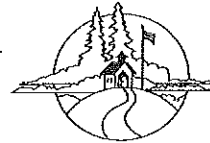


VERNONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 47J

www.vernonia.k12.or.us



April 28, 2017

Dear Parents,

Yesterday afternoon a student notified a staff member that there was a concerning message written in a Middle School girls' bathroom stall. The staff member confirmed the report, and notified administration. The incident resulted in the evacuation of all students to the parking lot, while police swept the building.

All staff and students were safe. There was nothing of concern found by police. Our practiced school emergency procedures were followed, and they worked.

As this incident occurred very close to regular dismissal time we took the following actions:

- Administration was notified.
- A short investigation confirmed that there was writing which caused potential concern for student and staff safety, the source of the writing is still under investigation.
- Superintendent Miller announced a fire drill and the building was evacuated and cleared.
- Police were notified of the situation
- All students and staff were accounted for, and the building secured, through our regular evacuation procedures, as law enforcement (local, county and state) arrived, and began searching the building.
- No entry into the building was allowed until permission was granted from on-scene law enforcement. This permission was not granted until after students left.
- School buses arrived for their regular routes at their regular times.
- No other vehicles were allowed on campus.
- Students were dismissed in the following order:
 - Any parents picking up their students remained at the campus entrance. Staff radioed for their children who were escorted to their parents from the evacuation area, by another staff member.
 - Bus students were escorted to their buses by a staff member, with elementary students placed first, then middle school, then high school.
 - Students walking east of campus were released.
 - Buses left for their routes.
 - Student drivers were allowed to drive home.
 - Students walking west of campus were released.
 - Parents of students involved with cancelled after school activities were notified and came to pick their students up early.
- Staff remained until all students were safely accounted for.
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- The first “All Call/Phone Call” was sent to parents from the District, notifying them of the situation.
- Police eventually cleared the building for reentry, having found nothing of concern through their search.
- Staff was able to reenter the building, and work or obtain their car keys for departure.
- The second “All Call/Phone Call” was sent to parents from the District, sharing that school would be in session today.

Our investigation, and law enforcement’s investigation, into finding the source of the writing is on-going.

The actual writing did not initially appear to be imminent, or credible, but as with all situations *the safety of our students and staff is our primary mission*, and the preceding actions were taken.

Police concluded there was no imminent, credible threat to students or the school, and thus the decision was made to continue on with our normal schedule, today.

I want to thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation during this situation. None of us want to have to deal with these types of actions, but again the safety of our students warrants extreme caution in these situations.

I also want to acknowledge our staff, who as always, has your students’ well-being, care and safety as their number one concern. They really did an outstanding job in making sure each student was safe, and accounted for.

If you have questions or concerns, please call me at 503-429-5891.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Aaron Miller
Superintendent

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