

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Friday night, at the Teen Center event, a student was arrested for assault by means of a dangerous weapon (a jack knife). Assault means to place someone in fear of bodily harm. The police are still investigating and will work with Middle School and Teen Center Administration as they conduct their investigation.

The police have concluded that this is an isolated incident. There is no reason to believe that this incident represents a threat to the safety of the students and faculty of the Curtis Middle School.

The students involved in this incident are all members of our school community. As always, I am concerned about the circulation of rumors and misinformation. Please speak with your child about their responsibility to respect the privacy of all the parties involved.

Teachers will speak with students in homeroom about the incident as I have presented it to you and reiterate that they are safe at school. At some point during the day, guidance counselors and administrators will meet with students in small groups to remind them about a talk we had a week and a half ago about the laws which govern possession of weapons, assault (as defined above) and threats when they occur in the school and at school related events, such as those sponsored by the Teen Center. Sudbury Police Chief Fadgen has offered to send Police Officers to the school to join the counselors and administrators in their talks with students. I welcome and appreciate his offer.

In my letter on January 23, I wrote:

It is important to remind the members of our school community that both the Sudbury Police and the Sudbury Public Schools have a zero tolerance policy for the possession of a weapon. Our policy can be found on page 29 of the Sudbury Public Schools Students Handbook and is predicated on state law. Students found in possession of a weapon or illegal substance in school or on the bus are immediately referred to the Sudbury Police and their parents are contacted. In line with this, we also have a zero tolerance policy for any threats that are made to students or staff during the school day or on the bus. Again, we notify the Sudbury Police and the parents of the students involved. In addition to any legal

consequences that may ensue, students may also be assigned consequences by school administration for possession of a weapon or for making threats verbally or via email. All threats will be taken seriously and there will be serious and appropriate consequences for such offenses.

In less than a month I have had to inform you about a bullet that was found on a bus, a jack knife that was found on a bus and now this. I continue to tell you that this is a safe place for your child and I still hold that to be true because of the safeguards we take to keep the school secure and because of the number of students here who will tell an adult about issues of concern to them. As we move forward, we will continue to remind student of their responsibility to their own safety and the safety of others. We need your help. Please speak with your child about safety inside and outside of school. Please tell your child not to "kid" about weapons or threats. They will be reported to the police and there will be serious consequences. As always, thank you for your help and please do not hesitate to contact me with questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

Kathy Codianne
Principal
Ephraim Curtis Middle School
978-443-1071, ext. 1101