



Oct. 28, 2018

Dear Meadow Pond Families,

As you may know, the drinking water in our schools is tested on a regular basis.

This past Friday afternoon, the Westchester Department of Health (WDoH) informally shared with us that the most recent test at Meadow Pond Elementary School detected two elements, chlorides and uranium, that cause us to take some precautionary measures. It is important to note that we are taking these steps out of an abundance of caution, and not in response to a mandate from the WDoH. We do not believe there is cause for alarm; rather, we want to be as proactive as possible to ensure the ongoing health and safety of our students and staff.

The increasing levels of chlorides in the water are likely the result of road salt run-off that eventually finds its way down into the bedrock and from there into wells. Chlorides (a form of salt) impact the taste of water but are not, by themselves, considered a health concern. There is no Environmental Protection Agency "action level" above which departments of health mandate remediation. In the long term, however, chlorides can cause corrosion in pipes, which can then increase lead levels in water. Our water is NOT showing those increased lead levels, and we will immediately begin to determine how to filter the chlorides so that this does not become an issue for us.

As far as we are aware, this is the first time that New York State has ordered local health departments to conduct tests for uranium. As a result, we have no prior reports to which we can compare. We believe this new test responds to increasing understanding of the geological characteristics of the bedrock in our region. As a proactive measure, starting on Monday, all drinking fountains at MPES will be turned off and bottled water will be available throughout the school. Important to note again, the Department of Health is not mandating this action. They applaud, however, our proactive measure. In addition, we have begun to consider long term options to lower the level of uranium in the water that enters our school.

Finally, please note that the measures above are connected only to drinking water and water used in cooking food. We are assured by WDoH that our well water continues to be safe for bathroom and kitchen washing use. We will advise children in school not to drink the water from bathroom faucets and place signs in all our bathrooms. We encourage you to support this message at home, too.

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If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact my office. If and when we have additional information on this situation, I will be in touch.

Sincerely,

*Paul Christensen*

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