



NJDOE News

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Commissioner of Education William L. Librera will celebrate Earth Day with students at Marlton Elementary School in Burlington County TODAY, April 22, at 2 p.m.

Commissioner Librera will visit with the second- and third-graders in the school's Ecology Club to discuss the importance of a healthy environment, as well as the value Integrated Pest Management programs bring to schools. He will also participate in a used-sneaker drive and a tree planting on school grounds.

Reporters and photographers are invited and encouraged to attend.

As part of the visit, Commissioner Librera will tour the school's kitchen, which is a prime example of the importance of sound Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs. The Evesham School District community has had successful pesticide programs in place since 1994. IPM programs require school districts to monitor the use of pesticides on school grounds in order to reduce children's exposure to potentially harmful pesticides and help safeguard public health.

Such programs have been in place statewide since December 2002, when Gov. James E. McGreevey signed Senate Bill 137, which required school officials to adopt and implement a policy for each school in a district.

"We have a fundamental responsibility to ensure that New Jersey's school facilities are clean and safe," Gov. McGreevey said when he signed the bill. "Not only are we taking steps to meet that responsibility, but we are doing so in a way that is sensitive to environmental considerations."

Each school is required to designate a coordinator to maintain information about pesticide applications on the school property, act as a contact for inquiries about the school's IPM, and maintain material safety data sheets and labels for all pesticides that are used on the school property.

Marlton Elementary School is located at 190 Tomlinson Mill Road, Marlton, NJ 08053. For more information, please contact the Department of Education Public Information Office at (609) 292-1126.