

# *Daniel Butler Elementary School*

90 White Street  
Belmont, Massachusetts 02478  
617.993.5550

Michael E. McAllister  
Principal

November 2, 2011

Dear Daniel Butler School Families,

This evening our Superintendent, Dr. Kingston, met with the Butler Community to address ongoing concerns about the safety of the Butler playground. I write to update you about that meeting and our plan of action moving forward.

Because of concerns about the safety of the equipment for use by children, Dr. Kingston informed us that the Butler playground must be closed until some major mitigation occurs. He is also prohibiting Winn Brook students from using the playground next to that school. We would like you to know what we are doing at Butler to address this news and ensure that students remain safe on our grounds at all times:

- Effective Thursday 11/3 @ 7:00am the facilities department will be closing off the playground and swings from student use. They will use yellow tape temporarily.
- Friday morning a fencing company will arrive and erect a chain link perimeter around the entire playground area to keep it safe after school hours.
- For recess we will still utilize the new basketball courts, the hardtop areas, and the fields. We will continue to provide students with balls, frisbees, and rackets to play with.
- We will be consulting with a different playground inspector from a company in Connecticut to advise us about the various costs of mitigation for the Butler equipment. We expect this period to last two to three weeks.
- Once we receive the mitigation plan from the consultant, we will inform you of the district's plan moving forward. Our hope is to be able to fix some equipment to expected safety standards and reopen much of the structure, if possible.
- It is important to note that, as much as possible, we are maintaining the normal school routine in order to provide a sense of security and stability for students

Attached to this message please find the original inspection report from the certified playground safety inspector.

It is important to note that although the inspection of the playground was led by the District Administration and not the New Playground Committee, we have been watching it closely. **I want to assure anyone who has donated to the new playground fund, or anyone who is still considering donating to it, that their money will remain dedicated to new structures and will not be put towards repairing the existing playground.** We all understand that such a

decision is not an easy or popular one, but it is the right one as it is made with the safety of students in mind.

If you have additional questions or concerns please contact me at school. My office is always open to you.

Respectfully,

Michael E. McAllister