August

 Dear Parents/Guardians:

 Last spring, concerns were brought to our attention regarding the water quality at the South Campus.  The district worked with PDC Laboratories to conduct water quality testing.  On May 16, we received a report from PDC that one of the water fountains by the South Campus library had lead levels that exceed the recommended concentration.  As such, that water fountain was immediately taken out of service.  The samples from the other water fountains did not exceed the recommended concentrations.

 During the summer, a second round of testing occurred using protocols given to us by the Illinois Department of Health.  The report from PDC showed that the sample from the library water fountain was still high.  The other samples were fine.

 However, questions have arisen regarding whether or not the protocols given to us by the Illinois Department of Health were the best to give us the most accurate results.  While we believe that the quality of our school water is safe for consumption, we would rather proceed with caution with all of our water sources in the building.  Thus, as a precaution, we have decided to bring in water coolers to place throughout the South Campus.  We will also be using bottled water for food preparation in the kitchen.

 We are currently working with Courtice-Grason, an environmental consulting firm, to determine the reason for the high level in the library fountain and the best course of action.  We will keep the public updated as we work to resolve this issue.

OR

August

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am writing to provide you with an update on the water quality issue at South Campus.  Since my last message, I have done additional reading and researching on this topic.  This message will provide you with a broader understanding of what we are dealing with and how we are dealing with it.

 The amount of lead in water is measured in “parts per billion” (ppb).  When it comes to lead, there is no level of lead in water that is perfectly safe.  Lead is bad for you, plain and simple.  The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states that if the lead concentration is over 15 ppb, you must take action to reduce the lead concentration.  The environmental consulting firm that we are working with, Courtice-Grason, recommends that we take action if the lead concentration is over 5 ppb.

 As I mentioned in my last message, last spring we conducted water tests on samples from 5 drinking sources at South Campus.  The samples were tested by PDC Laboratories.  Of the 5 samples, 1 of them came back above 15 ppb.  2 of the samples came back between 5 and 15 ppb.  2 of the samples came back lower than 5 ppb.  There are an additional 4 sources of drinking water in the building that were not tested.

 This is an issue that we are treating seriously.  According to the EPA, lead in the blood of children can result in behavior and learning problems, lower IQ and hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems, and anemia.  ([www.epa.gov/lead/learn-about-lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead/learn-about-lead))

 We are working with an architectural firm and our environmental consulting firm (Courtice-Grason) to resolve this matter.  We are exploring the use of water filters specifically designed for lead.  We are also exploring the possibility of obtaining a state grant to fix the internal plumbing in the building.  In the meantime, we will continue to bring in bottled water for students to drink and for food preparation in the kitchen.  Please make sure to remind your students not to drink any tap water at the school.

 For more information about lead in water, you can visit [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead) or [www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/).  If you have any questions, please submit them via e-mail to .

 We are committed to ensuring that we have safe, clean water for our students.