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Dear Parent:

The Washington State Department of Ecology has identified unnecessary vehicle idling as a contributor to air pollution and increased health risk in our state. Ironically, one of the areas where most unnecessary idling occurs is at schools by parents waiting to drop off and pick up their children.

To illustrate this point, consider this - just one vehicle dropping off and picking up one child at one school puts about three pounds of pollution into the air per month. In addition, idling consumes from ½ gallon to one gallon of fuel per hour, and uses more fuel than turning off and on your engine.

We have included a fact sheet with this letter to give you more information on the hazards of idling and to help illustrate just why this issue is so critical.

Locally, the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency together with the American Lung Association of Washington, Spokane office, are facilitating the program up-start at schools throughout Spokane County.

<School Name> has recently signed-up for this program. Soon, "No-Idle Zone" signs will be posted near the student drop-off and pick-up areas. I encourage you to read and sign the enclosed "No Unnecessary Idling" pledge form and return it to school with your child. Eighty percent class participation will earn a class ice cream party!

We are also asking drivers of school buses and delivery vehicles to avoid idling on school grounds. We hope that you will become an active participant in improving air quality and reducing health risks by eliminating idling not only in school zones, but also at drive-thru businesses, such as banks and latte stands.



This simple yet critical change in idling behavior will improve air quality for the entire community.

Thank you for your support of this program.

Sincerely,

<Insert Name>, Principal

Enclosed: Idling Fact Sheet, Parent Pledge Form