

Tools for Schools/Indoor Air Quality Updates
2010-2011 School Year
by JoAnn Duncan

October 2010

Did you know ... that all eight schools in the district have a Tools for Schools (TFS) Team made up of at least one administrator, teacher, school nurse, head custodian and parent? The TFS teams meet at least twice per year at each school (in the fall and spring) to have a meeting and do a walkthrough of the building to check for any potential Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) issues such as moisture incursion, odors, mold growth, cleanliness issues, evidence of pests, air flow (ventilation) issues, thermal comfort issues, etc. The team records the findings on a walkthrough spreadsheet and minutes are taken at each meeting. These documents, which are the running IAQ record for each building, are kept in a TFS binder at each school either in the nurse's office or administrator's office together with the TFS kit. If you have any IAQ concerns, please contact a team member at your school. There is a full team member list on the Westport District website at www.westport.k12.ct.us. Scroll down on the left and click on Tools for Schools.

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Did you know... that Westport Public Schools won a National EPA Excellence Award last year for its progress in improving Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) in the schools as well as for its role in developing policies and procedures to help ensure these improvements? The Policies and Procedures are posted on the district website (www.westport.k12.ct.us) (under Tools for Schools) as well as filed in the Tools for Schools (TFS) binder at each school. They include: IAQ Control and Improvement Procedures September 7, 2009, Standard Cleaning Procedures September 8, 2010 and HVAC Preventive Maintenance Procedures March 9, 2009.

December 2010

Did you know... that Westport Public Schools uses only Green Cleaning products certified by a third party. The district uses micro fiber rags and mops in its cleaning practices. Only the district approved cleaning products are allowed in the schools/classrooms. No products are allowed to be used that are from home. This ensures all standards are being met for Green Cleaning and MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) sheets are available for all products in the schools. This also ensures that all products are fragrance free. No air fresheners, plug ins, personal care or cleaning products with fragrances are allowed in the schools. Fragrances are generated by a variety of chemicals and can cause allergic responses and trigger asthma symptoms in some individuals. Therefore, teachers and staff are asked to refrain from the use of products that contain fragrances such as perfumes and hand lotions. Products without fragrances are better for the environment in general and individuals with sensitivity in particular.