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RSU 57 prepares respectful, responsible and creative thinkers for success in the global community.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT NOTIFICATION LETTER

Dear Parent, Guardian or Staff Member,

July 2020

I am writing about three subjects that can affect children's health in school: pests, pesticides and your right to know.

PEST CONTROL

Because pesticides pose risks, the school uses an alternative approach to merely applying pesticides. Control of insects, rodents and weeds at our school focuses on making the school buildings and grounds an unfavorable place for pests to live and breed. Through maintenance and cleaning, we will reduce or eliminate available food and water sources, and hiding places of pests. We will also routinely monitor the school area to detect pest problems and prevent the pests from becoming established. Some techniques we will use include pest monitoring, sanitation, pest exclusion, proper food storage, pest removal and, as a last resort, pesticides. This holistic approach is often called Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

PESTICIDE USE

Sometimes pesticide use may be necessary to control a pest problem. When this happens, the school will use the lowest risk products available. If higher risk pesticides must be used, notices will be posted at application sites, and parents, guardian and staff, have a right to know.

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Parents, legal guardians, and school staff will be notified of specific pesticide application made at school when it becomes necessary to use a pesticide that is not exempt from the notification requirements of CMR 01-026 Chapter 27. To receive notification, you must be placed on the notification registry by sending in the attached Request to be Notified of Planned Pesticide Application. Notification will be given at least 5 days before planned pesticide applications during the regular school year. Pesticide application notices will also be posted in school and on school grounds. Notification need not be given for pesticide applications recognized by law to pose little or no risk of exposure to children or staff.

The school also keeps records of prior pesticide applications and information about the pesticides used. You may review these records, a copy of the School's Integrated Pest Management Policy and the Maine Board of Pesticides Control Regulation (CMR 01-026 Chapter 27) by contacting our IPM coordinator, Colin Walsh, at 207-247-3221 ext. 2204.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 207-247-3221. For further information about pests, pesticides and your right to know, call the Board of Pesticides Control at 207-287-2731 or visit the Maine School IPM website at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm.

Sincerely,



Colin M. Walsh, CPA
Director of Finance and Operations