

Belleville Henderson Central School District



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September 7, 2018

HOME OF THE PANTHERS

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Dear Parents / Guardians:

At the beginning of this week, we became aware of a situation in the library. In our investigation, we found some hard surfaces and several books that had an odor along with some surface material present on bookshelves, tables and chairs. We took action by closing the library and contacting the Health and Safety Office of the Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida BOCES.

A BOCES Health and Safety representative viewed the area and recommended initial steps to keep the area closed, to use dehumidifiers, to seek expert sampling for mold immediately, and to seek an expert to define a scope of work for some remediation of books and hard surface areas.

A local firm, GYMO Environmental Architectural Engineering and Land Surveying, who have extensive expertise in environmental issues were here on Wednesday and Thursday. Their review and assessment is that there is a mold that needs to be treated. Samples have been taken of the area in question along with air samples to verify the conditions.

Through our consultation with both GYMO and the Health and Safety Office of Jefferson Lewis BOCES, we have formulated the following action plan which is consistent with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) document *Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings*:

- The library will be closed until this issue has been eradicated.
- Initial surface and air samples were taken in the library.
- Additional samples were taken in other areas in the building as background data and also as a precautionary measure.
- Samples were also taken in the exterior of the building for reference point.
- An outside company, Rainbow, Inc., which is qualified to deal with mold clean-ups, has been contracted to perform a scope of work recommended by the GYMO Firm and the Jefferson Lewis BOCES Health and Safety Office. A brief summary of the actions that will be taken are:
 - Air scrubbing
 - Industrial Level Dehumidification
 - Hard surface and carpet cleaning
 - Book cleaning

The cleaning begins today. After all cleaning has occurred, there will be final air and surface samples taken by GYMO. Once the area meets the United States EPA standards for schools, the district will allow reoccupation of the library. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,


Jane A. Collins

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