

## **Fire Alarm Incident Notice**

Around 3:00pm on Saturday, 10/23/2010, there went off the fire alarm in Verona High School, which forced the teachers and students of Northern NJ Huaxia Chinese School and the parents waiting for their kids to evacuate the building immediately, brought in the local police and fire fighters, and created a serious and intense atmosphere over the high school campus where the Chinese school uses for classes every Saturday.

Eventually, there was no fire at all, but it is that a fire alarm was triggered by a 3 year old boy, whose Mom was having an aerobics dancing class with others in the hallway and the boy was waiting for his mom. When he saw a red fire alarm device on the wall, the curious boy jumped up and pulled down the trigger handle for fun to have caused this incident. All the teachers and students had to wait outside until the system was reset by the security officer, and all the classes had been suspended for 15 minutes.

Though the incident caused no physical damage or casualty, it had interrupted and affected normal teaching, disturbed police and fire fighters, left bad influence to the community and made irretrievable loss to our school's reputation. It caused the leadership of Northern NJ Huaxia Chinese School to write and apologize to Verona Board of Education and Verona High School for the incident and promised to the authorities that the Chinese school will further strengthen the campus control and provide fire prevention training to its faculty, students and parents concerned so that to prevent more harmful incidents from occurring. No response has been received yet from the Board and VHS.

As soon as the alarm was triggered and it was known that no real fire had broken out, the leadership of the Chinese school dialed 911 and reported the nature of the incident. They coordinated with the arriving police and fire fighters for settling the case. While waiting for the system to be reset, Mr. Meng, Principal of the Chinese school, notified people on the scene about the happening, asked everybody to calm down and at the same time reminded people to pay more attention to the campus safety, better observe the safety code, and keep the safety devices intact in order to prevent more harmful incident from happening.

At the school's Board meeting scheduled on that day, the incident was talked about and attendees of the meeting provided meaningful suggestions regarding campus safety, and recommended that repeated safety training should be given to all the people concerned. All the people at the meeting agreed to turn the incident into a lesson and a reminder so that no harmful incidents will happen again.