

Dear Emerson-Bandini Families:

I hope that you are all enjoying your spring break. We look forward to seeing you back at school on April 26.

I wanted to reach out because of a recent story that appeared on the news about the water issues at the Emerson campus of Emerson-Bandini. The story implied that the district was aware of possible water contamination months ago, but did not take sufficient action to safeguard our children.

I want to reassure you that the information is inaccurate.

When the school became aware of potential water contamination on the Emerson campus, which is shared with San Diego Cooperative Charter School 2, the concern was communicated to the Physical Plant Operations Division and the district's Safety Office. The district proceeded with an abundance of caution and on the same day, secured the drinking water at Emerson and San Diego Cooperative Charter School 2. Multiple bottled-water dispensers and cups were provided to the campus, including the charter school. An investigation was immediately launched, including testing of the water supply.

We repeatedly requested that students and staff avoid drinking the water. We posted signs on the drinking fountains asking people not to drink the water. We announced it at parent meetings and announced it every Monday at our weekly school assemblies. An email was sent to parents on Feb. 10 and a letter was also sent home with students on Friday, March 24, with an update to parents.

While the source of the original contamination has been resolved and retesting has confirmed it is no longer detected, district and city staff are now working to identify and remedy the source of lead contamination.

Our school and the district are taking every precaution possible to ensure that our students are safe. I will update you on the situation when we get closer to returning from spring break.

Sincerely,

Principal Heather Harris