January 30, 2020

CUSD 3 Families,

There has been a great deal of discussion in the community recently about the school buildings being “infested”. Neither school building is infested with any type of insect including bed bugs.

I would like to begin by saying bed bugs have been in our community and in surrounding communities for many years. The district has a pest management plan we have been implementing to prevent individual infestations from becoming more than just that. Should you have the opportunity to speak to someone from a pest control establishment they will tell you bed bugs and other insects are found everywhere, such as movie theaters, hotels, grocery stores and libraries. Other school districts have taken preventative measures including having students and staff place their personal belongings in plastic totes or bags daily. There may be times when we bag student belongings as well. This is an effort to protect your child’s belongings from potential hitchhikers. Again, we have procedures to monitor and prevent “infestations”.

Our schools are not infested but we do have individual homes that are. We are attempting to handle those situations with as much respect and grace as possible. This is not a new issue for our community. Nor is this an issue that requires public notification as it is a personal and private issue. We are working with these families and most importantly, the children to help them feel welcome and safe at school.

Sincerely,

Angela Simmons-Kenser, Superintendent