

2-1-24

**Subject: Enhancing School Safety with a Special Visit**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. At Isna Wica Owayawa, our top priority is always the safety and well-being of our students. We constantly seek ways to maintain a secure and positive learning environment for all. In line with this commitment, I am excited to share an upcoming initiative aimed at improving our school's safety measures.

We are in the process of arranging for a specially trained K9 (drug dog) to visit our school. During the canine visit to the School, the K9 and the OST DPS K9 officer will be conducting an inspection of the School for the presence of drugs. If the dog alerts at any school location, locker, desk, or personal item, a search will be conducted to ensure there are no illegal drugs in the School. This proactive step is part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that our school remains a safe and drug-free environment. It is important to emphasize that this is a preventive measure, reflecting our dedication to upholding a secure atmosphere where our students can learn and thrive without concern.

**Key Points About the Visits:**

- **Educational Opportunity:** The visit will also serve as an educational experience for our students. They will have the chance to learn about the important role of service dogs in community safety.
- **Professional Handling:** The drug detection dog will be accompanied by a trained and experienced handler at all times. This ensures the visit will be conducted professionally, safely, and respectfully.
- **Respect for Privacy:** We want to reassure you that the privacy and dignity of all our students and staff will be respected during this process. If the K9 alerts at any locker, either school location or any personal property of any staff or students, the students and staff will be moved from the location, or the personal property will be moved from the location for search. If any student personal property of a student alerts the K9, the parent or guardian will be notified if possible, and the search will not be conducted in public.
- **No Disruption to Learning:** The visit will be carefully planned to minimize disruption to our school day and learning activities.
- **Random Visits:** Unscheduled, random visits will happen throughout the school year.

This initiative is part of our broader commitment to fostering a secure environment for our students. We believe in taking proactive measures to prevent issues before they arise. It is also a wonderful opportunity for our students to see the positive impact that trained service animals can have in our communities.

We understand that the safety of your child(ren) is your utmost concern, and it is ours as well. We invite you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding this initiative. Your support and understanding in our shared mission to create a safe learning space for our students are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued partnership and support in ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for our children to learn and grow.

Warm regards,

[Lisa Yellow Horse](#)

**Principal**

**Isna Wica Owayawa**

**605-867-6875**