

HARRY S TRUMAN HIGH SCHOOL

Keri Alfano, Principal



750 Baychester Avenue • Bronx, NY 10475
• <http://bxtrumanhighschool.com>

• Tel: (718) 904-5400
• Twitter: @TrumanHS

• Fax: (718) 904-5502
• [Facebook.com/TrumanHS](https://www.facebook.com/TrumanHS)

April 23, 2015

Dear Parents,

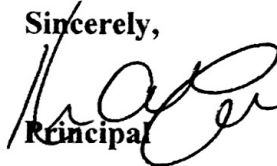
PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) are a group of manmade chemicals that were widely used in building materials and electrical products in the past. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency banned the manufacturing and certain uses of PCBs in 1978, but buildings constructed or renovated between 1950 and 1978, including schools, may still have building materials and electrical products that contain PCBs. Examples of products that may contain PCBs include caulk, paint, glues, plastics, fluorescent lighting ballasts, transformers and capacitors.

On April 22nd a lighting fixture in the gym emitted some smoke. The room was cleared of occupants and ventilated. No leaks were identified. The ballast was inspected and found not to contain PCBs. Based on the actions that were taken, the gym is safe for students and staff to occupy.

In February 2011, New York City announced a comprehensive plan to increase the energy efficiency and environmental quality of NYC schools. An important aspect of the plan is to address PCBs present in many fluorescent lighting fixtures installed in our school buildings between 1950 and 1978.

While we understand concerns regarding the presence of materials containing PCBs in the school building, the City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) has advised that there is no immediate health concern and that health effects from long term exposure to the air in school buildings are unlikely to occur at the PCB levels seen in the NYC schools. Please visit <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/pcb.pdf> for more information on PCBs and to address any questions about health concerns.

Sincerely,


Principal