



École Élémentaire Michaëlle Jean

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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October 10, 2017

Dear Parents, Guardians or Caregivers:

I wanted to inform you about the process of testing our water at Michaëlle Jean for lead, in case you had read the article in either the Hamilton Spectator or Toronto Star about high lead levels found in schools within Hamilton.

Under *Ontario Regulation 243/07 of the Safe Drinking Water Act*, all school boards are required to test each schools water annually to monitor lead levels. Acceptable lead levels are to be less than 10 parts per billion.

The July 2016 test at Michaëlle Jean had exceeded the acceptable lead levels set by the province. A repeat test was done immediately and the findings showed the levels were within acceptable levels. The water was tested during the summer break, where the system sat unused for a period of time, which does not reflect our normal operations during the school year. Before we open the school each day, we conduct extensive flushing through the system and then again at each individual drinking water fixture.

I want to ensure you that we are committed to maintaining Michaëlle Jean as a safe quality learning and teaching environment for our students and staff. We do this by following the process outlined in *Ontario Regulation 243/07 of the Safe Drinking Water Act* when lead levels exceed provincial limits. This includes:

- Notifying the Medical Officer of Health, the ministry's Spills Action Centre, and the Ministry of Education.
- Immediately take corrective actions until the issue is resolved by the requirements of Ontario Regulation 243/07 and/or as directed by the Medical Officer of Health.
- Once corrective actions are taken, and the issue is resolved, notify the Medical Officer of Health, the ministry's Spills Action Centre, and the Ministry of Education

I would like to thank you for your understanding and want to reassure you of our commitment to providing safe drinking water for students and staff at Michaëlle Jean.

If you have any questions, please review the attached fact sheet, or contact me at 905-692-5436.

Sincerely,

Biljana Arsovic
Principal