



## READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Patrick A. Schettini, Jr.  
Superintendent

Dennis Richards  
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Karen J. Callan  
Principal

**BARROWS @ WOOD END ELEMEN**

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November 12, 2004

Dear Parents,

On October 26 the building was evacuated for a short period of time (15 minutes) because of fumes that entered into the Special Education Room above the cafeteria. These fumes came off the roof due to roofers making repairs on the roof. The fire department was called. They checked out the building at that time, and determined that the building was safe for reentry. The workers were never on the classroom side of the building.

Since that time, the school department has had an industrial hygienist checking the building weekly. Their reports have been excellent. The first time they came was within one hour of the incident. The majority of the building, at that time, was clear. The only area that levels were elevated was a back stairway near the gym, which was then aired out. Upon subsequent return visits, an excellent air level has been given to that hallway and the entire building.

Last week the Department of Public Safety Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment also completed an independent air quality inspection. The DOPS is an agency that works for the public safety of all, not hired by the school department, but came at the request of the school department. Their initial verbal report was 'excellent'. They felt that the ventilation system at Wood End was outstanding, giving an excellent exchange of outside air to each of the classrooms. All areas in the building were of excellent air quality. We have not received their written report, as of this writing. Upon the request of the Superintendent the building will continue to be inspected by the industrial hygienist on a bi-monthly basis to be certain that the air quality remains as good as it is today.

Although Wood End is finished, minor repairs and adjustments need to be completed. The irrigation system, out on the field, will be starting shortly. Workers will be down on the field and in the mechanical room. The playground equipment will also be installed and workers will be outside installing. Neither of these projects involves workers being any where near student areas.

On occasion, workmen need to be in the building during school time. Mr. Keenan, our custodian, accompanies outside vendors during their work time if they need to be in the building. Whenever feasible, workers come on the weekend or after hours. Reading hired workers including electricians, plumbers, and maintenance personnel on occasion will work in the buildings to make repairs or installations during the school day. Their work is usually not in classrooms. Classroom work is completed either when the children are not in the room or after 3:00.

I hope this answers many of the questions that have arisen over the past few weeks. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call me at 781-942-5420.

Sincerely,  
  
Karen J. Callan, Principal