

October 4, 2011

Dear Underwood Families,

Although we do not in any way blame the sweet dog of one of our Underwood families for the angry wasps near the playground last week, the events of Tuesday morning raised questions about whether or not dogs should be allowed on school property. After investigating past practice of Underwood School and the practices of other schools in the district, we will be implementing a dog-free zone in front of the school moving forward. If you would like to take your four-legged family member on the walk to drop off or pick up your child, please remain in the dog zone on the opposite side of the street from school or past the crosswalk on the same side of the school in front of the playground. We also ask that you do not leave your dogs unattended at any time.

We have children attending Underwood who are both allergic and terrified of dogs. Having dogs in front of our school at arrival and dismissal causes great angst for these children and something we want to avoid. In addition, as we all know, dogs can be unpredictable, especially around people they do not know. Some parents are afraid to take their eyes off younger siblings while dogs are present, causing arrival and dismissal to be a stressful situation. Having dogs across the street or just beyond the crosswalk in the dog zones will ensure a smooth and stress free transition for all children to and from school.

Thank you for your support. Happy and safe travels!

Kathleen Zimmerman  
Principal