



November 9, 2011

Dear Parents:

As you may know, former Yates Mill PE teacher John Skatrud was recently sentenced to an eleven (11) to seventeen (17) year prison term after pleading guilty to several criminal counts primarily related to taking inappropriate photographs of students. I am writing to the school community now because we have recently received information that suggests there may be a limited number of additional students who were inappropriately photographed. The school system wants to do everything it possibly can to ensure that any student who was inappropriately photographed by Mr. Skatrud receives the available information and appropriate support.

John Skatrud was a PE teacher at Yates Mill from August 2008-February 2010. On February 16, 2010, Mr. Skatrud was arrested and charged with two counts of indecent liberties with a child. On that same date, Mr. Skatrud resigned his teaching position with the school system. After he was arrested and charged, he did not return to the classroom. In June 2010, Mr. Skatrud was charged with two additional counts of indecent liberties with a child and a single count of sexual offense with a child.

The school system worked cooperatively with the District Attorney's office throughout the investigation and offered assistance when appropriate. Because of the cooperative relationship we have with the District Attorney's office, one of our school board attorneys was allowed by the State Bureau of Investigation to view additional inappropriate photographs taken by Mr. Skatrud. Please know that law enforcement did not file charges based on these additional photographs and the school system just recently obtained this new information. We have worked with the SBI and DA's office in an attempt to identify the students, however some of the photos are extremely blurry or do not show any facial features. Where it has been possible to identify students, parents have already been notified.

It is our belief that there may still be a limited number of children who were photographed in an inappropriate manner by Mr. Skatrud that have not been identified by the SBI/DA's office. We are providing this information to you so that you can carefully consider whether you want to discuss this situation with your child in an attempt to determine whether he/she may have been photographed in an inappropriate manner or otherwise treated inappropriately by Mr. Skatrud during the time he was at Yates Mill. It is our hope that this can be done in a manner that will not cause any alarm to your child if none is warranted.

On behalf of the entire Yates Mill family, please understand that the safety and well-being of all of our children is our foremost concern day-in and day-out. While I was not the principal at the time of these events, I stand ready to provide you and your student(s) the full support of our guidance office. We appreciate your careful consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Anne Marie Johnson
Principal