Dear Parents,

This message is in an effort to keep our community informed about the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) employee who was arrested last week and is now being charged with child molestation. This week, SCCOE released a letter to all school districts in the county outlining how the situation with the arrest of the SCCOE employee unfolded. The letter is attached to this message for your reference.

We ask that parents of students who attended Walden West in the 2013-2014 or 2014-2015 school years talk with their children about this issue and contact the Sheriff’s office right away if you have any information about this person. The Sheriff’s office recommends using non-leading, open-ended questions. If you feel that your child would benefit from speaking to a counselor or psychologist, please let your teacher or school office know.

In addition, we have received requests from parents for more specific information and next steps. As you may already be aware, the employee worked for the SCCOE and law enforcement is conducting the investigation so we are not able to gather information directly. We have also been made aware that the SCCOE is conducting their own investigation into the operations at Walden West. This information is available at www.sccoe.org, under “News & Facts.” We are in contact with both the SCCOE and the Sheriff’s Office and will aid in their investigations if and when we should be called on. We will also continue to pass on information to you as it becomes available to us.

The Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Department has asked anyone with information or questions regarding this case to contact them at (408) 808-4300 or safetaskforce@sheriff.sccgov.org.

We want to reassure you that the safety and security of our students and staff is our highest priority. Should you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. My contact information follows below.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Dericco
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