West Seneca Central School District

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Mark J. Crawford, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

Joseph M. Farr
*Superintendent of Buildings
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January 10, 2017

Dear East Senior Parents and Guardians:

To protect public health, New York State (NYS) recently enacted a new regulation requiring that every public school in New York State test their drinking water for lead. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), NYS requires that action be taken to reduce the lead to a level not to exceed 15 parts per billion.

It is vital that schools conduct these tests, as high levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers, and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and in building plumbing. These materials include lead based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water.

The West Seneca Central School District, in accordance with legislation signed by the Governor on September 6 of this year, has tested all water sources in the district. In accordance with the regulations set forth by the State of New York, all water tests were taken in the month of October 2016 and sent to the laboratory for analysis. I received and opened the test results on January 9, 2017 and have corrected or disabled any questionable water outlets as we continue the process to remediate non-conforming items. The District has tested water sources in the past under the EPA regulations. New York State's new regulations have lowered the acceptable thresholds so at this point, we are conforming to the new regulations. The results and actions taken by the District are as follows:

East Senior
Kitchen, Sink 6, 25.1 ppb, soap dispensing sink, labeled non-potable water
Café 143, Fountain, 27.2 ppb, valve off, replacement scheduled
Student Services Lav, Sink, 21.5 ppb, valve off, replacement scheduled
Storage, Sink, 32.0 ppb, fixture replaced, retest
Rm 119, Science Sink, 24.1 ppb, labeled non-potable water
Rm 220, Science Sink 1, 24.9 ppb, labeled non-potable water
Rm 220, Science Sink 2, 48.3 ppb, labeled non-potable water
Rm 220, Science Sink 3, 29.5 ppb, labeled non-potable water
Rm 219, Science Sink, 54.0 ppb, labeled non-potable water
Storage, Science Sink, 49.3 ppb, labeled non-potable water
Rm 217, Science Sink, 85.1 ppb, labeled non-potable water

East Senior
Rm 215, Sink 10, 17.6 ppb, labeled non-potable water
Women's Lav, Sink 1, 20.6 ppb, valve off, replacement scheduled
Rm 320 Science Sink 1, 33.8 ppb, labeled non-potable water
Rm 320 Science Sink 2, 65.9 ppb, labeled non-potable water
Rm 320 Science Sink 3, 21.4 ppb, labeled non-potable water
Rm 319 Science Sink, 21.4 ppb, labeled non-potable water
Storage Science Sink 1, 34.9 ppb, labeled non-potable water
Rm 317 Science Sink, 25.5 ppb, labeled non-potable water
Note: **Potable definition – fit, safe to drink

In the past two months in accordance with regulations, we have tested all of the district's buildings and have taken any corrective actions necessary. The West Seneca Central School District last conducted testing for lead in the water in 2004. The District will be conducting complete testing for lead on a five-year cycle from this point forward.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Farr
Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds
West Seneca Central School District