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James J. Montesano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

September 2016

Re: Results of Water Testing

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I am pleased to announce that as we begin the 2016-2017 school year, *all* tests results for lead in our drinking water are below the EPA's standard of 20 ppb (*parts per billion*) EPA for a 250 mL (*milliliter*) water sample.

As reported in a parent letter on June 10th, the Nyack Public Schools engaged the services of Rockland BOCES Health and Safety to conduct water tests in compliance with the Environmental Protection Agencies (EPA) Technical Guidance protocol entitled "3T's for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools" (3T's stand for training, testing & telling). Potable sources of drinking water were identified as high priority and included all drinking fountains, kitchen sinks, classroom sinks, and any other sink known to be used for water consumption. In compliance with EPA recommendations, water was taken early in the morning before our schools opened to ensure that we took initial, first draw samples before the water had a chance to circulate through the plumbing system, thereby providing "worst case" results. Over 200 samples were taken from our schools to be analyzed.

Before the close of school last year, we received lab results on all of our schools except the High School and Old High School indicating that 100% of our drinking fountains and over 97% of all samples tested were within the 20 ppb (*parts per billion*) EPA standard. All samples taken from Upper Nyack Elementary and the Middle School were within the EPA's standards for safe drinking water and test results on all drinking fountains were also within the EPA's guidelines. There were three (3) sinks at Liberty Elementary, (1) one sink at Valley Cottage Elementary and one (1) sink at our Hilltop Administration Building that were slightly above the EPA's threshold of 20 ppb. The samples taken for those five (5) sinks ranged between 21 ppb – 23 ppb. All other samples for Liberty, Valley Cottage and Hilltop were within the acceptable levels. The five sinks with test results above the EPA standard were immediately shut off pending remediation and follow-up testing to verify that the subsequent tests were within the EPA standard. Over the summer, lead filters were installed on two (2) fixtures at Liberty one (1) fixture at Valley Cottage Elementary and one (1) fixture at the Hilltop Administration Building and subsequent test results were below the EPA standard, confirming that our remediation efforts were successful. Additionally, one classroom sink at Liberty was removed as it had not been used in many years.

The results on the High School and Old High School were received over the summer as well. This testing also included the Athletic Field House located on the campus of our High School. The High School samples were all below the EPA's level. The Old High School had one sample that was above the EPA's threshold but it was later determined that the sample was taken in error from a utility service connection that was not a potable source of water. Another sample was taken from a potable faucet, and that test result was below the EPA's level of 20 ppb.

The District will continue to take proactive steps to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff which will include additional testing of our water supply in the future. There is pending legislation in Albany that will require periodic testing for lead in the water supply for all New York school districts. We will keep you informed regarding the results of our water testing procedures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James J. Montesano', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James J. Montesano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

JJM:ld

**Si ou bezwen enfòmasyon tradui an kreyòl, rele Jocelyne Abraham nan 353-7044.
Si le hace falta información traducida en español, llame a Yesenia Polanco 353-7042.**