

Dominic Terlaje  
Education Suruhanu

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October 28, 2010

30-10-0915

Memorandum

TO: Superintendent of Education

FROM: Education Suruhanu

SUBJECT: Complaint about mold in Kindergarten classrooms at the JQ San Miguel Elementary School.

Office of the Speaker  
Judith T. Torres, Pat, Ed. D.  
Date: 10/29/10  
Time: 4:45  
Received by: JTW

2010 NOV -4 AM 11:38

Håfa Adai Dr. Bretania Underwood:

My office received a complaint indicating that mold is present in some of the Kindergarten classrooms at the school. During the course of the investigation into the complaint, the mold/mildew was observed at various places including but not limited to the ceilings of the Kindergarten common use restroom facilities, within the Kindergarten restroom handwashing sink vanities, on various exterior walls of the Kindergarten classroom area, and on various light shields, ceiling tiles, and other areas of various classrooms. (Please see attached pictures.) In addition, an odor can be detected in some of the classrooms that could possibly be caused by the mold/mildew within any such room. The odor is more noticeable in a few of the classrooms than it is in some of the other classrooms. The Principal also indicated that the many of the teachers in the affected rooms have complained about the odor and that the school has attempted to remedy the problem by removing and cleaning any visible mold/mildew as often as necessary. However, the Principal indicated that the presence of mold/mildew has been an ongoing problem which they manage to address as often as possible but the mold/mildew manages to reappear within a short period of time after being removed. Because the mold/mildew appears to be concentrated within the Kindergarten area and because it is a recurring problem, I would recommend that a proper assessment be made by qualified parties to determine the cause and/or source of the mold/mildew and rectify it immediately. I would also recommend that an indoor air quality test be performed in the affected classrooms as well as various other classrooms accordingly. Other measures that GDOE could consider in an effort to control the mold/mildew is to control the moisture in the classrooms and to ensure that the air conditioning units are always kept clean and in good working order.

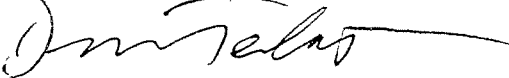
P.L. 28-45 § 4 (12) (I) requires public schools to provide a healthful, safe, and sanitary learning environment. In addition, the School Sanitation Code (the SSC), requires all areas, facilities, and equipment to be maintained in a clean, safe, and sanitary condition, and kept in good repair. The SSC also requires restrooms to be kept clean and in good repair. Exposing students and others to mold/mildew especially within a classroom for an extended period of time may present various health issues that must be addressed and rectified immediately and as often as necessary.

Please submit to my office, in writing, within five days of receipt of this correspondence, GDOE's efforts to address and/or rectify the problem including but not limited to measures taken or to be taken to rectify the problem, the anticipated date when the problem will be addressed, and the expected date when the problem would be rectified.

For additional information concerning mold in schools, the US Environmental Association EPA developed the Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools Program to reduce exposures to indoor environmental contaminants in schools through the voluntary adoption of sound indoor air quality management practices. The IAQ Tools for Schools Program is a comprehensive resource to help schools

maintain a healthy environment in school buildings by identifying, correcting, and preventing IAQ problems. Poor indoor air quality can impact the comfort and health of students and staff, which, in turn, can affect concentration, attendance, and student performance. In addition, if schools fail to respond promptly to poor IAQ, students and staff are at an increased risk of short-term health problems, such as fatigue and nausea, as well as long-term problems like asthma. The IAQ Tools for Schools Action Kit has been implemented in hundreds of schools across the country. School districts that have implemented the IAQ Tools for Schools Program find that there are common elements to successfully implementing the program. The IAQ Tools for Schools Program assists school districts in identifying the actions they can take to successfully plan and implement an effective IAQ management Program.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'  
  
