



Linden S.T.E.A.M. Academy

29 Wescott Street, Malden MA 02148

Mr. Rafael A. Garcia Jr., Principal

Ms. Julie Maguire-Jones, Assistant Principal 5-8

Ms. Stacey Scott, Assistant Principal K-4

September 27, 2020

Dear Linden Families:

This is Mr. Garcia with a sad and important message. Our school community was saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. Pamela Wickwire. Mrs. Wickwire was an outstanding teacher who cared very deeply about the success and wellbeing of each and every one of her students. We will all miss her very much and will spend many difficult moments grieving her loss.

In order to support our students during this difficult time, we have arranged to have counselors available during the school day to assist students and faculty with the questions and grief which accompany such a difficult situation. Experiencing, witnessing, or even hearing of a traumatic incident such as this may affect a child or adult in a variety of ways; therefore, it is very important that students and teachers be given ample opportunities to ask questions and to talk about their reactions. For some students a death of someone they know may remind them of some other loss in their lives. For others, this may be their first encounter with death.

When reacting to a traumatic incident, students may display behaviors such as the following:

- Staying close to adults
- Display regressive behaviors
- Appear not to be affected
- Think about it privately
- Ask a lot of questions
- Appear frightened
- Appear agitated and angry
- Appear sad and withdrawn
- Display difficulty sleeping
- Stomach aches
- Headaches

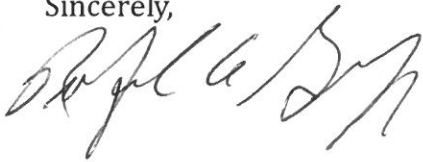
We suggest that you make an extra effort to listen to your child during this time. It is important that you deal honestly and directly with any questions that they may have. Referring to death as passing away may result in confusion and it is appropriate that you use the word "death" in your discussions. Should you have difficulty approaching this issue or if you would like additional information about talking to your child about death please let us know and a staff member will reach out to you. Below are some other suggestions that parents may find useful in helping their child:

- Be a good listener. Listen carefully for any misconceptions or distortions your child may have
- Provide physical closeness. Spend extra time with your child. Talk and offer reassurance.
- Encourage your child to ask questions and to discuss their feelings.
-

Learning for Monday will be asynchronous so that we can offer staff time and space to mourn and receive grief counseling as necessary, and provide information about how to access counseling for their students.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if we can be of additional assistance to you and/or your child during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. J. Smith", written in a cursive style.