

HANOVER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Whippany, New Jersey 07981
Office of the Superintendent

May 16, 2008

Dear Parents:

As many of you already know, administration instituted a school lockdown at Memorial Junior School at approximately 2:30 p.m. yesterday. The lockdown was initiated after several students reported that they had seen other students displaying a weapon in the hallway as they were changing classes. Upon receiving the report, the police were immediately notified to help school authorities properly investigate the allegations.

After an extensive search of the school, two toy pellet guns were discovered in a student's locker. Further investigation determined that they had been brought to school to be used as a prop as part of a classroom activity.

I want to commend the students who smartly came forward to report what they saw to school officials, as well as the entire staff and student body who diligently implemented our lockdown procedures. In doing so, school officials and local law enforcement authorities were able to conduct a thorough investigation and quickly ascertain that no danger existed. I also want to thank the parents for their patience and understanding, and for doing the right thing by not approaching the building until the situation was resolved. I apologize for any inconvenience the delay in transporting your child home may have caused as I know many of you have important obligations that extend beyond the end of our normal school day.

As a school community, we should be proud of our children for the manner in which they conducted themselves, the staff of Memorial Junior School for effectively implementing our lockdown procedures, and the local authorities who responded in such a timely and professional manner. I want to assure you that we will be conducting a debriefing meeting to review, discuss, and further improve upon the procedures we have in place for the protection and safety of your children. Please do not hesitate to contact me or the building administrators if you have any additional questions related to this matter.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Pepper
Superintendent of Schools

“A Community That Inspires Excellence”