

Thought you might find this interesting. I have heard Dr. Philip Landrigan, Chairman of Mount Sinai's Preventative Medicine Dept and Director of the Children's Environmental Health Center say that any lead is unacceptable.

-Tanya

Subject: Lower School Play Area



RYE COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
Message sent - 10/19/2009
LS Play Area Letter

Dear RCDS Parents,

I am writing to inform you of the School's decision to temporarily close the Lower School synthetic turf play area.

Recently the health and safety of synthetic turf has become a subject of nationwide discussion both in the news and among parents of school-age children. A focus of this concern is the presence of lead in the crumb rubber infill and/or the pigment used in the manufacturing process to color the synthetic turf fibers. Although the presence of lead in the crumb rubber or the pigment of the fibers does not necessarily mean that there is lead exposure that is transferable to people or the environment, we are taking a cautious approach in addressing this matter involving the Lower School play area.

We recently conducted sample tests of the crumb rubber and turf fibers of the Lower School play area, using a process designed to test for whole lead content. We chose to sample the Lower School play area both because of its age (7 years) and its use by young children. The results of the preliminary tests showed lead concentrations below the established guidance level in the crumb rubber and above the guidance level in the pigment of turf fibers.

Given the preliminary fiber test results, we have decided to immediately conduct further testing of the Lower School play area that will determine whether the lead found in the turf fibers is transferable to people or to the environment. The School has commissioned this testing by a leading, independent environmental engineering company using standards developed by the state of California.

In light of the good physical condition of the Lower School play area and information from the manufacturer (FieldTurf), as well as synthetic turf reports from the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Centers for Disease Control, we do not expect to find an unsafe condition involving lead exposure. Nonetheless, as a precaution, we will not allow students to use the Lower School synthetic turf play area while we conduct these further tests and until we receive the results.

We will keep you posted on the findings of this further testing. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this matter. Thank you for your understanding. Scott Nelson

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