Dominic Terlaje

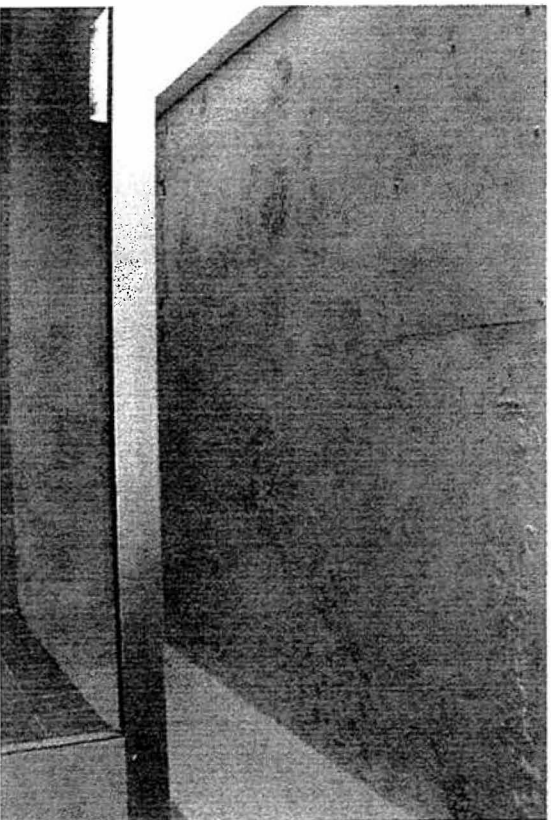
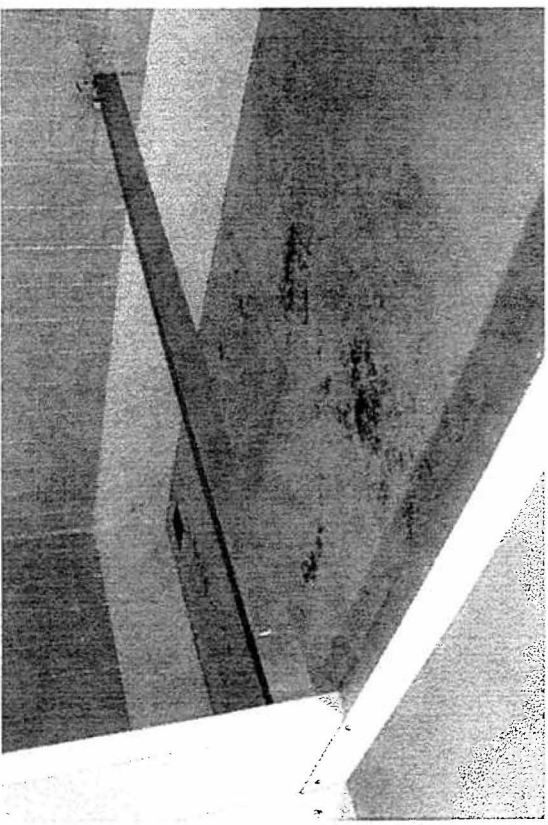
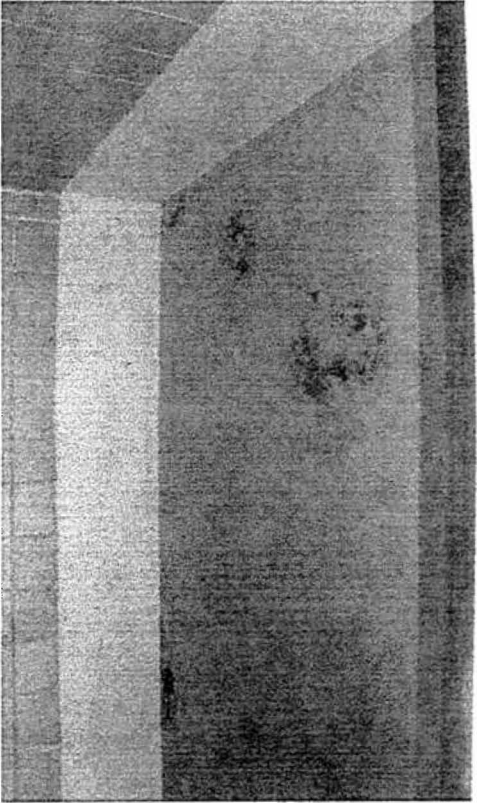
**Attachments**

Photographs

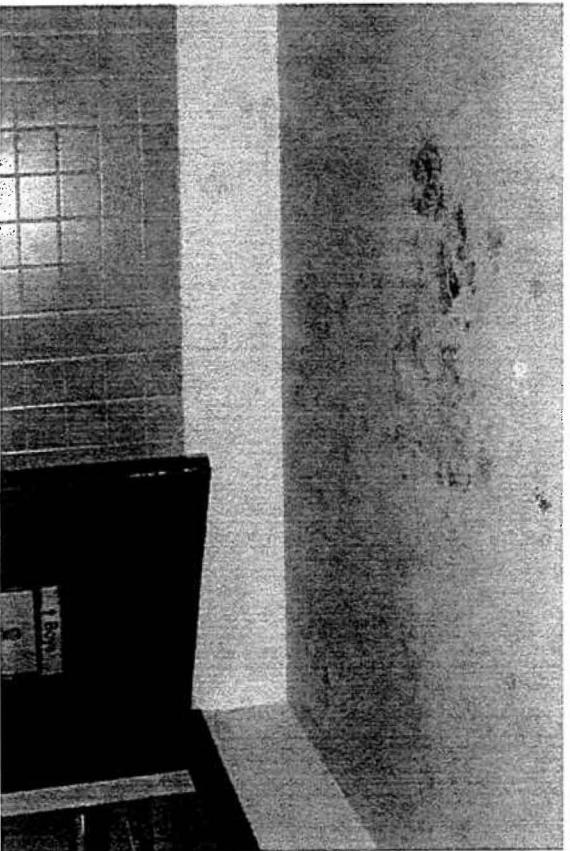
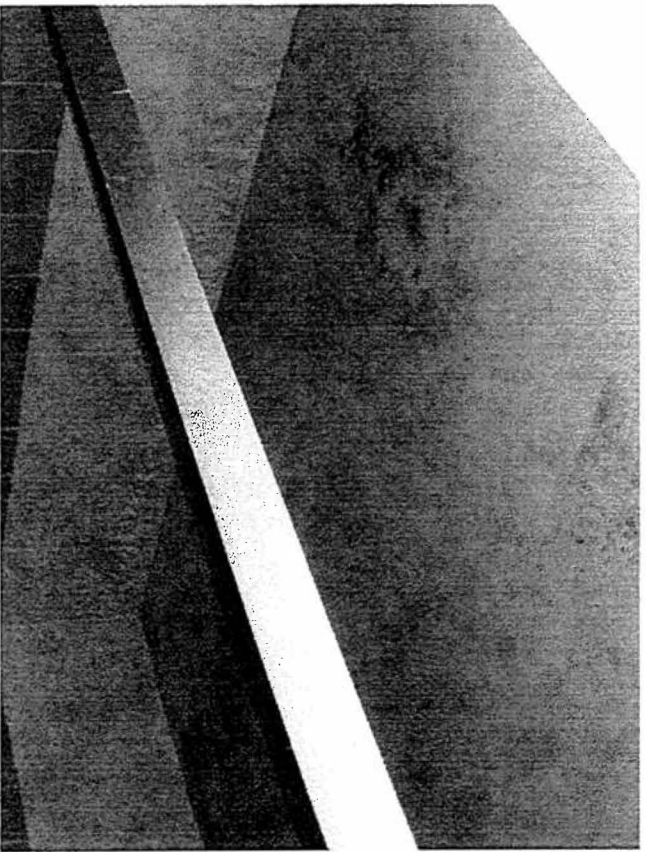
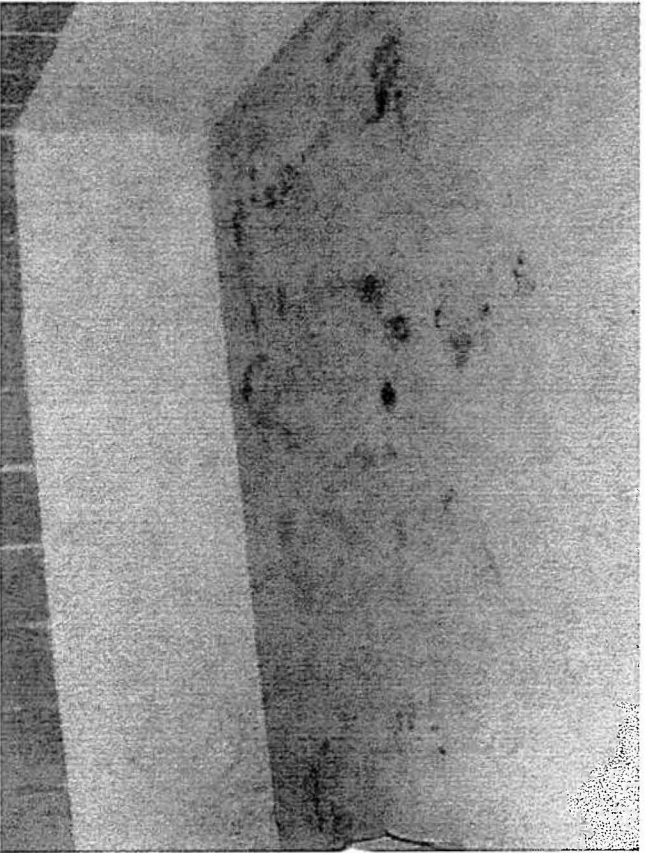
**cc:**

