

To: Teachers and school staff

From:

End of Year Clean-up for Pest Control

During the week of _____ we will have a school-wide clean-up. *Fill in details of how it will happen such as available boxes, help moving things, incentives like snacks or other incentives for the extra work.)*

All schools in Massachusetts are required, by law, to have an **Integrated Pest Management Plan**. It includes methods used to rid our school of pests without relying on harmful pesticides. We are concerned about pest problems because over 60% of the Boston schools have overt signs of pests and our students have high rates of asthma. **Leaks/moisture, food, cracks or holes in the walls or floors, excess paper and clutter will attract pests.**

There are many things that can be done to get rid of pests in schools that have been successful. **You can make a difference in your room!** Each school has an **IPM log book** in the front office for you to document evidence of pests in your room. It is important to get rid of old mouse droppings and damaged materials in the school. This will reduce dust and allergens - and help the school manage pest control better. Cleaning is done by the custodians - but there are some things teachers can do to help.

Here are some clean-up tips:

- Get rid of papers and things you don't use regularly
- Go through closets and storage areas
- Have children clean out their desks
- Discard projects that are made with food (pasta, cereal,)
- Throw out items that have evidence of mouse droppings (are chewed, urine stained).

- Move things (or label them for moving) away from walls and cramped spaces so Custodians can get in there to clean up droppings and check for cracks or holes.