

LOVEJOY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



February 17, 2005

TO: Parents of Hart Elementary School

This memo is notification of recent events at Hart Elementary School. Specifically, Mr. Ron Smith, Principal of Hart Elementary School, is on administrative leave for an undetermined period of time.

Presently, the administration is investigating alleged comments by Mr. Smith to parents regarding standardized testing. Many rumors have circulated regarding Mr. Smith's absence from the campus. We can assure you that the District is not aware of any situation compromising the safety of the children at Hart Elementary School. Please be advised that publication of false statements regarding Mr. Smith could be considered slander or defamation. We encourage you to not participate in the rumors and to respect Mr. Smith's and his family's privacy with regard to his absence.

Mr. Ritchie Bowling, Assistant Principal at Hart Elementary School, is managing the school during Mr. Smith's absence. All previously scheduled events will remain on the calendar, including the brown bag lunch on February 24, 2005. We believe that the students, staff, and parents are working well through this time and we are hopeful that the community will continue to work together in the best interests of the students at Hart Elementary School.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Ray".

Carol Ray