

April 8, 2011

Dear Parents:

On March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>, a *good general house cleaning* was carried out in room 216 and 220 to improve the air quality in these rooms as per the recommendation of the consultant who was engaged to conduct airborne mould air sampling at St Andrews Elementary. This included, but was not limited to, a complete dusting of all areas in the classroom. Walls, floors, desktops, student chairs, boards, ledges and woodwork were washed down. As a preventative measure, the filters in all the unit ventilators were changed. Normally this is done later in the spring. The consultant's report did not recommend retesting these rooms.

The sampling was conducted by All-Tech Environmental Services Limited which has been operating in all four Atlantic Provinces for the past 10 years. The samples were then sent to EMC Scientific Incorporated, which is a laboratory that specializes in the analysis of building related environmental microbiology samples. This company has extensive experience in mould analysis. These are the same companies that carried out the testing and analysis at Moncton High School.

In room 220, the total airborne mould spores concentration was 120 spores/m<sup>3</sup>, in room 216, it was 127 spores/m<sup>3</sup>. The concentration on the exterior of the building was 100 spores/m<sup>3</sup>. The indoor concentration is less than 30% higher than the outside concentration. In comparison at Moncton High, the concentration on the outside of the building was 1760/ m<sup>3</sup> while on the inside of the building, the concentration was 5553 spores/m<sup>3</sup>. The indoor concentration is over 300% higher than the outside concentration


The consultant's report was reviewed by the appropriate authorities at the Department of Education, Department of Supply and Services, Department of Public Health and the Regional Medical Officer, who noted that after the clean-up, the conditions that promoted the mould growth needed to be properly remediated. These conditions can be water infiltration, high humidity levels and poor ventilation. **The Regional Medical Officer, in his opinion, states the remediation of the conditions causing the mould growth would be more important than retesting.** Based on this advice, School District 16 staff is checking all unit ventilators and control valves in the school.

**The Regional Medical Officer has indicated the mould species identified appear to be common ones and are not known to produce toxins of high concern.**

In room 216, a damper motor on the unit ventilator was not functioning properly. This motor has been replaced. Each classroom at St Andrews has a unit ventilator that exchanges the air in the classroom and outside the building. Each unit works independently of the other, thus there is no transfer of air between rooms. In room 220, a control valve on the hot water heating unit was not working, which prevented staff from regulating the heat in the classroom. This control valve has been replaced.

While the consultant's report did not recommend that any retesting was required, School District 16 has made arrangements with the same company to conduct airborne mould air sampling on these two rooms on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. These samples will then be sent to the same laboratory for their analysis and results should be available by April 25<sup>th</sup>.

School District 16 recognizes the importance of providing staff and students with a safe and healthy environment. To that end, we have followed the recommendation of the professional consultants as well as the advice of the Regional Health Officer. We have taken this a step further and initiated the retesting of the classrooms.

Yours truly,  
  
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Superintendent  
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