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121 FAIRVIEW AVENUE
VERONA, NEW JERSEY 07044

SUPT.(973) 571-2029 - BUS. ADM.(973) 571-2029
973-571-6779

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July 24, 2013

From: Paul McDevitt, Director of Facilities

To: All Staff, Students, Parents and Community Members

Subject: **IPM update regarding poison ivy and weed control**

In June a IPM notification was given to notify the public regarding a herbicide application that was to take place at FN Brown Elementary in attempt to reduce the presence of poison ivy at that school. The application was cancelled due to rain.

Since that time we have found an organic alternative, horticultural vinegar, to use in place of Round Up or other chemical based herbicides. Although horticultural vinegar is an organic product and notification of its application is not required, I still wanted to provide notice that we will be testing this product for its effectiveness at various locations in the school district.

If you see a Board of Education employee using a spray dispenser on either weeds or poison ivy, please know that this is the horticultural vinegar being applied and not a chemical based weed killer. The Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for horticultural vinegar will be posted on the Buildings and Grounds page of the district website.

If these test applications prove successful we will be utilizing the vinegar product in the future in the attempt to control poison ivy and weeds.

If there are any questions regarding this memo, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or by phone. I may be reached by email at pmcdevitt@veronaschools.org or by phone at (973) 239-1845.

Thank you,

Paul McDevitt