NORTH CALDWELL BOARD OF EDUCATION
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Linda Freda, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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Dear Parents & Staff,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, the North Caldwell School District tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

Results of our Testing

Following instructions given in technical guidance developed by the New Jersey Department of environmental Protection we completed a plumbing profile for each of the buildings within the North Caldwe11 School District. Through this effort we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the 47 samples taken, all (47) tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 µg/1 [ppb]).

Grandview School
All drinking water outlet locations tested below the action level of 15 µg/1 (parts per billion [ppb]).

Gould School
All drinking water outlet locations tested below the action level of 15 µg/1 (parts per billion [ppb]).

Health Effects of Lead

High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under six (6) years of age. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. At *very* high levels lead can even cause brain damage. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

How Lead Enters our Water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers, and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and in building plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning *may* contain fairly high levels of lead.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning can significantly increase a person s total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of children under the age of six (6). EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

For More Information

A copy of the test results are available on our district website at **www.ncboe.org.**

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at **www.epa.gov/lead,** call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD or contact your health care provider.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at our school facilities or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,

Linda Freda Ed.D.

Linda Freda, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools