



# La Porte Elementary School

*"Leopard Country... You Can SPOT Our Excellence"*

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Dear Parents:

As you know, your child's safety and well-being are important to us at La Porte Elementary School. Therefore, I wanted to let you know about a situation that occurred yesterday evening in our school gymnasium.

At around 8 p.m., we discovered approximately 100 bats flying in the La Porte Elementary gym. Many others were observed flying outdoors in the area behind the school. Our maintenance department staff members immediately began trying to determine the point of entry and are thoroughly cleaning the gym and sealing these areas today. They will also inspect the exterior of the building and install netting to keep them from re-entering the gym.

Because of the temporary closure of our gym, you may have noticed that we had a change in our routine today. Children who regularly wait in the gym before school instead gathered in their grade-level pod areas with the supervision of staff members. We also provided alternatives for activities planned in the gym today.

I want to assure you that no bats were found in the gym during the school day or when students were present. We will re-open our gym when we believe that any points of entry have been sealed.

Again, please help us by talking to your child about the importance of staying away from any wild animals and emphasize that they should never touch or attempt to catch a bat. Children who come in contact with a bat or other wild animal should immediately tell an adult.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jewel Whitfield  
Principal