Honorable Speaker, 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
Chairman, GEB  
Billy Cruz, GDOE Maintenance Manager  
JQ San Miguel Elementary School Administration  
Tom Nadeau, Administrator, DPHSS, DEH  
Guam Environmental Protection Agency  
Pat Mason, Deputy Attorney General

JQ San Miguel Girls Kinder restroom ceiling Oct. 27, 2010

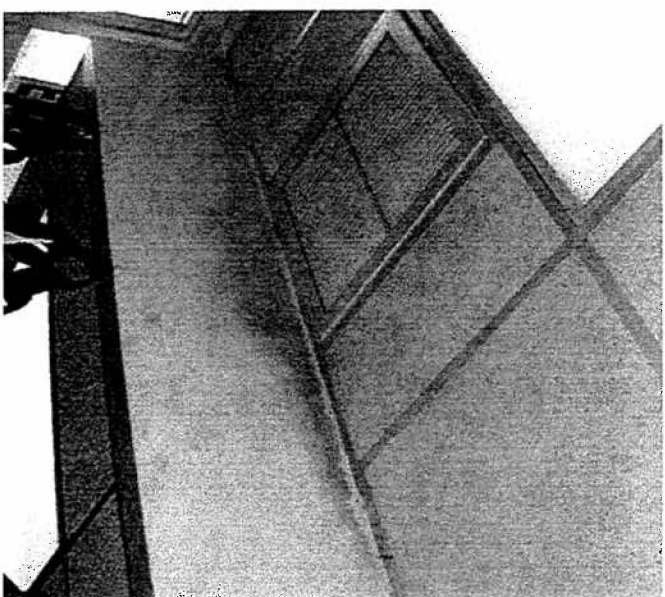
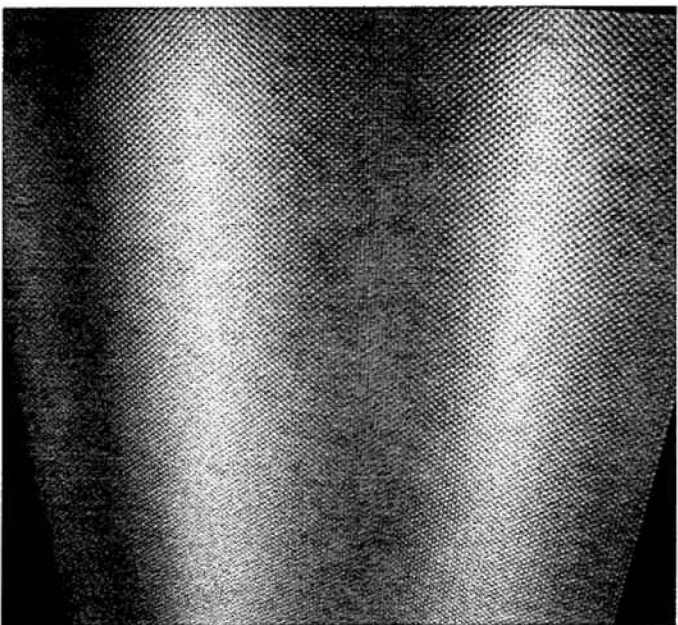


JQ San Miguel Boys Kinder restroom ceiling Oct. 27, 2010





JQ San Miguel Kinder area Oct. 27, 2010



JQ San Miguel Boys Kinder restroom handwashing vanity Oct. 27, 2010

