

October 16, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to let you know about an incident that happened at our school today. Shortly before 11 a.m., we received a telephone call in which the caller stated a belief that a student was carrying a gun and that the student had shown the gun to another student during the day. The caller was able to provide the name of the student, and our administrative team, in conjunction with our School Resource Officer, immediately began to investigate.

Our SRO, Cpl. Garfola, and I quickly located the student in the cafeteria. Cpl. Garfola questioned the student and discovered that the student was carrying a CO-2 powered pellet gun. The pellet gun, which was in the student's jacket pocket, was unloaded and no cartridge was inserted in it. Cpl. Garfola confiscated the weapon immediately.

Our investigation is ongoing, but at this time we do not believe any students were threatened with the gun. Again, the weapon was unloaded and we have not found any projectiles for it in our school.

In addition to any charges being placed by police, appropriate disciplinary action has been taken against the student involved.

I want to commend the swift work of Cpl. Garfola, of the caller who alerted our school to this situation, and of the students who have assisted us in this investigation. Such collaboration is critical to maintaining a safe and supportive learning environment for our students and staff.

Thank you for the support you continue to give your child and to Southern High School. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Marc Proccacini
Principal

MP/bm