

January 20, 2011

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Staff of Markham Elementary,

It is with deep regret that I inform you of a disturbing event which, according to initial findings, took place at Markham Elementary recently.

Given the sensitive nature of the issue, I am somewhat limited in what I can say, but I can tell you that on Wednesday, January 19, we received reports of two incidents which occurred between students on campus during the previous week. According to the allegation, the first incident involved several students who undressed, at least partially, while acting disruptively in the classroom. The second incident concerned two students who engaged in sexually explicit behavior, also in the classroom.

Upon hearing these reports, we immediately launched an investigation which, to date, suggests that the reports have merit. We have interviewed all the student participants who were implicated, as well as their teacher, and we continue to investigate the matter aggressively. We have contacted all the parents of those students who were identified as being involved. The teacher in the classroom where the acts allegedly occurred will not be reporting to the site, pending the results of further investigation.

As the leader at this school, I apologize for this and assure you that we are collaborating with counselors and parents to provide support to those involved, address any concerns and take whatever actions are necessary to ensure that a similar act does not occur again.

At Markham, we pride ourselves in providing a safe learning environment for all of our children and the events as reported represent an unacceptable lack of supervision. I understand that there is great anger over this news. I am more than willing to discuss any concerns you wish to voice. Should you have further questions about this or other issues at Markham, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Pam Booker
Principal
Markham Elementary