



ALBION CENTRAL SCHOOL

DISTRICT OFFICE

324 East Avenue
Albion, New York 14411
Tel: 585-589-2050
Fax: 585-589-2059
www.albionk12.org

January 9, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians:

In late May, the Albion Teachers' Association leadership shared with administrators concern about the number of women who work in the Elementary School who have been diagnosed with breast cancer. The District shared the known number of diagnoses, as well as the number of employees in the building, with our school physician. The physician calculated the ratio for the school, noting that about 5% of the staff population employed during the period of those diagnoses had, unfortunately, been identified with breast cancer. The doctor went on to share that nationally, approximately 12.5% of women will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

In addition, the doctor noted that, while there is interest by researchers into the question of whether environmental factors such as some plastics, certain cosmetics and personal care products, pesticides, and PCBs cause breast cancer, the American Cancer Society has written, "The issue causes a great deal of public concern, but at this time research does not show a clear link between breast cancer risk and exposure to these substances."

During the January 7, 2019 School Board meeting the Teachers' Association shared information, indicating almost 20 cases of breast cancer in current and former elementary staff members over a period of more than 15 years. We have shared this information with experts in the health field at the Orleans County and New York State Health Departments and the Workplace Health and Safety Programs at Cornell University.

At this time, we await guidance from these independent experts to help us in our continuing commitment to support the personal well-being of our students and staff. We will keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Bonnewell
Superintendent of Schools