



Michael J. Zoerhoff

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Office of Superintendent

January 14, 2015

Dear Parents,

In keeping with our commitment to transparency and open communication when issues arise within our district, I would like to inform you of a situation that occurred today at Bowen Elementary School.

This morning, an anonymous threat targeting Bowen was received through a mailed letter. The letter had a bomb threat and also included a powdery substance. The district took immediate action to contact and cooperate fully with Kentwood Police and Fire Departments. After a preliminary test by the Kentwood Police and Fire Departments, the substance was determined to be crushed cold medicine. In addition, the building principal remained isolated in the room in which the letter was opened to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the students and staff. Although the threat was not credible, immediate steps were taken to follow district safety procedures and protocols.

Buses transported students and staff to their designated evacuation site while the Kentwood Police and Fire Departments investigated the threat further. Once the threat was deemed not credible, the students were returned to the building.

If you have any information regarding this situation, please contact the Kentwood Police Department. In this day and age where individuals use threats like this to draw attention to themselves, we ask that you not engage in speculative attention. While it is human nature to want to discuss it, we ask instead that our focus be on the many positive events happening across the district. Our district has so many positive activities happening that I would encourage you to tell the good news rather than giving attention to obviously dysfunctional behavior.

Finally, I want to express my thanks to the Bowen staff and the Kentwood Police and Fire Departments. They took immediate action to ensure the safety of our children and district. I also want to commend the Bowen principal, Blair Feldkamp, who took brave and necessary action to protect his students and staff.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact myself or your building leadership if you have questions, concerns, or points of affirmation.

Sincerely,

Michael Zoerhoff