

Dear Western Families,

This morning we administered the division's annual Peer Nomination Survey to students during fourth period class. The survey asks students to identify peers who either have been victims of bullying or have been responsible for bullying others. All responses are intended to be anonymous and are used to provide assistance to students and to make continuous improvements to our anti-bullying program.

The survey is administered electronically and this morning, a change was made to add questions having to do with student needs around technology. Regrettably, this change inadvertently altered the security settings, making publically accessible, some survey information reported by students. It did not make public the names of students who provided that information.

When we discovered this development, we immediately shut down the survey, including access to its information. It is possible, however, that some information may have been obtained by students prior to the survey being shut down. We believe this was a small number of students.

The names of students listed either as potential victims or as bullies have been provided to administrators and counselors. We have been reaching out to all of those who could have been impacted by talking with kids and calling families this afternoon and evening. We have reached almost all those directly involved by phone.

Under no circumstances should information from the peer nomination survey be shared with a third-party. Doing so could constitute a violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

We apologize for this error. In the future, all peer nomination surveys will be paper-based.

Please reach out to your son or daughter's counselor or administrator if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Darah Bonham  
Principal