



Washington Oak School
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Dr. Donna M. Raptakis, Principal

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November 4, 2011

Dear Parents,

I am writing this letter to clarify a situation that you might have heard about that occurred on Tuesday, November 1st. A few of our students in grade five reported that a substitute teacher had spoken to them about Afghanistan and their cultural differences. Some of the comments made were not suitable for elementary level children. As word of this spread, the story changed many times and some of the girls reported things that occurred between the substitute and them. Those allegations have since been recanted. After an extensive investigation with the students involved, it has been determined that the only thing this substitute did in fact do, was to utilize a higher level of teaching that would have been appropriate for students at the middle and high school level regarding the topics discussed.

Mrs. Daniels and I have spoken to many students and parents regarding this issue. I have also met with Mr. Convery and the Coventry Police Department who are aware of this matter. It has been determined that nothing inappropriate occurred other than the context of the material of the lesson presented.

Yesterday afternoon I spoke with all of the children in the pod in grades 4 and 5 with Mrs. Daniels. I clarified what had happened and explained to the children that if they do in fact feel uncomfortable, they are to come to me with their concerns and I will investigate the situation immediately. **I personally took this matter very seriously and want to assure you that your children were and are always safe at Washington Oak School.**

Cordially,
Your Principal,
Dr. Donna M. Raptakis☺