



The Institute for the Development of Young Leaders

Engaging, Educating and Empowering Future Leaders

Dear IDYL Parent(s) and Teachers,

The Institute for the Development of Young Leaders (IDYL), a public charter school within the Durham County public school system, is continually focused on the well-being of our students, their parents, and our staff towards the development to strong leadership skills and education in the Durham community. This includes making sure that you are up-to-date on all relevant events that occur at or related to the school.

As such, on the evening of Monday, February 9, 2015 while transporting students from IDYL, four children were accidentally burned when the radiator of a contracted bus overheated and spilled hot liquids into the rear passenger compartment where children were seated. Four children, whose names we cannot disclose due to privacy regulations and laws, were transported to Duke University Medical Center's emergency department for treatment. Three children sustained injuries that required their transportation to UNC Hospital's burn unit and 1 student was released into the care of their parents. All other passengers on the bus including the driver were medically cleared by EMS at the scene and allowed to board another bus for transportation home. It is our understanding that most of the injuries were sustained to the lower limbs and none were life-threatening. This accident occurred close to the intersection of Angier and Hoover Rds in Durham, NC.

In response to this incident, we immediately dispatched school personnel including the CEO to the accident scene and then to the hospital where parents could be informed and supported as they arrived to comfort their children. We also staffed the school late into the evening so as to answer incoming telephone calls about the accident and to assure that accurate information was distributed in a timely manner to all parents. Parents whose children were directly affected by the accident were contacted immediately by telephone and several responded to the accident scene.

We note that our transportation system has an impeccable record of safe transportation of children, and since this is the very first incident, we consider this an isolated circumstance that we will continue to investigate. Within limits of confidentiality, we will also continue to update you on the status of the children involved as additional information is obtained. You should feel free to contact the school's CEO or principal directly to have concerns addressed and your questions answered. We will have psychologists at the school on the morning of 2/10/2015 in case any students or parents require assistance, and we plan an open forum for parent to discuss this incident and provide updates later in the week.

We lastly asked that you keep the children involved and their parents in your prayers. We certainly wish them a speedy recovery.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Wilson, Principal