March 29, 2018

Dear parents/guardians, students and staff:

As you might expect, repairs and alterations are a necessary part of the operation of any school. That is especially so in older schools such as ours. We’ve seen that with the recent window replacement project, which I’m pleased to share should be wrapped up in the next short while. Recently, we were advised that we will also receive an extensive heating system upgrade for our school, which will include brand new boilers. Indeed, one of our old boilers is already offline and scheduled to be removed. The other will remain in place until the heating season ends later next month.

As a policy and to ensure the safety of students and staff, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) requires prospective work areas to be carefully evaluated. That assessment was completed and identified material containing asbestos that will need to be removed. This is mostly in insulation around pipes that run throughout the boiler room, fan room, and mechanical room. I want to emphasize that this substance is a concern only when it is deteriorating or disturbed and in an open area. At present, the material does not pose any danger. However, it does need to be safely removed for the work on the new boiler installation to take place.

To that end, the TDSB has retained a certified, independent environmental contractor to provide abatement and cleanup services.  Set up for phase one will begin next week and continue throughout the week and the following two weeks after school hours. However, any actual removal will take place over weekends when students and school staff are not in the building, starting April 13-15. There will be subsequent abatement taking place each of the following four weekends after that. An air sample test will be conducted at the conclusion of each weekend remediation, before students and staff return to school, to ensure that the building is safe for occupancy. All of the work taking place will, of course, be closely monitored and performed in accordance with strict government regulations.

Once abatement is completed, the retrofit can then begin. In order to complete the project by next September, that work will continue throughout the summer break and will require working during daytime hours. As a result, permits will be cancelled during the summer.

I want to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. While we will do our very best to minimize disruption, we may experience some inconvenience during the course of this project. Be assured that the safety of students and staff will remain the primary consideration throughout.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact the school office.

Sincerely,

Sam Miceli, Principal

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