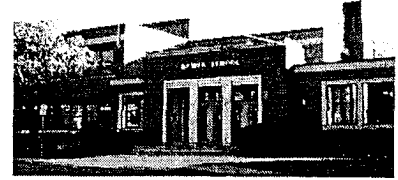


REQUEST 1

Bowen Elementary School
280 Cypress Street
Newton Centre, Massachusetts 02459
617 559-9330 Fax 617 552-7363
Ms. Diana Guzzi, Principal
Diana_Guzzi@newton.k12.ma.us



May 10, 2010

Dear Bowen Community,

On Friday, May 7, I made a request to the Superintendent's office to temporarily install a camera. This request was made because there have been a series of threatening comments, as well as other remarks, written in the building. Prior to requesting the camera, I worked closely with our staff to resolve this matter. We implemented various measures to stop this behavior, however, it persisted. I was in regular contact with the Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, Dr. Kelly. I also contacted the Newton Police Department and shared photographs of the graffiti.

When we returned from April vacation the graffiti continued. After consulting with the Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education and the Chief of Operations, we requested that a camera be installed to keep all students feeling safe. By installing the camera we hope to 1) find out who has been defacing school property, and 2) stop this unacceptable behavior.

To assist our school community in dealing with this situation, I am asking you to speak with your children about the importance of our school's core values: respect for oneself, respect for others, respect for the environment and respect for learning. Your conversations should also include the following points:

1. Writing threatening comments is a form of bullying and is never acceptable;
2. Students are not allowed to deface school property; and
3. Students should feel safe to come forward if they have information about this situation. It is not a form of tattling, but a way to help ensure that all students feel safe in our school.

Our children have a critical role in dealing with these issues. Should your child share important information regarding these events, please contact me by telephone or email.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Diana Guzzi, Principal

10/8/09

Dear North Community-

As you know, we have experienced a number of threats over the past year and a half, that have each unfortunately resulted in a substantial disruption to our educational program. After the last threat on April 30th, I formally requested that the superintendent temporarily install a limited number of perimeter cameras at North in order to deter and/or apprehend the individual or individuals involved. Late last week, I was notified that my request had been approved, and the cameras will be installed shortly.

Please know that I did not take this request lightly, as I truly understand and appreciate the myriad of concerns that accompany this request. Yet, as the leader of this institution I am charged with doing my best to ensure the safety of our entire community. To that end, I strongly feel that I need to do everything in my power to reduce the possibility of a recurrence of these threats. After consultation with the administrative team, the Newton police and members of the school community, I chose to request the temporary installation of these cameras for this specific purpose.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns.

Best,

Jennifer Price
Principal

6/22/10

Dear North Faculty-

I am taking advantage of this quiet moment to write you about a myriad of issues that are happening in our school. As you have probably noticed, we have not had a faculty meeting this month, as we have tried to give everyone time to get grades done, meet with your teams, and begin the process of moving. As a result, I am resorting to writing you all a letter to keep you informed about all that is happening. Please feel free to let me know your thoughts on any issue. If we need to address anything as a faculty we can do so at our next faculty meeting on May 11th.

Adam Underground

I wanted to let everyone know that former students Nick Weiss-Richmond and Rachel Cole have been shooting a movie, *Adam Underground*, here this week. This has been an exciting project that has involved approximately 50 of our students as extras, apprentices and in key roles. You will notice that in a few areas, especially around room 210 and the Newtonite, stuff might be out of place, as these were the key areas for the production. You might also want to take a look at room 210, as the room got a fresh coat of paint for the movie.

Car Accident over Break

As you may have heard, three of our freshmen were involved in a serious car accident the first Saturday of break. It appears these boys got in a car with an unlicensed driver and ended up colliding with a tree. Mike Sullivan and Jackson Wells, who were in the back seat of the car, are both home from the hospital and are planning to return to school on Monday. Brian Goldfinger, who was in the passenger seat, is still in the hospital in stable condition. It is unsure when he will return to school, as he suffered serious injuries. Our thoughts are with Brian and his family.

