

April 18, 2019

Greetings McDonald Parents,

As we get ready for a long weekend I thought it would be a good idea to share with you information regarding a very unfortunate dialogue that took place today in the media center.

This afternoon, fifth grade students were engaged in a research assignment. A couple of students were researching the State of Palestine. When asking an adult staff member in the room for a book on Palestine the adult made several inappropriate comments to the students regarding the people of Palestine. The students shared what they heard with another adult staff member in the room who informed me of what had occurred.

I interviewed the adult who made the comment. That person will not be in school pending the outcome of a formal investigation by our Human Resource Department.

Unfortunately most of the 5th graders in the class heard these comments. Our staff and myself did talk with the students regarding the comments that were made to assure them that this is not the behavior we expect from the staff in our school.

I felt that it was important to share this accurate and timely information with all of our McDonald community to avoid any rumors, gossip, or exaggerations that can sometimes occur on social media. All of us at McDonald Elementary work very hard to create an environment in our school that is welcoming to all, safe, and free of prejudice and discrimination. I'm sure those of you who are regular visitors to our school know this is how we operate. It is very unfortunate when an isolated incident such as today's, reminds us that we must always be vigilant in our efforts to educate and inform.

I assure you that the entire staff at McDonald is committed to working with the community to make sure our school remains a safe and welcoming environment for all. If parents have any questions about today's events, please contact me at 827-6704 or e-mail at modicaa@dearbornschools.org.

Sincerely,

Amy Modica
Principal
McDonald Elementary