) Yeah. Absolutely. You talk about engaging your community partners. I mean this is the prime example, right? Like the Department of Education and New York City Emergency Management are working together to engage students, but then go home and engage the community and then New York City Emergency Management engaging Marvel Comics. And there are some things you ... I've grown up. Maybe I don't watch cartoons on TV, but like I still find comic books entertaining.

Omar Bourne: [25:46](#) Yeah.

Keith Grossman: [25:46](#) So I feel like it was just something to really engage the community as a whole. And even furthermore, I mean every time one of these young ladies is walking around with a Ready Girl sticker and someone says, "Hey. What's that?"

Omar Bourne: [25:58](#) Yeah.

Keith Grossman: [25:58](#) It's another way and another avenue to tell people about Ready Girl and about preparing for hurricane season. This is shortly after National Hurricane Week. It's a really good time to kind of remind everybody because it's right around the corner, hurricane season.

Katie James: [26:21](#) Absolutely.

Omar Bourne: [26:22](#) And it's about preparing the whole community. And I think when you start with the children they take it home to the parents or guardians who in turn shares it with their friends. Again, it's that whole community approach. It's wonderful. Any last words? Well, it's great being here at PS56. Any last words, Principal Carollo?

Philip Carollo: [26:42](#) I just really would like to thank everyone. As I said, we use this not only to celebrate, but to learn.

Omar Bourne: [26:49](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Philip Carollo: [26:50](#) And we did learn through this. And it's really great to see all of the support that the students have. You mentioned Marvel. You mentioned OEM. You mentioned the DOE. Certainly the school level and the parents, but it's refreshing to see all of these entities working together to create a safer community. And really thank you so much on behalf of PS56.

Omar Bourne: [27:15](#) Wonderful. Thank you.

Katie James: [27:15](#) Thank you.

Keith Grossman: [27:16](#) Yeah. Absolutely. Just thank you for all that you do. Not only for PS56, but for all 1800 or so schools throughout the five boroughs. It's always great working with you and I really appreciate it.

Katie James: [27:41](#) Thank you. So for our listeners, now it is rapid response time. And if you're a first-time listener, it's very simple. Omar and I

will ask our guest a few questions and they will give the first answer that comes to mind. So let us get started.

- Radio Announcer: [27:54](#) It's time for "Prep Talk" Rapid Response.
- Omar Bourne: [28:01](#) Okay. Principal Carollo, I'm going to start with you. What is one emergency item you cannot live without?
- Philip Carollo: [28:09](#) My phone. I think because it has so many things on it. Flashlight, I could send a message, I could receive information. I remember during Hurricane Sandy I was fortunate enough not to lose power, a lot of people were, and the only way that they could communicate, their phone lines were down, was via Facebook or other social media sites just to let people know. So I would say that's probably number one. Then I could find the other things that [crosstalk 00:28:40].
- Katie James: [28:39](#) And a back up charger for that cell phone.
- Omar Bourne: [28:41](#) There you go.
- Philip Carollo: [28:41](#) Yes.
- Katie James: [28:42](#) You need that charger too.
- Keith Grossman: [28:42](#) Yeah. I would definitely say phone and charger because if you can call someone for it, you can get it. Right?
- Omar Bourne: [28:49](#) Wonderful.
- Katie James: [28:50](#) What is the best piece of advice you have ever received?
- Philip Carollo: [28:55](#) I guess the best piece of advice that I've ever received was to stay calm.
- Omar Bourne: [29:04](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).
- Philip Carollo: [29:05](#) And it doesn't just apply to safety. Even though that's why we're here today. It could be a test, an interview, a first date. It's really, it could ... Then you can think more clearly, make better decisions that way, and it takes practice. So you have to self-regulate.
- Katie James: [29:30](#) That's great.
- Keith Grossman: [29:31](#) Yeah. Absolutely. I think just along those lines. There's nothing better than three deep breaths.

Omar Bourne: [29:37](#) Yeah. Yeah. And the girls said it earlier. Make sure you're composed and poised. So that's great advice. Summer is almost here. So what are you doing for summer vacation? Principal Carollo, what are you doing?

Philip Carollo: [29:53](#) I'm in the middle of building a new home.

Omar Bourne: [29:56](#) Wow.

Keith Grossman: [29:56](#) Wow.

Katie James: [29:56](#) Wow. Congratulations.

Philip Carollo: [29:58](#) And it's almost done. And it will be done in the summer. So I will be packing, and moving, and carrying, and lifting, and doing all those fun things. So I'm really super excited to start that next part of the journey, if you will. My family's excited.

Katie James: [30:13](#) Nice.

Philip Carollo: [30:14](#) And we're actually building a home adjacent to my wife's sister.

Omar Bourne: [30:18](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Katie James: [30:18](#) Nice.

Philip Carollo: [30:18](#) So it's a complete family effort.

Omar Bourne: [30:20](#) Family affair.

