



CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Opening Minds ~ Transforming Lives

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Dear Canton Public Schools Community:

On October 31st, the Town was made aware of fire training exercises at Cherry Brook School that involved the use of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). It is believed the training occurred in 2013. These products have recently been in the news because of incidents at Bradley International Airport that resulted in runoff into the Farmington River and concerns about water contamination.

While the drinking water wells at the school are upgradient and more than 250 feet away from where the foam was used, testing of the wells is underway. In an abundance of caution and until such time as test results are available, we have made arrangements for an alternative source of water for Cherry Brook Primary School. The wells have been shut off. Internal water tanks will be used for the water supply. Unfortunately, testing results may take a few weeks. We are working collaboratively with the Town, the Farmington Valley Health District and the CT Department of Public Health to ensure that we are taking all steps necessary to gather water quality data as quickly as possible, and to assess any potential risks to protect the students and staff.

PFAS are a group of over 4,000 man-made chemicals that have been used in a wide array of everyday products including non-stick cookware, food packaging and clothing. Attached for your information is a fact sheet on PFAS and a link for more information.

We will provide regular updates as additional information is made available.

Sincerely,

Kevin D. Case
Superintendent of Schools

Our Mission

Our mission is to prepare independent, productive, respectful and responsible citizens who contribute to an ever changing world. We pursue continuous improvement while honoring our strong educational legacy and traditions. We unite with families and the community to provide challenging educational experiences that promote the intellectual, physical, social and emotional potential of our students.