

WANAQUE

More asbestos is discovered at Haskell School this month

Letter available on school web site

BY TERESA EDMOND
Staff Writer

More asbestos has been discovered underneath the classroom unit ventilators at Haskell School but recent air test results "were clean" and without sign of health risk, Business Administrator Joseph Kelly said.

The asbestos, a mineral fiber in some construction material that can pose a health danger, was discovered earlier this month as the school district embarked upon renovating the classrooms at Wanaque and Haskell elementary schools. All of the 50 or so classrooms in each of the schools will be renovated, with four classrooms renovated over a period of two weeks each. Epic Management Inc. of Piscataway oversees the renovations.

To calm possible concerns about the asbestos, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Richard Weisenfeld released a letter to the Haskell

community on the school district's web site at wanaque.k12.nj.us. In the letter, Weisenfeld assured the Haskell community the district is "complying with all such regulations and procedures" during the asbestos removal or abatement.

"It is important to note also that, as this work will be done after school hours, nobody other than the asbestos contractors will be allowed in the building while the work is being done or before the results of the air tests are made known," Weisenfeld wrote.

"Bako Construction, located in Totowa, is performing this month's abatement for about \$25,000, according to Kelly. The district will hire a second firm - the Trenton-based Environmental Remediation and Management - to supervise the removal and test building air quality.

Haskell School went through two asbestos abatements last August. ECI, a subcontractor of the district's general contractor Jay Pisa, conducted both Haskell asbestos-removal projects as part of last summer's renovations to Haskell and Wanaque elementary schools.

The company removed asbestos from Haskell School's plaster walls on Aug. 4 and abated asbestos for the second time from the school's tile floors on Aug. 19 and 20.

Test results from the August abatement projects revealed that the removed asbestos was not the kind that crumbles easily because the material was sealed in plaster and underneath the tiles. The material is not considered to be the airborne type that could pose health consequences.

Exposure to asbestos could lead to diseases like lung cancer and mesothelioma, a cancer of the lining of the chest and abdominal cavity.

Construction update

In addition to this month's asbestos discovery at Haskell School, Weisenfeld wrote that the district has taken precautions in ensuring the community's overall welfare during the standard classroom construction.

"This (the renovation project) is a challenging situation for the students and the teachers," Weisenfeld wrote, "but it is progressing well, all things considered."

To keep classes in session during the renovations, John Brennan and Lynda D'Angiolillo, the principals of the Wanaque and Haskell schools, respectively, freed up four "swing space" classrooms in each school. The students are transferred from their regular classrooms to these swing spaces, where the students will stay while construction is underway. The original classrooms are closed off to keep the dust in.

Contractors will revamp a group of four classrooms two weeks at a time. Once renovations are complete, students and teachers will move back to their original classrooms, and another four classrooms will be closed off while students stay in the swing space classrooms. Renovations include installation of heating and air conditioning systems, new ceilings and lighting, and new computer data connections. New windows and new communications equipment will come later, according to Weisenfeld's letter.

Teresa Edmond's e-mail address is edmond@northjersey.com.

Municipal Meeting

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Ringwood: Board of Education, 7:30 p.m., middle school media center

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Bloomingtondale: Borough Council, 7 p.m., Borough Hall

Lincoln Park: Board of Education, 7:30 p.m., middle school media center

Pequannock: Council, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Building

Wanaque/Ringwood: Lakeland Regional H.S. Board of Education, 8 p.m., high school media center

Ringwood: Council, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Building

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Pompton Lakes: Borough Council, 7:30 p.m., Borough Hall

West Milford: Township Council, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Building

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Kinnelon: School Board, 8 p.m., Borough Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

Lincoln Park: Borough Council, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Building

Pequannock: School Board, 7 p.m., PTHS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER

Butler: Butler Board of Education, 7:30 p.m., Borough Hall

West Milford: Township Board, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Building

THURSDAY, DECEMBER

Riverdale: Zoning Board, 8 p.m., Borough Hall

MONDAY, DECEMBER

Wanaque: Borough Council, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Building

TUESDAY, DECEMBER

Lincoln Park: Board of Education, 7:30 p.m., middle school center

Pequannock: Council, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Building

West Milford: Board of Education, 8 p.m., Westbrook Sch. Center

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER

Riverdale: Board of Education, 7:30 p.m., Riverdale Sc. Library

West Milford: Township Board, 7:30 p.m., Municipal Building

THURSDAY, DECEMBER

Butler: Board of Education, 7:30 p.m., high school library

SUBURBAN TRENDS

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TALKING TURKEY



JOE SARNO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Center for Food Action Northwest collected food at the Community Presbyterian Church in Ringwood last Friday. Donations like food baskets and supermarket gift certificates will help out people during the Thanksgiving holiday. Meg Scinto (l.) and Elaine Papa (r.) load turkeys and other goods.

PEQUANNOCK

Breath-alcohol test put to the test

The breath-alcohol test, which the Board of Education voted to allow at school dances and events last month, was put into practice for the first time at the high school's Homecoming Dance on Friday night.

This was the first time the breath-alcohol test was administered, and according to Megan Hollberg, president of the Board of Education, it went very well.

"There were no positive readings and the dance was well attended," Hollberg said.

She averaged the attendance at 300 students, all of whom were required to present a signed permission slip before being allowed to enter the dance. This permission slip not only gave students permission to attend the event; it also

gave administrators permission to administer the breath-alcohol test.

Hollberg explained that there were two lines set up for students upon entering the school. One line chose students at random to be tested, whereas the other "EZ Pass" line consisted of students who voluntarily took the test. Those students in the "EZ Pass" line simply spoke into a sensor, and when no alcohol was discovered, were allowed right in.

"This was a quicker way for students to gain access to the dance," Hollberg said.

Several administrators, who received training on the correct way to operate the machines prior to the Homecoming Dance, were present to give the breath-alcohol tests to students. Hollberg said that the entire process seemed to run very smoothly and that the district plans to continue to use the breath-alcohol tests in the future.

-April Plantamura

BLOOMINGDALE

Home burglarized

A Woodward Avenue home was burglarized Friday, Nov. 16 while the residents were not home, Detective Sgt. Steve Caputo said.

The home's occupants had left the house in the early evening and returned around 9 p.m. to find one of the bedrooms had been ransacked, police said.

After taking stock of their possessions, the residents discovered that several pieces of jewelry and cash had been taken from the bedroom.

Police determined that the suspect or suspects had forced entry into the house through a first floor window on the rear of the house, Sgt. Caputo said, and transported the booty out using a pillowcase.

Assisting the police detective bureau at the scene were Bloomingtondale Patrolmen Marc Loveland

and Robert Grabowski and detectives from the Passaic County Sheriff's Department, including K-9 Officer Travis Ruffo, Crime Scene Investigator Nelson Carrasquillo and Capt. Charles Tucker.

-Rebecca Scanlon

RIVERDALE

Soldier visits home for the holiday

The Borough Council held a special presentation to honor Chris Scinlingo during its Nov. 19 meeting. Scinlingo is a 2005 graduate of Pompton Lakes High School. He recently returned from Iraq and will be home for 16 days before going off to Japan and possibly back to Iraq in the spring.

-Leslie Scott

Shift gears to drive with winter in mind

NORTH JERSEY - With the onset of winter, the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club reminds motorists to be especially careful on the roads.

According to AAA, safety experts warn

drivers to:

- Increase your scanning and following distances. Drivers should look at least 20-30 seconds ahead and leave a 4-6 second gap between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.

- Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference between the amount of force needed to start moving from a full stop versus the amount needed to increase speed while still extra time to slow for a stoplight.