**Important Notice**

**School Drinking Water Being Tested for Lead**

Dear Parents and Community Members,

We’re pleased to let you know that our school will be testing for lead in school drinking water fountains and faucets. The Rhode Island General Assembly has advised testing to be sure that drinking water in schools is as safe as possible. This is NOT cause for alarm. Testing is a routine way to learn about the safety of our drinking water.

**How and when will drinking water tests be done?**

* The Rhode Island Department of Health and water quality experts at the University of Rhode Island are in charge of the testing. They will work with school personnel to collect water samples from drinking water outlets used most often by our students.   
  A state-certified Rhode Island lab will analyze the water samples.
* Testing in schools will take place between January and March, 2017. We will share results as soon as we have them.

**Why is testing for lead important?**

* Lead is not naturally found in water. Most lead in water results from wearing away of metal in old pipes, lead-based solder, or brass fittings on drinking water outlets.
* Lead in drinking water can cause lead poisoning and long-term health problems. The effects are most serious for babies and young children.
* Drinking water is rarely the primary cause of lead, but we want to keep our children as safe as possible.

**What happens if lead levels are above the ‘action level’?**

* The U.S. Environment Protection Agency set an ‘action level’ for lead in drinking water that we will use. If any drinking water outlets measure above this level, we will take action. The Rhode Island Department of Health will assist us.
* We will let everyone know the results of our testing⎯school personnel, parents, the community, and the General Assembly. Results from all school testing will be posted on the Rhode Island Department of Health website: http://health.ri.gov/programs/detail.php?pgm\_id=126/

**How can I learn more?**

* If you are looking for scientific information about lead in school drinking water, check these 2 national reports:
  + http://web.uri.edu/nemo/files/toolkit\_leadschools\_guide\_3ts\_leadschools.pdf
  + http://web.uri.edu/nemo/files/Managing-Lead-in-Drinking-Water.pdf
* If you have questions or concerns about our school testing, contact:

<School to insert contact person and contact info here>