Cameras

I am appearing before the School Committee on Monday evening to discuss the possibility of installing cameras in our new building. Joel Stenbridge, the principal of South, and I have requested that the SC consider installing cameras at both high schools. Our request stems mostly from concerns around theft. As you can imagine, I am especially concerned about this issue as we enter our new building, which will have millions of dollars of new technology and equipment. Our request expressly states that the video would only be viewed if an incident occurred. I will update you on the conversation on Tuesday. It will be interesting to see how the SC wants to move forward on this issue.

All School Openings: Senior Year Project and Leadership

As we begin the process of staffing the building for next year, it seems that we will have an opening for teachers in both the Leadership class and for Senior Year Project. Given that these are all school classes, I would ask that you let me know if you are interested in teaching these classes. Anyone who expresses interest will briefly interview with a small committee consisting of the two assistant principals and me. Please let me know by May 7th if you are interested.

Packing Buddies

The North PTSO has generously offered to find packing buddies for any member of the faculty or staff who is interested. These packing buddies will mostly be parents who have volunteered to help out. Please let Terry Melanson know if you would like a buddy by May 14th. Once the list is compiled, we will help you find a match and then you can schedule a time with your packing buddy. Think of it as Match.com for packing buddies. I hope it helps.

Technology Training and Camp 21

As you can imagine, our technology world is going to change dramatically next year with the introduction of interactive white boards and document cameras. As a result, we are providing a number of training opportunities to familiarize you with this new technology. The first opportunity will be during exam week, when you will be able to go to the new building for approximately 2 hours with a trained member of your department to learn the basics of operating out new equipment. The second opportunity is Camp 21, which is a 2 or 4 day intensive training that will allow you to go beyond the basics. I highly recommend that you participate in one of these trainings, as it will allow you to get your feet wet before you enter the classroom in September.

Off to China

I am headed to China from May 1st until May 7th. The Jingshang School, our sister school in China, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Jim Marini, Paul Stein, Joel Stembridge and I are headed over there as representatives of Newton. I have cut the trip short because of our looming move, but will be gone for a week.

The next few months are going to be interesting for our school. I am confident that we will make it through this major transition with humor, commitment and class. This is a great school, and at times like this, great communities pull together to make the extraordinary happen. Here's to making it happen.

Best,
jen

10/1/2010

Dear North Community,

It was great to see so many of you last night at Back to School Night. Thank you for braving the parking and the crowded halls to meet our faculty and staff. We know that only by working together will we be able to provide the best possible experience for our students.

I write to update you on where we are, as a school, in terms of the recent challenges our community has faced. There is no doubt that we are still in shock over the recent murder of Adam Coveney, especially on the heels of the tragic death of Adam London. We worked hard this week to support our student population, meeting individually with some classes and many students.

It is clear to many of us that we as a community need to pool our collective resources to support our teenagers as they navigate a challenging time in their young, hopeful lives. As I met with the Mayor, the Superintendent, the School Committee chairpersons, the police chief, and the principal of Newton South this week, we all felt we should take advantage of this moment to further our efforts with our Newton teenagers around the issues of drugs, decision-making and safety.

We are still working out the details, but please know that the community plans to engage as many stakeholders as possible in this effort. Many of you have already come forward and offered resources and support during this time. Thank you. There will be more information to follow, but I just wanted you to know that we are going to take advantage of this teachable moment.

Finally, I wanted to update you on some of the measures we have taken and plan to take in terms of school safety. As you may know, the Principal of Newton South and I successfully advocated last spring for School Committee approval of cameras in our schools. Since that time, we have been developing a plan for the installation of cameras. We are moving forward on this plan, and my expectation is that cameras will be installed before the end of the year. I have also been working closely with the Newton Police to increase their presence in our building both in the long and the short term.

This is just the beginning of our efforts, some of them new, most of them a continuation of our work. The faculty and staff at North appreciate your continued support.

Best,