Earthquake Survival: School Edition
Introduction

What is an earthquake?

Earthquakes are devastating natural disasters that can cause buildings to collapse and people to be killed. They can happen at any time, anywhere. Earthquakes can also cause tsunamis which can wipe out massive cities and destroy the land. Earthquakes can also cause volcanoes to errupt and release ash and magma, which can destroy even more city infrastructure.

The earth's crust is made up of 14 major tectonic plates and 38 minor tectonic plates. When pressure from the mantle pushes the plates, they collide and create large movement on the surface, which we call earthquakes. The violent movement shakes structures and can cause them to collapse, which can trap, injure or kill anybody inside a building or nearby.
What to do during an earthquake at your school.

Preparing for an earthquake

To prepare your school for an earthquake you will need to do a whole school earthquake drill once every term. Every class will also need to have a comfort kit with something comforting for each child. These comfort kits will need to include something like a teddy bear, a pack of cards, a book/colouring book, a radio/DVD, batteries, stress ball, wind up torches. The best way to store these comfort kits is to place all the items in a wheelee bin, and store the bin in the hallway or classroom in an out-of-the-way place that is easily accessible.

What to do during and after an earthquake

When you feel the initial tremor, you should either go under a tables and grab a table leg, or stand beneath a door frame, and grab the sides. Remember to stay away from windows as they could shatter. Also teachers should shut blinds as it can help stop any glass that may shattered. Once earthquake has stopped quickly line up and follow your teacher out of the room and on to the oval. If there is no exit then remain under your table until your teacher says it is ok to get out. Once your teacher says it is ok, get out your things from your comfort kit and stay calm until someone can get you out of the class room. If there is someone injured go tell a teacher or staff member and then they can check out the situation and deal with it appropriately. If the staff member or teacher is unable to deal with it, then move the injured person to a relatively safe area and dial 000.
A Student Holding onto a Table Leg

**An Earthquake Action Plan**
Protect Yourself. Spread The Word.
School Evacuation Planning

How to prepare students for an earthquake

To prepare a school for an earthquake, make sure that you have prepared a school earthquake evacuation plan. This will need to include evacuation routes for every class, identify danger areas and have a clearly labeled meeting area. This map might also include fire extinguishers, in case there is a fire; tree locations, so that teachers/staff/students can avoid them; and all exits from every building, in case one is unuseable.

Don't forget to have school earthquake drills every semester. If you are in a high earthquake risk area, maybe have them once a term, or even once a month.

Safe Exit Map
School Earthquake Video

Example of an excellent school drill
References

Various websites including:

www.weready.org/earthquake/index.php?option=com_content&view=article

Images
http://www.google.com/imghp

Expert in school earthquake drills

Kaye Fraser, Canadian teacher interviewed about Earthquake drills.