



**PUBLIC SCHOOL 229 QUEENS**

**Emanuel Kaplan School**

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Dear Member of P.S. 229 Community,

In February 2011, New York City announced a comprehensive plan to increase the energy efficiency and environmental quality of NYC schools. An important aspect of the plan is to address polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) present in many fluorescent lighting fixtures installed in our school buildings between 1950 and 1978. We have asked our custodian engineers to conduct regular visual inspections of all relevant lighting fixtures to identify PCB-containing material that may have leaked from the lighting ballast onto other parts of the fixture. Inspections also may be undertaken in response to a report from the school community of a potential lighting ballast leak.

As a result of a recent inspection, signs of visible stains have been observed and reported in the building where your child goes to school. **Upon further review, it has been confirmed that the ballasts in the inspected lighting fixtures do not currently contain PCBs.** However, based on the observed stains the lighting fixture is assumed to have previously contained a leaking PCB ballast. As a result, the lighting fixture was removed and will be replaced with a unit that does not contain PCBs.

As the City continues to implement its program to replace all lighting fixtures that may contain PCBs, the DOE will keep the City's public school community updated as to its progress.

Sincerely,

Sibylle Ajwani, Ed.D.  
Principal