



# WOODBIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

40 Beecher Road – South  
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Gaeton F. Stella, Ph.D. – Superintendent

Sheila Haverkamp – Special Services Director | Alfred Pullo, Jr. – Director of Business Services/Operations

October 9, 2012

Dear BRS Families,

You may be aware that a tragedy occurred yesterday resulting in the deaths of both the father and an uncle of two of our younger students at BRS. My administrative team, the school's psychologists, teachers from the two respective classes, the school's responsive classroom coordinator and I met early this morning to think about how we could best support the two children, their family and the larger BRS community. We also have reached out to the Yale Child Study Team to provide advice and any additional support for students or adults who may require reassurance or counseling. As upsetting as the situation is to everyone, we must remember that the children most affected are the 2 children and their family.

Dr. Steven Marans, from the Yale Child Study Team, suggested that the BRS community can be most supportive of the two children and their family by respecting their privacy. He recommended that our teachers not have general conversation in the classroom about the details of the tragedy, but rather listen and watch to see if any of their students are having any difficulties and to comfort them, when needed, using the teachable moment. He encouraged parents to follow the same process and listen to any concerns or questions that emanate naturally from the children without burdening them with adult discussion. Feel free to contact our school psychologists (Dr. Kaloides or Ms. Knudsen), our school nurse (Stacey Katz), any members of my administrative team or me, if you or your child are in need of assistance.

As a Beecher Road School community, we extend our deepest sympathy to the children and family members who have suffered such a great loss.

Sincerely,

Gaeton F. Stella, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

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