

March 24, 2022

To All Elm Street School Parents, Students, Families and Staff,

This morning at approximately 8:10 a.m. Elm Street School staff detected the smell of propane gas and the fire alarm system was triggered, resulting in a building evacuation of all staff and students.

Staff and students were temporarily sheltered on school buses and taken off-site as a safety precaution, and ultimately taken to our normal emergency evacuation site - the Vineyard Church in Mechanics Falls.

A Robo Call went out at approximately 8:52 a.m. informing the Elm Street School parents and families of the situation. When we determined this matter was not going to be resolved quickly, it was decided to dismiss the students for the remainder of the day.

Another Robo Call went out at approximately 9:18 a.m. instructing parents to pick up their students at 9:30 a.m. from the Vineyard Church for dismissal for the remainder of the day.

At 10:10 a.m., a third Robo Call went out instructing parents to pick up their students at the Vineyard Church prior to 10:30 a.m.. All students who were not picked up by 10:30 a.m. were taken home via school bus transportation.

The Fire Department and the Gas Company have determined that it is now safe to return to normal school activities at Elm Street School. Accordingly, school will go as planned for tomorrow Friday, March 25, 2022.

We apologize for any inconvenience this emergency situation may have caused to Elm Street School students, parents, families, and staff; but safety of our students and staff are our number one priority in RSU 16 - therefore, being overly cautious will always be our path.

I would like to thank the local fire departments, police departments, the transportation department, school administrators, school staff, students, and the Vineyard Church for the way they responded to this emergency situation.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Healey

Superintendent of Schools