



## CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Opening Minds ~ Transforming Lives*

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December 3, 2019

Dear Canton Public Schools Community Members:

In 2014 the Town of Canton Volunteer Fire Department performed training on the grounds at Cherry Brook Primary School. This training included the use of fire retardant foam. In 2019, the State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection alerted municipal officials that training with fire retardant foam should be discontinued because the foam contained hazardous materials. These hazardous chemical compounds are known as polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Town officials notified the Farmington Valley Health District about the training and release of PFAS chemicals. Thereafter the two wells at Cherry Brook Elementary School were shut off and water was brought in from a state permitted bulk water provider. The company that maintains the water system for the school then took three water samples, one from each well and a third sample that contained water from both wells. These samples were sent to two different labs to be tested for PFAS chemicals.

On December 2, 2019 test results of the water samples at Cherry Brook Elementary School were provided to the town. We are very pleased to report that the analysis revealed that PFAS chemicals were not detected in any of the samples. The samples were analyzed for PFAS compounds using EPA valid testing methods.

As a result, the Connecticut Department of Public Health has indicated that the water is safe to drink and no further testing is required. The Town will be working with the water operator to get the water system back on line shortly. As a precaution, the Town will test the school's drinking water for PFAS on a frequency to be determined by Department of Public Health's guidelines. In addition, the Town has hired an environmental consulting firm to assist with investigating the potential environmental impacts from the past use of firefighting foam at the school, as is required by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP). This investigation will include sampling of private wells in the vicinity as well as soil testing.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

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.