



Casa Blanca Community School

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Dear Casa Blanca Families,

In response to the increase incidents of students bringing drugs and vape devices to school, the Gila River Indian Community Police Department Canine Unit made a visit to the campus today.

Possession of drugs, tobacco products and alcohol by minors is illegal under Gila River Tribal Code:

Tribal Code 5.1211 furnishing drugs to minors.

Tribal Code 5.1207 possession of federally controlled substance

Tribal Code 5.1208 possession of drug paraphernalia (vape device)

The canines were tasked to sweep classrooms for grades 2-5 (Including desks, chairs, cubbies, student jackets) and all common areas including unoccupied restrooms and all play structures. Students viewed the operation from an approved distance under their teacher's close supervision. **The dogs were not allowed to approach the children.**

Parents and guardians will be notified if items associated with their child are identified during the search.

The unit will continue to make unannounced visits to the campus throughout the year. As a school, the counselors and administration are meeting frequently with students about this issue. Our Red Ribbon Week activities are centered on healthy choices that are alternatives to drugs and alcohol. Teachers are working with Gila River Behavioral Health to provide classes on the dangers of vaping and marijuana. We are installing vape detectors and additional security cameras. We are meeting with families at our Family Forums and Parent's Advisory Council to make a space for working together for the safety of our students.

Families, we urge you to check the pockets of all students daily before coming to school. Keep all medications, vape and tobacco products and any other substance that is harmful to students secured away from children and monitor frequently that children cannot access. Talk to your children about the dangers these products pose to them. Urge them not to hold items for other children and to report to their teacher, counselor, or the principal. We can work together to make our school safer and keep our kids healthy and safe.

Respectfully,

Lillian Kim Franklin
Principal
Casa Blanca Community School