

[insert date here]

Smoking Warning for Off Campus Issues

Dear _____,

As you probably know, in October of 2004 the Province of New Brunswick announced a Tobacco Free policy that prohibits smoking on school property. Since there is no longer a smoking area on our campus, those students who continue to smoke have chosen to congregate in fairly large numbers outside the school boundary. This is causing a number of problems at that location, including an increase in litter and interference with traffic.

Your child, _____, has been identified as one of the students going to this area regularly, and I am writing to ask you to discuss with your child the issues of safety, the health risks associated with tobacco use and exposure to second-hand smoke and other obvious difficulties which result when young people gather in large numbers at one location. It might be, in fact, that your child is not actually smoking, but simply going there with friends who do. In such a case, they might be better advised to see their friends on school property once they've returned. The research is quite clear that when young people spend a lot of time with others who smoke, they eventually pick up the habit themselves.

For those students who are smoking we are providing quit-smoking classes throughout the year. It is our hope that eventually none of our students will be victims of this terrible habit and we are seeking your support and assistance in helping us accomplish our goal.

Thank you.

Sincerely,