



The Gow School

July 2020

Parents/Guardians, Faculty & Staff,

As the Gow School considers all matters pertaining to the health and safety of our community to be of the highest concern, I take this opportunity to communicate our policy regarding the management of pests.

Pests may pose significant threats to the health and safety of students and school staff, as well as to the integrity of school buildings and grounds. Pesticides used to manage pests can similarly endanger human health and welfare, cause adverse environmental impacts and interfere with the use of school facilities. It is the goal of The Gow School to manage pests to prevent unacceptable impacts while strictly limiting the use of chemical applications. In all pest management decisions, the health and safety of students and staff will be the primary consideration.

The Gow School continues to utilize an integrated pest management strategy to accomplish these goals. Primary emphasis has been on long-term prevention of pest problems by maintaining conditions that are not conducive for the development of problem infestations. This includes inspection, sanitation and physical maintenance of the school buildings and grounds, and proper education for all members of the school community.

Pesticide applications, on the Gow School campus, will be performed in accordance with Section 409-K of the Education Law and Section 390-G of the Social Services Law, only when other preventative and non-chemical control measures have been shown to be unavailable, infeasible or ineffective. Containerized baits, crack and crevice treatments and spot treatment of problem areas will be the preferred alternative, after a determination has been made that pesticide use is unavoidable.

If pesticides must be used, all applications will be performed by a certified pesticide applicator, under the supervision of Gow School personnel. Notification will be provided to the school community prior to, during, and after the application on a site-specific basis. All records will be maintained within the Buildings & Grounds office.

Sincerely,

Marty O'Connor
Director of Buildings and Grounds