



MARANACOOK AREA SCHOOLS

A Caring School Community Dedicated to Excellence

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January 4, 2017

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Manchester Staff and Parents,

During the holiday vacation the basement at Manchester Elementary School was emptied and thoroughly cleaned during the remediation process. Anything that might contain mold was removed and disposed of including wall boards, ceiling tiles, wooden moldings, and materials that were stored in open cardboard boxes. Walls, ceilings, and floors were thoroughly cleaned and the floors were painted. A sump pump was installed. The work done in the basement was thorough and the basement looks amazing. In addition, as recommended by Air Quality Management Services, Inc., the three rooms above the basement were thoroughly cleaned and the air quality was tested in those rooms and the basement. Based on the test it was determined that the rooms needed to be re-cleaned. That was done and on Friday at 5 PM we received verbal confirmation that the rooms and the basement were "ready for use based on test results." When I receive the final written report, which should be by the end of the day, it will be available at the school office.

Before the vacation Ms. Holman, Mrs. Gurney, Mrs. Delmar, Curt Morse, Curt Williams, and I met with the reps from both Octagon, the remediation company and Air Quality Management and they explained the cleaning process. The three teachers whose rooms were being cleaned were offered an additional day's pay for their work organizing their classrooms after the cleaning. There is still some minor carpentry work that needs to be completed and some touch-ups on the shelving and walls. Book bins in one of the rooms also need to be re-cleaned as they still contain some dust. The remainder of the carpentry work will be completed over February vacation. I spent an hour at Manchester this morning reviewing the work that had been done, and the work that needs to be completed with the representative from Octagon Cleaning, Janet Delmar, Curt Williams, and Curt Morse. We are working to address the needs of the teachers following the remediation.

We have been given a description of the cleaning products used and they are only harmful if ingested or if they have direct contact with the eyes. I understand that some people are very sensitive to cleaning products. I asked Curt Williams to open the windows in the classrooms for the remainder of the day to bring in additional fresh air, although I did not experience any smells during my time in the rooms.

Here is the email from the air quality company regarding the state of air quality in the rooms and basement:

"In response to your email, the post remediation tests passed for the Classroom areas as well as all Basement areas at Manchester Elementary School. These areas are ready for use and occupancy based on test results. I will send the final report to you and cc all other recipients in this thread later today when I return to the office." (Randy at Air Quality Management, Inc.)

Again, we were advised, in December, by the air quality experts to remediate the 3 rooms because they were over the basement and that it was not necessary to close down either the rooms or the school. I take safety very seriously and would not want either our staff or our students to be in an environment that was not safe. We will re-test the rooms and basement in approximately 6 months to ensure that the air quality remains safe. I would like to thank Curt Morse, Curt Williams, Bryan Arthurs, Janet Delmar, and the Manchester staff for their cooperation during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Donna H. Wolfrom, Ed.D.
Superintendent