

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 1

Castle Hill - Chapman - Mapleton - Presque Isle - Westfield

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Dear Parent, Guardian, or Staff Member,

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 health risks, MSAD#1 uses an alternative approach rather than merely applying pesticides. Control of insects, rodents and weeds at our schools focuses on making the school building grounds an unfavorable place for pests to live and breed. Through maintenance and daily cleaning, we will reduce or eliminate available food and water sources and hiding places for pests. We will also routinely monitor the school areas to detect pest problems and prevent the pests from becoming established. Some techniques we will use for grounds include mowing, aerating and over-seeding. Techniques for buildings include cleaning, sanitation, pest exclusion, proper food storage, pest removal and, as a last resort, pesticides. These approaches are often called Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Pesticide Use:

Sometimes pesticide use may be necessary to control a pest problem. When that happens, MSAD#1 will use the lowest risk products available. If higher risk pesticides must be used, notices will be posted at application sites and parents, guardians and staff will have the right to know.

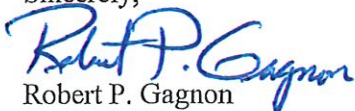
Your Right to Know:

Parents, legal guardians, and school staff will be notified of specific pesticide applications made at the schools. Notification will be given at least five (5) days before planned pesticide applications, so long as the IPM Coordinator is notified in writing that an individual wants to be notified. Pesticide application notices will be posted in the Main Office area of our schools and on school grounds. Notification need not be given for pesticide applications recognized by law to pose little or no health risk of exposure to children or staff.

MSAD#1 also keeps records of prior pesticide applications and information about the pesticides used. You may review these records, a copy of the District's Integrated Pest Management Policy and the Pesticides in Schools Regulation (CMR 01-026 Chapter 27) by contacting our IPM Coordinator, Robert P. Gagnon, at 764-0848, Ext. 1100.

For further information about pests, pesticides and your right to know, please contact the Board of Pesticides Control at 207-287-2731 or visit the Maine School IPM web site at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm

Sincerely,



Robert P. Gagnon
MSAD#1 I.P.M. Coordinator