

# TOXIN TURNS UP IN

## Schools tested

FEDERAL REGULATIONS say any building with PCB concentrations of 50 parts per million or more is liable to be hit with fines of \$3,000 to \$25,000 per day. Caulking with PCBs was common in buildings built or renovated between 1960 and 1978.

At the Daily News' request, an independent consultant, Northeast Analytical of Schenectady, tested caulking samples scraped from windows and doors of nine such city schools at random. Six tested positive for PCB levels far above 50 parts per million.

The schools that tested for unsafe levels are:

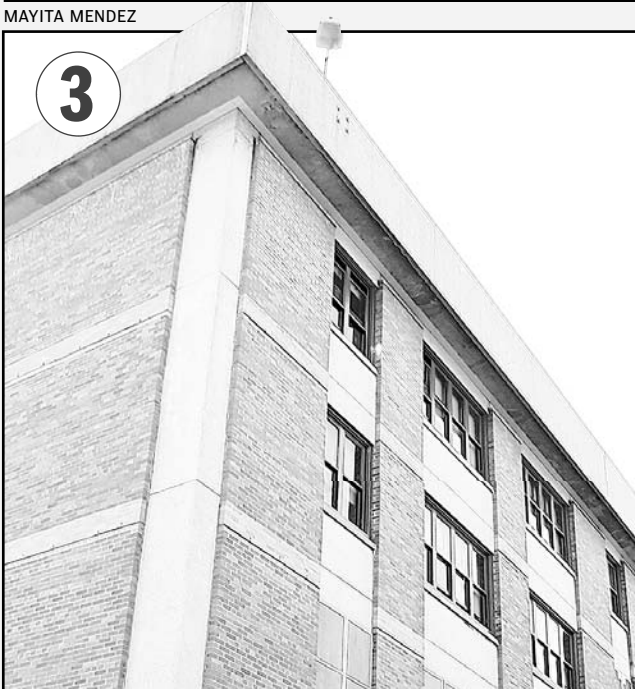
- 1 PS 160**  
4140 Hutchinson River Parkway, Bronx  
189 ppm
- 2 Public School 30**  
144 E. 128th St.  
5,300 ppm
- 3 Intermediate School 131**  
885 Bolton Ave., Bronx  
17,960 ppm
- 4 PS 86**  
87-41 Parsons Blvd, Queens  
518 ppm
- 5 PS 178**  
850 Baychester Ave., Bronx  
111,000 ppm
- 6 PS 199**  
270 W. 70th St.  
225,000 ppm



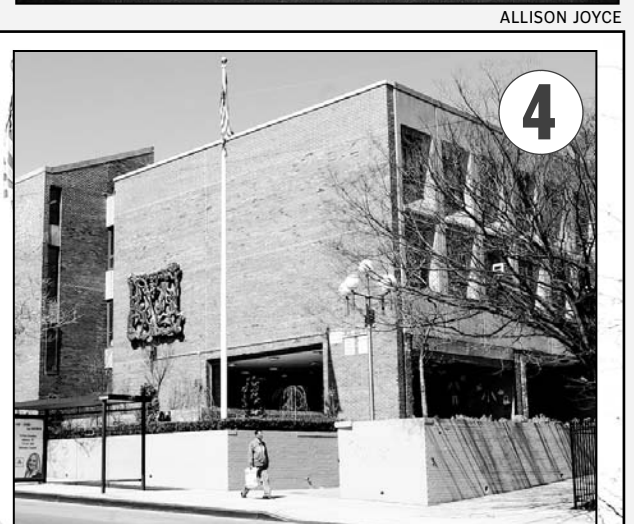
MAYITA MENDEZ



ALLISON JOYCE



ALLISON JOYCE



SUSANA BATES



ROBERT SABO/DAILY NEWS



ALLISON JOYCE



ROBERT SABO/DAILY NEWS

## Chemical hits children much harder

WHEN THE Environmental Protection Agency warns that PCB-tainted window caulking is a potential hazard, they're talking about the effect the toxins could have on grownups.

The ramifications for children, experts say, are even more alarming. Regulations still ignore the harm PCBs can do to growing chil-

dren as so-called "developmental" toxins — even in low concentrations, they say.

"The picture is becoming clearer that PCBs are potent developmental toxins," said Robert Herrick of Harvard's School of Public Health.

David Carpenter of the Institute for Health and the Environment at

SUNY Albany said PCBs interfere with thyroid hormones and testosterone, both important to growth and adolescent development.

Lab tests also show that even low-level exposure inhibits growth of brain cells, and several recent studies led Carpenter to conclude, "The higher the child's exposure to PCBs in early life, the

lower the IQ and the more the child exhibits anti-social behavior, depression and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder-type symptoms."

A 2004 German study of children in schools with PCB-laden caulk found the compounds accumulated in students' blood.

Of the 377 pupils tested, 95% had low-level concentrations in their blood. The authors could not link the PCB concentrations to specific adverse health risks.

### read more

See results from schools tested by the Daily News, plus the full letter from Health Commissioner Thomas Frieden.

[NYDailyNews.com/News](http://NYDailyNews.com/News)

Japanese researchers have even suggested a link between widespread childhood PCB exposure and the spike in diagnoses of attention deficit disorder and learning disabilities.

Bill Egbert