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Valencia F. Douglas, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

October 17, 2006

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we continue to be diligent in ensuring the safety of our students and staff I believe it is important to update you about several issues that have arisen during the past two weeks.

Safety/Security Drills: The security practice school "lockdown" drills held on October 6, which you previously received information about, went very smoothly. In conjunction with the BOCES Safety Division, the evaluations of the drill are being reviewed and on Superintendent's Conference Day, at the end of the month, staff will practice more safety and security procedures. In November an unannounced "lockdown" drill will be held to reinforce the process. My compliments to the staff and students for taking the drills seriously and performing so well.

At the Middle and High Schools: Two incidents have recently taken place near the Waldron Apartments concerning female students walking to and from school. In one case a man tried to grab a girl's hand, and in the other, a man got out of a car and attempted to engage two girls in a conversation. In both situations the girls continued to move away and are fine. Both incidents have been reported to the police and parents. Please review with your children the various things they can do to stay safe while walking to and from school and make sure we have your most up to date contact information on file. For your information, the following website, www.find-missing-children.org (*Child Protection Education of America*) has excellent safety tips.

In an unusual situation at the High School last week, three young men, one not a Nyack student, interrupted instruction by posturing and using obscene language in an aggressive manner. When school security was called, the young men fled the building, and were shortly thereafter apprehended. A brief lockdown of the building was held until the young men were identified. The High School students involved have been disciplined according to the District's Code of Conduct and the police have charged the other male.

A statement was made the same day on the school's public address system regarding students being sensitive in their wearing of clothing, such as bandanas and beads, which could be construed as being associated with certain groups. Please be assured that there is no gang activity at the High School and this clothing awareness is a precautionary measure that will be more fully explained in a mailing to High School parents.

The District will continue to review, and adjust our safety measures when appropriate. Please remind your children to report any safety concerns they have to you and/or to adults in their schools. If you have any questions about any of these matters please call your building principal or the Public Information Office 353-7013.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding as we join hands to provide the best school learning environment.

Sincerely,

Valencia F. Douglas, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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***If you have not sent in your updated EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION please do so immediately.
It is essential to District safety plans that the most accurate information is on file.
If you need a copy of the form sent in September please call the Public Information Office, 353-7013.***