Katie James: [30:22](#) Great.

Omar Bourne: [30:22](#) Wonderful.

Katie James: [30:22](#) That's awesome.

Omar Bourne: [30:22](#) Congratulations to you.

Philip Carollo: [30:23](#) Thank you.

Keith Grossman: [30:24](#) Yeah. So I unfortunately don't get a summer vacation. So I'll be actually, believe it or not, preparing schools for hurricane season to be used as shelters and trying to do that earlier in the day, so I can enjoy a nice sunny evening.

Omar Bourne: [30:38](#) There you go. And we have the girls here with us. So girls, what are you doing for summer vacation?

Ella: [30:42](#) Hanging out with friends.

Madison: [30:42](#) Yeah. I'm going to go on-

Ella: [30:42](#) A vacation. Yeah.

Madison: [30:44](#) Yeah. Vacation.

Katie James: [30:46](#) Cool. That'll be so fun.

Omar Bourne: [30:49](#) Wonderful. Two last questions.

Katie James: [30:52](#) Principal Carollo, what is currently on your playlist?

Philip Carollo: [30:55](#) I have a very odd playlist because at PS56 one thing that we do to try and make it fun and engaging is try to play music on Fridays during arrival.

Katie James: [31:05](#) Nice.

Philip Carollo: [31:05](#) So I have everything from Baby Shark to ... I have my stop and drop volunteers who like to hear the music that they grew up with. Some old freestyle hits. So I have a very eclectic playlist.

Katie James: [31:25](#) What song played today during arrival?

Philip Carollo: [31:25](#) We played a little TKA: Greatest Hits.

Keith Grossman: [31:28](#) Oh wow.

Katie James: [31:29](#) Okay.

Philip Carollo: [31:29](#) We did that.

Keith Grossman: [31:30](#) Most of these students weren't alive when that [crosstalk 00:31:33].

Philip Carollo: [31:33](#) No. No. That was for the stop and drop volunteers.

Keith Grossman: [31:35](#) Okay.

Philip Carollo: [31:35](#) And then we did a little Just Dance Lady Gaga for the Pre-K.

Katie James: [31:39](#) Nice. Nice.

Philip Carollo: [31:39](#) We start our morning breakfast routine with a little freeze dance party.

Omar Bourne: [31:45](#) Nice. Keith.

Keith Grossman: [31:47](#) I have a similarly deep playlist. So I guess I just kind of picked three of those on my way here. So the Struts.

Katie James: [31:55](#) Nice.

Keith Grossman: [31:55](#) Thank you. [inaudible 00:31:57] William Shepard and for some reason Old Town Road. I don't know why I like it, but I keep listening to it. I don't understand it.

Omar Bourne: [32:03](#) Like the [crosstalk 00:32:05].

Keith Grossman: [32:05](#) Yeah. Right? I don't get it, but I listen to it. I find it enjoyable.

Omar Bourne: [32:09](#) Girls, how about you? What do you guys listen to?

Ella: [32:11](#) Ariana Grande.

Madison: [32:12](#) I like to listen to Ariana Grande.

Katie James: [32:13](#) She's great. She's really awesome.

Madison: [32:15](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Omar Bourne: [32:17](#) Okay. And then one last question. Bring us home Principal. Sum up the work you do in one word.

Philip Carollo: [32:24](#) Wow. Maybe that's it. "Wow."

Omar Bourne: [32:28](#) That's a great one.

Philip Carollo: [32:28](#) Yeah. I think it's "care."

Omar Bourne: [32:34](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Philip Carollo: [32:36](#) Especially at the elementary school level.

Omar Bourne: [32:38](#) Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Philip Carollo: [32:40](#) So that's huge.

Omar Bourne: [32:42](#) Wonderful.

Keith Grossman: [32:44](#) Yeah. So for me I guess it would just be rewarding. And if I had to pick a second word it would be challenging, and a third word would be entertaining.

Philip Carollo: [32:54](#) I didn't know I get three words.

Omar Bourne: [32:55](#) You get as many as you want.

Katie James: [32:57](#) Well, we want to thank you so much and a big congratulations again to the entire school community of PS56 for receiving this award. It is really a wonderful day that we get to celebrate and learn something new from the students. It's fun for me because usually I'm on the stage teaching kids about preparedness. So today I got to sit in the audience and learn a new thing from students such as Madison and Ella. So we want to thank you so, so much for all your efforts and we hope that we can be partners with you as you continue to prepare the community and the school and always be here as a resource. And thanks again to Keith and everyone at the Department of Education for your continued support.

Philip Carollo: [33:33](#) Thank you.

Keith Grossman: [33:33](#) Yeah. Thank you.

Philip Carollo: [33:35](#) Our pleasure.

Radio Announcer: [33:40](#) That's this episode of "Prep Talk." If you like what you heard, you can listen anytime online or through your favorite RSS feed. Until next time, stay safe and prepared.